

The Argus

No. 472 SEPTEMBER 9, 2015

Since 1954



Report: Doubts on the New Grading System

Cover Story - Several Shades of the Grading System
- How about Universities in Your Country?

In-depth on National Dark Clouds over the Rainbow on Campus

Culture Insight Multi-Brand Shops Remain Popular

Reportage A Yellow Butterfly Flies High in the Sky



HANKUK UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES

The Argus

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Editorial

What Is Expected of this Semester?

The second semester of 2015 has begun, and this semester will be the fresh resumption of college life for those who have finished their military service, students who have come back to Korea after studying abroad, and for those returning after taking off a semester or two. Nevertheless, there is one thing waiting for every student including returning students, just like last semester.

Everyone who spent the spring semester of this year on HUFSS campus, and will stay on campus this semester should realize that the reformed grading system has not changed much. Relative evaluation will continue to be applied to all courses, and limits on retaking courses will remain, continuing from the retroactive application issue that happened after the fall semester of 2014.

It is true that the impact of the grading system's reform differed according to departments. As a student majoring in a department where all courses are delivered in English, I have experienced how relative evaluation influenced my grades, especially when it excludes the number of international and overseas Koreans in small classes. Those taking social science and commerce courses say that there was not a big change because relative evaluation was already the norm due to those departments' large classes. On the other hand, HUFSSans majoring in languages complain that the reform influenced their grades greatly.

As people who live and learn on campus, HUFSSans expect the school grounds to improve every semester along with a better environment that translates their hard work into higher grades. Since the change's influence has reached every student in different ways, the HUFSS administration should be gathering students' stories and concerns regarding this issue if they have not started already. A solution or a better idea for grade evaluations could be reached through this, and this could make college life at HUFSS more promising for students, professors, and faculty members. 

Park Ji-yeon
Editor-in-Chief



23



26



06



20



CONTENTS



Cover Story

>> The first semester with the new grading system had already passed. Since it was an unwanted change that happened against strong opposition, students had been watching its outcome closely. Unfortunately, the result was negative rather than positive, and students started to raise their voice against the grading system again. The Argus looked into why and how they are against the system in place.

- 02 • **News Desk**
- 05 • **News Briefing**
- 06 • **Rendezvous**
"Gunfork" Starts a Novel Food Culture in the Military
- 09 • **Road Casting**
What Are the Most Important Social Issues for People in Their Twenties?
- 10 • **Cover Story**
- Review: Checking the New Grading System
- How about Universities in Your Country?
- 16 • **People**
We Still Need Sex Education
- 18 • **Photo Essay**
A Forgotten Statue Stands Lonely
- 20 • **In-depth on National**
Dark Clouds over the Rainbow on Campus
- 23 • **Culture Insight**
Multi-Brand Shops Remain Popular
- 26 • **Reportage**
A Yellow Butterfly Flies High in the Sky
- 29 • **Eye of The Argus**
An Unseen Barrier Is Holding Korea Back
- 30 • **Voice of Wisdom**
Swimming Upstream Improves Your Vision!
- 32 • **Opinion/ Cartoon**



HUFS Local Community Project Wins Seoul's Grand Prize



▲ "IMUN-US" magazine wins grand prize.

HUFS students won the grand prize granted by the mayor of Seoul for their project, '2015 Connection Between College and the Local Community,' on June 22. They

submitted "IMUN-US," a project focusing on Imun-dong, the area in which HUFS Seoul Campus is located.

This project was supported by Seoul Community Support Center, with a total of 16 universities participating, including Kyung Hee University, Yonsei University, and SungKongHoe University. HUFS students participated with the aim to find out more about the local community of Imun-dong. HUFS project members included 16 undergraduate students studying alternative media and two postgraduate students under the guidance of Chae Young-gil, professor of the Department of Media Communication.

They started this project out of curiosity about Imun-dong, where HUFS Seoul Campus is located. Jang Si-yeon, a leading team member said, "We call ourselves 'Imunners,' just like New Yorkers, but we did not know much about the local community except the immediate area around campus." Thus, they divided Imun-dong into four areas to examine it in detail.

"IMUN-US" first introduced Imun-dong residents of Dongdaemun and people who think deeply about the community. The second part featured sights seen walking about Imun-dong, focusing on very old stores like a bookstore that is more than 20 years old. Third, Imun-dong locales are detailed, including trendy places where HUFS students usually go frequently and lesser-known places most people do not recognize. The last part focused on Dokgumal-gil, where traces of Imun-dong decades ago are still preserved. 📷

By Byeon Hee-jin

Ex-U.S. Envoy to Join HUFS



A former U.S. ambassador to South Korea will join the Language & Diplomacy (LD) Department of HUFS, and the new professor will share her firsthand experience in politics. Kathleen Stephens, who served as the envoy from 2008 to 2011, is set to cover various lectures on politics, diplomacy and trade based on her knowledge and experiences. Stephens served in the U.S. Embassy in India and also taught at Stanford University's Asia-Pacific Research Center for two years before joining HUFS.

The new professor of HUFS first came to South Korea with the Peace Corps in 1975 to serve as a voluntary English teacher at a middle school in Yesan, South Chungcheong Province and went back home to become a diplomat in 1978.

HUFS said she is interested in a variety of issues, especially those involving the relationship between South Korea and the U.S.

Stephens has also received various prizes from the South Korean government and related organizations, including the Sejong Cultural Prize and Kwanghwa Medal that recognizes her contributions to the country's diplomacy. 📷

By Jang Eun-ae

Ministry Awards Student Essay on the OECD

A freshman from the Division of International Studies, Choi Young-jin, won second prize in the 2015 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) English Essay Contest hosted by the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The contest was held from April 16 through May 6 with the purpose of raising awareness of global challenges discussed by the OECD and helping young people advance to the global stage.

“My essay explains how Korea’s role within the OECD has evolved,” said Choi. As one of the two prize winners, Choi was authorized to observe the OECD Forum that took place at its headquarter in Paris the first week of June. 

By Lee Jae-won



©Choi Young-jin

▲ Choi observed the OECD Forum at Paris as a winner of the essay contest.

HUFS Creates New Majors on Global Campus

HUFS will establish a new department comprising two majors, Global Business and Technology (GBT) and the Division of Biomedical Engineering (BME) on the Global Campus, and recruit students through the new department this year.

Professors of GBT will create a curriculum with global business topics and strengthen the program with specialized languages and regional studies available at HUFS.

BME’s professors will train students by offering a laboratory, scholarships and an internship system for bio industries in the future. HUFS will select 70 new students for admission to GBT and 35 students to BME. 

By Jang Eun-ae

HUFS Agrees on Negotiation with School Workers

HUFS consummated an agreement on school workers’ wages and working conditions in July.

On June 11, the General Student Council (GSC) adopted a resolution asking HUFS and the contract company to assure the workers a minimum wage and fill job vacancies.

As a result, wages for the workers have slightly increased and wage discrimination against female workers has been abolished. However, agreement on statutory working hours demanded by the workers has not been reached, and vacancies have not been filled. 

By Lee Jae-won

GSC Sets Up Its Own Overseas Volunteer Program

The General Student Council (GSC) of Seoul Campus organized their own overseas volunteer program, rejecting the school’s current program.

According to the GSC, the existing program has been embroiled in controversy for two reasons: the school views the volunteer program as a means of business, and the resultant programs planned by external enterprises are a far cry from offering the true value of voluntary service.

Therefore, the GSC planned its own program and went to a school in the “Maesot Refugee Camp,” located on the border between Thailand and Myanmar from Aug. 16 to 26. 

By Lee Jae-won

39th HIMUN Takes Place at COEX



HUFS International Model United Nations (HIMUN) held its 39th conference at Convention & Exhibition (COEX) Grand Conference Room in Seoul on Aug. 16. The agenda for this year was ‘Seeking Cooperative Methods in the International Community for the Enhancement of Human Rights in North Korea.’ Undergraduate and postgraduate students from various universities participated as delegates and interpreters utilizing their outstanding foreign language abilities. 📸

By Byeon Hee-jin

GSC Stands Against New Grading System

The General Student Council (GSC) prepared for war over the reformed grading system, conducting a public opinion poll and planning on revisiting the issue with school authorities.

The GSC did a survey on the changed grading system targeting students enrolled last semester from July 22 to Aug. 11. The GSC also planned to propose renegotiation with the school authorities based on the survey results.

The amendment to the grading system applied since last semester caused controversy as it forced nearly all courses to be graded using relative evaluations. 📸

By Choi Yun

HUFS Students Take KOAP

HUFS students took the second Korean Aptitude Test for Talent Identification (KOAP) on Aug. 22 along with 19 other universities including Hanyang University and Dankook University.

