

The Argus

No. 488 SEP 8, 2017

Since 1954

They Turned Their Backs on Each Other Why?

Dating on Sunday

If There Is a Will, There Is a Way

Cover Story

Broken Trust toward Student Councils

In-depth on Culture

Independent PDs Need Protective Film

Eye of The Argus

Does Blind Hiring Blind Discrimination?

Reportage

A Glimpse into the Korean War, Abai Village



HANKUK UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES

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

- *President and Publisher* Prof. Kim In-chul
- *Executive Editor* Prof. Choi Yo-sop
- *Editor-in-Chief* Lee Sei-yon (ELG-2)
- *Editorial Consultants*..... Lee Jae-won (H-3)
Byun Hee-jin (DIS-3)
- *Staff Reporters* Cho Jae-won (BAD-1)
Jeon Nu-ri (G-1)
Moon Chae-un (R-1)
Park Beom-ju (M-1)
Park Ji-yong (MI-2)
You Seo-yeon (IME-1)
- *Guest Reporter* Shim Kyu-han (EC-2)
- *Copy Readers*
Prof. Brandon Walcutt
Prof. Merrilee Brinegar
Prof. Michael Heinz

107, Imun-ro, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul, Korea
(Postal Code 02450)

Tel: (02) 2173-2508 Fax: 2173-2509

81, Oedae-ro, Mohyeon-myon, Cheoin-gu Yongin, Gyeonggi
Province, Korea

(Postal Code 17035) Tel: (031) 330-4113

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Editorial

Let the Truth Guide Us to Justice

Last spring, South Korea welcomed its new leader, Moon Jae-in, with his inauguration on May 10. As his presidency follows a series of unprecedented political scandals in Korea's constitutional history, Moon is burdened with a multitude of tasks to tackle from the start. The first and foremost challenge he faces is the restoration of the fundamental principle of a democratic nation: justice. With the highest level of political interest and expectation from the public, it is his job to uncover the absolute truths of the recent controversies surrounding the previous administration, and start anew towards 'a just Korea' as he promised.

Likewise, the upcoming semester is a defining moment for HUFS to redeem itself from the previous scandalous semester. It was revealed that some student representatives capitalized on their authority to misappropriate funds. As a result, the school found faults within the system that had entrusted individuals with huge sums of public money. For this September issue, The Argus has delved into the systematic loopholes that enabled the embezzlement and sought after solutions to prevent their recurrence. Truths have been told, but justice must also be brought. As of now, we have discovered that the holes have been filled through the revision of regulations.

In principle, a country founded upon the constitution must resort to laws to act as pre-emptive measures to all possible injustices. Given the cases that shocked the nation and campus, however, it is clear that the law by itself does not suffice. Before the law, we must reflect upon ourselves to see if we have been entirely truthful in upholding our responsibilities as members of our respective societies. Although people transfer their rights to the representatives, the people are still liable for making sure that their voices are heard and that the spokespeople fulfill their duties.

With the eyes of hundreds watching, The Argus promises to remain true to our responsibility to report with the utmost integrity. To bring justice to the world, The Argus shall embrace the truth one of the core values of HUFS to determine right and wrong, and guides us to make the most rational judgments. Nevertheless, The Argus itself cannot stand alone without the help of fellow readers. In our pursuit of truth and justice, we ask for your support as our truthful informants and watchdogs. Only together can 'a just HUFS' be achieved. 

Lee Sei-yon
Editor-in-Chief

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Cover Story

>> Last semester, a series of embezzlements and the mismanagement of public budgets were uncovered. It was basically the fault of a few student representatives. However, the budget-managing system itself must bear some responsibility since it made those crimes possible. How was it possible to misappropriate the public budget under the vigilant eyes of inspectors? The Argus looked into the drawbacks of the budget management system and provided solutions.

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▲ Attendees at the QS Subject Focus Summit.



▲ President Kim In-chul is delivering his speech.

HUFS, QS Successfully Held Academic Gathering


HUFS and Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) successfully hosted an academic gathering on the fourth-industrial revolution at the university which ran from July 5 to 7.

During the QS Subject Focus Summit on Language, Literature and Culture, participants, including global experts of higher education, held discussions and shared ideas under the theme “The Fourth Industrial Revolution and Humanities.” Around 180 participants from 54 institutions in 23 countries joined the event.

On the first day, the organizers held a welcome dinner, where HUFS students staged a dance performance representing the university's well-known cultural diversity. HUFS President Kim In-chul delivered a speech on the following day.

“I hope the event will serve as an opportunity to discuss various issues covering language, literature, and culture, and overcoming the barriers of borders,” said President Kim, expressing his gratitude to all the participants from around the globe.

Lee Min-hwa, the head of the Korea Creative Economy Research Network, also shared a vision regarding South Korea's strategies for the fourth-industrial revolution.

Participants cheered the latest academic gathering hosted by HUFS, saying the event served as an opportunity to expand their networks with other partners and that it was “highly effective and successful.” 

By Cho Jae-won

HUFS, KOTRA Open Up Opportunities for Future Trade Experts




▲ HUFSans who take part in the KOTRA internship program gather together to attend a launching ceremony.

HUFS held a launching ceremony for the internship program offered by the state-run Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) at the Graduate School of the Seoul Campus on July 11, helping HUFSans to broaden their work experience as future globetrotting trade experts.

The university celebrated the kick-off of the 20th batch of HUFSans, sending 76 students to KOTRA's overseas offices in 42 countries as interns.

Every semester, the KOTRA-HUFS Internship Program helps students to build broad and in-depth experiences in the fields of trade and business at the trade agency's overseas branches.

Kim Min-jung, director of the Career Support Center, chaired the ceremony and HUFS President Kim In-chul, presented students' representatives with the university's badge. In addition to the ceremony, the university also provided students with an orientation on their duties.


So far, HUFS has sent off 1,588 interns to KOTRA since it first launched the program in 2008. Students can not only earn 15 credits through the six-month program, but can also build experiences for their future career. 

By Moon Chae-un

HIMUN Discusses Int'l Order Amid Protectionism

HUFS International Model United Nations (HIMUN) and Korea International Trade Association (KITA) co-hosted the 41st HIMUN general assembly at Convention & Exhibition (COEX) auditorium on Aug. 6, providing students an opportunity to share ideas on the rise of protectionism policies.

The agenda for this year was “Seeking a new international order to cope with the rise of protectionism.” Eleven undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the nation participated in the event as representatives.

First kicked off in 1958, the Model United Nations program is conducted based on the actual procedures adopted by the U.N. 

By You Seo-yeon




©HIMUN

▲ Attendees enjoy the 41st HIMUN general assembly.

HUFSan Wins LPGA Championships

Kim In-kyung (Division of International Sports and Leisure '12) won the Ricoh Women's British Open of the Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour (LPGA), which is one of the most historic and honorable major championships, at Kingsbarns Golf Links in Scotland on Aug. 6.

She won another victory at the Marathon Classic at the Highland Meadows Golf Club in the United States on July 24.


DISL aims to foster experts in international sports diplomacy and industry by providing students with an English-based curriculum and career opportunities. 

By You Seo-yeon

HUFS Provides Volunteers' Education for PyeongChang Olympics

HUFS hosted an education session on volunteers for PyeongChang Winter Olympics volunteers from June 22 to 23 at an assembly hall in Humanities Building of the Seoul Campus.

Inviting professionals from respective fields, the course covered detailed introduction to the PyeongChang Winter Olympics which will kick off February, along with emergency safety drill and international etiquette.

The participants will be assigned with different jobs according to their language skills and other talents, with their duties including but not limited to interpretation and lodging management. 


By Park Ji-yong

HUFS Prof. Kim Hyun-jong Named as Trade Minister

Professor Kim Hyun-jong of the Division of Language & Trade was appointed as South Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.



©The Minjoo (2015 Democratic Party of Korea)

During his inauguration speech, Kim highlighted the importance of what he calls “active and independent negotiation strategy,” claiming South Korean authorities should focus efforts on improving such aspects. 

By Park Ji-yong

HUFS Hosts Global Esperanto Competition



▲ Participants gather at Minerva Complex to celebrate the World Esperanto Competition.

HUFS hosted the 102nd World Esperanto Competition from July 23 to 29, paving way for participants to exchange culture and their academic achievements related to the language.

The annual competition, the biggest of its kind, invites Esperantists from around the globe to attend. During this year's gathering, Esperantists from 62 countries participated in various programs such as basic Esperanto lessons and symposiums. Participants also enjoyed a Taekwondo demonstration and a traditional musical performance. 📖

By Jeon Nu-ri

GSIT Prof. Becomes First Council Member of FIT

Professor Kwak Joong-chol of the Graduate School of Interpretation & Translation (GSIT) is set to head the International Federation of Translators (FIT) as a Council Member for the next three years, for the first time as a Korean, the university announced on Aug. 3.

Kwak served as the president of the GSIT as well as the chairman of the Korean Association of Translators & Interpreters, which aims for friendship among experts and protect their rights.

FIT is an organization that was formed to improve working conditions for translators and to uphold their freedom of expression. 📖

By Jeon Nu-ri

HUFS Invites Linguistics Expert

HUFS Language Research Institute (LRI) hosted a special lecture at the Seoul Campus on July 14 by inviting Zygmunt Frajzyngier from the University of Colorado to speak.

