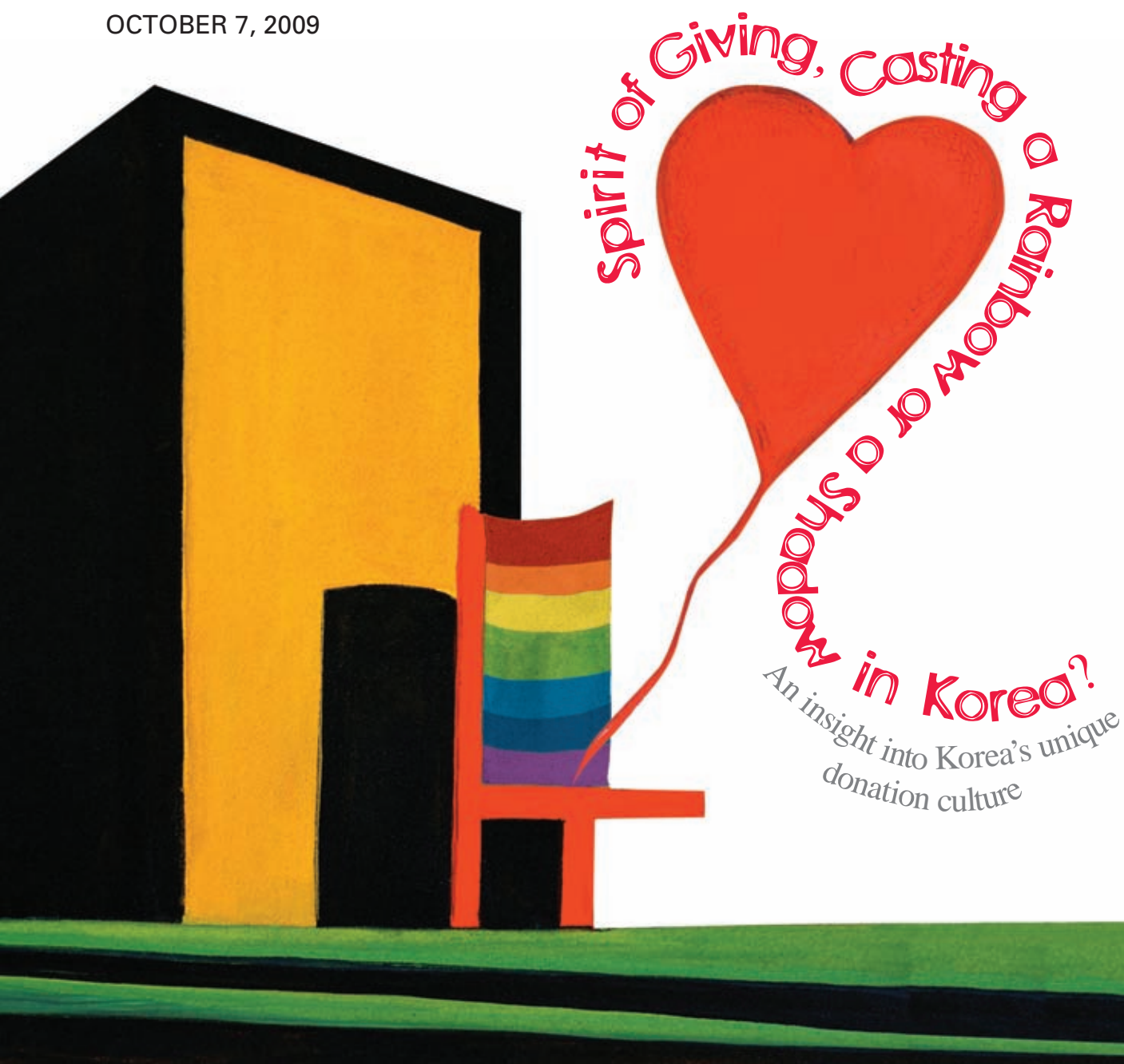


The Argus

First Issue Published July 1, 1954

Vol. LV No. 425
OCTOBER 7, 2009



HANKUK UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES

Cover Story

Hankuk
University of
Foreign Studies



Spirit of Giving, Casting a Rainbow or a Shadow in Korea?

A gradual yet rapid development in Korea's modern philanthropic culture can be seen. But is it a true reflection of current attitudes? The Cover Story deals with the factors that account for this increase, and some of the underlying shadows that are obscured by such positive developments.

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- 1 Classics** - Society is filled with observers which monitor one's personal life and records. Through a book which studies the history of observation, readers are introduced to how the lookout becomes a fundamental structure of society.
- 2 Reportage** - Several months have passed since six people were killed in a January clash between tenants and riot police in Yongsan, central Seoul. The Argus tracks the life of bereaved families after the tragedy.

The Argus

ESTABLISHED 1954

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

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Golden Saying | Editor-in-Chief

Those who forget past mistakes are doomed to repeat them.

_ German writer Johann Wolfgang Goethe

The Lee Myung-bak administration is launching a restoration project for the nation's four rivers with the aim to rebuild the country's main waterways and to make water resources safer and more environmentally-friendly. Most people remain skeptical about the four-river plan, however, in spite of the government's rosy promises. A nationwide survey of 3,243 men and women released in May by the Youido Institute, the political institute, shows that 46.4 percent of respondents oppose the project and that 52.5 percent think that it is hardly different from recently scrapped plans to construct a cross-country grand canal connecting Seoul to the port city of Busan. withdrawn due to strong public opposition amid fears of negative impact on the economy and the environment. Despite the skepticism surrounding the four-river plan, the government has hastily carried it out. The government should reflect on its mistakes in the past. When it rashly made a decision to import beef from the U. S. last year, tens of thousands erupted onto the streets in candle light vigils to protest the decision. In order to avoid committing the same, the government should reconsider the project and be aware of the people's opposition.

Real Change Comes from Right Recognition

A wave of change has swept across South Korea's two allies. In Japan, one of the country's closest neighbors, the opposition Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) trounced the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in the August general election, ending the latter's rule of more than 50 years. The LDP's defeat was fueled by the party's inherent political factionalism, unsavory political-business relations and a rigid bureaucracy intransigent to economic reforms and change.

In the United States, South Korea's main ally, President Barack Obama has spearheaded a move to overhaul a health care system that currently leaves up to 47 million Americans uninsured.

In a similar vein, South Korea's Lee Myung-bak administration and the ruling Grand National Party (GNP) have begun to recast their image as more in tune with the average voters. Such efforts follow the earlier criticisms that the Lee's GNP represented the interests of only the big businesses and the wealthy.

As part of a recent Cabinet reshuffle, Lee appointed economist and former Seoul National University chief Chung Un-chan as new Prime Minister, also naming six new ministers. Yet in spite of the government's efforts, it has continued to come under criticism as being insincere in its policies and nominations.

Among the critics are a growing number of university students, who have launched a vote of no confidence against President Lee Myung-bak and his government.

According to the National University Meeting, a gathering of university students from around the country, student representatives from 62 universities have joined a movement to express their disapproval of the government. In addition, a nationwide poll of university students on Sept. 29 showed that 38,032 said they disapproved of the current government.

Why does this surge of anger rise at President Lee Myung-bak despite the government's new policies, including the provision of student loans and lowered tuition fees? The answer is a lack of sincerity.

The roots of real change lie in recognizing this fact. The government needs to have sincerity, which will only come about when the government listens to the voice of university students burdened by economic insecurity. Only then will real change occur. ■

Editor-in-Chief
Park Hyun-chul



Prevention Precedes Cure

By **Lee Jin-woo**

Editorial Consultant

Classes at HUFS have recently begun to start later than scheduled because students are required to measure their temperatures before the beginning of a semester. Students running a slight fever have even started to wear masks as part of a measure to prevent the spread of the H1N1 influenza. This shows that the University is a vulnerable area as it is relatively crowded without any distinct separation between students with the influenza virus. Precautions also depend largely on the steps taken by individual students.

HUFS is known to have the largest population, consisting of foreign students who are in Korea to study the Korean language, and also those who have studied abroad for many years. Statistics show that about 2,000 students at HUFS go abroad annually. Another 1,000 students are expected to go abroad during vacation to enhance their language abilities.

This trend stems from the emphasis HUFS places on the study of foreign languages. However, the situation also places the University at risk given the spread of the new influenza strain.

In response, HUFS has taken precautionary measures in collaboration with Sahm Yook medical center, where students and school personnel can consult the medical staff about the H1N1 influenza. Those suspected of having contracted the virus can also be checked.

Even though steps have been taken to prevent the spread of the influenza, the most difficult challenge remains conveying to the student body the seriousness of the influenza. Of course, the University

has been working to inform students that they must take adequate precautions to protect themselves from the flu. Efforts include sending text messages, e-mails and displaying posters.

Text messages instructed students and personnel that those who arrived in Korea after Aug. 24 should immediately notify the public health center at HUFS. Also, the University has decided to allow HUFS students infected with the virus or those suspected of infection to accept absences. Such steps, however, may not be adequate enough to prevent a spread of the virus.

The University cannot force students to notify the health center. It can only strongly advise them to do so. If those that are infected are unwilling to inform the center, they will help make the university a hotbed for the spread of the H1N1 influenza. The university must therefore exert itself in raising awareness about the flu.

Experts say that October will mark a critical moment as it is highly probable that a bad cold could be added to the spread of the H1N1 influenza. Health authorities are warning that the combination could cause a serious disaster. Both the University and HUFS students should not slowdown in their efforts to stem the spread of the virus. ☞

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HUFS Breaks into Korea's Top 10 University List: Survey

HUFS ranked among the nation's top ten universities this year, according to a survey released on Sept. 23 by the major daily JoongAng Ilbo, climbing one notch from 11th place the year before on the back of efforts to promote globalization.

The paper's University Rankings for 2009 showed that HUFS topped the list of universities in the category of globalization, with the largest percentage of foreign professors at 38.8 percent of all faculty members. HUFS also had the highest ratio of exchange students at 5.24 percent of all students.

The University reclaimed the No.1 spot in the globalization category from Korea Advanced Institute of Science and

University Rankings for 2009

By the JoongAng Ilbo

1	KAIST
2	Seoul National University
3	Postech
4	Korea University
5	Yonsei University
6	Sungkyunkwan University
7	Hanyang University
8	Kyung Hee University
9	Sogang University
10	Hankuk University of Foreign Studies

Technology, better known as KAIST, followed by Handong University and Pusan University of Foreign Studies. HUFS also ranked third among universities of liberal arts and social


University Rankings for 2009 (Globalization)

By the JoongAng Ilbo

1	Hankuk University of Foreign Studies
2	KAIST
3	Handong University
4	Pusan University of Foreign Studies
5	Kyung Hee University

sciences, according to the survey.

