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The Argus

Since 1954



**Following Is
Not Really
My Style**

The Argus

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Editorial

Home Is Where the Heart Is

While I was house hunting recently, there were some thoughts running around my head. One of them was wanting to have my own flat—a place where I can rest my head and my heart, and everything feels safe. After a tedious month of searching for a space to live—almost one step away from being a homeless person—I ended up living in the newly-built dorm located in front of HUFS.

I did not rest assured until the dormitory accepted me. All those sleepless nights got me looking back on my first year of college when no place on Earth felt like home. Even though I always have had places to return to after a tough day, I needed to bid farewell to them when each semester came to an end. Every home was no more than a stopgap for me. What made me sad was not the fact that I did not have my own house, but that there did not exist a place where I can feel “at home.”

Moving to university can be a mixed-bag of pain and pleasure. Leaving high school and coming to Seoul all by myself was fun, but choosing which place to live in and budgeting my money was not. To start networking with new people was enjoyable, but having to leave my parents, family and home with all those beautiful memories of all those years together, was not. To go to university and be called an editor-in-chief was also enlightening, but to stay up all night to complete assignments and work in an empty room was not.

According to the first meaning listed on Cambridge Dictionary, the word “home” refers to ‘the house,’ as in where people live. However, home is not just a house or a building to me. On the inside, it is a lot more than wood and bricks. “Home” means much more.

Home is where my hopes and dreams reside. Home is where I can show my real self. Home is where I can restore myself and move on. Coming to think of the meaning of home, I could not help but to be reminded of The Argus. I feel like The Argus has already become my second habitat, where I feel completely safe and sound. Not only did I spend a bunch of my time here in The Argus office, but also the people I met and worked with allow me the privilege to call them “home” too.

I am fortunate enough to be able to meet people who are on the same wavelength with me at The Argus. No one could perhaps understand why I feel this way. But one thing is true—my team breathed life into the space. I think, for the first time in a long time, this is where I am supposed to be. I am so happy to call it my second home.

There is no one meaning for the word “home.” If you are lucky enough to have one, though, what does it mean to you? 🏠

MOON
CHAE UN

By Moon Chae-un
Editor-in-Chief

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>> Marvel Studios has spawned many popular comics heroes such as Hulk, Thor, Captain America, Black Widow, Hawkeye and Iron Man that take up every corner of Marvel's universe. Among them, the most significant figure would be Iron Man. In the June Issue, The Argus delves into Tony Stark's emotional journey throughout a series of films. By exploring the secrets behind the characteristics of Iron Man, The Argus hopes the readers will understand others better, not only the certain actions, but also what drives them.

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HUFS Signs Cooperation Agreement with ALASHJ

The Dept. of Arabic signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Arabic Language Academy in Sharjah (ALASHJ) on May 1, for the continuous cooperation of the development of Arabic education for foreigners.


Following the signing ceremony, Dr. Mhamed Safi al-Mustaghanimi, the president of ALASHJ, gave a lecture about efficient Arabic learning and education to the Dept. of Arabic students and graduate students majoring in Arabic Interpretation and Translation. The Dept. of Arabic and ALASHJ will continuously carry out academic exchanges based on the memorandum of cooperation.

Moon Jee-su, a student of the Dept. of Arabic expressed a positive view on the memorandum saying, “HUFS had a weak connection with the United Arab Emirates before. Now, more exchanges between HUFS and the U.A.E. are expected, providing more opportunities for us to study not only in the U.A.E. but also in other Gulf nations.” 

By Seo Won-young
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HUFS Opens Job Coaching Day

HUFS' Career Employment Center held a “JOB Coaching Day” event at the Seoul Campus Obama Hall on May 1, an event where seniors shared their own successful job experiences with students through career counseling.


Hosted by the Career Employment Center, the event was sponsored by the Ministry of Employment and Labor and the Seoul Metropolitan Government. This event invites seniors who work from 60 different companies, both domestic and overseas and who also have been in charge of a business for two to eight years. This gives students a wide range of choices and allows students to gain practical and useful knowledge rather than surface knowledge. An anonymous user of Everytime, an online undergraduate community said that he was able to gain very useful inside information such as the company's environment and atmosphere that he was not able to obtain elsewhere. 

By Seo Won-young
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Oh Joon Gives Speech at HUFS

Oh Joon, a former South Korean ambassador to the United Nations gave a special lecture in the Humanities Building at Seoul Campus to deliver a message of global peace on May 15.

The lecture was hosted by the Division of International Studies as part of the homecoming event. The theme of the talk was Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a globalized world. In this lecture, he recognized inequality as the driving force explaining SDGs goal number 10. In addition, Oh said that greed triggered the cause of inequality in relation to the fall and background of communism.

Kim Soo-hyeon, a student council member of the Division of International Studies, said, “It was impressive that Oh Joon emphasized the degree of inequality as a problem, not in itself, but in its deepening,” and she added, “When he was in the waiting room with me, he also talked about income inequality in our daily life.” 