Frajzyngier delivered a lecture under the theme "Typology of functional domains: Implications from African data."

The LRI invites linguistics experts from home and abroad to provide students with an opportunity to study deeper into foreign languages.

Meeting linguistics experts can help students' research into the field and provides the opportunity to study on the language in a new perspective. 📖

By Park Beom-ju

HUFS Book Inspires Interest in Goethe



▲ The book above published by HUFS Knowledge Press was chosen as the Sejong Book of 2017.

"Goethe Lexikon," a book published by HUFS Knowledge Press, an official publisher under the university, was selected as the Sejong Book of 2017 in the academic field by the Publication Industry Promotion Agency of Korea (KPIPA) in August.

The latest achievement is expected to promote readers' interest in Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, the German writer, as well as his pieces, the university said.

The author is well known for his work "The Sorrows of Young Werther" and "Faust."

The Koreanische Goethe-Gesellschaft and the HUFS Knowledge Press joined ties to publish a book that can help those interested to get a glimpse of the writer, inducing them to learn more about his works.

The KPIPA selects books in various fields every year to encourage publication in the society where knowledge takes a significant role. The organization picked 320 books out of 4,013 candidates through close examination by various experts along with feedback from public libraries from March 2016 to February this year. 📖

By Moon Chae-un

News Briefing

By Lee Sei-yon
Editor-in-Chief
disciple@hufs.ac.kr

88 Percent Cut Back



The Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education announced that teacher hiring will be cut by 88 percent because of the steadily decreasing number of students and retiring teachers.

The announcement met with heavy criticism from the prospective graduates with teaching degrees whose chances of teaching are now suddenly at stake.

In response, hundreds of education college students in Seoul staged protests against the government plan, calling it too inconsiderate of the large number of students currently learning how to teach.

Free Entrance

In total of 41 national universities, including Seoul National

0

University, decided not to demand an entrance fee from freshmen, to relieve the financial strains of the households.

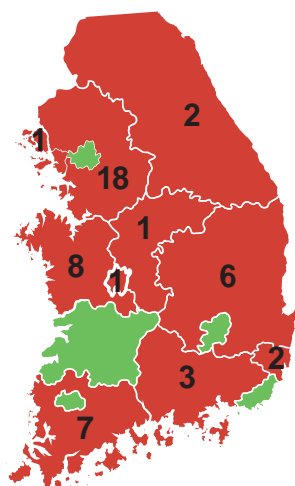


A Just Korea

In July, South Korean President Moon Jae-in revealed his administration's five-year road map, taking the first step to establishing a "government ruled by the people." The plan consists of 20 strategies and 100 tasks encompassing all major aspects of the country.

Following a string of political scandals, his presidency is currently of great interest nationwide. During his campaign and afterwards, Moon had pledged to restore the nation's lost values of democracy and justice.

Organic in Disguise



On Aug. 14, a potentially harmful insecticide named 'fipronil' was detected on some eggs at a farm in the city of Namyangju, confirmed the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Afterwards, the ministry underwent a nationwide inspection of farms and found out that the government-approved "organic" farms were no exception in selling pesticide-contaminated eggs, enraging the public over their deceitful sales and the government's lax regulation.

Farms whose eggs were identified as unsafe

Location	Number
Incheon	1
Gyeonggi Province	18
Gangwon Province	2
North Chungcheong Province	1
South Chungcheong Province	8
Daejeon	1
North Gyeongsang Province	6
South Gyeongsang Province	3
Ulsan	2
South Jeolla Province	7
Total	49

©The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

News Briefing

By Lee Sei-yon
Editor-in-Chief
disciple@hufs.ac.kr

Debut at 90

©Kwon Wu-seong/OhmyNews



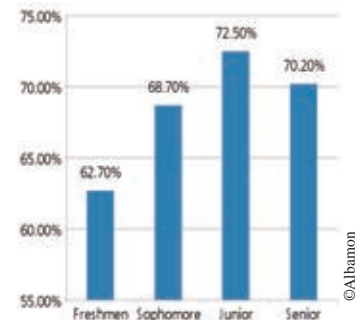
At age 90, former comfort woman Gil Won-wok made her debut as a singer by releasing an album containing 15

songs. Entitled “Gil Won-wok’s Peace,” the album was made public on Aug. 14, the eve of the 72nd Liberation Day, which celebrates Korea's independence from Japan's colonial rule.

7 out of 10

According to a survey conducted by Albamon, a Korean portal site recruiting part-time jobs, 67.2 percent of college students study and work part-time at the same time. More than half of the surveyed students were not satisfied with their work because the demands of their work disturbed their studies too significantly.

Percentage of students working part-time



©Albamon

Character Education


On July 5, university leaders from around the world assembled for The Fifth World Education Leaders Forum, and stressed the importance of ‘character education’ to equip students with the strength of deep-thinking and self-control in order to prepare them for the new era, commonly known as the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

“As technology develops and information increases, the values of the people utilizing them will greatly determine the outcome,” said Kim Sang-yong, chairman of organizing committee, in his welcome speech.



©LinkedIn

“The government will prevent a war at all cost.”

Amid rising tension from the North Korea’s provocations, President Moon Jae-in said that the country will expand its diplomatic efforts to peacefully resolve the North’s military threats, assuring his people that war will not break out on the Korean Peninsula. 



©Yonhap



©Park Ji-yong / The Argus

IF THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS A WAY

By Cho Jae-won, Park Ji-yong
Staff Reporters

In the month of July, a great many queer events were convened in Seoul. On July 23, the 18th Queer Festival attracted 85 thousand LGBT attendees and on July 20 to 23 the 17th Korean Queer Movie Festival took place. These festivals improved the perception of queer community, and Kim Hye-jin, studying Hindi at HUFS took a part. At a difficult time when conflicts about LGBT rights heat up, Kim was invited to screen her LGBT film "There's No Exit in a Taxi." To find out more about her efforts, The Argus met Kim who has been sending her message and pioneering new ways to fight against the odds.

The Argus: Could you please introduce yourself?

Kim Hye-jin (Kim): Hello, I am Kim Hye-jin. I am 24 years old and I major Hindi. I have filmed movies for three years so far and all the movies I have directed relate to minorities in our society.

I believe that problems occur due to lack of attention and communication. That is why I use minority issues as my movies' underlying themes. I often feel that these issues are not getting the attention they deserve, so I use movies as the medium to initiate discussions and hopefully help open up possibilities for reconciliation between the minorities and the majorities.

Most recently, I filmed "There's No Exit in a Taxi," a queer film which was invited to be shown at the Korean Queer Movie Festival.

The Argus: How did you start making films?

Kim: After watching film director Park Chan-wook's renowned film "Old Boy (2003)" in high school, I was deeply moved by how effectively it delivered both a deep message and art. That was when I first thought that I should have my future career related to film. My parents dissented, however, and I had to choose a major irrelevant to filming. After enrolling at HUFS, I took a liberal arts class that had filming as an assignment. In that class, I was lucky enough to come in contact with the movie club called "Woolim" and from there, I came all the way here.

The Argus: Where do you get inspirations for your films?

Kim: Ideas for my movies come from my daily life. At times, I feel that the things you experience seem more dramatic than movies. The movie, "There's No Exit in a Taxi," was based on my experience in a taxi. One day, I got in a taxi with my friend, and when my friend got off, I faced the situation where I had to endure verbal abuse from the taxi driver. In that closed space, I was totally vulnerable. This moment kindled within me the desire to make a movie that discloses the insults women go through in their everyday lives.

The Argus: What is the nominated work "There's No Exit in a Taxi" about?

Kim: "There's no Exit in a Taxi" is about a lesbian couple persevering verbal abuse from a taxi driver, and eventually getting their revenge for what he has done. In a taxi, people are forced to depend on the driver. For many, this is not much of a problem but for those who do feel it as a problem, it is a space that makes them feel intimidated and unsafe. I wanted to explore this with the audience through this movie.

The use of lesbian couples in the movie was to really lay the unreasonable treatments they receive bare to the public. The lines from the taxi driver are actually all based on people's comments from the internet. Through the mouth of the bully in the taxi, I wanted to share the daily insults that sexual minority couples have to tolerate.

The Argus: What was memorable in directing this queer film?

Kim: The first thing I noticed after finishing my scenario was people's prejudice. They tried to sound my sexuality out as though I am a minority myself. This would not have bothered me if I were confident about my scenario. At that time, however, I was not and their prejudgment unnerved me a lot. Also when my film was screened in the festival, I learned that I should pay more attention to the details when it comes to describing a lesbian couple. I received both praise and criticism. I was praised for trying a new subject matter other than love. However, I was also criticized for



▲ Kim is having an interview at The Argus office.

©Park Ji-yong / The Argus



©Kim Hye-jin

▲ “Woolim” is filming “There’s no Exit in a Taxi” in January 2016, near Byulnae station.



©Kim Hye-jin

▲ Equipment used in filming There’s no Exit in a Taxi are shown in the picture.

missing out on lots of details portraying the lesbian couple. This instilled in me a greater need to be careful when representing certain characters.