KOAP is an exam for students to discover their aptitude for work. This is expected to help them find proper occupations considering their personal aptitude. The test evaluates and analyzes students’ ability to work in various areas like marketing, producing, research and development, and management support.

It is a replacement for the pre-aptitude examination from major companies. 📸

By Byeon Hee-jin

HUFS Builds Silk Road for Universities



▲ HUFS and North Gyeongsang Province hold an inaugural meeting of SUN.

HUFS made strides to connect universities, hosting an inaugural meeting of Silkroad Universities Network (SUN), of which a HUFS professor is the secretary-general.

HUFS and North Gyeongsang Province co-hosted the four-day meeting which started on Aug. 21 at Gyeongju Hyundai Hotel.

A HUFS professor from the Department of Public Administration, Hwang Seong-don, occupied an important post as the first secretary-general of SUN. In his previous interview he noted, “It is high time to restore the ‘Silk Road spirit,’ which is respecting other countries’ cultures, traditions or beliefs.”

The purpose of SUN is to contribute to world peace and evolution of civilization through mutual exchange of education, research, scholarship and culture. Including Istanbul University in Turkey, Roma University in Italy and Athens University in Greece, 34 universities from 22 countries around Europe and Asia participate in SUN.

“HUFS already opened a course named ‘Introduction to Silk Road,’” Hwang said in the interview. “Giving various students opportunities to be taught by various teachers in various languages is our goal.” 📸

By Choi Yun

News Briefing

By Park Ji-yeon
Editor-in-Chief
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Dating Violence

Cases of physical, sexual, and verbal violence that happens between couples are rising as hot news recently. Statistics in Korea show that 290 people died due to dating violence over the last five years. “Because it is not bad enough to break up,” accounts for 60 percent of the replies to the question regarding why victims stayed in an abusive relationship.

36 Deaths

Middle East Respiratory Syndrom (MERS) left casualties of 186 people infected and 36 dead with a total fatality rate of 19.4 percent. Since the contagious disease spread in May and July, there have been no more infected people reported since July 4.



Temporary Holiday



Aug. 14, the day before the 70th National Liberation Day, was announced as a temporary holiday on Aug. 4 and approved by the Cabinet Meeting three days before the 14th. As Aug. 15 fell on a Saturday, Friday was also designated as a national holiday “to celebrate the 70th anniversary of National Liberation

Day and boost domestic sales,” according to President Park Geun-hye.

Similar Look



Different from “couple wear” is “similar look,” which is spreading as a new way to express

more individuality. “Similar look” involves matching not a whole item, but details such as material, color, or pattern of clothing.

Blue Moon

The second full moon in July lit up the night on July 31. Prompting the expression “once in a blue moon,” which means a rare situation, a “blue moon” is a phenomenon occurring when there are two full moons in one month. The next blue moon will be in January of 2018.

120 Years

From this September, paper bankbooks will start disappearing due to computerization of banking. The 120-year history of paper bankbooks is now coming to an end after the first one was printed in Korea in 1897, now following the footsteps of the U.S.A. in the 1990s, the U.K in the 2000s, and recently China.





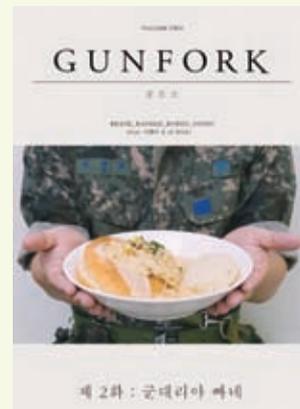
“Gunfork”

Starts a Novel Food Culture in the Military



By Byeon Hee-jin
Reporter of Culture Section

As TV programs such as “My Little Television,” “Take Care of My Refrigerator,” and “Home Cooked Meal Mr. Baek” are gaining popularity, public interest about cooking has increased. Following this trend and applying it to their situation, a new food culture has arisen in the military as well. Gunfork, the military version of an online cooking magazine, has gained huge popularity in and out of the military and has been reported on by main portal sites such as Daum and Naver, and received more than 3,000 likes on Facebook. The Argus met the producer of Gunfork, Air Force sergeant Kim Ji-wan.



▲ Kim posts Gunfork episodes on Air Force Facebook page.

© Air Force



▲ Kim takes a picture of the second Gunfork host.



▲ Kim holds a meeting for the next issue of Gunfork.

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

Kim Ji-wan (Kim): Hello, my name is Kim Ji-wan and I am 22 years old. I am an Air Force sergeant working in the information activities office as a person specializing in media production.

The Argus: We heard that you are the producer of Gunfork. Could you tell us what Gunfork is?

Kim: Gunfork is an online magazine about cooking. The name “Gunfork” is a parody of “Kinfolk,” a worldwide cooking magazine. Gunfork is produced for soldiers who are tired of eating the same food all the time. The media is made from the creative ideas of soldiers, but making it look classy like “Kinfolk.” The contents are uploaded onto an Air Force blog called “Gong-gun gong-gam” and the official Air Force Facebook page. This was not done for promotion at first, but as it grew in popularity, it naturally became a promotional tool for the Air Force.

The Argus: Where did you get the motivation to make Gunfork?

Kim: Since I work on a media production team, I naturally became interested in producing contents that can gain soldiers’ empathy. Also, I wanted to help soldiers try new food that didn’t require using a stove, since we are not allowed to use heat in cooking, and to get rid of remaining supplies such as geonppang, a Korean biscuit. This is why I started to make Gunfork.

The Argus: When you were the first host, did you create the recipes by yourself?

Kim: I made myself the first host of Gunfork and made geonppang cupcakes. The recipe for the cupcakes was not

purely my idea. It was first shown on the KBS TV program called “Sponge,” but I thought there were some deficiencies in the recipe offered. For example, when made by the recipe offered, the cupcakes were slightly dry and lacked sweetness. I made my own recipe by improving the original one by using, for example, milk instead of water and candy instead of sugar powder.

The Argus: It seems like the host of every issue is different. How does the process work?

Kim: Air Force has an online community called “Intranet,” and we choose applicants from all units through this site. I try the recipes that the applicants submit and evaluate them by three standards: easiness to make, taste and cost.

When the host is chosen, we go to his unit for the photo shoot and interview. Since I am not a photographer, I search for pictures that other photographers have taken and reference them when taking pictures. I think a lot about how to select and use the photos because I think classy photos make Gunfork special.

After this, we design the photos and write articles. Before uploading the Gunfork on the Internet, we must get permission from an inspector because it is a content created by the military that is spread to the world through the Internet.

From the third episode of Gunfork, it is also going to be published on “Wol-gan gong-gun,” which is a monthly magazine issued by the Air Force.

The Argus: What do you think the main difference between Gunfork and TV programs is?

Kim: The biggest difference is that this program is based on practical recipes for soldiers. Civilians might not know that we are not allowed to use stoves in the military. Since recipes that are shown on TV shows such as the “Olive Show” or “My

Rendezvous

Little Television” require a stove, what we do is just watch and think of maybe trying them during our vacation. However, the recipes on Gunfork are all possible right away.

The Argus: *Gunfork has been of interest not only in the military, but also outside of the military. What do you think is the reason for this popularity?*

Kim: I think the “irony” made people curious. In fact, people usually think soldiers cannot eat well besides the provided meals, so “military” and “cooking” might seem to be an ironic combination. However, Gunfork includes both concepts, and that is what has gained so much interest.

Moreover, for people who have already served in the military, Gunfork might make them feel nostalgic, yet fresh at the same time by seeing what they did not experience during their service.

The Argus: *We suppose the popularity of Gunfork has been due to the empathy felt for soldiers. Why do you think the soldiers garner empathy?*

Kim: The pictures and text in Gunfork all seem so classy, right? However, there are some unique points of our situation. Those are the real military items we use when cooking! For example, we use military water bottles when grinding geonppang, and we use military leather gloves when holding hot dishes. These small details are all humorous points for soldiers. I think these points bring out the military context and emotions very well and invoke feelings of empathy.

The Argus: *Do soldiers really cook with these recipes? Please tell us about some fun issues.*

Kim: Yes, of course. I see people around me using the recipes a lot. Before this magazine was made, all of the postings on the Air Force blog were presented as one-way information, which means there was no interaction among soldiers. However, after the first issue of Gunfork was uploaded, people started to write comments asking or talking about the recipes. Regarding the comments that ask about the recipes, even though I did not comment on the answers, others who tried it commented for me. They created a two-way communication by themselves. I think this change was very fun to watch.