Rankings are based on four categories: educational and financial resources, globalization, research and faculty, and reputation and alumni representation in society.

The annual survey began in 1994 and is intended to improve the competitiveness of Korean universities. 

By Park Hyun-chul

Teenagers Vie in English Debate at HUFS

Hundreds of high school students from around the country grappled with a variety of issues during a two-day English debate contest sponsored by HUFS and the cable news network YTN.

The first YTN-HUFS Youth English Debate Championship opened on Sept. 12, bringing together 96 teams of three students each. Held in Aekyung Hall, located in the International Building on the Seoul campus, a total of 79 high school teams and 17 teams made up of students from different schools competed for the top prize.

Teams were divided into two leagues including the EFL league, which included students with less than two years of experience living abroad who

did not break into the elimination rounds.


Two student teams competed in a parliamentary debate that involved both impromptu and prepared issues. Judges based each team's score according to their participants' ability, as well as on content, speech style and strategy.

A total of five rounds were held in the preliminary stage on Sept. 12. The surviving 20 teams -- 16 final teams and four EFL teams -- competed in the final tournament the next day. Team "Acme" from Goyang Foreign Language High School and team "Hot Shot" from Cheongshim International Academy claimed top honors in their respective leagues.

Park Soo-a and Chang So-young,



High school students take part in an English debate contest at Aekyung Hall on Sept. 13.

both English Education majors who volunteered to work as staff during the contest, said they were "shocked at how well the students communicated their ideas. It motivated us a lot." 

By Jang Ho-jun

HUFS Observes French Day

Envoys from four French-speaking countries and the chief of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Korea attended an event at the Seoul campus on Sept. 21 to mark the Day of France, offering lectures on the rediscovery of the French language and its impact on humanity.


The event, organized by the Philosophy Institute at HUFS and sponsored by the

state-run National Research Foundation of Korea, marked the start of Humanities Week at the university.

Held at Aekyung Hall, located in the International Building, envoys from France, Algeria and Tunisia emphasized the importance the French language in current world affairs and in the field humanities.

Professor of philosophy Yoon Seung-woo, also head of the University's

Philosophy Institute and organizer of the event, said, "The study of humanities is intimately linked to the French language, which also plays a major role in global economics as well."

As part of closing ceremonies, a group of French language students sang French songs followed by a reception with red wine and food sponsored by the local bakery chain Paris Croissant. 

By Jeon Seong-jin

HUFS Begins Mentoring Program for Teenagers in Poverty

An opening ceremony was held on Sept. 4 to commemorate the launch of HUFS's Saessak Mentoring program, which brings together 40 volunteers from the University to act as mentors for middle and high school students struggling with issues of poverty.

Organizers say the aim of the program is to help break the cycle of poverty that prevents promising students from achieving their goals. The screening process focuses on students who show academic potential and come from lower income backgrounds. Mentors are expected to help students develop confidence, leadership skills and interpersonal relations.

Mirae International Foundation donated 2 billion won to support the mentoring program, with mentors to receive between 6-8 million won and other study materials like portable multimedia players for a year.


The University began its selection process for mentors in July, with one of



HUFS President Park Chul (C, front), and 40 HUFSans selected as mentors for middle and high school students attend a ceremony on Sept. 4 to mark the launch of the Saessak Mentoring program.

the requirements being a grade point average of 4.0 or higher. Applicants were also put through an interview during which they were expected to discuss their motivation for entering the program and their qualifications to act as mentors.

The Saessak Mentoring program runs

through August 2010. Mentors will select students in accordance with the recommendation of the principal of each middle or high school. Meetings between students and mentors will most likely be held on weekends. 

By Lee Kyeong-eun



By Lee Kyeong-eun
Reporter of Campus Section

Every August, HUFSSans apply for lectures so they can organize their timetables for the fall semester. This August, as usual, HUFSSans went through the same process. However, this time, something different happened -- some of lectures were blank where the names of the lecturers should have been. The students did not understand the reason for this, and chose the lectures anyway. A few days later, the following text message was sent to many of the students: "The elective course of liberal arts you chose was closed because of a lecturer's own circumstances."

What Is Happening?

The Irregular Worker's Law, which struck Korean society this past summer, has hacked the Korean universities this fall. The new law is a hot potato. It states clearly that the part-time workers who have worked over fifteen hours a week for two years should be treated as full-time workers. Because this stipulation is in the new law, about one-hundred

part-time professors were not on the list of professors to lecture at HUFSS for this semester. The reason is that the unintended consequence of the new law would have forced the university to incur great expense to keep these lecturers employed this semester. The university simply could not afford to keep these lecturers employed.

The conditions of firing part-time lecturers are the followings: who lectured more than five hours last semester, who has not gotten a Ph.D., and who has lectured for four continuous semesters or more. HUFSS was not alone in making this painful choice about letting non-contract lecturers go. This past summer, when the Irregular Worker's Law became effective, there was controversy at many universities about part-time professors. For example, an ex-part-time professor of one leading university demonstrated alone, and it was reported on a large scale.

HUFSS did not list 124 names of part-time professors who are subjected to the Irregular Worker's Law. Five elective courses were abolished because the courses were not filled with a qualified lecturer. However, in the case of the

major courses, the specific numbers of the closed courses cannot be counted since each department takes control of the professors in that department.

Weak Safety Zone for the Part-time Professors

After the implementation of the law, some part-time professors at the universities demonstrated openly, and it caught the eyes of the citizens. However, HUFSS was not in turmoil last summer. It was not because the part-time professors accepted the situation, but because they cannot appeal to the University about their status. According to the General Student Council (GSC), many of the part-time professors are graduate students from HUFSS. In other words, they are working towards their Ph.D.s while they are doing the research and writing their dissertations. As a result, it is understandable why they do not demonstrate about their contract status.

Voices of HUFSSans

On Aug. 28, a HUFSSan wrote on the "HUFSS Life," which is the portal site for HUFSSans, complaining about closed courses. The elective course which this



Students hold a rally at Seoul's Korea University on Aug. 21 to demand that the university withdraw its employment cancellations of part-time professors. (L) A part-time university professor stages a solo demonstration. (R)

HUFSan chose for the fall semester was closed after this student completed her-or-his timetable. The abolished courses were informed a few days before the beginning of the fall semester. As a result, this student was forced to change her-or-his timetable.

In another case, an anonymous HUFSan majoring in Law also complained about the situation. This semester, he takes eight courses. The professors of four out of the eight courses, however, were changed without any notice. As the professors changed, the times of the courses were adjusted, too, resulting in the changed courses overlapping with remaining courses. Finally, he had to completely reorganize

his schedule. Moreover, the HUFSan complained about the changing of the lecturers. "Usually, the names of the lecturers are factors as important as the name of the courses in choosing the courses. Of course, I selected the courses on the basis of the lecturers' reputations. Then one day, the lecturers were changed to the unknown lecturers," said the anonymous HUFSan.

The Position of HUFS

With the new law about part-time workers, a custom of the university was overturned. Usually, it is necessary for the novice lecturers to gain experience in lower-level institutes before teaching at the four-year universities. After the Irregular Worker's Law became effective, however, some of the new part-time professors started as lecturers at the four-year universities as alternative lecturers for the part-time professors affected by the new law. This situation is striking in some of the language departments. Searching for professors who have the right qualifications is difficult because of the insufficient number of those qualified.

It is possible to abolish a specific course because there is not a competent lecturer available. In fact, a major course at the Seoul Campus was closed because of this reason. The full-time professor who had taught the course every semester retired. The department had always substituted a part-time professor for the


full-time professor. This fall, however, the qualified part-time professor was affected by the Irregular Worker's Law, and so, could not teach the class. Finally, the course was abolished.

Ambiguous Criterion

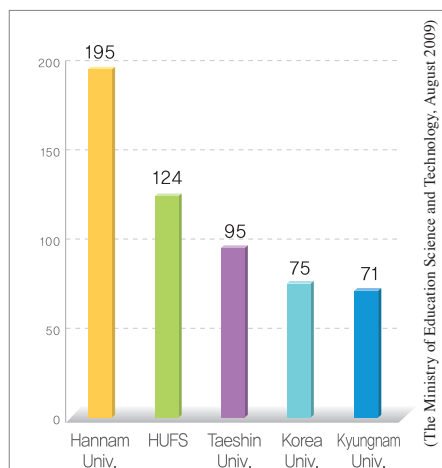
Kim Jae-sam, a member of "Korea Higher Education research Institute" raised a question about this new law and the practice the universities must follow. "The universities in Korea made a criterion which regards five hours per week of lecturing equal to fifteen hours of other kind of work. Although the criterion is based on one judicial precedent, and is therefore not legally supported, the universities still applied the criterion without legal ground," he said. At the end of his interview, Kim criticized the Ministry of Education Science and Technology for not standing the proper and legal criterion, and causing the problems.

Defense of HUFS

According to the Academic Support Center Registrar, HUFS was embarrassed when first faced with this situation in not having enough qualified part-time professors to choose from. Of course, it is true that passionate and young part-time professors who have not yet gotten their Ph.D.s are a precious treasure for HUFS. The Irregular Worker's Law, however, is above the provisions of HUFS, so there is no way to protect them. "HUFS is organizing an adequate system to prevent the situation from reoccurring," he explained.

A member of the GSC acknowledged the blind point of the law. "HUFS, however, is responsible for the situation for HUFSans having to go through this confusion, because the situations were already predicted," he said, "even if it was on short notice." 

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This graph shows the five universities that canceled employment of more than 70 part-time professors. HUFS came in second among the universities.



Sympathy into Your Heart

Refutation through Communication

By Jeon Seong-jin

Associate Editor of Campus Section

Thanks to domestic and overseas media organizations, a variety of news from both within Korea and abroad is readily available today, from reports on the spread of the Influenza A virus to the death of renowned pop star Michael Jackson.

This month, The Argus had the chance to meet with HUFS alumnus Jung Kwan-wung (Dept. of Political Science and Diplomacy- 75), managing director of the Feature News and Current Affairs Department at the MBC television network.

Argus: You majored in political science and diplomacy, which does not have a direct connection to your current occupation. What made you choose to work in this field?

Jung Kwan-wung (Jung): I want to say first that one's major does not need to be related to a particular job these days. Though I studied political science and diplomacy, I was not limited to working in those fields. The world has become so varied, and most Korean university graduates now have a wider vision as they search for a professional occupation.