The Argus: What genre do you want to work on next?

Kim: I do not yet have any specific ideas for my next movie, but I wish to produce films that include wits just like those of director Park Chan-wook’s film, *Old Boy*. The wits that I am thinking of are the kinds of intelligent comments that well describe a situation or a scene. A good example of this is shown in a line by antagonist Lee Woo-jin in *Old Boy*, “Whether it is a stone or a grain of sand, they both sink.” In this line, the character uses an analogy to express that the size of guilt does not matter as much as the fact that the misconduct leads to a certain outcome. I found this phrase to be wonderfully witty in that it has both poetic beauty and a director’s color. In the future, I want to well utilize wit in my movies like director Park.

The Argus: Do you have any additional words for The Argus readers?

Kim: I noticed that people around me are often reluctant to deviate from their majors. On lots of cases, they eventually give up on taking a shot and I think this is somewhat regrettable. I want them to realize that doing something different from their major does not necessarily alter their courses of life. If they did not like something after a try, they can just find other things to do. After all, university is the place that provides students with the opportunity to venture on to one’s likings. For those who are still hesitant to make choices, I want to tell them “just try.”

There could be HUFSSans who are already striving to develop their futures, but for the most part, many have yet found their paths. Kim Hye-jin chose filming regardless of her major and poured her passion into creating a story that spotlights minorities. She exemplifies an individualistic life. *The Argus* hopes this interview has motivated HUFSSans to leave their comfort zone and take on new challenges. 📷

sandspectre7@hufs.ac.kr
aurastorm97@hufs.ac.kr



Broken Trust toward Student Councils

By Park Ji-yong

Reporter of Campus Section

Last semester, HUFSans received successive, shocking news reports of public budget embezzlements from their own student representatives. The vice president of the Emergency Planning Committee (EPC) was confirmed to have siphoned 2 million won (US\$2,100) from the public budget. Moreover, student representatives surnamed Lee and Hyeong, the former president of the College of Occidental Languages student council and the director of College of Chinese student council respectively, said they were voice phished and lost their public budgets. Their cases were covered by major national press organizations, which stirred up issues all across the country. Public budgets were meant to be collected and used for the good of HUFSans. However they ended up falling into misuse. Trust toward student representatives is now broken. The Argus made an in-depth analysis of the causes of the problems and provided a solution.



Problems of budget management system

Unaudited donations

Currently, there are four types of budget that are being run by student bodies: school subsidies, student autonomous subsidies, student council budgets and donations. At this time, donations are the only area that is not subject to outside inspection.

Donations are meant to be spent for the good of HUFs and student bodies. However, the donation budgets are basically run only according to the discretion of the representatives. A member of the student council with a good moral sense is unlikely to make any trouble handling these funds, but there is also a big risk of malfeasance.

According to the final report uploaded on June 23 of the College of Education Investigation Committee (CEIC), formed to probe the corruption charge of Nam, the suspect embezzled approximately 7 million won (US\$6,110) from the college's public budget. Out of the money, 4.2 million won, which is more than half of the total embezzlement, was misappropriated from the donations. He could have easily pocketed public money because donation spending is not subject to scrutiny at that time, and he knew the loopholes of budget management system.

"Most student councils spend donations without proper auditing," said the committee in their final statement on the day of upload. "Members of student council could not gain any information after endowment because there was no proper inspection. Thus, the members could only make assumptions as to how donations were spent when they are carried-over from the underspent balances of the previous year."

Individually-owned budget accounts

Public budget accounts are individually-owned, providing

access only to a single related staff member. This situation always allows for the possibility of embezzlement.

Generally, most of student council budget accounts are opened under an individual's name, according to a self-led examination by The Argus.

"The idea that individually-owned accounts are not necessarily a problem is the commonly held belief within groups, and the whole process to open a group-owned account is too complicated to handle," said Kim Don-kyum, head of the Department of Malay-Indonesian student council.

Hence, a single member of the student body has the power to deposit and withdraw from a public budget account as well as access the account's records in a situation where transparency is crucial. It signifies that there is always the rigid possibility of budget mismanagement as long as the account belongs to an individual.

A student representative surnamed Nam, the former vice president of EPC, took 8 million won (US\$7,000) of unspent money carried-over from the last billing period to his personal account on March 24. He handled the money himself while no one else had access to it until the board of executives was formed.

On May 15, the EPC confirmed that Nam had siphoned a total of 2.24 million won through 14 withdrawals, constituting a case of chronic embezzlement. It took roughly 50 days to uncover the malfeasance.

On June 30, the director of the College of Chinese student council surnamed Hyeong was voice phished by an individual who stole as much as 19 million won (US\$16,500) from the public budget and it took three days for other staff members to learn about it. The discovery could have taken longer if Hyeong had been afraid to confess the truth.

Allowing access to a limited single individual is only one way

Budget factors Ran by Student Bodies

Budget factors	Collected from whom	Allocated to whom
School subsidies	School	Student autonomous bodies.
Student autonomous subsidies	HUFs	Student autonomous bodies
Student council budgets	Freshmen of each major	Related student councils
Donations	Mostly from members of student councils	Related student councils

The budget factors of student councils are inspected by the relevant authorities according to their source. School subsidies mean school-distributed subsidies that consider the relevant number of members from the school. Thus, thorough inspections by the Finance and Accounting Team and the Academic Support Center and Registrar are required.

Student autonomous subsidies are selectively paid by HUFs when paying their tuition. These funds are redistributed by the school based on a particular ratio, and the Central Inspection Committee of the General Student Council (GSC) is responsible for all audits.

The student council budget is collected from freshmen and is paid only once. It is under inspection by the relevant management committees of colleges.

©FBS



▲ 51st EPC provides detailed timeline at GSRM.

in which issues related to corruption can occur. Serial corruption scandals have created huge public discontent, and all of the known scandals are consequences of the above mentioned problem. These situations could have been avoided if other related staff members had had access to the account.



Causes of the problems

The ambiguous characteristics of donations

Donations consist of money willingly given by students and alumni members. The main source of donations are scholarships that have been endowed by members, and contributions from alumni that are often nominal.

Donations from a number of Alumni are sometimes included, with additional irregular income through advertisement from sponsorship companies.

Basically, these scholarships are given as a form of gratitude for the hard work of student representatives, thus their right to receive proper compensation should be protected. However their endowments are spontaneous, and are often given to make up for the possible

deficit within the total budget. In other words, donations are voluntarily made, hence they do not necessarily need to be under inspection.

Donations are not obligated to be inspected since they come from the voluntary will of board members,” said Kim Don-kyum.

As mentioned above, donations cannot be inspected since they are literally voluntary endowments. However, they are also spent for the public sector as well.

“We spend our donations when we are in need for things like upcoming services for HUFsans,” said Ahn Jung-hun, vice president of the College of Occidental Languages student council.

Even members of student councils cannot reach a single agreement whether the donations should be the subject of audits, since donations are both purely voluntary donations and components of a public budget.

Complicacy in opening public-owned accounts

Student councils are not seen as corporate bodies and are thus unable to open public accounts.

Student councils are unlikely to open

5.14
Nam's embezzlement of EPC Budget was found after other staffs' inquiries.

5.15
Lee, College of Occidental Languages student council, was suspected of budgetary mismanagement.

5.16
The College of Occidental Languages Regular Management Committee took place to inspect Lee's case. Lee confessed to problems with budget management but could not explain the discrepancy between bills from the HUFS Finance and Accounting team, and the 51st College of Occidental Language Student Council.

5.17
The General Student Representatives' Meeting (GSRM) took place to discuss punishments for Nam, with a live broadcast. Nam left the meeting right away as soon as he learned about the broadcast and refused to attend the meeting if the live broadcast was on. He later came back to GSRM after the cameras were turned off.

5.18
Lee admitted that she manipulated bill reports, to cover up that she was voice phished. She said she was asked not to reveal any further details by police, since she had to make a pledge of silence for the police investigation. However, it turned out that the “pledge of silence” did not exist, after a few representatives checked.

5.19
GSRM removed Nam from the Emergency Planning Committee (EPC). New doubt on Nam was raised that he embezzled from the public budget of the College of Education. Nam mentioned that he never did that when he was chief of College of Education student council on May 17.

5.21
Nam posted his letter of apology for his EPC embezzlement case, saying he “thought in a wrong way.”



TIMELINE

5.23

The College of Education Investigation Committee (CEIC) was formed. Its main objectives were: to check if embezzlement took place, if Nam tried to keep his actions hidden, and why it took so long to find the embezzlement.

5.24

The College of Occidental Languages Emergency Meeting was held to discuss level of punishment for Lee and to improve the budget management system.

6.5

The College of Occidental Languages Student Representatives' Meeting removed Lee from its organization, and demanded that she upload a letter of sincere apology.

6.7

Lee uploaded letter of apology, saying "It was a wrong move to hide the fact that I was voice phished."

6.5 ~ 19

Nam attended the CEIC inspection. He intentionally stated false details, creating confusion.

6.23

CEIC uploaded its final report and Nam's malfeasance was confirmed at the College of Education. His embezzlement was chronic, throughout his whole tenure in 2016.