The Argus: *Are there a lot of applicants trying out for Gunfork?*

Kim: To be honest, I think “actively” is a better word to describe our situation than “a lot.” Although the competition rate is about 6:1, the recipes from dropouts are not thrown out immediately. The reason they failed is because of very small



▲ Kim has Gunfork cupcakes with his colleague.

areas in which they are lacking, so we suggest that they work on those small shortcomings. When they are ready, they try out for Gunfork again. This is why I said that applicants actively try out for this program.

The Argus: *What will be the next step of Gunfork?*

Kim: In order to keep posting Gunfork, having creative ideas is the most important part. So I am searching for ways to further identify new ideas. Moreover, this content is not only for the Air Force, but for the Army and Navy as well. From now on, I am going to consider the situations of their units as well when publishing Gunfork. In addition, since Gunfork is available to people outside the military through SNS, I will also consider the general trends both in and out of the military as well.

The Argus: *Is there anything you would like to try when you finish your military service?*

Kim: I have not thought about it much. However, through this experience of making creative material, it has been very worthwhile watching people have fun and be happy with this. So, after finishing my military service, I would like to try something that can make people feel empathy and happiness.

Cooking programs have become popular, not only to twenties, but to the entire age group of TV viewers. Following this cultural flow, Kim Ji-wan has created new cultural material by neatly fitting his situation into the already existing culture, and it has gained popularity. Can't this situation also be a new aspect of culture that young people are attempting to bring into the mainstream? 📺

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What Are the Most Important Social Issues for People in Their Twenties?

By Jang Eun-ae
Associate Editor

Many students do not concern themselves much with social issues nowadays. They are apt to ignore issues that are not related to them since getting a job has become more and more difficult and they feel like they have too many things to do. However, it is important to know about social issues to grow as intellectuals. Therefore, The Argus interviewed four students on campus and asked them about the social issues that are important to the Twenties.



Park Jae-wan, Dept. of International Economics and Law, '08

Most students only care about doing well on the aptitude test, getting good grades and getting a high TOEIC score. The most important thing to keep in mind, however, is the socially responsible activities of the corporation that they will find employment with because the actions that corporation engages in have a big effect on society, the economy, and people of a nation. For example, students should know what the impact on society will be when Samsung merges with Cheil Industries Incorporation and Samsung C&T Corporation before they apply for a job with that company. By doing so, students will be more conscientious members of their communities.



Min Deul-iae, Dept. of English Linguistics, '13

I realized that history is the most important thing for the twenties to know about after I studied Korean history again for the teacher certification examination. We took compulsory Korean history classes when we were in middle and high school, but we need to study history with greater self-awareness. History moves in a cycle with regards to politics and power struggles; and its lessons are important for any society. So we can apply patterns of behavior from the past to the present and predict the future through the study of history.



Aldrin Fajardo, the Philippines, Exchange student

I think the most important thing for the twenties is being active and involved in the community because our twenties is a period of preparing for life in the real world. Since I came from a university that had a community that is very aware and involved in the goings on in the country, I do feel that it is important for me and other people in their twenties to take an active part in community development and the changes in the country or the university.



Ani Horak, Germany, Exchange student

When I was a student, I did not really have any interest in politics, society and the economy. I realized that students should have broad knowledge since I am getting older and have experienced many things. For example, twenties have to know the newest economic development for their living, getting a job and making money. In addition, they need to be interested in what happened to the nation of affairs because it is all for their future. 🇰🇷

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



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REVIEW: CHECKING THE NEW GRADING SYSTEM

By Choi Yun
Reporter of Campus Section



Kim Hyun-jung, Department of English Interpretation and Translation '13, tried hard to get good grades last semester as she became a junior. Despite her efforts, the results were not very satisfactory. One of the courses she took, Korean-to-English Consecutive Interpretation (1), was with only 11 students of similar academic ability, and each and every student studied hard without one single absence. Nonetheless, they ended up getting widely different grades on account of the reformed grading system. She missed getting an A by a tiny margin. The situation in the other courses she attended was very much the same. The courses which used to be graded using the absolute evaluation due to the nature of her major started to be graded using the relative evaluation, which did plenty of damage to her grade point average. It was not just she who took a hit from the reformation of the grading system.

	2014		2015
Implementation of Relative Evaluation	It is applied if there are more than 20 students.		It is divided into Type A, B and C.
	A0, A+	30%	-Type A similar to 2014
	(A0, A+) + (B0, B+)	65%	-Type B: less than 10 students A0, A+ = 50% (A0, A+) + (B0, B+) = 80% Below C+ = 20%
	Below C+	35%	-Type C: Pass or Fail Physical education (1 credit with 2 hours) Teachers request
Retaken course	-No limit number of times -No limit on the highest grade		-Limited to five times -Highest grade limited to A0

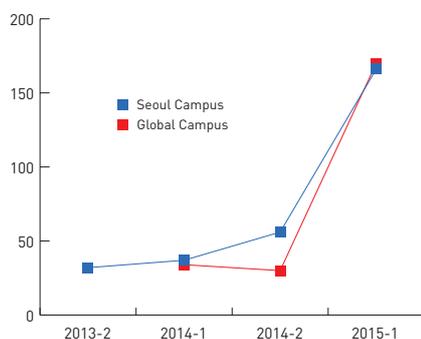
Reformed grading system

On the surface, the reformed grading system appears to have become more rigorous and has made it harder for students to receive high grades. However, the real issue is that it victimizes numerous students through its negative consequences such as the impossibility of achieving the grades that students deserve. Hoping to resolve the trouble, The Argus has looked into and analyzed the various types of damage, sought out their underlying causes and identified several practical solutions.

Damage caused by the reform

Problems in the classification of courses

HUFS classified courses into Type A and Type B, just by the number of enrolled students regardless of the distinct characteristics of the course and teaching style. Courses with more than ten students became Type A, which should be graded using the relative grading system, and the other classes with less than ten students became Type B, which also should be graded using the relative grading system but with a looser standard. All courses were divided into these two types except for a few courses that involved physical education and lab classes for natural science experiments: Type C.



▲ The number of cancelled courses dramatically increases due to the reform.

HUFS also cancelled courses arbitrarily without specific criteria, and many of them were courses with fewer than ten students. The number of cancelled courses was very exceptional, being three to five times higher than in the previous four semesters. This made the already small number of Type B courses even smaller, which made the severe environment for students even worse.

Ignorance of the characteristics of certain departments

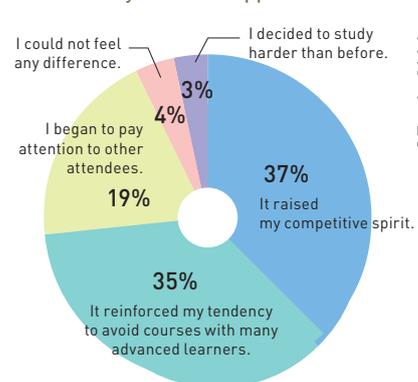
Among all the departments, damage was the greatest in the departments where courses have strict limits on the number of students or courses conducted in English such as minor language departments or the Division of International Studies.

Hong Hye-ri, Department of Hindi '15, made a complaint as a student of a minor language department. "It is very helpful for offering students opportunities to actively participate in class. However, when it comes to relative evaluation, what remains is only fierce competition."

Kim So-yeon, Division of International Studies '12, added her voice to the this complaints. She explained that half of the students in her division are foreign

students who are always graded with an absolute evaluation. She pinpointed the reason for doing so as they have to take classes in the language they are weak at: Korean. Considering that all the lectures in her division are given in English, the harsh reality only exists for Korean students, which makes her feel the situation is unfair. "Making an exception for foreign students even in the courses taught in English is a preferential treatment for foreign students," she said. "It is an obvious case of reverse discrimination against Korean students."

What changed after the new grading system was applied?



* GSC's survey done by 472 students of Seoul Campus from July 22 to 30 (Numbers were rounded off to the nearest whole number).

© Together Lighthouse

Excessive rise in the competitive spirit

According to a survey on the reformed grading system conducted by the General Student Council(GSC), it turned out that the change raised students' competitive spirit, but not in a positive way. This has led students to choose courses, not based on the quality of the course or their interests, but based on external factors such as the number and the level of other students.

Park Yeo-jin, a freshman in the College of Japanese, spent a tough time last semester striving to catch up with her classmates who had already learned Japanese, and she experienced frustration. "I knew that I would definitely get a C, no matter how much I studied," she said. "I felt like I was at a loss."