Argus: Were there any major turning points during your university years? Was there anything said by professors, friends or fellow students that has stuck with you?

Jung: I remember a professor, Kim Ke-soo, who was president of the Korean Political Science Association in 1977, once said during a lecture, "As economic problems were gradually

solved, people turned their attention to quality of life issues." As the country grew in prosperity, people placed greater value on such things as wearing expensive garments, drinking high-end coffee or buying luxurious baby carriages for their newborns. In this context, I think that people also grew more aware of political issues and democracy. I do not say that the current status of democracy in Korea is low, but rather that it is not yet complete. I am often reminded of the professor's remark in these current times.

Argus: Can you tell us about your work with MBC's Feature News and Current Affairs Department?

Jung: Programs like MBC News Desk, or News 24 are organized by the Reporting Department, where anchors report on new stories. My department, however, makes special feature programs such as "Sisa 2580," or the talk show "100 Bun Toron." While news reports focus on the latest issues, my department delves deeper to offer a closer look at current events. Our programs have to stand out in order to avoid repeating the same stories reported on by the news department. Right now my team is working on projects that look back at past issues to uncover new meanings that previously went unnoticed.

Argus: What about overseas news? Most programs made by your department focus on Korean issues, so how does your team compose overseas news?

Jung: You may have seen our program on the use of the Korean alphabet by an Indonesian



tribe. A reporter on my team immediately went to Indonesia and interviewed people involved in the project. Occasionally, in a situation where the Feature News and Current Affairs Department is unable to gather information, there is assistance from other departments, but I have reporters on my own team based around the world and ready to report on current issues too.

Argus: *You have spent several years making the current affairs program Sisa 2580. What has been the most striking moment for you in your career?*

Jung: I have been Sisa 2580's program director for 20 years. Above all the 1996 program "Want-to-conceal Truth" was the most stunning piece of work I have done in that time. Those were the early years for this style of current


affairs program, and our approach involved visiting crowded urban areas to learn the opinions people on the street. It quickly became a sensation, and was soon a common way of handling current issues. As an experiment it was one of my biggest successes and I cherish the memory.

One of my darker memories involves a program we did on the orientation of freshmen at Yonsei University in 1996. When we visited students the atmosphere was initially fresh and positive, though we later learned that several senior students were abusing a freshman in a public bathroom. Our camera crew recorded the abuse in secret and later broadcast the act. The university later attacked us for not concealing the identity of the students

and it became a very trying time for me.

We have since worked hard to protect the identities of those shown on our broadcasts.

Argus: *What would you tell current students at Hufs who are dreaming of a career in journalism?*

Jung: First, I want to stress that balance is important for everyone. Students looking to enter journalism or any other field must consider balanced development and specializing in their respective fields. I would also say that a key to success in journalism is effective communication. Learning to arouse the sympathy of your audience is vital to being an effective journalist. 

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WHAT AN ENJOYABLE LIFE!



By Lee Kyeong-eun
Reporter of Campus Section

At HUFS there is one who leads a colorful life, namely, Son Han-byul of the Department of English Translation & Interpretation, 04. Searching for Most Wanted, one of the MTV programs, you will find Son's cheeky look on the portal site. He is the VJ of the said program in which Son interviews folks on the streets and air the music videos the interviewee request. One day this fall Argus had

a chat with him inside an artsy cafe near Hongik University. He greeted the reporter with a cheerful face like one you see in Most Wanted.

About Most Wanted

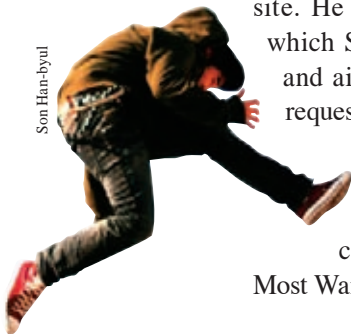
People whom you encounter on the fun-filled streets of Myong Dong or in the vicinities of Hongik University are the guests on Son's program. He picks people at random with an eye on the trendy types. His interviews are usually short, a mere three minutes or so, highlighting the fun aspects of everyday life of his interviewees talking about music, fashion, and things of that sort. The brevity of his interviews is compensated for by the number of people he meets to the tune of thousands during any given year, which adds to the element of variety of his show.

Son cannot remember all the faces he had on his show but runs into some of them on the street at times.

Presents Son Received as VJ

Upon becoming a VJ, Son felt that he and his HUFS friends were operating on different codes of communication -- a sort of invisible wall between him and them. He made new friends as a VJ, though, with whom he could communicate identical vibrations. Moreover, he said his personality had become more light-hearted. "I used to be calm and subdued, but my new job required a cheerful approach to people I had to interview. So I made efforts to fit into that mode of social relations," he added. As turned out, that acquired characteristic has become his competence as a VJ. "I usually begin an interview in a rather loud voice, sometimes embellishing my words to help make my guests feel good in a relaxed manner. And I am not nervous around famous stars anymore or feel inferior to them," he mentioned.

In his capacity as a VJ, Son also gets to meet a lot of musicians. And thanks to MTV's reputation, it is easy for him to interview foreign musicians who regard MTV as the largest broadcasting medium through which to channel their music, being receptive to interviews. Among the guests he hosted was the British rock band



Son Han-byul



Son Han-byul



Kim Jun-kyu / The Argus



VJ Son Han-byul, a host on the request program "MOST WANTED" aired by the MTV channel.

*"All the things you do in your twenties is the precious investments.
Don't be afraid to try and try again with your youth."*



Son Han-byul

Oasis, about which he said he felt really proud. "I'd like to have Huh Kyung-young, a presidential candidate in last presidential election, on my show if at all possible," said Son playfully.

When asked Son how he feels about himself talking, singing, and laughing on TV, Son responded tersely saying "I do not monitor myself." Prior to the first airing of Most Wanted hosted by Son, however, he allowed that he looked forward to watching his own performance on TV. "The first five minutes were thrilling but it quickly dissipated as I had to repeat the same lines. I switched to a different after 5 minutes," he said. "Most of the programs follow scripts, but not Most Wanted. Since the producer seldom makes any changes in the original shootings, I try to present myself as naturally as I can."

Son is passionate about music. Besides his work as a VJ, he is active as a musician. He was a vocalist of a band called Rabbit Punch and a guest member on another rock band. "There's a lot of things I enjoy but music tops my list. It's cool to be involved in a rock band in which I play music while doing things with friends."

Son's Life at HUFS


Son is majoring in translation and interpretation at HUFS, and does he like his major? The answer was no. He would rather study business, like marketing for example. Why? Because he like doing creative things and leading people.

Son always wants to be a perfectionist. In

other words, he wants to do well in every part, including study, music, and girlfriend, etc.

"I hope the professors see that I'm doing my best to catch up with a dual goal, for instance, acting as a VJ and as a student. I don't want my GPA points to slide as I think it is also important to study well at HUFS." In between his remarks one could sense his pride as a HUFSan.

Talking about the interests he has recently acquired, Son said emphatically, "I think all the things you do in your twenties are precious investments, but no matter how hard you try, it is next to impossible to achieve goal during your 20s.

You realize your dreams after your 30s, through the investments you made in your 20s. Don't be afraid to try and try again while you're young." He added that finding what makes you really happy is very important. "One of my acquaintances belonged to a top-class company. Even though people were envious of him, he quit his job because he was not happy with his work there," said Son. "Study hard, take your studies serious," son admonished before winding up our talk. "Pick up a lot of different experiences while you are still young," he said to his fellow HUFSans. 



Son Han-byul

Son Han-byul at Seoul's bustling Hongdae street of Sept.19.

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Beauty of *Hangeul*, the Korean Alphabet



1/6 The letters vanishing with time

3/8 And God declared, "Let there be Hangeul."

4/5/9/10 A summer day seen through the round-shaped alphabet "Jeung," one of Hangeul consonants

7/12/13 A sign written in traditional Hangeul

11/16 Hangeul used as an artistic background

14/15/19 Carefully fill in the blanks...

17 Hangeul on the path of life

The Problems of Talent Firms Have Stuck out a Mile

By Hwang Jung-hyun

Editor of Culture Section

Korea's biggest talent agencies in Korea such as SM Entertainment (SM), JYP Entertainment (JYP), and YG Entertainment (YG), are going through a turbulent time. Many issues, such as lawsuits, plagiarism and outrageous speeches, among others, keep cropping up. And with some issues, the entertainment companies have not handled them well, which has made the situations they are in even worse.

For example, SM is dealing with exclusive contract trouble with the popular dance group, Dongbangsingi. Furthermore, Kang-in, a member of Super-Junior of SM is in trouble with the police. The police in Kangnam booked him but did not put him in jail. The police said Kang-in was loud and disorderly in one of the pubs in Nonhyun-dong and have his actions on CCTV.

SM and Kang-in have issued an apology to the public. However, people criticized them for lying because SM and Kang-in kept denying that he got into the recorded bruhaha, then suddenly changed his story after the police confronted him with the evidence. Damage to SM's image, which was caused by a lawsuit, grew out of Kang-in's outrage.


YG Entertainment is being criticized for plagiarism of singer G-Dragon's new solo single "Heart Breaker," which was released in August. Bigbang of YG was accused of plagiarizing on its new recordings by a couple of Japanese musicians, but members of the band at first ignored it. However, the situation is quite different now because Sony ATV music, which controls the copyright of both domestic and foreign artists, sent notification in writing about the plagiarism. Four songs that the YG group recorded are rightfully and legally the property of a group in the U.S. Sony ATV announced that they suspected plagiarism of G-Dragon's "Heart Breaker" and "Butterfly," Bigbang's version of "You," and 2NE1's

"I Don't Care." It has now come into spotlight of how YG is going to deal with Sony ATV's accusation.

JYP is also in trouble because of Park Jae-bum, the former 2PM member. Park left 2PM because of an article he wrote on his My Space account in 2005 when he was a trainee and wrote about his personal feelings, which got him into trouble. His fans criticized JYP severely for not helping out.

The entertainment management industry is developing as independent industry nowadays. In Europe and the U.S. authorities show great concern for the entertainment industry because the industry is very close to the masses and prospects for the industry's future is huge. In the old days of Korea, the singers were neglected and called as "Ddanddara" as an insult. However, this has changed. The prestige of the entertainment management and producers is rising as strong player and leader of popular culture. Especially "Hanryu," which was instrumental in turning Korean culture into a worldwide phenomenon.