6.30

Hyeong got voice phished and lost funds from the public budget of the College of Chinese student council.

7.14

Police investigation began on Hyeong's case.

7.28

Hyeong repaid all the lost funds to the College of Chinese Student Council.



▲ Nam refuses to attend GSRM unless his face is digitalized.

©FBS

public accounts, unless they borrow money in the name of HUFs for the same reason." said Baek Yu-jin, president of EPC.

Organizations can open public accounts through getting a tax registration number and doing some paperwork. While student councils are not considered to be corporate bodies, they can be 'organizations that are treated as corporations'.

"Organizations will get tax registration numbers after they fill out forms in tax offices, since tax offices are supposed to make the registration number for organizations through proper examinations. Banks will open public accounts when the tax registration number is prepared," mentioned Kim Woo-yeong, a certificated professional administrative agent.

The registration number can function as a Certification for Business Registration.

However, the process to open a public account requires a relatively great deal of effort and time, thus sometimes licensed professionals deal with whole process. Lack of documents that have requirements that cannot be met easily, and expiry of legitimacy are the main

reasons why groups seek professional help.

Plus, there is a long list of things to prepare: a seal for the organization, records of the representative election, ID cards for the representatives, a list of members and rules, and an agreement to establish an 'organization seen as a corporation'. Tax offices will make the tax registration number for the relevant organization, then banks will begin the process of opening a public account.

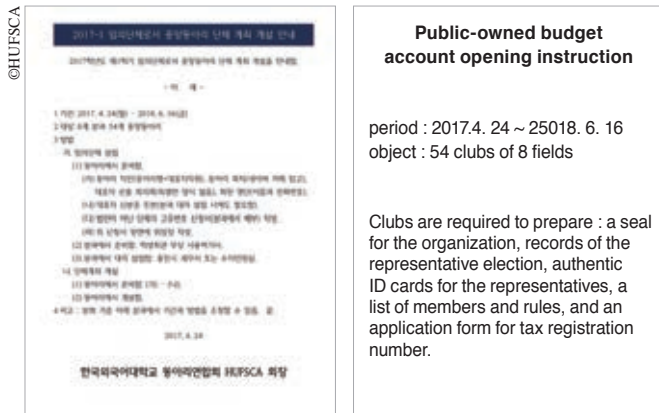
Moreover, only an Authentication Certificate for Industries can be used, and the One-Time Password (OTP) cell- a replacement of the security card- should receive new batteries on a regular basis. The OTP cannot function unless its battery gets charged again in a relevant bank branch.



Paths to improvement

Mandatory donation inspection by students

The recent series of embezzlements have proven the possibility of budgetary abuse. Hence, student bodies are required to implement mandatory inspections on donations.



▲ HUFSCA opens their public-owned budget right away.

Donations clearly have the characteristics of being a part of the public budget. “Now, we have seen it falling into misuse so it is time for us to start self-led inspections,” said the president of the Department of the Malay-Indonesian student council also stressing the importance of audits.

Donations are purely voluntary, but student-led inspections of accounts, billing, and receipts should be done and all the information must be made public transparently since donations are meant for public use.” said Ahn, emphasizing the need for audits.

Mandatory inspections of donations will be welcomed not only by student representatives, but also regular HUFSA members as well.

CEIC’s final report, written by regular members of the College of Education, also demanded the same, saying, “Although public money may come from private sources, this does not mean it can be considered private money.”

Obligatory opening of public budget accounts

All student body organizations are required to open public

accounts so that the input and withdrawal records can be transparent. Concentrated authority of access should be distributed to other members of student bodies as well.

HUFSA Club Association (HUFSCA) created their public account that is accessible to multiple staff members after the discovery of embezzlement scandal. Then-candidate for HUFSCA president, Kim Han-jung, made a pledge that their “budget will be run through a public account.” Kim and his partner got their tax registration number right after they were elected, creating the account they longed for.

“The scandal last year was a major motivator to walk through all the hardships to improve the system for the first time. We had to go through countless mistakes throughout our steps. Now, school subsidies and student council budgets are being run in separate public accounts, and transparency in budget management has been established since every related staff can access input and withdrawal records,” said Kim.

Furthermore, carry-overs after billing periods when representatives are switched will no longer be needed.

Kim Woo-yeong, a licensed administration professional, said, “Representatives’ expiration of tenure will not hinder the continuity or transparency of the budget when a successor is listed.”

“A representative of the council has a duty to be actively involved with academic and autonomous activities, based upon trust and veracity,” states Chapter 13 of the General Student Council Regulations, which deals with the moral code of representatives. Nevertheless, a few representatives have destroyed that mutual trust by abusing their power. Not only must the loopholes of the system fixed, but also the moral discipline of student representatives must be strong, so that what happened last winter will not be repeated at HUFSA. 📖

sandspectre7@hufs.ac.kr

▲ Representatives of GSRM had to spend much time for nothing while Nam was away.

A Student's Grumblings

By Shim Kyu-han

Guest Reporter

At a time when our attention has turned to the many incidents that have occurred in the student councils around our school, it seems as if the school itself is not receiving the attention that it deserves. I have heard many discussing the voice phishing scandals that rattled certain departments, but not enough about the school library's renovation. I have heard various opinions regarding the embezzlement scandal in our Emergency Planning Committee (EPC), but perhaps not as much about the medical school that was once rumored to have been in the school's plans.

You may wonder where I am going with this, as this piece could be considered little more than a random student's grumbling complaints about his own school. But I think the disoriented dissatisfactions of students such as these should not be taken lightly. They are too broad and

too common to be ignored. Rather, perhaps it is time for both the students and the school to take more interest in each other. It is time that we try to understand each other as there is no symbiotic relationship more obvious, and yet more oppressed, than the one between school and student. So, I hope that I can better organize my own grumblings, and those of other students, and offer my own solutions that could potentially bridge the current gap that the students feel between themselves and the school.


Though I am neither an expert nor an insider of the school, I am knowledgeable enough of HUFSan to question why it is taking such a long time to build a new library. Of course, renovating the school library, a place in which many of our students rely on to further their studies, to relax, and to interact with the intricacies and whims of books and magazines, is no easy task. It is one thing to erect a new building, and another to replace the cradle of university education. But it must be done someday, and the school did set a timetable (albeit in a somewhat ambiguous manner) that asserted the library's renovation would be finished around the coming semester. As a student, and

as someone who listens to the grumblings of my fellow students, one must wonder when that promise will come to fruition. Though it may be unwise to make quick judgments with the naked eye, it seems as if absolutely no progress is being made with the library. The main problem here is not really the lack of progress being made, but, the issue of broken promises and the lack of reasoning behind such actions. There really have not been many attempts to educate the students on this matter, and now we are confused. Many doubt that they will even get to see a new library before graduation.

Another question I have is the projects that the school is planning. The Songdo Campus, which I believe is being planned to serve as a venue for our Graduate School of Interpretation and Translation in the future, is one project that comes to mind. The medical school that was planned to come to fruition around the end of this decade is another. And I must say that I have a problem with both. The first project seems to come from good intention, but like the library, not much about it is known. Furthermore, with the state of the infrastructure within the two campuses of our school, raising the standards of our existing facilities should be the school's number one priority. I hope that more information regarding the Songdo campus will be released to our students.

When I was a freshman last year, I came across an opportunity to meet our school's president in person. It was in autumn, I believe, and the stage was set for the president to make an appearance in front of students brimming with questions to ask. But compared to the hype that the meeting generated, not many answers were given. It could only make one wonder whether the event was meant as a mere formality to momentarily quench the quiet grumblings inside the school. Regardless

of its objective or effectiveness, however, I do not believe that this is the solution to the communicating discrepancy between the school and students. Simply answering the questions that students have with ambiguous answers will not help in many ways. Instead, the only way to find a more fundamental solution is for both the school and the students to actively reach out to each other. Our school's student council should play a more active role as a catalyst, as a bridge to narrow the chasm that isolates the respective sides. The council should do its best to serve its duty as a representative body of the students, and work together with the school to improve communication within the school.

Of course, the main problem here is that we do not have a properly elected student council. It is been a few years, in both our school's campuses, since a student council managed to receive enough votes to earn the right to represent our school's students. Rather, the EPC acts as our representatives. Although its members should be commended for their hard work, they are a group with limited power, resources and influence. For the student body to truly function, students must actively use the power given to them, and participate in student elections. It is a well-known fact that for a democracy to work, the people must take active responsibility and actively perform their duties as citizens. The same applies here. If more students take responsibility and vote, we will be able to enjoy the benefits of a student council once again. I believe that this is the crucial first step that we must take in order to hold on to any hope that the vacant space between the school and the student body will one day be filled. 

brskh184@hufs.ac.kr



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Being True to Your Desires Is Not Wrong

By You Seo-yeon, Jeon Nu-ri
Staff Reporters

Korea has a saying that stems from Confucian ideas: “A boy and a girl should not sit together after they have reached the age of seven.” Due to the Confucian influence that aimed to secure chastity and purity by strictly separating both genders, Korean society is relatively conservative regarding sexual issues. However, there is a person who is trying to improve people’s sexual awareness, claiming sexual issues are not something to be discussed secretly but openly. As a first step for raising awareness, fashion creator Choi Da-eun established start-up, “Sixty One,” and planned to run the exhibition “Reverse 19.” The Argus met Choi who is struggling to improve society’s conservative sexual culture.