The excessive competitive spirit resulting from the reformed grading system ruined students' passion of learning rather than fostering it.

Prime causes of the issues

"Students should first get a job and then study humanities later to improve themselves. It is not too late to study humanities after finding a position." This was the remark of Hwang Woo-yea, the Minister of Education, in a meeting with student representatives from various universities on February 4. Again, Mr. Hwang emphasized "employment" as the primary goal of education. To accomplish the goal, the Ministry of Education has been pressing universities, notifying them that it will rank them based on various standards including "propriety of the distribution of scores" and limit government grants according to the ranking.

According to statistics from the Korea Higher Education Research Institute, Korean universities' economic dependence on the government is increasing, and in 2013, government

grants accounted for an average 18 percent of university income. When such universities rely heavily on government grants, the schools cannot rebel against the government and risk their future.

Some universities, including HUFS, hurriedly changed their grading systems and greatly disadvantaged students. In response to the move, the Ministry of Education released an amendment on March 2 that contained the removal of the "propriety distribution of scores" from the evaluation criterion and provided high points based on each university's "commitment to give grades with strictness." This move was to better reflect the unique conditions of each campus.

Oh Chan-ho, a sociologist, wrote in his book *Advancing Universities in Korea*, that "there is no difference between giving grades with strictness and grading with a relative grading system."

Absence of communication with students

The stance of HUFS in the reformation of the grading system was that it had to move quickly at the time, not only to avoid the issue being on everybody's lips because of the serious grade point average (GPA) inflation, but to keep from receiving a poor standing in the

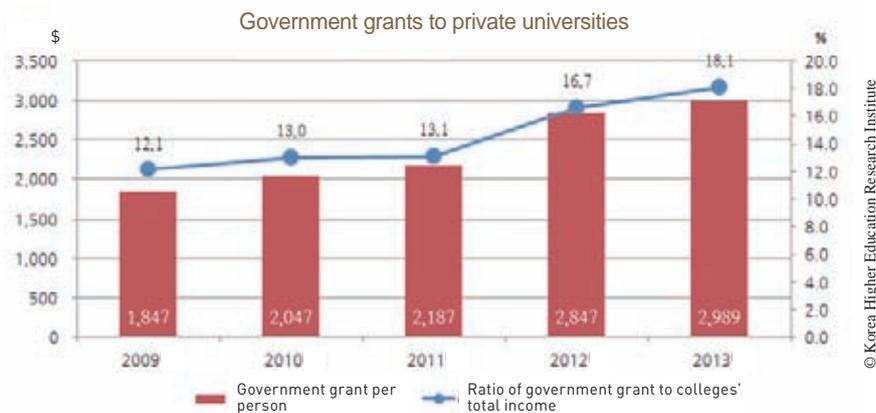
Ministry of Education ranking of universities. In the process of changing from the previous grading system, however, there has been a problem with the lack of sufficient preparation and communication with students as covered by *The Argus* in the March 2015 issue of the magazine.

What is worse, the problem keeps recurring. The school failed again in interacting with students, denying the GSC's request to send out an SMS announcing the institution of the survey on the reformed grading system.

The GSC expressed that collecting public opinion is essential to ameliorate a problem. "The school is refusing to notify students about the survey because it is afraid of appearing as if they did something wrong," the GSC said. "Refusing an announcement fundamental to the convergence of public opinion is a very myopic attitude."

Weak promotion of GSC

The GSC started to conduct the survey on July 22, almost a full month after the end of classes, and ended on Aug. 11. For the first eight days of the survey period, only 472 students participated in the survey. Apart from the failure of sending out a text message due to the refusal of the school, it seems that the



▲ Korean private universities' economic dependence on the government continues to rise.

© Korea Higher Education Research Institute

Demands to school

1. Form a consultive group for renegotiation.
2. Accept three demands:
 - (1) renegotiation over the limited number of times of retaking courses,
 - (2) renegotiation over limit on number of students of Type B courses,
 - (3) introduction of the absolute system in courses given in English and courses for teaching education.
3. Plan a new grading system that suits the real purpose of education.

▲ GSC's statement reflects students' voice.

promotion was not as successful as the GSC planned. The GSC requested the Central Managing Committee (CMC), an organization of the student presidents of each faculty, to encourage students to take part in the survey through Facebook or Kakao Talk, but survey promotion was not active in some departments, including the College of English and the Division of International Studies.

The student president of the College of English did not post the notice on Facebook. "I only 'liked' the post that the GSC uploaded. I thought sharing a post would be less effective than pushing the 'like' button for it."

Park Gyu-oh, a student from the College of English, did not respond to the survey. "I think I had heard about it from a friend of mine, but I did not receive any notice directly," he said. "I just did not feel like the survey would improve the grading system."

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Ways forward

"The Ministry of Education should contemplate its structural reform of universities. They should identify the problems of the reform and seek a sensible way forward." Saida, the organization of GSC presidents of 19 private universities located in Seoul, including HUFs, expressed their condemnation by releasing a statement after the meeting with the Education Minister. The group of student representatives added, "The Ministry of Education needs to respect campus autonomy."

Communication with students

The GSC says the school should have allowed to send a text message notifying students about the survey on the reformed grading system so that it could have better reflected the public opinion on school affairs. Since it did not, the school should now listen to and respond to students. The statement of the student representatives has already been released.

Persistent efforts of the GSC

The GSC is expected to devote constant efforts to improve the grading system and to show leadership to speed up achieving their goal. Voices are arising that the CMC should support the GSC whenever they need. The endeavors of the GSC and the CMC will bring positive changes to HUFs.

The reformed grading system negatively affected a number of students in various departments. The root cause of the change in the grading system, the Ministry of Education, does not seem like it will change any time soon. Thus, efforts of the school and student representatives in their respective roles are desperately needed to minimize the damage to students. 

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GSC's major move in regard to grading system



How about Universities in Your Country?



By Choi Yun
Reporter of Campus Section

As noted in the previous article, HUFs mainly changed its grading system so that it would not be excluded from receiving government grants. According to statistics from the Korea Higher Education Research Institute, Korean universities' economic dependence on the government has been increasing, and government grants accounted for an average 18 percent of university income in 2013. Because of this, universities cannot safeguard their right to decide school affairs, and it becomes inevitable that they reflect the opinions of the government.

To see how universities in other countries act amid the intricate web of interests among students and the government, The Argus met with three international HUFs: Naomi Ritter from Germany, Cassandra Thomas from the U.K., and Sariya Plengsang from Thailand.

The Argus: Please briefly introduce yourself.

Naomi: My name is Naomi Ritter and I am from Germany. I am majoring in East Asian Art History and I am also studying

Korean. I came here to take the International Summer Session and to improve my Korean skills.

Cassandra: I am Cassandra Thomas from the United Kingdom. I study Asian History and I also came here to take the International Summer Session.

Sariya: My name is Sariya Plengsang. I am from Thailand. My major is English and my minor is Korean. I also came here to take the International Summer Session and to explore more about Korean culture.



Naomi Ritter

Germany, Student taking
International Summer Session



Cassandra Thomas

the U.K., Student taking
International Summer Session



Sariya Plengsang

Thailand, Student taking
International Summer Session

The Argus: Does the government in your country affect universities economically and politically?

Naomi: The German government gives financial aid to universities, but the amount differs by state. There have been some reformations of some universities regarding things such as the expansion of the number of total students. However, I am not sure whether it is done by the government or the college itself. The government has tried to intervene in the affairs of high schools, but there have been no attempts when it comes to colleges.

Cassandra: Universities get government grants, but there hasn't been any intervention by the government in college affairs except for limiting tuition fees.

Sariya: The Thai government also offers financial aid to universities, and the bigger amounts are given to public universities. Financial support does not help the government to have control over school management because universities also have their own power.

The Argus: Why do students in your country go to university?

Naomi: It is similar to Korea. They go to college to get a higher education and to get a better job. When you have a college degree, you get paid better than others who do the same work with no degree.

Cassandra: Students in the U.K. go to university if it relates to what they want to do. So if they want to be a lawyer, they go there to study law. But lots of people do not go to university, and they take vocational courses if they want to do something like plumbing. The number of students going to university is increasing because people think they need to get more money. However, there are still lots of people who do not.

Sariya: Actually in Thailand, students are forced to go to university. I think almost 90 percent of high school students go to university. If you do not have a college degree in Thailand, you will get a job with a low income such as a bartender or waiter. No matter how prestigious the university is, they have to

go to university to get a job.

The Argus: Does your grade point average have a huge influence on getting a job in your country?