The origin of "Hanryu" started from a broadcast program. However, the core of "Hanryu" is celebrity. The problem of how to increase the popularity of the celebrities is of course the job of the entertainment management company. What the management company should do is to pursue marketing efficiently and plan the strategic commercial and cultural events for the stars. It is necessary to optimize the value of the stars and develop the competitiveness of Korean popular culture. To do that, competent management is needed.

Unfortunately, the level of most Korean entertainment management companies is not so good. The ability to adapt to new broadcasting circumstances by Korean companies is currently not even adequate. The idleness of leading entertainment companies is being exposed now. It is time to build the effectiveness of the Korean entertainment industry with ethical, professional and brilliant management. 

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Korea's Donation Culture, Heading Upwards?

By Lee Yeong-eun
Reporter of Culture Section

Korea's president Lee Myung-bak said after donating approximately 33.1 billion won to charity in July, "I, as a citizen of this country, truly hope we will become a warm society where everyone helps and cares. We have to become a society where people express their love not just through money but with sincere hearts because money without love means nothing."

Donating, the act of giving for charitable purposes, seems to be a universally endorsed practice. Korea, with her rich tradition seeped in the values of Confucianism, has her own distinctive culture of giving. For example, people in the past provided free labor during the busy farming season.



Korea Times

Ravaged by wars and subsequently undergoing economic expansions, Korea has changed radically. Consequently, certain cultural practices of giving had long faded into the pages of history. However, the needy in Korea are still blessed by the warming light shone from her more privileged countrymen.

Help Never Seems to Run Dry

Even through time when certain practices in the culture of giving have vanished, Koreans' donations have never really faltered. An explosion in donations made by Koreans can be seen even in recent years.

Today, with Korea afflicted by the ills of the economic downturn, it is encouraging to see that there are still many warm-hearted Koreans who are taking the initiative to lend a helping hand. According to statistics, Beautiful Foundation has seen an increase in individual donors of 33.5 percent this year from 2008. While the Community Chest has seen a 9.4 percent surge of 452,503 in 2009.

So what factors could be attributed to such an explosion in donations in Korea?

A Mixture of Smart Technology and Warm Compassion

Young Donors Contribute More

According to statistics by Beautiful Foundation, out of their donors, 64 percent of them were young adults in their 20s and 30s in 2008. This demographic group beats all other age groups and rose to the top on the donor's list. Their active participation is

commendable in light of reports where more than a million young people in their 20s and 30s are losing their jobs in this harsh time. University students are also doing their part to help the needy through fundraising activities.

For the fourth year running, an annual bazaar is being held at Gwangju

University by students of the English Department. Professor Suh Kyung-hee and her students sold things like fruit juice along with donated items. Meanwhile, students from the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department in Kyung-pook National University launched a creative initiative

to help the needy. Under Professor Kang Yang-koo's suggestion, fines are collected from latecomers, and donated. Both professors hope that students will mature from their experiences, and be keen on reaching out to society even after graduation.

Besides students-led initiatives, many young working adults are also reaching into their pockets. Park So-yeong, a non-regular worker, donates a symbolic 8,800 won monthly. The "880,000-won generations," where youths can mostly expect to earn only such an amount even with a school diploma, is becoming a reality. Park, personally facing gloomy prospects, wishes to reach out a helping hand to others in similar circumstances. "In a way, I could say I'm donating now not for anyone else but for myself. When I say 'for myself,' I refer to the happiness I feel when I see that there's this bit I can do to combat the "880,000-won generation." I also feel it is a form of investment for my future as I might just be the one who require this help."

Plagued by financial instability due to the sinking economy, these young adults should be applauded for their continuous monetary support for charitable causes. It is only through their commendable helping spirit even in trying times that noble causes can find financial backers.

Online-Donation Sinks Its Roots

The once foreign term, "online-donation," is bringing a fresh dimension of donation culture to Korean society today. Recently, CNN showcased Korea as one of the first countries with the most developed form of online-giving which is both unique and efficient. This digital sharing culture is revolutionary, with everything accessible in just the click of a mouse, making it fast and convenient, serving as a bonus.

The donation sites allow anyone to search for the cause they wish to donate

to. Some Web sites are more specific while others are more general. By using the search functions provided by the Web sites, Koreans can find the organizations that service their causes. Some donating Web sites are also making creative use of the Internet to help them raise funds. They provide a myriad of choices to Koreans, letting them select the ways they wish to donate. On some sites, donors are even empowered to decide how their contributions will be used. According to Scott Oki, a philanthropist and former Microsoft Executive, donors will contribute more if they can witness the impact on the lives of people their choices are making.

Moreover, online donation sites offer increased transparency, revealing the donors' contributions and names while updating the total amount received frequently. On the main page, how the donated money is being spent and distributed is also stated clearly. This addresses criticisms of accountability as well as soothes fears of abuse.

Unsurprisingly, the Community Chest was able to collect more than 4.7 billion won from online donations. In the case of the Beautiful Foundation, netizens are credited with donating more than 10 billion won. Web donation have integrated into the donation culture with almost all major charitable organizations accepting such donations. Meanwhile, Koreans emboldened through the wealth of knowledge and options granted by the Web are more forthcoming in their contributions as they seek to make a meaningful difference.

Rise of Frequent Small Donors

Unfavorable economic circumstances have imposed financial difficulties on Koreans today. Yet, even such rough economic headwinds are unable to douse the fire of giving inherent in Koreans' spirits with the amount of

donations having reached its highest at \$270.3 million in 2008 compared to recent years. Many people are finding alternative measures to circumvent budget constraints to bring donating into their lives. Though the sum they donate may be less, they continued their efforts to donate more often by adding unique and creative ways to it.

Park Eun-jin, a university student, donates an amount equal to her taxi fare if she arrives for her appointment on time. This has helped her in not only making it to her appointments punctually, but also given her a sense of self-worth as she became motivated to change her habits to help others. "It struck me that the money I was spending on my cab fare due to my laziness could actually help so many people who could spend the money on much more meaningful things such buying a textbook," she said.

According to Leftovers Love Sharing Community, there is an increase in small individual donors committed to sharing their tight family budget with children despite the sliding economy. The number of individual donors who pledged to donate between 5,000 won to 30,000 won per month has increased by 20 percent in 2008 from 2007.

While their contributions may seem small, "small" donors are sincere in helping the needy. As the Korean saying goes, "ten spoons, one bowl," even with harsh conditions causing income to be highly unstable, Koreans still take pride in sharing with the less fortunate. The point is not the size of wealth but the willingness of the donor that determines how much the poor can receive. "Small" donors stretch the limits in how much they can give to society.



The Other Side of the Story

It is encouraging to see that there are still many Koreans devoting their attention to the needy during these tumultuous times. The Korean mindset has come a long way since the dark days of the economic crisis in 1998 where people were more self-centered. They have become more compassionate in the process and seek to survive today's difficult times through mutual help.

With donating figures at an all time high amidst an economic crisis, is the picture of a compassionate Korean society real? Or are statistics hiding a more selfish side of the story?

What about the Older Donors?

While statistics of young adults in their 20s and 30s are positive, the same cannot be said of those in their 40s and 50s. With their wealth, these Koreans have the capabilities to help their ailing country. Yet, most appear to be unable to overcome their inertia and give generously. Statistics of age distribution of donors revealed by Beautiful Foundation showed that people in their teens and 50s take up 5 percent each while those in their 40s take up 20 percent. While it is quite understandable why those in their teens take up a lesser percentage (they are not income-earners), it is definitely a question why those in their 40s and 50s are not contributing more to charitable organizations.

Perhaps, this indifference can be assumed to have stemmed from the socio-economic situations that these people went through in the past. "Hardship has made the older generations, especially the 40s and 50s who lived through both the good and bad times, value the fruits of their labor and see themselves



google.com



Beautiful Foundation

as masters of their own destinies. This could be one of the few reasons why they are less willing to give," said Park Tae-kyu, a professor of the Economics Department at Yonsei University and Director of the Research Institute of Beautiful Foundation. The solution to poverty in the past was thought to be through self and economic growth powered by hard labor. Though much time has passed, this thought seems to justify the reluctance to give away a slice of their hard-earned assets.

Many in their 40s and 50s still wish to follow traditions and leave their bequests to their next generation. Bearing in mind that the Korean psyche is heavily influenced by the ideals of

Confucianism; loyalty to one family comes first before other bonds, it is hard to blame Koreans for caring for their directly-related younger generations. Donating will reduce the amount they can leave behind, and can be seen as a failure in their duties to their families.

However, donating can help break people out of their chains of misfortune and inspire them to give back to society. Thus, wouldn't donating create a more compassionate culture that serves as a better gift to future generations?

Trivialization of Website Donations

Just by making donating convenient and allowing people to have a greater say in how their donations should be used, fundraising websites should be seen in a favorable light for adding a breath of fresh air to the spirit of giving and its culture. Yet, despite being effective in helping to raise more funds for charitable causes, online donation sites could actually be causing the sincere act of giving to become trivialized.

It is positive to see the rapid rise in the digital figures translating into enormous physical donations for charitable organizations. At the same time however, we must question whether the digitalization of giving is strangling the warmth of the donating culture today. It would be ideal that donors give out of their love for humanity and the desire to help less privileged. "It is a good thing that people can donate really easily now, and this form of donation culture can be instilled in us as if it's 'an everyday-ism.'" However, the down side of it is that it could actually bring failure of increasing awareness and trivialize the act of giving," said Professor Park.

The mundane tasks rarely inspire.

If donating just becomes a routine of clicking some virtual buttons and icons when prompted, then it could soon be regarded as a chore borne out of financial capability.

In the long run, wouldn't this mean that the donating culture might lose its true meaning, eroded away by the conveniences offered by digitalization? What is the point in having more donations if it is not out of empathy, but because giving is easily done? As Professor Park said, "If there is no sincerity when giving, it is quite pointless and we cannot say our donation culture is on its way to greater improvement." Indeed, one must be questioned on his sincerity to help the less fortunate, if all he does is to click on virtual buttons when prompted.

Slide in Corporation Donations

It is heartening to see ordinary Koreans caring so much for their less blessed in these testing times. However, the same cannot be said of Korean corporations. According to their semi-annual reports by The Korea Times, Korean firms' charitable donations have fallen by approximately 10 to 20 percent in the first half of the year 2008.

The great controversy thus arises here. If "small" donors can find a way to donate more from their tight budgets, then wouldn't firms be even more flexible to donate more from their larger financial resources? However, even if such benefits in flexibility do exist, the figures that can be seen in


their donations are definitely proving otherwise.