The Argus: Please briefly introduce yourself.

Choi Da-eun (Choi): I am a co-founder and chief marketing officer of “Sixty One,” which I launched in June with my colleagues that I met through a start-up program. Originally, working as a fashion creator, I used to collaborate with fashion brands and artists. Then one day, I realized that people were reluctant to talk about sexual issues though those are quite natural. Consequently, I established Sixty One in an attempt to achieve unconstrained atmosphere.

The Argus: What does “Sixty One” mean?

Choi: The name of company Sixty One symbolizes reversing stereotypical sexual image of number 19, which refers to unavailable contents for under age 19. If we turn over 19, it becomes 61 and it implies changing the negative awareness that many people have with regards to sexual culture.

Sixty One may be simply thought of as a brand that makes sex-related items. However, we seek not just to improve attitudes towards sexual issues, but to foster awareness of its being something as natural like eating or sleeping. To achieve that, I recently held an exhibition named Reverse 19.

The Argus: What is the exhibition “Reverse 19”?

Choi: Reverse 19 was designed to foster healthy and positive sexual awareness through young artists’ individual styles of works against Korea’s puritanical leanings. Holla Company, which made a sexual relations guide map application for adult couples, Holla Banana, conducted a lecture about sexual relationships, and many pieces of art were displayed from various areas including pop art, oriental paintings, western

paintings, make-up, fashion, illustration, and photography. In Sixty One’s zone, the staff provided explanations regarding the products so visitors could easily touch or manipulate the materials of the exhibition in a relaxing atmosphere.

The Argus: How did people react to the exhibition?

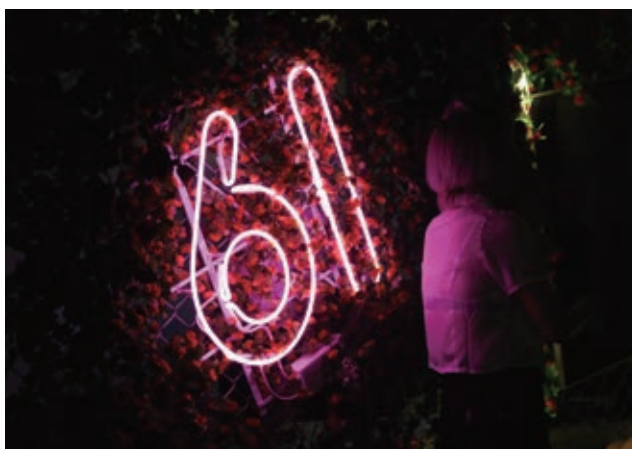
Choi: I did not expect that people would support my values. To my surprise, as soon as I uploaded information about Sixty One and our exhibition, a lot of people cheered me on. After launching a brand dealing with sexuality that people are socially reluctant to talk about, reporters who got interest in our action interviewed me.

Thankfully, many people complimented me on my courage to break the stereotypes of Korean society. I only did what I wanted to do, so it is fortunate that everyone supports our movement.

The Argus: How did you come to challenge social stereotypes?

Choi: Actually, I was an introvert when I was younger. Then one day I strongly expressed my opinion that I really wanted to study the arts, which caused a quarrel between my father and me, but he did compliment me on expressing my thoughts. Since that time, I have become confident at showing my thoughts and pursuing what I want to do.

Working as a fashion creator, I felt people are still unfamiliar with expressing sexual desire. At the first exhibition I planned, I featured charming sexual products with daily props. People liked the idea so much without aversion, and I wanted to deal with sexual themes to set healthy and beautiful sexual images.



©Moon Chae-un/The Argus

▲ A neon sign which symbolizes Sixty One shines on the wall.



©Moon Chae-un/The Argus

▲ People listen to practical sex education at Reverse 19.

The Argus: Did you have any difficulties raising awareness?

Choi: There are two main hardships. First of all, it is difficult to promote Sixty One publicly. The business itself is not a problem, but many portal sites misunderstand our intention. Even though we have a good idea to raise awareness of sexual culture, mass media usually regard the direct words to be used in introducing our company or products as unsuitable. Thus, we must carefully select indirect expressions. News articles introduce our activities, and I have had some interviews, but I do not think many people are likely to visit our website, exhibitions and other events only through articles. I think that broadening our influence through exposure via other brands' promotions is the best that we can do right now.

On a personal level, at the beginning, I was the only person who could test the major products for women among my co-workers, so actually I was worried that people would come to know about my private sexual life. However, that worry related to my own sense of sexual shame was the very problem I was criticizing, so I determined to change the social atmosphere on sexual culture.


The Argus: Do you have any plans for the future?

Choi: I plan to collaborate with various fields such as make-up or accessories. I hope that someday we can think of sexual issues more naturally. First of all, we will make opportunities for adult goods to be familiarly exposed without compromising. To do this, we are planning to hold small parties near universities and provide practical sex education for the youth. Applying trends from fashion culture such as

making a lookbook every season, Sixty One may release new adult products in upcoming seasons. This kind of plan can let people enjoy entertainment and pay attention to sexual culture.

The Argus: Are there any messages you want to convey to the readers?

Choi: After I entered university, I associated with friends who shared lots in common, but one day I realized that a lot of them gave up on what they dreamed of and started working for companies irrelevant to their interests. Of course, I do not think those are not good things to do for the future, but definitely everyone had their own hopes like some was happy when they played music, and others were interested in make-up and so on. It is a pity that people give up on their dream because of realistic limitation. Fortunately, I am doing what I really wanted to do right now.

I always recall the saying, "But near missed things." It means that I missed the things nearby, though it is grammatically wrong. I think it can be interpreted in two ways: I missed something already, and I could miss something unknown, so I can do my best reminding this sentence. I hope the readers of The Argus will do their best in their own field that they like or have an interest in. Also, I ask for your support in the struggle to change the social atmosphere so that we can talk about our opinions on sexual issues freely. 

ruiyan0412@hufs.ac.kr
wjssnfl10@hufs.ac.kr



▲ Illustration expresses the meaning of the words Choi had mentioned.



▲ Adult goods are placed on a plate adorably with other props.

How Was Your Summer Vacation?

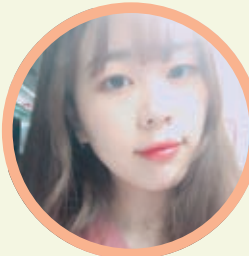
By Park Beom-ju
Reporter of Campus section

After a long vacation, the fall semester has started. Not only is vacation a purely free time for students, but it also is a time for them to do what they have to do. This time differs from person to person, and also varies as to what year they are in school. The Argus met four HUFsians, and listened to how these students spent their vacations.



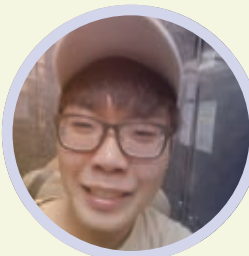
Kim Hye-ji, Business Administration Division '17

I did what I really wanted to do in my first vacation. The first thing I did was to obtain a driver's license. The exam was difficult and expensive, so I practiced hard and passed the exam on the first try. I also had a part-time job for the first time at a cafe. It was not difficult because the recipes were easy and the people that I worked with were very nice. I visited a nursing home and met precious people I used to know in my hometown, the city of Munkyeong. Although I did not sign up for volunteer work, I missed them so much that I revisited the place.



Park Joo-hee, Division of Language & Trade '17

I think my vacation does not differ much from those of other freshmen. I went on a one-day trip with my family to the west coast of Korea and I travelled with my friends to Busan. Also, I registered a course at an academy to learn Chinese, which was difficult to do during the semester. As for the rest of the summer, I spent most of my time watching television and taking as much rest as possible.



Kwon Sung-il, Dept. of German '13

This summer was a time to do things that I had never done before. During the semester, I worked as a student council member, so I decided to take a break in summer. My goal for this vacation was to refresh myself, and plan ahead how I want to live through the rest of the school years. What I remember the most is the summer volunteer work that I did for local communities. Although it was really hot and the work was also quite difficult, I learned the pleasure of being at countryside.