Naomi: Even if you do not have high grades, you still can get a job in Germany. The grades do play a role, but they are not the most important thing, usually. I think how you present yourself and how you did in your internship is more important.

Cassandra: Universities in the U.K. do not give specific GPAs as Korean universities do. They just give the average of the grades in a vague way such as A, B or C, and most students get an A or B when they graduate from universities. So grades do not have a big effect on getting a job except for the few students who got a C.

Sariya: Actually, grades matter in applying for jobs, but the brand value of the school comes first. It is quite similar to Korea. Thailand has a ranking of schools as Korea does. Even if a student got excellent grades, they will be turned down if there is another applicant from a more prestigious university.

The Argus: Please briefly introduce the grading system of your country.

Naomi: The German university grading system is similar to Korea's absolute grading system. Professors have their own criteria, and they evaluate students with it. So students can receive what they deserve.

Cassandra: Students in the U.K. also can get what they deserve. Korean universities' relative grading system is very strange to me, and it seems to be unfair.

Sariya: Basically, universities in Thailand have a grading system similar to that of Korea, but it differs depending on the professor, the level of students and the faculty. It seems to be unfair sometimes. The students' average grades differ a lot depending on which department they belong to even though they are in the same university. 🇹🇹

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We Still Need

SEX EDUCATION

By Lee Jae-won

Reporter of National Section

This year, sex crimes and sexual harassments have been rampant on Korean universities. Why do sex crimes continue to occur at universities? There is an expert on sex education in his twenties who formed his own department called the ‘Department of Sex’ at Passion School, a social enterprise that enables students to form their own educational departments. The Argus met with Lee Seok-won to ask why universities suffer from sexual crimes and to hear his ideas about what should be done to solve these problems.

The Argus: Please briefly introduce yourself.

Lee Seok-won (Lee): Hi, my name is Lee Seok-won and I teach in the Department of Sex at Passion School.

The Argus: Why did you form this department?

Lee: I was really curious about sex. However, I thought existing sex education was quite boring, so I made up my mind to invent a new sex education program for young people, which is both fun and useful. At that time, I found Passion School, a social organization where you can create your own educational departments, and formed the Department of Sex in 2012. I studied with students together in the department at first, and have now been teaching since 2013.

The Argus: Recently, numerous sex crimes have occurred at Korean universities. Do you find a correlation between these crimes and sex education?

Lee: If you identify the root cause of these crimes, you will soon find there is a lack of sex education. “Right to make your own decisions with your body,” is what I emphasize in my class. It is the right to reveal your own opinions regarding sexual issues and say clearly what you like and what you do not. Most sex



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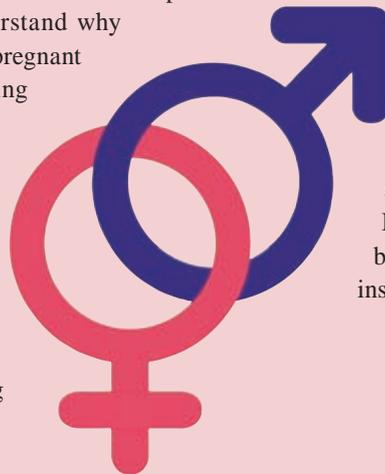
© Lee Seok-won

Lee teaches college students sex education at Passion School.

crimes are related to this right. To be specific, there are students who have become victims of sex crimes under aggressive constraints by professors or senior classmen. If these individuals had received proper sex education, such disasters would not have happened. Also, sex education should not be just limited to victims. Regarding the assaulters, learning that you should not do what the other party does not want you to do is a part of sex education as well.

The Argus: College students commonly do not understand why they still need sex education since they are already adults. Do you think they need sex education?

Lee: College students need more specific education as they actually engage in sexual relationships. For instance, college students who visit me usually ask about contraceptive information. You can easily understand why so many female students become pregnant if you see the number of counseling sessions I have with students about the issue. Students learn a vague idea about the necessity and methods of contraception when they were middle or high school students. However, they should specifically learn how to use contraceptive devices and that they should be careful in taking contraceptive pills now as adults.



The Argus: What makes your teaching different from other sex education classes?

Lee: I try to make students experience lots of out-of-class activities. For example, I went to a sex toy shop with my students. The reason for this activity was to enjoy sex and introduce the toy shop as an outlet for sexual desires. At first, students felt awkward about this activity, but they became more open about sex through this toy shop field trip. Also, my teaching method is based on discussions among students. When I talk about contraception, I let every student talk about their opinions on the subject. Then I start to explain the necessity and importance of contraception after talking with students. By doing this, students will never forget what they learn in the class because the class materials are what they talk about and feel that they need to learn.

The Argus: Is there anything you would like to say to college students?

Lee: Sex is absolutely inseparable from our lives, so we must learn about it. I would like to say one thing to college students. That you do not know something is not a shame. Not admitting the fact that you do not know is a shame. I want college students not to reproach themselves because they do not know much about sex, but instead to strive to learn about it. 

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A Forgotten Statue Stands Lonely

By Jang Eun-ae
Associate Editor

There is a faded statue in Marronnier Park, a park in Hyehwadong in Seoul, with barely any visitors at all.

The figure of the lonely statue is Kim Sang-ok. He was a patriotic martyr who died during the Japanese colonial ruling era. He was born in 1890 in Seoul and died in 1923 as a freedom fighter against Japanese policies.

However, few people know about him and what he did even as this year marks the 70th anniversary of Korea's independence. Now, his statue just fades... alone. 📷

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김상옥 열사의 상

나라와 겨레가
애적에 지반려

Dark Clouds over the Rainbow on Campus



© churchmilitant.com

By Lee Jae-won

Reporter of National Section

On June 26, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that marriage between people of the same sex is constitutional. Twenty-six million Facebook users participated in the campaign using a photo profile that overlapped a rainbow, a symbolic gesture indicating one's support for the Supreme Court's decision. However, can sexual minorities' lives be depicted in beautiful rainbow colors like Facebook photo profiles? The Argus, as a campus newspaper, looked into how sexual minorities attending universities live their lives.

What difficulties are they confronted with?

Disparaging words and terror

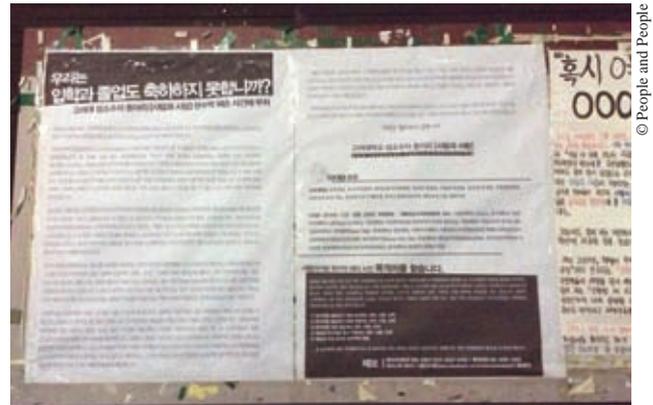
On September 2014, a professor from Korea University talked about his guy friend during class, “I did not want to be his friend at first because he looks like a ‘homo,’ but later I let him become my friend.” He used the term ‘homo,’ which is a derogatory way of referring to gays and lesbians and also added that gays are dangerous for minors. Also, a student from HUFS who was suffering as a result of his sexual orientation wrote a post about his story on HUFS Bamboo Forest Facebook page, a page with stories of anonymous students. Some people posted photos of gay celebrities in reply and made vulgar comments regarding his story like “Gay-deuk” which is a slang term to make fun of gays.

On Feb. 24, 2014, someone stole a placard from People and People, a sexual minorities’ club at Korea University, which offered congratulations to sexual minorities for both their admission to and graduation from the university. Later, the strings of the placard were found to have been cut by something sharp. Other clubs in Ewha University and Busan University also had similar experiences when it comes to acts of terror directed at the clubs. People and People gave an official response to these acts of terror: “Even though you have homophobic feelings, it is an act of terror if such actions are used to quiet voices that have a right to be heard.”

Barriers sexual minorities’ clubs face

Most sexual minorities’ clubs do not receive official sanction from their schools. Why this matters is that without this, the club is unable to get financial support from the school and is also unable to have official spaces on campus for meetings. “If our club becomes an official club, we can get space and money which can become a sound base for systematic activities. However, it is difficult for club members to get together without a room and conceive new plans with such little money since our club is not official,” said Qsadia, a sexual minorities’ club at HUFS.

Another problem most sexual minorities’ clubs face is that only a small number of students participate in public activities hosted by the clubs. A leader of People and People said, “Some members help prepare for events we hold. But most of them are reluctant to appear in public when holding events. So we sometimes hire part-timers as organizers of the events who can be exposed to the public instead of members who cannot.”