Perhaps it is the objective of capital that is at work. Major firms like Samsung Electronics and SK Telecom can then justify their actions to reduce donations in order to expand profit margin. A greater profit margin can create more profit. Consequently, these firms will have the financial strength to increase their contributions to charitable organizations again.

There lies a difference between "small" and corporate donors. While "small" donors have progressed remarkably since the dark days of the economic crisis, firms are still mired in the same old mindset of yesteryear. "Small" donors believe in mutual help to tide people over rough times, firms may believe in saving their own skin first.

So who's the pettier one? Small donors who try to share as much of their soup with others, or giant hollow firms who try to hoard as much profits?

Korea's Future in the Donation Culture : An Extension of Human Compassion

There exist many different charitable organizations that support different causes. Even those with the same cause possess different visions and missions. However, they have one common purpose and hope, which is to see the Korean culture develop into a mature donating one with a heart. Therefore, what is important is not the cold physical fundamental money that fuels charitable causes, but the willingness to share and help one another in both good and bad times. This alone will be able to fire up the donating culture. 

What does donation mean to these people?

"Giving" is...

"giving back what I have received, being the help to others like that I received."

- Jo Don-jun has come forward to donate after receiving help six years ago

"living and mixing with one another, regardless of wealth or status."

- Park Sung-kyu donates part of the money he saves when he gets free meals

"the spirit of sharing with a beautiful heart."

- Park Eun-jin donates part of her taxi fare whenever she arrives on time for an appointment

"communicating with the world. You receive so much more when you give. The satisfaction and happiness is indescribable."

- Park So-yeong donates a unique 8,800 won every month in preparation of the 880,000-won generation

Corporate Donations Slide

(Unit : One billion won)

Name	H12008	H12009
SamsungElectronics	27.4	25
SK Telecom	29.4	22.6
POSCO	73	15.1

Source : Companies' semi-annual reports.

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로봇대권V 두 번째 삶을 살다 展
Robot Taekwon V, lives the second life.



Charity Art Event Highlights Popular Animation Figure

Local Restaurant Hosts Artists'
Charity Event for Refugees

By Kang Hye-rim

Associate Editor of Culture Section

More than 32 million people around the world, half of them children, are reportedly forced to flee their homes every year because of persecution and war. Moreover, countless children are born every year in refugee camps and have never seen the world outside. The plight of these impoverished children has prompted five young artists and curators to take action by organizing a charity event in Seoul exhibiting and selling their art work in cooperation with a local restaurant owner.

Charles Jang, Kim Seok and Seong Tae-jin, along with curators Lee Bu-yong and Lee Jun-gul opened the exhibition at Min's Club, a fusion restaurant located in the popular neighborhood of Insadong on Oct. 7 that will run through Nov. 22.

The exhibition's theme focuses on the South Korean animation character Robot Taekwon V. Created in 1976, the character remains a popular icon among young children today. In 2008, the South Korean office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) designated the character as its goodwill envoy.

Since his first appearance 33 years ago, South Korean children have idolized Robot Taekwon V as a role model. Known as a protector of children and their families, the robot has taken on a new role as a guardian for children caught in the middle of conflict zones. With the U.N. designation, Robot Taekwon V's image has gone beyond Korea's borders to reach some 3.2 million homeless children around the world who are the victims of war.

In support of the event, Min's Club, the venue for the exhibition, has added to its course selection a "Taekwon V and wine" dish that goes for 7,000 won per plate and will donate 10 percent of all

profits to the U.N. refugees fund during the exhibition. BM, a local artists' group that is supporting the project, estimates that sales from the event could total 130 million won in addition to the donation from Min's Club.

Lee Jun-gul, planning director of the exhibition, says that if it proves to be a success his group will push the UNHCR to turn it into an annual event. Part of a generation reared on the animated Robot Taekwon V series, Lee and the other artists each offer their own impression of the action superhero. "It's a great opportunity for me because I can help other people by doing my job, so I jumped at the chance," Lee said.

Fellow artist Charles Jang said he hoped that Robot Taekwon V would help "restore confidence" in young people suffering under conditions of poverty and war. Kim Seok noted that while Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie has gained global recognition as a good will ambassador, Robot Taekwon V remained relatively unknown. "I want to work to turn that around," he said.

"This is the first time that I have participated in philanthropy," said Seong



▲ Artist Seong Tae-jin engages in his craft.


◀ Curator Lee Jun-gul (L) and other planners of the charity event taste Taekwon V wine.

Tae-jin, "and I plan to continue." In a message to the victims of famine around the world, the artist offered words of encouragement. "There is always a bright side to things. Do not lose your dreams. Let us be joyful."

"We hope the event will help spawn other charities of this kind and simultaneously build ties with the U.N.," planning director Lee Jun-gul said.

The artists' works

Sculptor Kim Seok, born the same year as Robot Taekwon V, depicts the character in a more sensitive light, focusing on his humane and sentimental side in contrast to his more muscular and foreboding appearance. His work arouses images of a nostalgic childhood.

Artist Seong Tae-jin, whose room is filled with drawings of the character, employs sarcasm to depict Robot Taekwon V as an unemployed member of society. Through the eyes of Charles Jang, the character takes on an energetic and active role more akin to his cartoon persona. 

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Policy to Give a Hand to the Poor

By Kim Jun-kyu
Reporter of National Section

The government's welfare policies for the latter half of the year was announced on June 30. To help those who suffer from poverty, the government has set a direction of policies to help them. The government is doing this in order to help make Korea a more understanding and compassionate country in helping people trapped in poverty. The policies

have been designed as measures to stabilize the lives of poor citizens. These measures include medicine and welfare, and are currently being put in place and thus helping those in need. There are six policies altogether, one of which designates a 50 percent discount for local insurance for households living in poverty. This policy for the health care of these citizens is lessening their financial burdens by giving them a significant discount on their insurance bill.

The Discount for Insurance

The discount targets households that pay insurance less than 10,000 won a month. Without including those supported by the government because of low income, households with difficulty making a decent living will benefit from the discount. This support for the poor started in July and will last for about a year until June 2010. The insurance bill for the poor will be discounted such that they will only have to pay half the amount of what they paid in the past.

To make sure the people who need to get this aid benefit from the policy, the government is giving a discount to the poor who are registered with local insurance companies as paying less than 10,000 won per month. With this support, the burden of living in poverty can be lessened.

Taking Closer Look

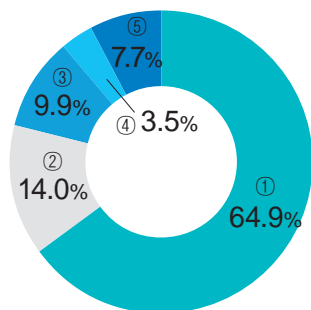
Taking a closer look, though, there are some negative side effects of the policy. If you think the policy will help with the welfare of society, the negative side effects do not mean much. What is most important is the measure of stable living of the citizens. The loss of insurance revenue will not be as much as before,

The Amount of Health Insurance Premiums in Arrears from 2005-2009

2005	1.27 trillion won
2006	1.53 trillion won
2007	1.72 trillion won
2008	1.80 trillion won
2009	1.88 trillion won

The state-run National Health Insurance Corp., 2009

Reasons for Health Insurance Premium Defaults



- ① Lack of Money for Living (64.9%)
- ② Increase in Health Insurance Premium (14.0%)
- ③ Not Knowing about Health Insurance Premiums in Arrears (9.9%)
- ④ No Receipt of Invoices for Health Insurance Premiums (3.5%)
- ⑤ Other Reasons (7.7%)

A survey by the state-run National Health Insurance Corp., 2009

though, when people who could not pay did not. Based on the statistics of the National Health Insurance Corp. (NHIC), the revenue loss had been about two trillion won without this aid. Still, with the discount, about 1.8 trillion won will not get paid this years compared to last year, and this is a serious problem. Worse, though, the rate of insurance costs reaches almost 90 percent of the poor.

The Ranks of Poverty

The government assigns the premium by grading points using various factors such as the level of income, level of the cost of the home and car. And the grades of individual families are marked with the ranks of one to 10. The more wealth a person has, the higher rank they get. By contrast, the poorer the household, the rank gets closer to 10.

Grade ranks is not a bad system, but it does not accurately reflect the difficulties people have with their finances. Even though the ranks are graded objectively, the people close to the rank ten still have difficulty in managing their livings. Because the assignment of the grade level has an error. The pricing of the insurance is priced too high for the poor people. People ranked close to the one can deal with the assigned money, but the premium which the poor household have to bear is too expensive for them. So, the ways to grade households and then price insurance now are tough for the poor to bear.

More Serious Problems

Medical welfare is one of the most important policies, but it is also the most complicated and difficult one. For example, the leukemia patient has to pay about 40 million won in order to get decent medical treatment for this terrible illness. It is the sum of the chosen treatment expenses and legally-

The Amount of Money Needed for a Leukemia Patient Expenses of National Health Insurance Corp.


Unit : 10 millions won

Legally-set Personal Expenses	400
Legal Price Expense	3,233
Chosen Treatment Expenses	491
Refund of Personal Expenses	279

The People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, 2009

set expenses that must be paid by her-or-himself. Obviously, in this case the discount for the poor is not a helpful solution but only a temporary expedient. The policy does not seem effective enough to change the difficulties inherent in serious illnesses.

To help all citizens of Korea, the government started many policies in various problem areas that plague the poor. With the goal of stabilizing the lives of all citizens, the government is showing people how it works for the possibilities for better life. But as they all can see, it is not an easy thing to do and the solutions will not last permanently. Despite the difficulties to reach these goals, what people all should want are essential solutions for our society.

Better ways should be chosen. As Son Sook-mi, a lawmaker of the National Assembly in the ruling Grand National Party, says, we should be concerned with care for all. Because making insurance payments a serious issue for the poor, reasonable and safe protection must be put into effect. And to those with more income, stronger tax collections should be made. That way, the systems of medical welfare can work for all. 

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Since Jan.20 in Yong-san

By **Kim Jun-kyu**
Reporter of National Section

More than a half-year has passed since January 20 in Yong-san. Yong-san is in the center of Seoul, Korea. It is next to the Han River, which divides the capital from south to north. As it is next to the river, and is in the center of Seoul and is also home to the big American army base, Yong-san bustles with different groups of people, many of which have conflicting interests in whether the area should be re-developed or not. In such a place, when friction between two groups ignites physical confrontations, injury and sometimes death can occur. The January 20 incident is such an unfortunate case.