Lee Hee-won, Dept. of Czech and Slovak Studies '13

I participated in a pop song cover club called "Punggakjaengi." From creating a performance scenario to preparing for the concert, I assumed full responsibility. In the next semester, I will be working as an intern at a manufacturing company in the Czech Republic. However, I cannot speak Czech well enough to feel confident about myself so I studied Czech. I also did a research on the flagship products of the company. This vacation was time to fully prepare for the next semester. 📷

haize101@hufs.ac.kr

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

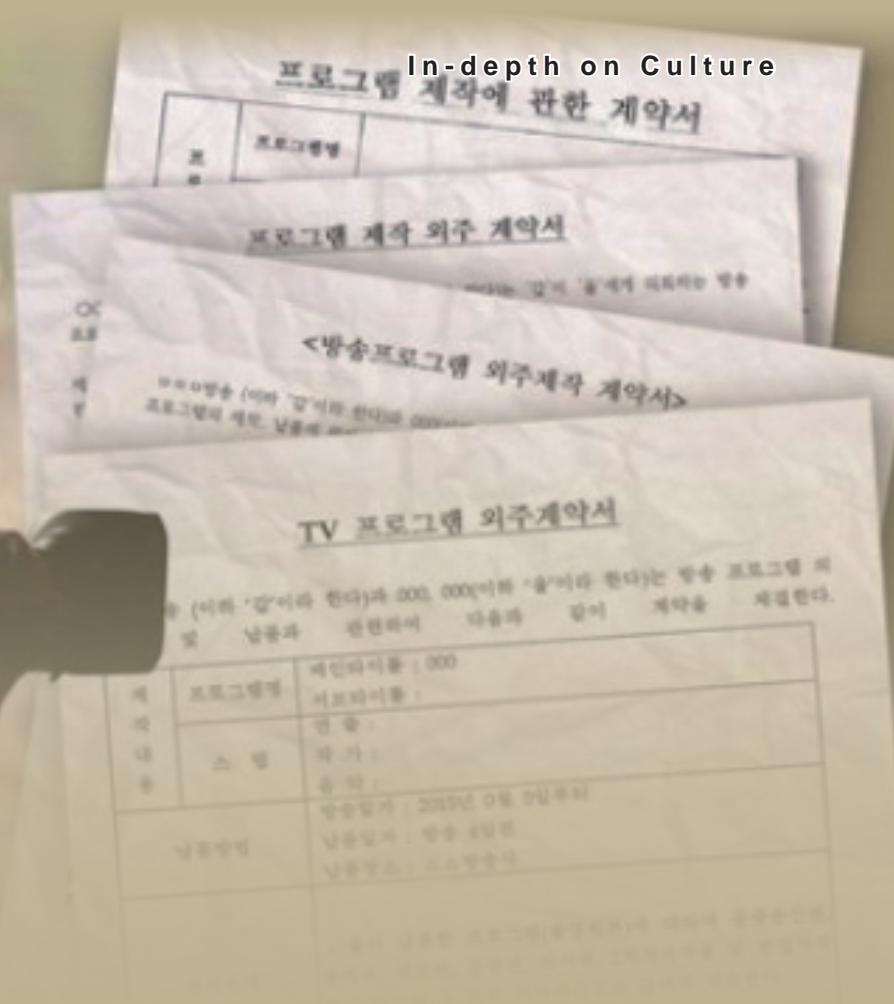
Independent PDs Need Protective Film

By Jeon Nu-ri

Reporter of Culture Section

One independent producer (PD) died in July. Devoted to nature documentaries, he used to say, “I want to change the world. People can change by watching my work, and I can do anything if the world becomes positive!” The cause was a car accident, but some people ascribe his death to the “social environment.” To save production costs, he drove the car himself in an unfamiliar place in Africa late at night without a local coordinator, which led him to death.

In what environment do the independent PDs and outsourcing companies make programs, and how do broadcasters treat them? The Argus looked into the reality and examined the causes and solutions for the difficult situation the PDs are going through.



Independent PD: a producer who works as a freelancer or belongs to an outsourcing production company.

Outsourcing production company: a company which receives orders for making programs for terrestrial TV channels, cable channels, and government enterprises, and delivers those programs to them. It is also referred to as an independent production company.

Outsourcing: a system adopted to overcome the harmful effects of exclusive production by broadcasting companies and improve the competitive power of the domestic broadcasting industry by bringing life to diverse production subjects.



What problems are independent PDs facing?

Bad working conditions due to lack of budgets

Broadcasting companies expect outsourcing companies to make quality programs without providing them with sufficient budgets. As a result, independent PDs have to work harder to make up for the situation.

The late two PDs, Park Hwan-sung and Kim Kwang-il, who died in a car crash, had been filming a documentary called “Docu Prime-King in a Cage” for the Educational Broadcasting System (EBS). They were supposed to film under the budget of 70 million won (about US\$60,000) per episode. However, this is far from average cost required to shoot a long-term overseas documentary.

According to standard production costs set by British public broadcaster BBC, the budget for a one hour long documentary is set at a minimum of 75 million won (US\$65,000) to a maximum of 750 million won (US\$654,000).

Considering the price difference between the two countries, the money EBS planned to give to the PDs was below the minimum, leaving the producers on their own—to put together a decent film under insufficient costs.

According to The Korean Independent Producers & Directors’ Association (KIPDA), when PDs go abroad to shoot, they usually form a team with an assistant PD, a writer, a local coordinator and a driver. However, the late Park and Kim did not have enough production money to

hire a driver, so they had no choice but to drive the car by themselves to save money.

Park Jung-nam, an independent PD, agreed that independent PDs are always short of production funds. They have to handle every miscellaneous task themselves all the time. He said, “In some cases, a PD may hold a steering wheel with one hand while the other hand shoots a driving scene with a camera. This behavior risks lives, but these circumstances are inevitable.”

Independent PDs without basic rights

Independent PDs are excluded from social protections: social insurance and laborer’s three primary rights.

First, they are not guaranteed four major insurances: national pension, health insurance, unemployment insurance, industrial accident compensation.

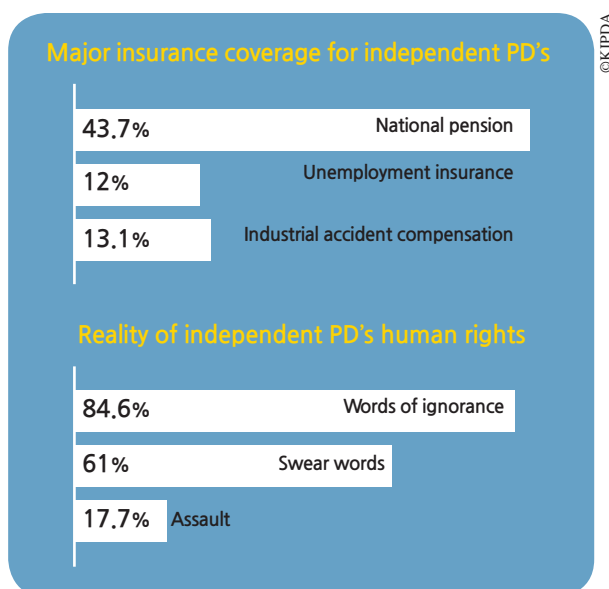
According to a survey on workers’ human rights done in 2015 by KIPDA national pension coverage for independent PDs was only 43.7 percent. Things are notably more serious in terms of unemployment insurance and industrial accident compensation, which can only be obtained through workplaces. Admission rates for them are 12 percent and 13.1 percent respectively.

What is worse is that independent PDs cannot form a trade union due to the lack of their three primary labor rights: the right to organize, the right to bargain collectively and the right to take collective action. Among these, the right to bargain collectively allows the producers to form a labor union to negotiate working conditions with their employers. Without the protection of a “union,” independent PDs do not have the power to systematically protest even when they are verbally abused or assaulted.



▲ Portraits of the late Park(L) and Kim stand among the chrysanthemums.

©KIPDA



What makes independent PDs suffer?

Arbitrarily set production costs

Generally, broadcasters control the procedure of appropriating the production budget because there is no standard production costs in the Korean broadcasting industry. In the process, the circumstances of independent PDs and outsourcing companies are often overlooked.

According to an article, “Proper Production Cost for Producing, the Necessity of Standard Form for Contracts” written by Song Kyu-hag, president of KIPDA, Korean broadcasters have no budget criteria. Usually they decide the budget, and outsourcing companies cover the deficiency by winning sponsorships from businesses, local governments and public institutions. In this way, financial plans in contracts between independent PDs and broadcasters are left unclear.

Consequently, Korean independent PDs almost always experience a shortage of money because the broadcaster ignores not only the characteristics of the program but also the production environment. Substantive details such as shooting period, location of the filming and actors are often not taken into account when deciding on the production budget.

An independent PD Park Jung-nam explains that “If the broadcasters produce their programs on their own, they do not need indirect costs like production fees and personnel expenses when filming. In contrast, an outsourcing company needs extra money to cover all of the indirect costs, but the broadcaster does not care about that.”

Independent PDs not regarded as laborers by law

Employment of Korean workers can be categorized into three types: direct, indirect and special employment. Independent PDs are classified as special employees because they are deemed to be individual businesses (self-employed people) rather than general workers. They are not under the protection of the Labor Standards Act, and they cannot form a union. This means that the broadcasters have the legitimacy to not consider independent PDs as workers.

Special employees and wage earners are divided based on employment, economic, and group dependency. Group dependency is about the degree of importance of the work employees are doing and how much money they bring into the company.

The broadcaster - the employer - often tries to deny the special employees' traits as workers. It seeks to manipulate the law by distorting the relationship with independent PDs. As a result, they are seen as not doing anything significant for the broadcaster nor are they bringing money to the broadcasting company. Independent PDs are deemed to be just “apprentices” of the broadcaster, eventually not satisfying the legal requirements for group dependency.

Thus, independent PDs cannot form a union. The organization in which all the workers gather and voice their opinions against the employer is a labor union. However, independent PDs are not counted as “workers” from the start, so there cannot be a union of independent PDs.