▲ The former South Korean ambassador, Oh Joon

By Choi Yoon-jeong
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Winner of Man Booker International Prize Gives Special Lecture

Deborah Smith, the corecipient of the Man Booker International Prize in 2016 for translating Han Kang's novel "The Vegetarian," delivered a lecture about English and American literature translation to HUFSSans at Global Campus on May 1.

Yoon Sun-kyeong, the head professor of the Division of English Interpretation and Translation, hosted this lecture. A Q&A session was part of the lecture. The questions were mainly about the practice of translation and the theory of translation. Audiences asked the speaker various questions related to the lecture, such as whether artificial intelligence (AI) will replace translators soon, how to become a professional translator and so on.

Professor Yoon said, "Translation, especially literature translation, delivers not only the original text, but also ideologies, thoughts, politics, and complicated emotions of human beings." She also commented, "Translation could be a tool to face the big power called English. I hope students will remember the identity of translation from this lecture." 




▲ Deborah Smith talks about her most memorable moment in her career.

By Jung Min-yeong
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HUFS Wins a Prize Again

Three students from the Dept. of Industrial and Management Engineering won third place in the 2019 Analytics & O.R. Student Team Competition held by The Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) in Austin, Texas, the United States on April 29.

Kang Mun-jeong, Lee Yu-kyung and Cho Jin-young had a presentation as a team with the topic "A combined approach of reinforcement learning and mathematical programming for a real-world outbound supply chain optimization." and 292 teams from 25 countries joined this competition. Among 292 teams, six teams advanced to the final, and the HUFS team won the third-place prize. It is not the first time that the Dept. of Industrial and Management Engineering students have won a prize in this contest.

Kang Mun-jeong said, "It is a huge honor that we won the prize. I really appreciate my teammates for helping me a lot, as the fine teamwork was a key factor in winning this contest. It is really meaningful that we won the prize another year. HUFS is famous for foreign languages; however, through this accomplishment, I hope that people will also take notice of the College of Engineering." 



▲ The winners Kang (L), Cho, Lee pose for the camera.

By Kim Ji-hyeon
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7,000 won-valued Heroism Equals to Our Boys' Eight Hours

Kwak Hyun-jeong

Staff Reporter of Theory & Critique Section

The season for the reserves is back. With reluctance, the troops answer to the call of duty and get ready to blow a whole day for their yearly training session. As for HUFSans, the former active duty soldiers gather in the schoolyard by 7:50 a.m.. By bus, they head to Keumgok Training Compound, which is located a dozen kilometers east of Seoul. After grouping into a squad, they follow the orders of the drill sergeant and receive trainings such as target practice and hand grenade, basically a recap of their two year service. The squads with high training scores or those who finish early, can go home at around 3:40 p.m.. Their eight hours of service pays an allowance of 13,000 won (US \$10.92). Money for lunch is counted out from the total, which leaves you just 7,000 won (US \$5.82).

For up to eight years, every able-bodied man, who completed the military service is automatically classified as a reserve unit on a part-time commitment in South Korea. The country has been evading accusations of this manpower usage as a political propaganda, with the-threat-from-the-North rhetoric still

invincible until the permanent detente, no matter whatever peace treaty is made between the two Koreas. The situation is ostensibly better off for we undergraduates, only required to train eight hour a day, while the regular reservists are assigned to go through as short as 20

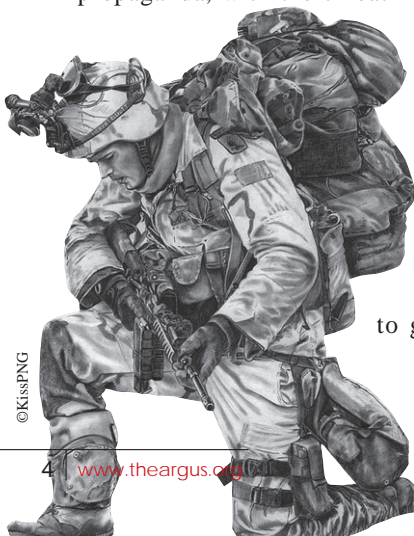
hours and up to three days annually. Still, it figures that the academic accommodation for the college students falls short of compensation. A part-time support it is, to not cover penalties students might face by missing classes.

An Kwan-ho, Dept. of Business Administration '16 recalls his late drills, "The inconvenient truth is that the training dates are announced after scheduling courses for a semester, usually in April. Having to catch up with fellow classmates, I try asking close friends for class notes and recordings to clearly monitor what I missed. But this does not always happen, as I once was refused help. As so, this year, I did not choose to be bothered with facing these awkward situations. Did my best to finish the training as early as possible, and succeeded to attend 5 p.m. class, 30 minutes late though." An even shares complaints from his friends who already run their own businesses. As they undergo mobilized trainings of two to three days in a row, it seems to have generated quite a loss in sales due to temporary closures.

Another HUFSan, Lee Tae-kyu, Dept. of Political Science and Diplomacy '17, added that "I understand there can always be an ever-recurring source of social dissatisfaction, and that especially applies to the military culture as well. Plus, I am satisfied with the improved treatment the current government seems to be working on: easing restrictions on soldier's off-base activities such as cellphone use and doubling wages of conscripted soldiers. What I do wish for this social construct is to show at least some moral authenticity, eradicate intractable problems and replace them with new appropriate norms."