To improve and modernize such areas in the city, the government wants to re-design and re-develop these locations. But there is a problem. People living

in these areas resist changes to their neighborhoods, wanting to maintain their living spaces like they have always been. In Yong-san, these two interests crashed into a big problem and it caused fatalities.

More than eight months has passed since this unfortunate incident occurred. But still, lots of criticism and disagreements are still causing problems and no solutions have been worked out yet.

Meanwhile, at the Site

Even though a long time has passed since the incident, the area in Yong-san is still tense. As evidence for the court, and as a place to show the situation at that time, the building that was damaged in the incident still stands. Near the damaged building where the fight took place, members from four different interest groups are present every day. The families of the victims, a few

catholic priests, the police, and members of an organization that supports the families all maintain their presence in the area.

The families of the victims stay and live in this area to protest to the government and want an official apology. Because of the fight, they lost their family members and cannot forgive the actions of the government. Since the January 20 incident, the family members stay next to the building and wear black clothing to commemorate the dead. Being poor themselves, they make it day-to-day only through donations, they



A kitchen used by the bereaved families of the victims.



eat and live the whole day and blame the government for such violent action by mobilizing and then sending in riot police. The families insist that the riot police made the situation worse and this is why their people got killed. So with intense feelings, families want apologies.

To help seek justice between the victims and the government, a committee was formed to unite the people being forced from staying at the site. The committee feels the government is not being fair in helping the families recover from their losses, especially the families who were forced to leave their homes. So the committee acts on behalf of the families in Yong-san in their grievances against the government. In response to the tragedy in Yong-san, the committee also works to get others involved in helping the people. They are also taking donations for the families to help them pay their bills and carry out many other activities with groups such as the Catholic priests to help the victims

Results of these Actions

By continuing these activities, things are getting better for the victims. Even though the tragedy occurred in January, lots of people still support the families who lost their homes. Visiting Yong-san and staying and helping at the site or donating money are most appreciated. Help has come from all over the nation, and this has been a great help to these people. Also, religious circles, charitable organizations, students, citizens, and even companies participate in activities such as demonstrations and rallies with the Yong-san families who lost brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, mothers, and fathers.

Priests from catholic churches are a big help too. They perform mass every week and also participate in

demonstrations and rallies that create a ripple effect with the citizens.

But situation does not seem to work very well. Demonstrations in front of City Hall always seem to cause problems. Obeying the law, the activities have not violent, but the government and the police monitor and manage these demonstrations. Worst of all, discord between the demonstrators and the police sometimes gets serious and some of the leaders were arrested. This causes more trouble, and strong feelings get worse as time goes by.



An altar set up for the victims of the Yongsan tragedy.




Buying candles can be a big help.

The Present Discord

The disagreement between the police and the families of the victims does not seem to be ending. Activities to push the government into apologies have been more frequent lately, and the corresponding force of the police has only grown. The police always send in a large force, and recently arrested sixteen

people in a demonstration. The group that demonstrated cannot understand the reasons why.

Also, questions about legal rights are going nowhere. The police began taking control of the building on January 20, 2009, at 6:30AM. By then, a number of people in the opposition were in the building and would not leave. They had accumulated oil and flame bottles inside the building and fire started that swallowed both the family members in Yong-san and the police. The truth of what happened is hard to determine because the families in Yong-san and the police have different opinions and there is still no agreement about the tragedy. Families say the police killed their loved ones, the police say it was an accident. To examine the tragedy in Yong-san, the Yong-san committee insists that the police force has not been forthcoming with information about the incident. Also it claims that the prosecution and the police should release all the data about the incident. About 3000 pages of information have not yet been released, and the prosecution claims they need to protect private information and stop the possibilities of the abuse over it.

Right now, we don't really know which group is right and which group is wrong. But the incident in Yong-san has inspired people to continue their lawful demonstrations and have thus far not been violent. The government, on the other hand, shows no enthusiasm to solve the matter. There needs to be a full and fair trial about this incident. So we all can know the truth. Nobody is above the law, not even the government. In the end, truth and justice must be served. 

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Stand by Me,

Chase the Happiness

Chingusai

By Jeon Seong-jin*Associate Editor of Campus Section*

In Korean society, a man is usually pressured to live a responsible life as the head of a family, whether as the eldest son, father, or husband. As a result, gay Korean men's expression of sexual identity is not allowed because of so much pressure to eke out a living for the family.

Amid this backdrop, the group "Chingusai" is seeking to advocate the rights of gay men in Korean society. The group, originally named "Chodonghoe," has been actively engaged in activities to fight for the rights of the nation's homosexuals since 1993. By 1994, it changed its name to "Chingusai" and switched the aim of its activities from all homosexual people to gay males. The group also works to address the human rights, legal affairs and other issues involving South Korea's gay population.

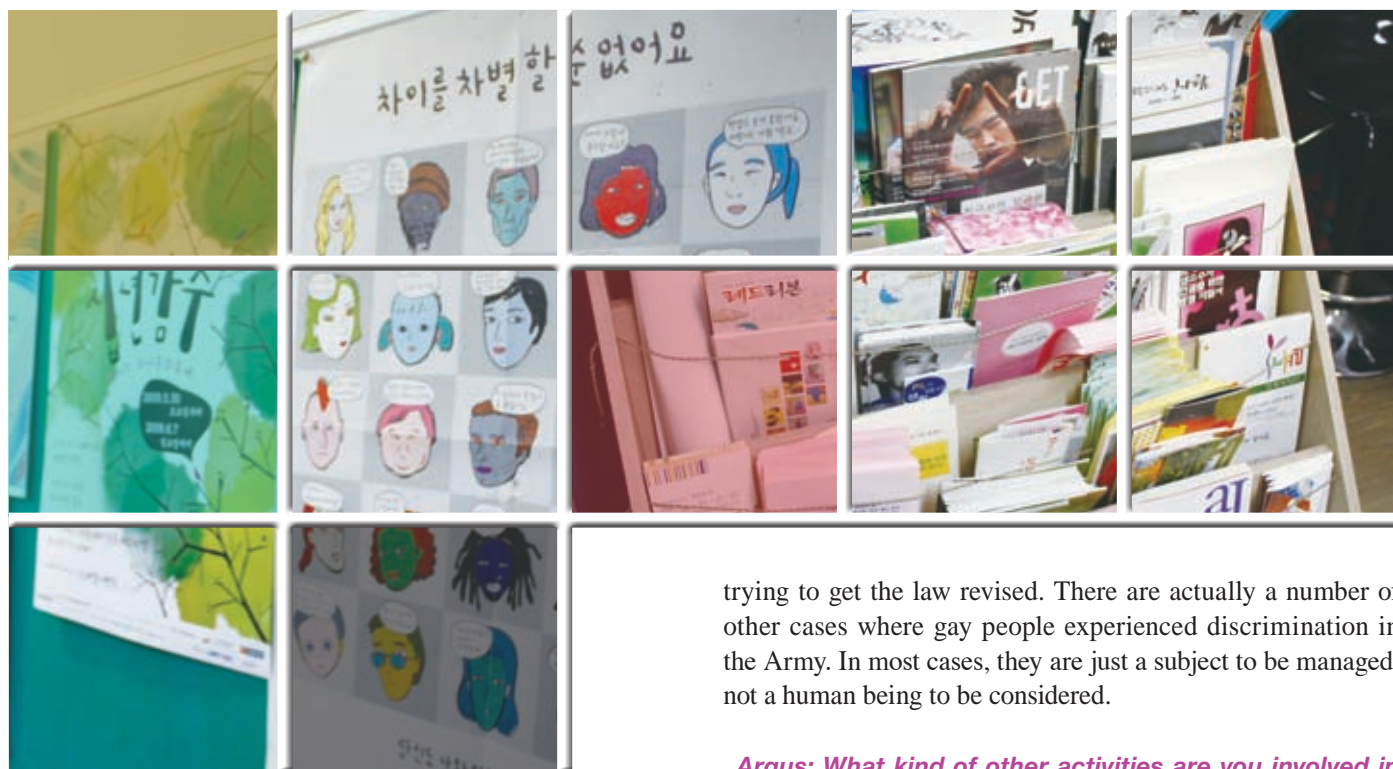
The Argus had an opportunity to meet Lee Jong-geol, an official of the group. Lee reveals the struggles faced by gay men in Korean society and gives readers an account on gay life here.

Argus: Tell us why your group changed the direction of its efforts to the advocacy of gay men's rights?

Lee Jong-geol (Lee): In order to answer that question, you first have to know that the homosexual community can be divided into lesbians, gays and bisexuals. We decided to focus our efforts on issues involving only gay men when we set up "Chingusai" because "Chodonghoe" represented all homosexual people in general.

Argus: Although Korean society has opened up considerably from the past, views regarding homosexuality still tend to be very conservative. What have you done exactly to help the public adjust its attitude toward homosexuality?

Lee: We commemorated IDHT (the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia), which has been observed since May 17, 1990, when the World Health Organization deleted homosexuality from a list of mental diseases. "Chingusai" held a campaign program in Seoul displaying boards asking, "Have you ever done coming-out?" Some 300 participants answered that they had done coming-out or had heard of acquaintances that had.



trying to get the law revised. There are actually a number of other cases where gay people experienced discrimination in the Army. In most cases, they are just a subject to be managed, not a human being to be considered.

Argus: What kind of other activities are you involved in to help the gay community?

Lee: “Chingusai,” in cooperation with pharmacists and local doctors, have established “Nanuri+,” which treats problems related to HIV/AIDS (Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). “Nanuri+” is specifically helping to ensure the rights of HIV positive patients. AIDS is widely believed to be a punishment upon gays their behavior. Through our activities, we help distribute condoms around Jongno’s gay bars and clubs. “iSHAP,” another group, is also helping gay people get tested for HIV/AIDS, giving free, monthly, and anonymous, checkups.

Argus: Within Korea’s social boundaries, men have a responsibility to do military service, and gay males are no exception. Have there been any cases of infringement on gay people’s rights in the arm?

Lee: That is a good point. Military Law stipulates that committing sodomy or disgraceful conduct during military service is a punishable offense. This clause, however, applies only to gay soldiers. Two gay soldiers who are couples in separate camps once met while off-duty day and off army camp grounds. They had a sexual relationship, and because of this they got punished. On the other hand, straight soldiers engaging in sexual contact with female partners are not punished at all. Fortunately, judges at the Military Law Court decided that the case was unconstitutional. My group and I am

Argus: Would you say that gay men can live happily in Korean society?