▲ People and People issues an official statement to acts of terror.



▲ Acts of terror towards sexual minorities’ clubs also happen at Ewha University (L) and Busan University (R).

Hidden factors behind the troubles

Shortcomings of school regulations

There are few universities that have a stated article prohibiting the discrimination of sexual minorities in their regulations such as the General Student Council (GSC) or the moral code of the faculty members. The necessity of this article is twofold.

First, it will help people become aware of the existence of sexual minorities. Qsadia said, “Hate speech directed at sexual minorities usually comes from a lack of awareness. They think there are no sexual minorities around them. Having an article related to sexual minorities will increase awareness of sexual minorities and make people accept that there are sexual minorities at their school.”

Second, a protective article can play a role in punishing discrimination and acts of terror directed at sexual minorities. Dancing Q, a sexual minorities’ club at Sogang University, said, “A prohibition article asserts that sexual minorities should not be the target of discrimination.



Moreover, the article makes it possible to punish those who discriminate and helps prevent acts of terror by being specified in an article within the regulations and the moral code.”

Disclosure about sexual orientation

The school usually requires a list of club members during the process of acquiring official sanction with a purpose of checking if the club has satisfied the prerequisite for being an official club. “To see if the club is officially qualified to get financial assistance from the school, the office of student affairs checks the number of students in the club as an indicator of the club being active,” said Rainbow Fish, an unofficial sexual minorities’ club at Chung-Ang University.

For a sexual minorities’ club, however, this requirement can be fatal because there are members who do not want their sexual orientation to be disclosed. Because of this, several clubs do not even seek official sanction, and Qsadia is one of these examples. “Submitting a list of club members is required to be an official club. But the list is easy to open whenever a student council member or faculty member wants to see. So we agreed that we should keep our gatherings informal.”

Moreover, unwillingness to disclose sexual orientation influences activeness in participating in public activities hosted by the clubs. According to People and People, sexual minorities’ clubs usually have two purposes: providing club members with safe community to share together, and seeking to protect the rights of sexual minorities. Those who want their sexual orientation to be kept as a secret think the former is more important than the latter. “In our club, there are definitely people who think the club should only function as a shelter for sexual minorities who do not actually want their sexual orientation to be exposed,” said People and People. Therefore, reluctance to disclose sexual orientation makes some of club members to shrink with fear in taking part in public activities which leads to the situation that club activities have with their small numbers.

What should be done for sexual minorities

Students and clubs should be active in responding to excessive hate speech and acts of terror that take place on campus. Two universities are good examples. At Busan University, the GSC read out a statement impeaching an act of terror for damaging the placards of the club. People and People made a system called “queer monitoring,” which asks professors or instructors whose speech is controversial to issue a formal apology after reports through e-mail or Facebook.

Regarding official sanction, the main purpose of requiring the list is to check the number of students. To get official sanction, the club and the school should cooperate with each other in finding solutions regarding the list as long as the main purpose is achieved. For instance, Dancing Q also ran into difficulties regarding the list of its club members. However, it overcame this obstacle by consulting with the GSC and shredding the list after checking its details.

As for school regulation matters, two universities are good models. Last year, Korea University made an article on sexual minorities in regulation of the GSC for the first time. Subsequently, HUFs GSC also changed its regulations regarding discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. Like these two, other schools also need to include articles prohibiting discrimination of sexual minorities in their regulations to raise awareness of sexual minorities and assure they are not discriminated against on campus.

As we have explored in detail, there are still many difficulties that sexual minorities face in universities. The rainbow has become a symbol of sexual minorities because it represents “diverse” colors. To solve the issues on sexual minorities, it is necessary to have respect for “diverse” colors on campus. 🌈

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MULTI-BRAND SHOPS REMAIN POPULAR

By **Byeon Hee-jin**

Reporter of Culture Section

Have you ever heard of a store called LOHB's? This store is a comparatively newly launched multi-brand shop that opened two years ago. The inside of this store looks quite similar to Olive Young, a familiar store that is located in the Cyber Building on HUFs Seoul Campus, which contains various brand goods. The reason why new multi-brand shops are still being launched, even though they are not distinct from existing shops, is because there is still a lot of market potential. In consideration of this, let's take a look at the spending habits of twenties at multi-brand shops and delve into the causes of this behavior.





© LOHB's

▲ LOHB's sells various cosmetics.

Multi-brand shops arising in various fields

A 'multi-brand shop' is a store that offers a variety of brand products. These kinds of stores continue to spring up with many types of merchandise such as cosmetics, clothes and shoes. They are usually located in places with high population density, and their marketing mainly targets people in their twenties.

For example, Lotte's LOHB's is a Health & Beauty Convenience (HBC) store featuring a variety of goods. This store first opened on May 22, 2013 and now has about 40 branches throughout the nation. Watsons, W-store and Olive Young are also well known strong HBC stores, but why did a big company like Lotte launch a similar store? This suggests that the popularity of multi-brand shops will continue given that big companies consider them to have potential.

You can see a similar phenomenon in the retail of shoes as well. The store Folder first opened at Shinchon in April of 2012, but after opening a second store in Myeongdong in September of 2014, it began to grow rapidly and currently has 36 branches. Multi-brand shoe shops such as ABC Mart or Les More have already existed, but new stores continue to open up. This also shows that multi-brand shops have great potential.



© Hankookeilbo

▲ Folder targets twenties as their consumers.

Another example, Around The Corner (A.T. Corner) is a mid to low priced clothing shop, with 11 branches located in popular places like Hongdae. Besides this shop, there are also select shops such as A-Land or Wonder Place that contain many of the same characteristics as A.T. Corner. One of the staff members at Between, another select shop at Lotte Department Store said, "We opened in March this year. While working, I can see a lot of customers in their twenties. Most of the clothes and accessories in our store target these people."

As you can see from all these examples from various areas, multi-brand shops are continuously maintaining their popularity within diverse genres.

What is so appealing about multi-brand shops?

First, the diversity of brands is one characteristic that appeals to consumers. They feel that it is convenient if they can compare various products without having to go to several stores. For example, the shoe shop Folder offers 26 different brands, and the clothing select shop A.T. Corner has about 170 different brands in one store. Han Min-a, 21-year-old consumer, said, "When you enter a multi-brand shop, you can find similar products from different brands. So I can compare them and choose the best one. This is why I adore multi-brand shops."

The complementation of online and offline stores is also one of the multi-brand shops' main appeals. Multi-brand shops overcome the weaknesses of both online and offline stores. Online stores are inconvenient for products that require some testing or sizing before purchase and also because of delivery. On the other hand, offline stores' major weak point is the impossibility of comparing a lot of brand products at once. However, multi-brand shops overcame all of these weaknesses, making it possible to not

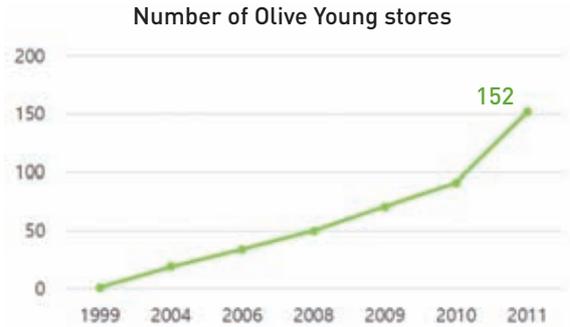


© A.F.M blog

▲ A Land sells clothings from various brands.

only compare various brands at once but also to check, test and try on the products before purchasing them without delivery. Referring to this characteristic of multi-brand shops, Lee Yu-jin, College of Japanese '15, said, "Unlike internet shopping, I find it much more convenient to shop because I can compare all kinds of brands and test them as much as I want."

Another fascinating aspect of multi-brand shops is their economic feasibility. Since customers in their twenties are not completely economically independent, economic feasibility is an important factor they consider when shopping. In fact, multi-brand shops' sale promotions take place once a month, and they inform customers via Social Networking Service (SNS) platforms such as Kakao Talk or Facebook to better engage customers in their twenties. One of the staff members at Olive Young said, "When we have sales promotions every month, I can see people in their twenties visiting our store very often. Also, when there is a promotion that grants a large discount after spending more than a certain amount, consumers consider this when purchasing items."



© The Argus / Byeon Hee-jin

Twenties idea of valuable consumption

Consuming products that have a big utility with a low price

51.9%

What 20s buy for themselves

1st Clothing [33.0%]
2nd Cosmetics [18.0%]
3rd Fashion accessories [17.5%]

© Daehak Nareil Laboratory

▲ Twenties think of 'price' as an important factor.