How can these problems be solved?

Introduction of standard production costs

Rather than letting the broadcaster set the budget for production arbitrarily, there should be norms for appropriating the cost of making programs.

In the case of the advertising industry, the Korea Commercial Film Maker Union discusses with advertising agencies and announces the “standard unit cost of production” every two years considering the inflation rate, and companies make up an estimate sheet accordingly.

In the U.K., broadcasters define the proper cost for production as “Indicative Tariffs,” which they officially create every two years applying the rate of inflation. A British channel specializing in subcontracted programs called “Channel 4” analyzes all the financial data of broadcasters and outsourcing companies to yield the most

suitable standard production costs.

By taking into account the genre, the scheduled air time and the estimated profits and value-added through the distribution of the program, Channel 4 settles the norms for the production costs.

Standard production costs can be a reference point for ensuring fair trade between the broadcaster and the outsourcing company, according to a thesis, “Settlement of the Standard Form of a Contract in the Broadcasting Field and the Future Outsourcing Production Market” written by Lee Man-je, a professor of mass communications and journalism.

Guarantee of workers’ rights to special employees

There need to be institutional strategies that can help special employees like independent PDs enjoy basic rights such as the four major insurances, and laborer’s three primary rights.

It is best to amend the law to put special employees into the category of general workers, but if that is impossible, the government must do something so that workers’ rights are ensured for independent PDs.

To take the examples of foreign countries, as the forms of special employment increase, they are granted various protective measures. In the U.K., the National Labor Relations Act is applied to special employees even if they are not workers who made an employment contract with a company. In Germany, special employees are called “similar workers,” and they are protected under collective agreement (labor union act), the occupational safety and health act (four major insurances).

Indicative tariffs set by BBC


Category	Specification	Tariff (€k per hour)
FL3	Documentary series and on-offs, with high on-screen value and strong storytelling/narrative, including campaigns and investigation films. Also covers popular and specialist formats – from competitions to magazines.	170 - 225
FL2	Contemporary and specialist documentary – often single narrative editorial and domestic – covering singles and short series, particularly on BBC Three. Range also covers ambitious, presenter-led features and lifestyle programming, either live or with higher cost-drivers including foreign filming.	125 - 170
FL1	Typically high-volume domestic features or documentary series for early-evening on BBC One or Two. Also covers most BBC Four commissions, including presenter and archive-led programmes.	40 - 125



▲ Cameras with blue ribbons surround the broken cameras of the late Park and Kim.

As special employees are denied the formation of a labor union, they sometimes organize an association like KIPDA. The problem is that this organization has no legal force, so they cannot demand proper rights on behalf of their members. If organizing a union is impossible because independent PDs are not “workers,” the government must at least ensure them the right to bargain collectively by granting them the same power as a legal labor union has.

An independent PD Park claimed, “There are many independent PDs who are suffering because there is no labor union for them.” In order to form a healthy relationship between the broadcaster and the independent PDs, it is necessary to have an organization like a labor union so that they can both stand on the same line and negotiate on equal terms.

“When we got to the very spot where the accident took place, the late PD Park’s watch was found, and it was still working. Seeing this, I thought that although the lives of the two PDs ended there, the hands of a watch are moving in the hope that the people remaining will achieve the things the two passionate PDs could not finish,” said the wife of the late PD Kim. The dismal reality of outsourcing production companies and independent PDs, both of whom were implicitly taken advantage of under the name of “practices,” was revealed at the expense of two earnest PDs. Their deaths should not be forgotten and many people should have an interest in the chronic problems within broadcasting industry. The enthusiasm and dreams of independent PDs to create good works should not be shackles of poverty and humiliation. 

wjssnfl10@hufs.ac.kr



Does Blind Hiring Blind Discrimination?

By Byun Hee-jin
Editorial Consultant


South Korean President Moon Jae-in has announced the implementation of the “blind” hiring system to all public sectors starting in July, in an effort to promote equality in employment procedures. He also showed his hopes that the new regulation be expanded to private sectors as well. The Moon administration has called for such a system in order to eliminate hiring discrimination in a society where connections based on school and hometown may mean more than it should. In the Korean job market, it has been common for employers to question applicants about possible discriminatory factors such as age, gender, physical information and even marital status.

The new system will serve as a device that guarantees fair opportunity for employment and breaks down academic cliques. Unlike the past, the new resume will not require a photo, academic background or other personal information unrelated to the job. It will focus more on evaluating candidates’ job experiences and relevant qualifications. The majority seems to welcome the new regulation that solves many existing prejudices.

The policy, however, gives the impression that it was too hastily made, no matter how good its intention is. The government made a huge shift in policy that could possibly change Korean society’s paradigm in a single day without any public discussion. It would be difficult to form a social consensus if the administration just hurries to pursue justifications without any specific plans in hand.

The regulation is already facing harsh skepticisms. Many job seekers educated in prestigious universities have angrily asked why they should hide their school and high GPA since such factors reflect the result of their efforts. Moreover, President Moon has declared he would apply quota systems, which would require that 30 percent of new hires be from regions outside of the capital area and 5 percent must be young adults. It is contradictory that both give chances to local talent and young people and adopt a blind employment system at the same time.

Ambiguous recruitment standards can cause greater inequality rather than overcoming academic thresholds. If the criteria of the applications are vague, the difficulty of the written test will increase immediately and the interview screening process will become more complicated. It will cause chaos for both employers and employees, as firms have to spend more of their budgets on recruitment and job seekers will have to seek out countless experiences for their resumes to be qualified.

Equality and justice are precious values. Nonetheless, if the value’s efficiency is too low, we need to spend greater time to think again. The answer to all these problems is to improve the blind hiring system. It should not merely remain as a populist policy, but be a cornerstone of fair competition centered on ability and skills in Korean society. 

hjbandi@hufs.ac.kr

The Road to Mt. Geumgang

By Lee Jae-won
Editorial Consultant

This is not an entrance to a mountain. It is a departure point for the Dutayeon Valley which is located on South Korea's civilian access control line. This is the nation's biggest home to the Manchurian trout and it also has a wonderful natural environment. Since it is now open to the public, numerous citizens can enjoy its treasure trove of wildlife.

Once entering the valley, however, you see countless minefields. Why? It is near North Korea. Dutayeon is only 32 kilometers from Mt. Geumgang in the communist North. People cannot travel north beyond the boundary of the valley where the beautiful mountain exists. When can we freely appreciate the forbidden scenery by taking the Dutayeon road? 🇰🇷

gh10117@hufs.ac.kr





A Glimpse into the Korean War, Abai Village

By Moon Chae-un

Reporter of National Section

“If the reunion of the separated family could be held on the day of two anniversaries, it would pave the way for a meaningful start for communal respect between two Koreas,” said President Moon Jae-in on July 6 during his visit to the German capital to attend the Group of 20 summit.

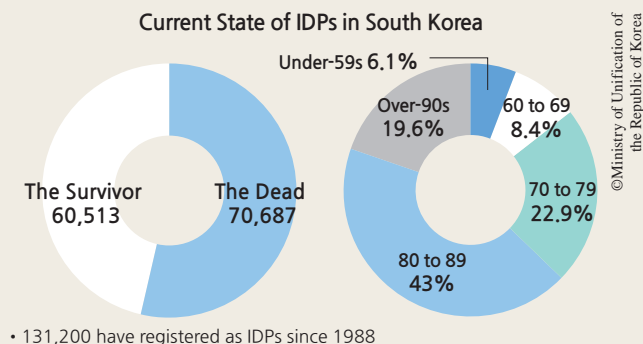
Tenth anniversary of a watershed Inter-Korean Peace Declaration coincides with the Chuseok holiday, Korean Thanksgiving Day, this year. Ten years ago on Oct. 4 in 2007, the two Koreas reached a deal to realize peace on the Korean Peninsula and were able to lead the 16th reunion ceremony to success in the same year as a result of the second Inter-Korean Summit.

President Moon proposed to reunite the separated families on the significant day. However, it is not easy to process because of mounting tensions between North and South Korea. North Korea has remained silent over proposals for both military talks and the Red Cross talks, with Pyongyang’s latest test of an intercontinental ballistic missile. Additionally, there is a dwindling number of members of separated families who have survived.

In this trying time, there is a place where the Korean War left people both in pain and in hopes for reunification over the Korean Peninsula, and it is commonly referred to as Abai Village. The Argus visited Abai Village to discover this vestige of the Korean War.

Background Information

Internally Displaced Person (IDP)



IDP refers to someone who has experienced forced displacement and cannot go back to his or her home within the same country. The International Organization for Migration defines a forced migrant as any person who migrates to escape persecution, conflict, repression, natural and human made disasters, ecological degradation, or other situations that endanger their lives or freedom.

According to the Encyclopedia of Korean Culture, the term generally denotes the refugees who can no longer visit their hometown due to the outbreak of the Korean War (1950-1953) and the division of the Korean Peninsula.