Lee: This wild world does not guarantee rights if you just sit down and do nothing. What I usually emphasize is that we should be meddlesome in a good way to secure gay rights on an individual basis. For general people, I want to suggest that it is really important to know the right from wrong when it comes to gay matters and that they should have a right understanding about homosexuality. 🇰🇷

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Fixing Leaks before Entering the On-line Content Ocean

Korean Mobile Telecommunication Industries Enter into Mobile Application Market

By Jang Ho-jun

Associate Editor of Theory & Critique Section

On-line application stores allow users to browse and download various kinds of information or entertainment-based software programs registered by individual developers or companies. Many of the applications available are tailored for use with so-called smart phones, which function like small computers with built-in operating systems (OS).

Companies have different rules regarding the compatibility of applications available on their individual

app stores with various mobile devices. Programs available on Apple Inc.'s App Store, for example, can only be used with Apple products such as the iPod touch and iPhone. T Store, operated by SK Telecom, is more flexible when it comes to the interoperability of its app store programs with mobile devices, including both smart phones and devices not equipped with their own operating systems.

Rise of Participation

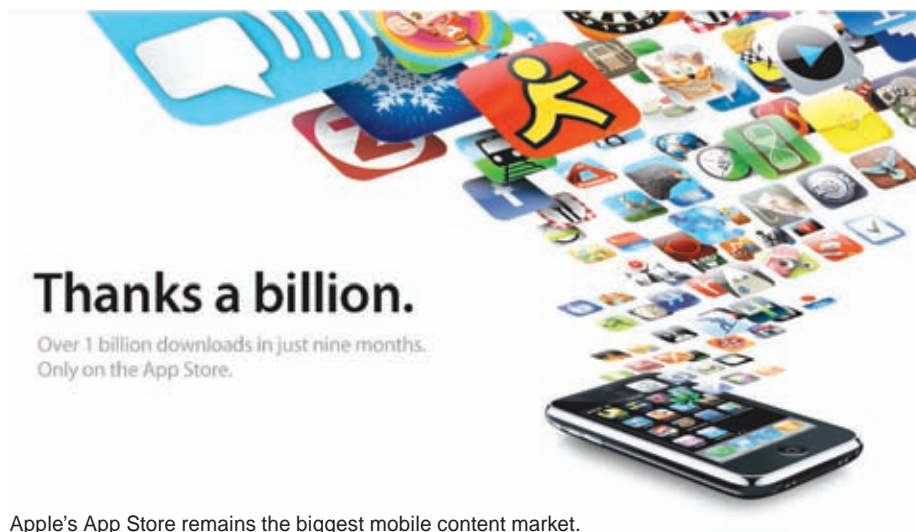
The term "app store" originated from Apple Inc.'s on-line market. Although several small stores pre-dated Apple's, the company's proved to be the most

successful of its kind. The success of Apple's on-line store is due in large part to the company's innovative mobile devices, including the popular iPod and iPhone models, to the user friendliness of its software and to its unlimited network use. Since its launch on July 1, 2008, over a billion programs have been downloaded from the site, while for August alone the revenue from its on-line sales reached some 250 billion won (US\$209 million).

Apple's success prompted a rush by telecommunications companies into the on-line application market. Korean companies joined the move, with SK launching its T Store on Sept. 8 and the Samsung Application Store opening in Britain, France and Italy on Sept. 14. SK Communications plans to open its Nate App Store on Sept. 30.

Experts say the decision to enter the on-line application market was made in order to improve wireless mobile Internet services and by the fact that the growth of the smart phone industry will likely lead to growing demand for applications.

But on-line stores operated by Korean mobile providers differ in several aspects from their foreign counterparts. Local mobile companies allow a diverse array of software manufacturers to freely



Apple's App Store remains the biggest mobile content market.

provide content through their on-line markets. The logic behind this strategy is that promoting familiar brands will help attract a greater number of users.

Jang Ho-jun / The Argus

Mobile Devices for App Store

While most predictions point to the rapid growth of the smart phone industry, currently only some 500,000 out of 20 million registered mobile users own smart phones. The figure translates to roughly 0.9 percent of the domestic mobile phone market. Among smart phone users, some 400,000 are signed with SKT, followed by 100,000 with LG Telecom and 50,000 with KT.

Such low numbers are the result of an absence of an efficient wireless broadband connection. Establishing the necessary infrastructure for high-speed wireless Internet connections such as a Wi-Fi network will help to promote the growth of the smart phone market. Most mobile companies are reluctant to install a nationwide Wi-Fi network, however, for fear of lost revenue. Moon Hyung-chul, a columnist with the local webzine PlayPC, says mobile companies “have garnered tremendous revenue from charges for calls and data usage. Since wireless Internet technology cannot be monopolized by certain companies, it would be hard to earn as much with Wi-Fi internet service.”

The Burden of Call Charge

Service providers offer a variety of charges for smart phone users who download content from their sites. A closer look at these charges, however, reveals discrepancies between users of smart phones and other mobile users. For instance, SKT provides its “Data Zone Free” service, which charges 13,500 won per month but is not available to users of smart phones, who must pay 23,500 won per month to use the companies’ NET 1000 service. In addition, customers have expressed frustration with the high



Employees of Playtime hold a presentation on the game software company's business plan for open markets at the Convention and Exhibition Center in Seoul on Sept. 4.

cost of downloads from the T Store, which charges 3.5 won per kilobyte. Going by these rates, downloading a 2-megabyte game will cost users anywhere from 7,000 won to 8,000 won, which is double the actual cost of the game.

Support for Software Developers

Digital Times recently published a table showing the competitiveness of companies which manage their own application markets, including the provision of software development kits (SDK) that allow programmers to make applications. Apple and Google both offer advanced SDK tools, which first went through a prolonger period of research and development, while local providers like Samsung do not. (Samsung recently announced the launch of a new kit for programmers in August, though it is still a beta version.)

Another key component to advancing the mobile market is the fair distribution of revenues to individual developers, as well as providing them with appropriate SDKs. A standard rule in revenue distribution between developers and market providers is the 7-to-3 ratio. Most domestic companies have announced that they would follow the rule, though developers are wary of being charged hidden fees. Jang Jeong-woo, a reporter with the Electronic Times, points out that in the case of T Store, “SKT charges developers 100,000 won in registration

fees for each application. In addition to the 3.5 won downloading fee, SKT earns more than three times the revenue of developers.”

Government Restrictions

The Korea Communications Commission's 2008 report showed that game and music software occupy the largest share of the domestic mobile content market. This fact raises a key issue, namely that each game must first be rated by the government's Game Rating Board. While the government body said on Sept. 4 that application procedures would be simplified, such measured will only effect games with an “ALL” rating. Registration fees are another obstacle for individual programmers.

A Stitch in Time Saves Nine

Launching an App Store marks only the beginning stage of developing the mobile content market. After the success of Apple, Korean telecommunication companies followed suit, though as shown, their services contain some crucial flaws. Local providers must take into account such steps as reducing charges for data transfers, increasing the supply and interoperability of smart phones and providing developers with more opportunities to supply software. 

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Society, the Other Name of Prison



Hankyoreh 21

By Jang Ho-jun

Associate Editor of Theory & Critique Section

A group of civil society organizations have recently accused the National Intelligence Service (NIS) of spying on the Internet records of members of the civic group Solidarity for Practice of the South-North Joint Declaration on suspicion that they violated the National Security Law.

The incident became a controversy as the country's top spy organ went beyond its mandate to dig into the privacy of ordinary citizens. Furthermore, the revised Communications Privacy Act also became a hot potato issue due to clauses that order telecommunication companies to provide detailed call information to authorities for crime investigations.

The history of authorities' monitoring of citizens is by no means short, especially in Korea. There have always been disputes about the limits of government power over the society it governs, and it is unclear whether that authority has diminished with the advent of democracy and human rights.

"Discipline and Punishment," by French philosopher Michel Foucault, is one of the most influential analyses of power. The book examines the history of prisons and punishment, pointing out changes in corporal punishment and imprisonment.

Observation Becomes Prevalent in Penalty

After the 1820s, European judiciatures tended to gradually alleviate corporal punishment, substituting imprisonment for harsh punishments like flogging. In 1961 Korea also coined a new term for prisons, "gyodoso," which means a place for enlightening prisoners. However, Foucault does not agree with the idea that the modern prison exists to help inmates engage as members in a society. Instead, prisons are aimed at inculcating orders imposed by authorities. Diverse measures in the name of education remove individual's subjectivity. Prisoners, classified and segregated in the institutions, consider their own behavior lest they be detected by observers. They gradually become afraid of acting abnormally.

Similarly, the NIS's Internet record observations mirror a prison's own watch system. The NIS used a technology that analyzes packets of information, a formatted unit of data that contains information on sites visited and statements left by targeted users. Looking over this data provides a perfect lookout to monitor users every action.

"Human beings have privacy in four fields: space, body,

information and communication,” said Park Chung-ja, professor emeritus of Sangmyung University. “That is, people have the right not to be observed by others in these areas. It is unfortunate that government agencies have recently tended to perform their work without considering people’s basic rights.”

Panopticon Infiltrates into Society

Foucault’s explanation of a modern prison covers not only the area of punishment, but also ordinary lives in a society. That is, the structure of observation and restraint can be discovered even in such areas as education, military training and manufacturing. When explaining lookouts in societies, Foucault often focuses on what is called the “Panopticon,” a type of prison suggested by English philosopher Jeremy Bentham. The concept of the design is to allow observation of all prisoners without the prisoners being able to tell whether they are being watched. The concept originated from two Greek words, “pan” and “opticon,” which mean “all” and “see.”

To Foucault, this model is symbolic of modern society. From an expanded view, even producing knowledge and goods in schools or factories is performed in the way same as the application of order by authority in a prison. Foucault insists individuals believe that they engage in production on their own, when in fact they have been classified to function in appropriate places. Similarly, cyber space provides the lookout for governmental authorities such as the prosecution, NIS and Defense Security Command to ensure order. Other examples include closed-circuit television (CCTV) distributed throughout city streets.