To explain this phenomenon, Lee Jae-han, a HUFS professor who gives lectures on "Global fashion culture" said, "For college students, the economic factor is a very important point to them realistically. I think that is why multi-brand shops that offer a wide variety at reasonable prices are continuing to open." Lee Yu-jin also said, "Multi-brand cosmetic shops sell products that are of higher quality than road shops but are much more reasonably priced than department stores."

Possible side effects of multi-brand shops

Multi-brand shops claim to offer a variety, but are they really giving consumers various options? Han Min-a also

said, "I think buying things that I need at multi-brand shops is becoming a habit. To be honest, I could try other stores if I wanted to, but I just buy what I need since I am already visiting multi-brand shops." When they first began to open, it seemed like there were many more options in multi-brand shops compared to one-brand shops, and that is why people liked them. However, as multi-brand shops are arising in many areas, unless the buyer wants a particular brand, they try to just buy many goods inside of a single multi-brand shop. This calls into question whether they are really providing various options.

Another side effect is that there are no specialized staffs in these shops. When you go to brand label shops that are inside department stores, each particular brand has specialized staff like branch managers. In contrast, in multi-brand shops, there is no staff related to a particular brand. Why is this a problem? Because consumers cannot get the information they need, such as the basic data related to particular products or after-service information, and this might create limits to buyers when shopping.

Today, multi-brand shops are hugely popular, and it seems like this trend will continue for a while. Since twenties are the main consumers in these shops, we can see that the business strategy of multi-brand shops and the consuming trends of those in their twenties are very much aligned. ☹

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The placards say "World Commemoration for Japanese Military Comfort Women."

A Yellow Butterfly Flies High in the Sky

By Jang Eun-ae
Associate Editor

Japanese colonial rule was the most heartbreaking and difficult time in Korean history. The so-called “comfort women” calls to mind an experience that has left not only the female victims, but Korea as a whole with a bitter and resentful attitude toward these past events. Related to this, there have been weekly demonstrations since Jan. 8, 1992 conducted on behalf of the comfort women victims by the Korean Council for Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan (the Council). These demonstrations happen every Wednesday in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul, and their purpose is to protect the rights of the comfort women and to reveal the truth that women were drafted by Japanese forces to perform forced sexual services. This year marks the 70th anniversary of Korea’s independence. Therefore, The Argus decided to cover the 1,191st weekly demonstration which was held on Aug. 12 and also interviewed two of its participants.

What are Comfort Women?

Meaning of “comfort women”

The so-called “comfort women” are a group of women that were gathered and forced into sexual slavery by Japanese military from the early 1930s to Aug. 1945 which is when Korea became independent.

Historical background

The Japanese military established comfort women system to raise the morale of their soldiers and prevent the spreading of venereal diseases as the war continued onward after the Manchurian Incident and the Sino-Japanese War, which broke out in 1931 and 1937 respectively.

Many poor Korean women were brought to facilities forcibly by Japanese military and pressed into sexual slavery. Many of them were forced to have sex with more than 20 soldiers a day in such facilities.

Attitude of the Japanese government

Factions within the Japanese government maintain a defensive position regarding the issue of comfort women, and argue that the issue was settled by the treaty between Korea and Japan in 1965. Also, some government officials claim that comfort women were not forced into service but volunteered to do so.

Harvard student Joseph Choi, a second-generation Korean-American, asked Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe about the issue of the comfort women

when he visited Harvard University in April. Abe replied, “I was smarted when I heard about their pain and the wounds they suffered.” He did not mention the possibility of reparations for the comfort women and did not issue an apology on behalf of the Japanese government as though he was a disinterested like a third party.

▣ The number of participants in the 1,191st weekly demonstration was about 2,500 people, and many of them came from all over the country. They took part as individuals or groups. Additionally, seven countries including Japan, China, U.S., Canada, the Philippines, Taiwan and Germany showed their interest and participated in the event. This is beginning to arouse interest from the whole world.

▣ Then what are the purposes of the weekly demonstration for the comfort women?

First and foremost, the demonstration demands that Japan admits its fault and reveals the historical truth regarding the comfort women. Second, demonstrators also demand that adequate compensation be given to the surviving comfort women and that an accurate accounting be detailed in documents, most notably Japanese history textbooks. Lastly, demonstrators demand that a memorial and historical museum be built.

11 A.M.

Participants gathered in front of the Japanese Embassy. Even people from Jeju Island took part in the demonstration. Students from Jeju Island raised money for the surviving comfort women and donated it to the Council. In addition, participants made a variety of pickets, and there were many people who collected signatures and gathered donations. Also, the staff of the demonstration handed out fans shaped like a yellow butterfly and sold bracelets on behalf of the comfort women. The yellow butterfly symbolizes freedom from violence, suppression, and discrimination.

Before starting the demonstration, elementary school students sang songs, and the staff danced at the opening of the demonstration. At the demonstration, The Argus interviewed a participant who was a member of ‘Icoop Living Cooperative Association’ supplying safe and organic foods to consumers. Jeong Seol-gyeong said that the association has been taking part in this weekly demonstration since 2009 and that it fully supports the position of the comfort women. She also said that compared to the past, more people have begun participating in this event from a variety of backgrounds, generations, and social classes.



▲ 2,500 participants gather around from all over the country with pickets they made.



▲ Dolls displayed at the event resemble of the comfort women statue.



© The Argus / Jang Eun-ae

▲ Heo Myeong-seok does a one-man protest at the demonstration.

12 P.M.

A video with the title of “The Japanese Government Should Apologize” began and all of the participants watched the video attentively. After the video, three co-representatives from the Council delivered the opening addresses, and the demonstration officially got under way.

The demonstration was in full swing at 12:40 p.m. when an old man suddenly poured inflammable liquid all over his body and lit himself on fire. He was the son of an independence fighter, and burned himself to death for Korea, according to his will he left before suiciding. Most participants were taken aback by the unexpected fire, but it was extinguished by staff members, police officers and firefighters within a few minutes.

Kim Bok-dong, Gil Won-ok, and Lee Young-su, living victims of the comfort women, participated in the demonstration. Gil Won-ok appeared on the stage and criticized the Japanese government for denying the existence

of the comfort women and criticized the Korean government for showing an attitude of indifference toward them. She said, “We have not received an adequate apology from the Japanese government even though it will be the 70th anniversary of our independence very soon. The Korean government needs to be less indifferent toward the comfort women matter as well.”

1:30 P.M.

Elementary and high school students as well as the leader of a nationwide organization spoke freely about their feelings for the comfort women. After all of the speeches, the demonstration came to an end with participants passing around a big banner containing the slogan, “Fly high by liberation. We are free finally!” over participants’ heads.

The Argus interviewed Heo Myeong-seok, an undergraduate from Wonkwang University, after the demonstration was over. He put on a one-man protest, holding a picket at the center of the demonstration. His picket read, “The Japanese government denies the existence of comfort women, wants to seize Dokdo, and I denounce the Abe government for never apologizing for its colonial past.” He protested from Aug.

10 to 14 as a member of an organization related to peace and the unification of the Korea. He also said that the cohesiveness of university students is weaker than that of middle or high school students. Heo hopes that more university students will become interested in the issue of comfort women and history.

The weekly demonstration is getting more attention from not only various press outlets, but also the general public compared to the past. It started on a small scale, but it has developed significantly, reaching five million participants per year. Still, more participation and attention is needed to cure the wounded hearts of the comfort women. ☞

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▲ Monument for comfort women stands in front of the Japanese embassy.



© The Argus / Jang Eun-ae

▲ Three comfort women, Kim Bok-dong (L), Gil Won-ok (M) and Lee Young-su (R), participate in the event.



An Unseen Barrier Is Holding Korea Back

By **Kang Young-joon**
Editorial Consultant

This March, *The Economist*, a British economic magazine, released the glass ceiling index. The index describes the unseen, yet unbreakable barrier that keeps minorities and women from rising to the upper rungs of the corporate ladder, regardless of their qualifications or achievements based on data from 28 countries in the OECD. In the index, Korea's rank has remained the same over the last three years, with Korea being given a point total of 25.6.

The glass ceiling index has an average of 60 points and is calculated based on nine indicators combining data on enrollment in higher education, labor-force participation, pay, childcare costs, maternity rights, business school applications, and representation in upper managerial positions. Korea scores so far below the average due to the fact that the gap in labor-force participation and pay remains unusually wide.