Abai Village



Located in Cheongho-dong, the city of Sokcho, Gangwon Province, Abai Village is now the hometown to many people of North Korean ancestry who were separated from their home and families during the Korean War, according to the official site of Abai Village. The word “Abai” comes from the dialect of Hamgyeong Province, one of the provinces of North Korea, meaning “an old man” or “a family leader,” as a large number of elderly people fled to Cheongho-dong from North Korea during the war.

Abai Village, which has a narrow strip of land between Cheongcho-ho, the lake that is surrounded by the two villages, and the East Sea, got its reputation as a residential area for North Korean refugees, and is one of the number one places to visit among tourists.

Abai Village of the Past

Visiting Abai Village required a keen eye to catch every details of the lives of IDPs. Having been accompanied by Lee Seung-san, a culture tour guide of Sokcho, The Argus looked around for places that indicated the tragedy of the Korean War and moved on to visit the people of Abai Village to see how IDPs lived with over 67 years of separation.



▲ The Gaetbae Boat is a man-powered orange-colored raft made of tires and wood that connects Abai Village to Joongang-dong in downtown Sokcho. Two boats are now up and running.

The Gaetbae Boat

The Gaetbae Boat is operated by a man and passengers using a metal hooked stick to pull the boat along and make it move across the lake, which generally takes less than two minutes, as it is 50 meters away from both docks. The Abai Village was full of visitors on vacation waiting for the Gaetbae Boat to come.

“I am a 1.5 generation IDP, and I arrived in South Korea in my teens,” said Kim Sang-ho, a volunteer worker for the Gaetbae Boat, whose hometown is Bukcheong County, South Hamgyeong Province, North Korea. The 76-year-old man added some more stories that he had witnessed back in the Korean War.

According to Kim, the Gaetbae Boat, in fact, had a very sad story. Kim saw a lot of Abais for whom much in their life was traumatic. They had begun a new life in Cheongho-dong while their family was still in North Korea since it was nearly impossible for them to go back to where they had belonged. To earn a living, they needed to go downtown, for which taking the Gaetbae Boat was a must. Born around the early 1900s, they spent most of their life missing those that they could not see any longer while taking the boat for their family in the South.



▲ The alleys in Abai Village are too narrow too easily pass through.



©Moon Chae-un/The Argus



▲ The boat is moored offshore.

©Moon Chae-un/The Argus



▲ Tens of thousands of shacks were made in 1950s with the inrush of North Korean refugees. Only a few are preserved today.



©Moon Chae-un/The Argus



▲ Two fishermen, who are based in Abai Village, are tidying up a fishing net.

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Just a few short blocks away from the dock, The Argus found some of the residents neatening a fishing net. The Argus stood up and watched them for a long time do the work that their ancestors might have done several decades ago as well.

Shacks and alleys

Sokcho was a small city before the inflow of North Korean refugees, and Abai Village in particular, was set up on the harsh and barren sandbank. The reason a multitude of North Korean refugees came to live in Cheongho-dong village was the hope to return home as soon as possible, since it was near the border with North Korea. They made shacks with a loose slate roof so that they could leave this place whenever the war began to end, but nobody knew that it would take an eternity to head back home.

As time has passed, shacks from the 1950s do not remain intact anymore, but The Argus discovered some of the spots where shacks used to be, which empathizes the North Korean refugees' loss for their hometown.

When passing by the alleys, The Argus heard that residents in Abai Village still spoke with a broad Hamgyeong Province accent, which got The Argus thinking that the division of the Korean Peninsula is still ongoing.

"I wandered all the neighborhoods to beg for a meal at the age of 12 when I came here," said Kim Jin-guk, who is also a 1.5 generation IDP and the president of the Cheongho-dong Branch of the Korean Senior Citizens Association.

The alleys of Cheongho-dong village are narrower than any other alleys in Korea. Residents living in Abai Village

said that it was a place where they got over the rough times and strengthened the ties between themselves and the other refugees.

Kim Song-soon, a first generation IDP who originally came from Bukcheong County, South Hamgyeong Province, North Korea, said "Abai Village had more than 20,000 residents who came from all over Hamgyeong Province. Needless to say, this group of people created a friendly, welcoming community and a special way of life by making the alleys narrow." According to Kim, they got together for a meal and for a drink sometimes, and the alley enabled them to create a bond.

Off the shore

The seashore lies spread out before the eyes of The Argus after coming out of alleys. The majority of the IDPs in the 1950s and 60s worked in the fishing industry, and they used East Sea as a main source of living.

The leader Kim, looked back on the past, noting that it was not a rare sight to see pollock, squid, and sailfin sandfish air-dried on the roof of every house or empty building. Abais would gather seaweed when the wind blew over the sea. Then, an Amai, the term that refers to an old woman in Hamgyeong Province, went to the market and sold them. "I just sold them at the market," said Kim who is a first generation IDP.

However, what they thought to be natural in the past is unusual nowadays. Fish are now getting scarce, and there are increasing numbers of raw fish centers and fish factories that have sprung up near the docks.



©Moon Chae-un/The Argus

▲ Cheongho-dong Senior Welfare Center is located in the middle of Abai Village. Many villagers spend their time here engaging in community activities.



©Abai Village

▲ Art Platform Gaetbae is located just below Seorak Bridge, and its main role is to act as a bridge between the people of Abai Village and those who want to have an overview of the village.

Abai Village of Present

Cheongho-dong Senior Welfare Center

Cheongho-dong Senior Welfare Center is a place that can offer the elderly living in Cheongho-dong an atmosphere that makes them feel at home. Some of the IDPs were enjoying their idle afternoon on Saturday watching TV and playing Go, an ancient Chinese board game.

The President Kim showed The Argus a photo album of first generation IDPs who have been based in Cheongho-dong, Sokcho. 'Dead' was written in red over most of the names and pictures of IDPs.

Kim pointed out Kim Dong-yul among the IDPs, whose name had been already crossed over with a red pen, and said that he was the only person who was fortunate enough to have the chance to reunite with his separated family for the first time after the division. But he died shortly after he got back from the reunion event, stating, 'It is better not to meet them at all.' Later it turned out that he had not gotten enough time with his family, and that got him to the sickbed.

Art Platform Gaetbae


Art Platform Gaetbae is an art exhibition as well as the office of the "Asamo," a group of people who love Abai Village.

The Asamo is a group that the second and the third generation of IDPs organized of their own will. The role of the Asamo is to actively promote Abai Village by working for the good of the

community since it was established in 2000. Since the spring in 2006, the Asamo have rented bicycles to visitors for free, and have been taking part in, and even sponsored every single event held in the village. With the residents running the community, volunteers are involved in all aspects of village life as well.

Jung Sung-su, who is a second generation IDP and the chief of the Asamo, has a dream that the Asamo can make the village a better place to live, as well as console the first generation on their misfortune.

"It is a shame to think about how full of random restaurants the village is from the entrance onward. We [Asamo] are doing our best to support the village and not to forget the identity we have as a representative village of IDPs," said Jung. What they are doing is very small, but it is a positive change for Abai Village.

Time has flown. So many things have changed in Abai Village in accordance with the passage of time. Plenty of Abais and Amais have passed away, and the streets of the village have become hectic with the restaurants wanting to draw more customers. That was the biggest reason the village felt like it was far away from pain or sadness, but having walked the streets and met IDPs, it became clear that Abai Village hid one of the sad sides of Korean history. Abai Village is not only a place where displaced people live in a group, but a place where they live strongly without losing hope. 

dalnimo@huf.ac.kr

Rewinding the First Semester of Freshman Life

I recall the moment when I entered the HUFS website with my hands trembling, and found the word 'Accepted.' Full of euphoria, I felt that years of my effort finally paid off and manifested itself into this moment. At that time, HUFS was instilled in my mind as a dreamlike place where I could seek after higher education and wisdom with everyone being exemplary. Unfortunately, that was not entirely true. Some courses I took fell short of my expectations and there were miserable incidents that struck the university such as the embezzlement cases. Nevertheless, I am convinced that my initial thoughts on the school were not a mirage. HUFS truly broadened my horizons and benefitted me in diverse aspects. Through club activities such as Anglosphere, I could not only gain profound understanding in my field of interest, English Linguistics, but also build a rapport with those I desired to be friends with: altruistic and zealous people. Also, the memories I made such as staying up all night in the library with friends, cramming for exams will always be reminisced upon with a smile on my face. In a nutshell, half of my freshman life was fulfilling and meaningful. Yet, if some student representatives avert their eyes from greed and become moral, HUFS could turn into an even better university.

Kim Jin-ha

Dept. of English Linguistics '17

Repetition of What Happened Last Winter in South Korea

Former President Park Geun-hye was ousted this March for bribery and illegal collusion with private sectors, providing a kickback. Massive candlelight demonstrations peacefully toppled the president from power, and it changed my view toward South Korean citizens. I saw a hope in this country.

Now, HUFS has become a microcosm of Park's case. HUFSans entrusted their rights to student representatives, now we suffer from the same apocalypse. 'Trust' is broken, but I still see a hope since other student representatives are not showing tolerance against the corruption.

I wish this grave danger of distrust could give us a new chance of transformation, promoting mutual trust between HUFSans and representatives.

Koh Eun-yul

Business Administration Division '16

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It Is Not Yours!



By Kim Yu-min

Dept. of Vietnamese '14



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