In Current Cyber Space

It is not hard to find cases of the

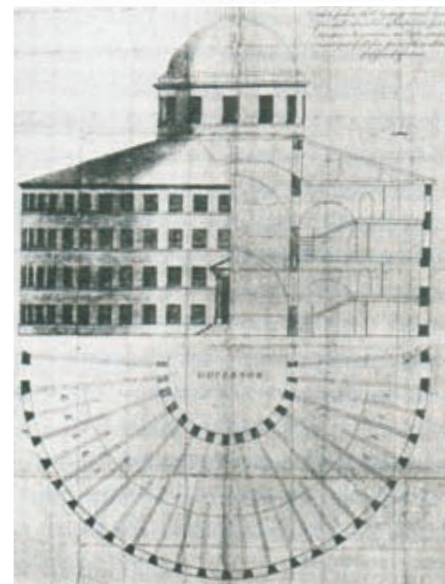
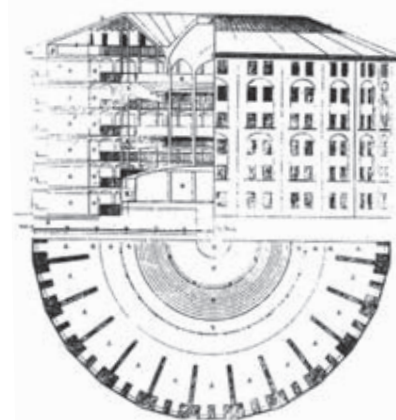
“disciplinary” society that Foucault suggested. Due to technical advances in the 20th century, an array of devices now have the capability to observe people as efficiently as a panopticon. As mentioned above, the Internet is one of the most influential of such places of observation. Not only national institutions, but firms as well serve as observers by collecting personal information to set marketing strategies. KT introduced its new Internet service named “QOOK,” which provides ads based on data regarding the tastes of individual customers. The method of collecting such data is the same as that used by the NIS’s packet investigation, continuously raising the problem of violating individual’s privacy.

Hong Sung-ook, professor of Program in History and Philosophy of Science at Seoul National University, defines the phenomenon of watching society’s members using computer devices as the domination of an “electronic panopticon,” such as the Internet or CCTV.


Yet the more people think they can monitor authorities in cyber space, the more organizations actively engage in pointing out the flaws of authority and expressing their opinions. Thomas Mathiesen, a Norwegian sociologist, suggests the concept of “synopticon,” a revised model of the panopticon using the Greek word “syn,” meaning “together.” He establishes a new relation between observers and individuals, emphasizing that both can observe each other. It is evident that the lookout by national authorities -- whether in reality or cyber space -- might hinder the possibility of advancing mutual restraint.

“Big Brother” Might Exist

Although monitoring telecommunications and Internet is approved by the judicature, the range of interception recently uncovered reveals grave



These blueprints show the basic structure of Bentham’s concept of the panopticon, a prison for monitoring prisoners without being detected.

violations of individual privacy. It is important to realize that authorities sustain their power by oppressing individuals’ rights, while people unconsciously gird themselves with the disciplines acquired. The May 1, 1999 issue of *The Economist* ran a piece that read, “In the countryside of the past, everyone knew what the others had been doing; however, it is certain that no one can be sure of what lies in the future.” Big Brother, as depicted in the novel “1984” by George Orwell, with huge eyes staring at society, has now become a reality. 

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Ex-Argus Reporters Launch Alumni Association

By Park Hyun-chul

Editor-in-Chief

About 100 former Argus reporters attended the inauguration of an alumni association in Seoul on Aug. 28 to promote their fraternity and render assistance to the magazine's current staff.

The group, all former reporters with the English-language journal produced by students at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS), unanimously agreed to the appointment of Yun Yong-ro, president of the Industrial Bank of Korea, as chairman of The Argus Alumni Association of HUFS.


Established in 1954, The Argus is one of the leading English-language journal published by South Korean universities. Attendees at the event, held at a local restaurant in central Seoul, have sought to set up the association since late 2008.

Dankook University professor Park Myung-seok and five other former Argus reporters who were involved in the production of The Argus in the late 1950s, delivered warmhearted speeches on the magazine's future success. They also accepted offers to become honorary chairmen of the association, adding to the evening's morale-boosting atmosphere.

Chairman Yun will be assisted by two senior advisors, Kim Kyu-ho and Kirk Sung-hee, and two vice chairmen, Thomas Rhee and Lim Haang, while 1982 Argusian and Hanhwa Insurance Co. manager, Hong Sung-kweon, will serve as secretary general responsible for handling the association's practical business affairs.

The association also chose three directors who will lead committees in the areas of general affairs and planning, organizational management and sharpening of talent among current reporters with The Argus.

Ahn Kyoo-chang, president of logistics company HTL, and Lim Suk-woo, a senior manager with KT, will be tasked with running the general affairs and planning committee and the organizational management committee, respectively, while Nam Sang-hyun, senior editor at Yonhap News Agency, will be responsible for honing the journalistic skills of The Argus reporters.

Also attending the meeting were eight incumbent Argus reporters, headed by Editor-in-chief Park Hyun-chul, and Vice HUFS President Kim Kyu-chin. 

The Argus

Executive Members of the
Alumni Association of The Argus
(as of Aug. 28, 2009)

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| • Honorary Chairmen | Ahn Bong-soo
Kim Hyun-chul
Hur Chul-boo
Chung Hong-taek
Park Myung-seok
Saw Seok-min |
| • Senior Advisors | Kim Kyu-ho,
Kirk Sung-hee |
| • Chairman | Yun Yong-ro |
| • Vice Chairmen | Thomas Rhee
Lim Haang |
| • Secretary General | Hong Sung-kweon |

General Affairs and Planning Committee

- | | |
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| • Director | Ahn Kyoo-chang |
| • Vice Directors | Stephen Son
Sung Gook-hwan |

Management and Organization Committee

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Director | Lim Suk-woo |
| • Vice Directors | Lee Jun-hee,
Lee Chang-nam |

Strengthening The Argus Reporters Committee

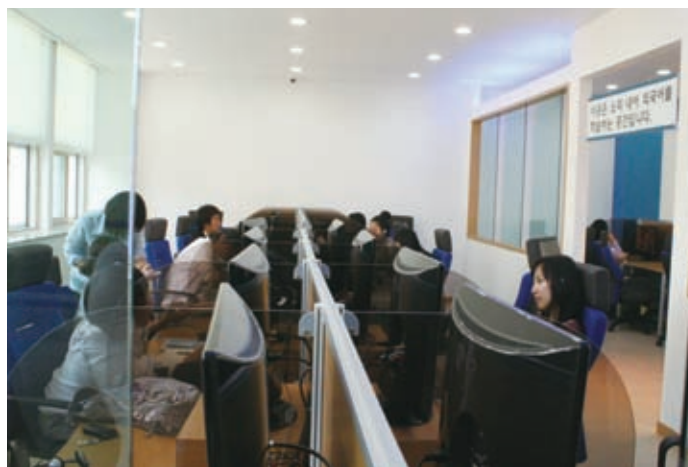
- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| • Director | Nam Sang-hyun |
| • Vice Director | Kim Mi-young |



Former and current reporters of The Argus raise their fists in a show of solidarity during a meeting at a Seoul restaurant on Aug. 28 to mark the inauguration of The Argus Alumni Association of HUFS.



Yun Yong-ro, president of the Industrial Bank of Korea, holds the flag of The Argus Alumni Association of HUFS after accepting the association's chairmanship at its inaugural meeting held at a Seoul restaurant on Aug. 28.



All photos by Kang Hye-rim

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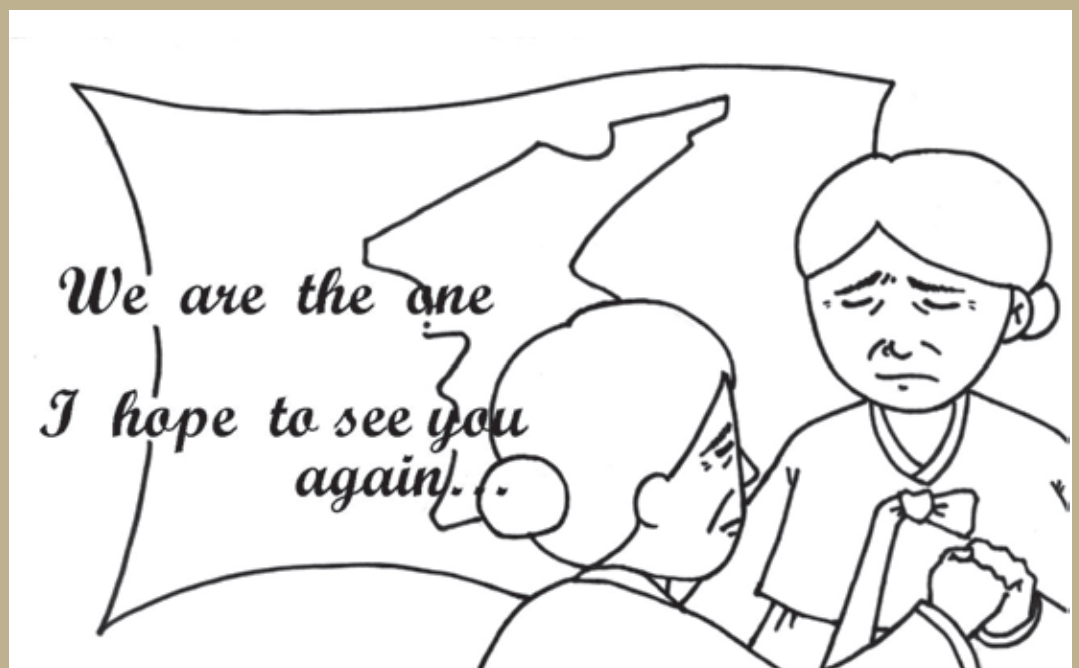
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문의 (서울) 02-2173-2508 (웅인) 031-330-4113 편집장 박현철 010-9770-0044 홈페이지 www.theargus.org



Bea Yeon-joo
Cartoonist
of The Argus



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Oh Chong-jin

- College of Oriental Languages
- Department of Turkish and Azerbaijani



Professor

Kim Jong-ho

- College of Chinese
- Chinese Studies Division



Instructor

Lee Soo-young


- College of Social Sciences
- Department of Public Administration



Instructor

Chae Young-gil


- College of Social Sciences
- Journalism and Mass Communication Division



Instructor

Yoo Tae-young

- College of Business Administration
- Business Administration Division



Instructor

Hong Won-pyo

- College of Education
- Curricular for Teaching Profession



Assistant Professor

Choi Jin-young


- College of Interpretation and Translation
- Department of Arabic Interpretation and Translation



Assistant Professor

Kim Jang-gyem

- College of Interpretation and Translation
- Department of Malay-Indonesian Interpretation and Translation



Assistant Professor

Kim Soo-hwan

- College of Central and East European Studies
- Department of Russian



Instructor

Park Seong-hee

- Division of International Sports and Leisure

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