My own personal experiences reflect the reality of this data. As graduation draws nearer, girl friends around me always say things like, "You are lucky because you are a man." Based on these kinds of conversations, it is obvious that our society continues to uphold bad traditions in which employers prefer men over women despite the fact that gender is something we cannot change.

Also, one girl who is older than me told me that the firm she works at hires more men than it does women and that there is a substantial pay gap which favors men over women. Another friend of mine wants to become a government employee after she becomes pregnant because government employees have an easier time securing maternity leave.

Because of this glass ceiling, many women have altered their careers to become government employees, and this results in a net loss for firms because talented female employees are leaving the private sector. It is never a good thing to be judged on the basis of one's inborn traits. We should be evaluated on the basis of our acquired strengths. 

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Swimming Upstream Improves Your Vision!



Tim Peters
Founder / Director of
Helping Hands Korea_Catacombs

OK, I will admit that I did not double-check with a marine biologist whether the above assertion holds true for fish or not, but my ‘theory’ has far more to do with homo sapiens, and the life choices of the university student subset of this species in particular!

First, let me share a little bit of what has occupied me over the past 19 years in Korea. Like many other foreigners on this peninsula, I have done stints as an English teacher, editor, speechwriter, proofreader lecturer, and a few other pursuits, too. All well and good. However, one ‘extracurricular activity’ unexpectedly grew into a passion for me: assisting North Koreans in crisis. When my family returned to Korea in 1996, news of North Korea’s crippling famine was just beginning to leak out of the Secret State through isolated news reports and accounts provided by border crossers. So troubling at the time were detailed reports of dire food shortages, widespread malnutrition, stunted growth of a generation of children and even some startling accounts of cannibalism, that I became convinced that my priorities could not be maintained ‘business as usual.’ In short, my values as a human being, much less as a Christian, were being challenged. As a first step, our family of seven came to the decision to dedicate out of our monthly family budget enough to purchase a ton of corn in China to be sent into North Korea. This monthly pledge became the seed money for our fledgling Ton-a-Month Club, which others slowly began to join. We felt like pioneers. I was learning to swim upstream and as I did, my eyes opened to other ‘inconvenient truths.’

Almost as disturbing to me as news of the humanitarian disaster unfolding above the 38th Parallel was the apathy I witnessed both globally and here on the southern half of this peninsula. Yes, notable

and noble exceptions stood out, such as the UN World Food Program (WFP), Caritas, Korean Red Cross as well as food aid initiatives from the public and private sectors in South Korea. Even so, I could not help but be dumbfounded by life's unnerving normalcy for millions of Seoulites, who were swimming downstream and seemingly oblivious to fellow Koreans starving 50 kilometers to the north! I began to accept invitations to speak at universities, service clubs, high schools, and churches. These opportunities to raise awareness were surely steps

in the right direction, but I had a gnawing feeling that it wasn't enough. I felt compelled to join fellow activists who organized street demonstrations of protest in front of Chinese embassies in Seoul, Tokyo, Washington D.C., as well as European capitals when North Korean refugees were forcibly repatriated to North Korea to torture, imprisonment and even forced abortions of pregnant female refugees. Such vocal protests were not always popular. Fighting for social justice often pushes against the prevailing social current, may involve discomfort and often requires a new swim stroke!

Over time it became clear that food aid and protests would not be enough. Hundreds of thousands of North Koreans were fleeing famine and the repressive Kim regime in the North yet their reception in China was anything but hospitable! Refugees needed a place of safety, refreshment, encouragement and logistical assistance. One by one, activists began to 'swim upstream' to help desperate refugees make their way to freedom along the underground railroad, reminiscent of the human chain of volunteers who helped American slaves to freedom in the mid-19th Century in the US. Thousands of North Korean defectors have found freedom via hazardous journeys with assistance through third countries, such as Mongolia, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and even Far East Russia. The price for swimming upstream in this way was high: a number of activists were detained and served prison time for the 'crime' (in the eyes of Beijing) of providing humanitarian assistance to the refugees.



At times, swimming upstream not only improves the swimmer's own sensitivity for the needs of others and social justice, but can also provide enhanced vision for many others. When NGOs like ours first started helping the refugees, our principal motivations were humanitarian rescue and unconditional mercy for the persecuted. Over time our non-profit community began to collect the testimonies of North Korean defectors, including human rights abuses they endured in North Korea and China. Some accounts were later used in the landmark UN

Commission of Inquiry's detailed report on the human rights in North Korea.

Examples are legion throughout history of those who have made the lonely decision to swim upstream and they can be found in every culture and society. Those who reach the stature of a Ghandi, William Wilberforce, Abraham Lincoln or Nelson Mandela will naturally be very few. Yet I am convinced that each and every one of us can strive to hear the whisper of conscience and charity in our own heart, seek to recognize the difference between temporal and truly enduring values, search for and find the courage to swim upstream against the current of narcissistic living. We may not always succeed, and that is to be expected. At the same time, many have discovered that swimming upstream is so exhilarating and liberating that it has become a lifelong habit! 🇰🇷

- The NGO website is www.helpinghandskorea.org.
- He can be reached at tapkorea@gmail.com.
- Tim hosts a weekly Catacombs forum on 'all things North Korea', Tues. 7-9 P.M., in DL Gallery: turn left out of Samgakji Station's Exit 2, and walk through a small passageway about 40 meters to the gallery on the right (located between a cafe and fish restaurant).

A Collection of ‘Must-read’ Articles, The Argus

The June issue of The Argus surprised me; it carefully covered diverse issues from all areas in-depth. From controversial issues like HUFS parent networking issues, to stories of other young spirits like Kimchi Bus, the June issue of The Argus truly inspired me in so many levels. It was clear that The Argus was doing its best in covering and delivering the right issues for HUFS students. If there are ‘must-have items’ in fashion and ‘must-watch films’ in the theater, I would say The Argus is a collection of ‘must-read articles.’

As an avid reader of magazines, I personally think that a school-published magazine should keep the right balance between campus news and society/world news. And in that perspective, the June issue was, again, well balanced. I especially liked the cover story about the school’s main issue. The article kept an objective view to the controversial parent networking issue by comparing with other universities’ policies. The ‘Road Casting’ section that featured HUFS students’ voices from diverse cultures about campus drinking, which is a worldwide controversial issue, and the last section ‘Feature’ that smartly developed a student’s voice into a form of an article also resonated with me.

However, I wish ‘News Desk’ covered more interviews with related students and faculty members. It will add a touch of reality in the articles. Also, some additional notes about how HUFS students can contribute to The Argus would be nice, too. For example, sections like ‘Feature’ and ‘Cartoon’ can have a short footnote that explains how students can voice their opinions.

The editor had noted in the editorial, the head article of the magazine, that “The Argus will endeavor to take part in the role of leading to real improvements in campus conditions.” Not only am I glad to see it advancing in just the right direction it promised, but I am also sure that it is doing the exact same role in the community and the society.

Park So-yeon

Sogang University, Business Administration ‘13

Back to Reality

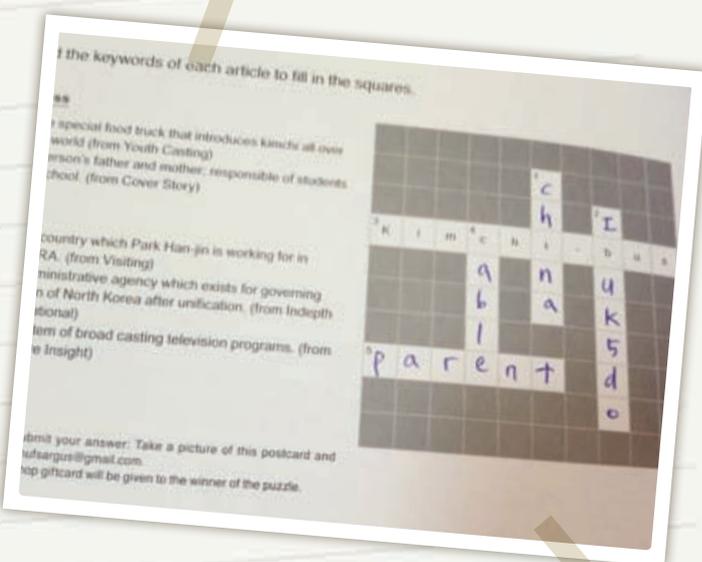


Park Ji-hyun

Department of English Linguistics ‘10



Thank you for your answers!



The winner of the June issue puzzle is Kim Min-jin!

We look forward to your answers for this September issue!



Become friends with us on Facebook and take a peek behind the stories of the articles!
Look up "Hufs Argus"



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