Should not the nation's precious assets deserve a little more cheer? The unrecognized heroism of civilians spurs up questions. Cheer up, boys! 🇰🇷

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In Remembrance of Farrukh Muminov (1996-2019) and Mutal Yuldashev (1997-2019)

On May 9, 2019, a fire that started in the kitchen of an apartment in a residential building near the north entrance of the campus took the life of Farrukh Muminov of the Department of International Economics and Law '16 and severely injured Mutal Yuldashev, '16 of the same department. Mutal was moved to a hospital, where after fighting for his life, passed away on May 19, 2019. They were international students from Uzbekistan and irreplaceable members of the HUFS community.

The Argus expresses their deepest condolences to the friends and family of Farrukh Muminov and Mutal Yuldashev, wishing them only strength and courage to pull through these difficult times. There are no words that describe the sadness. The Argus grieves with HUFSSans, and especially the international community, in solidarity. The empty space that forms when someone passes on is indescribably large. It is truly impossible to fill that void with words. Rest in peace, and may they forever live in our memories.



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English Ain't Just a Tool



By Park Chang-hwan

Staff Reporter of Theory & Critique Section

Hip-hop, Beatboxing, B-boying, Jazz, Blues, R&B and Soul; these are some of the most mainstream cultures in our world today. Music and culture deriving from these general categories are countless in even Korean society. Where did it all come from, though? A quick search will yield this result: African American culture. Black America's burning soul and rhythm can be found interlaced within the fabrics of modern society, and behind all this, an accent plays an enormous role. It is known as African-American Vernacular English.

As *lingua franca*, English is used by people of all kinds throughout the world. The English we learn in Korea is strictly standardized and is often just a tool that is tested and utilized. Though English may simply seem like a medium that connects the world, each accent within it has its way of influencing the world. The Argus introduces African-American Vernacular English, to give readers a taste of how English accents each hold a tremendous amount of identity.

African-American Vernacular English (AAVE):

Drastically different from Standard American English, the African-American Vernacular English is a term for the dialect of English used by the working- and middle-class African American population. Though controversial, the accent is also referred to as "Ebonics."

The origin of AAVE

There are two theories of its origin. By some, this dialect is said to have originated from the "creole" once spoken by the ancestors of its current speakers—the Africans who were forcibly settled into American society as slaves. The transatlantic slave trade brought enslaved people of various central and western African origins to the Americas. They originally had no means of communicating with one another and mixed their various tongues with English creating a creole language, distinct from English. It then subsequently went through decreolization to become what is known as AAVE today.

The dialect is also traced back to the diverse dialects of the early English settlers in the Southern United States. Not all settlers in the early years of the U.S. were of English origin, and even the English settlers spoke different accents. Their accents coalesced to form what we know as American English today. Some subsets of this English are the rural dialects of Southern America, with which AAVE shares much of its characteristics today.

Definition of Creole

A mother tongue formed from the contact of a European language (especially English, French, Spanish, or Portuguese) with local languages (especially African languages spoken by slaves in the West Indies)

©Oxford Dictionary

What sets it apart

Roy Myung, a twenty-two-year-old Korean American who grew up using the dialect, explains, "To me, just as British English and American English are different, Ebonics is set apart. Ebonics is a combination of the word 'ebony' and 'phonetics.'" When heard, the dialect is distinct with its different intonations, different vowel and consonant pronunciations, and grammatical characteristics not commonly found in Standard English. Slang also arises from the group of people who speak with this



©Source: Gettyimages

▲ The African Americans started their lives in America as slaves.



©History

▲ The Harlem Renaissance is an example of how African American culture developed.

accent. Myung says, “People misconstrue Ebonics as black slang, but that is not true. Black slang is a part of Ebonics that is created by the community that speaks it. Some examples that really blew up are words like: ‘bae,’ ‘squad,’ ‘salty,’ and ‘on fleek.’” Some English-speaking subcultures actively embrace the new words created by AAVE speakers, often incorporating the words into the vocabulary of the general English-speaking population.

“The African-American Vernacular English is not something easily imitated,” according to Park Soo-yeon, a junior at Ewha Womans University who grew up exposed to the dialect. “It is part of the African American culture that is deeply rooted in history. When the mainstream media tries to emulate the language, they often cannot unless they actually grew up in a black environment.” It is representative of the culture entailing the hundreds of years of African American slavery and the century of segregation that followed. This divide between the general American public and African American society gave room for the colorful dialect to prosper. “The dialect is tied to the community of African Americans. It is a social symbolism. When spoken, it allows the speakers to relate to one another,” Myung says. The accent is also selectively utilized. “It comes out naturally, I believe, but people do learn to adapt a more conventional manner of speaking for the sake of dealing with other kinds of people,” clarifies Park. Reasons underlying this vary, but according to Park, “The mainstream and general public follows a set of social rules that subconsciously associate blackness with a subordinate class and lower intelligence. Black people are also subconsciously aware of this, so they follow convention in order to avoid conflict, potential discrimination and condescension in public life. However, the general public also views the culture created within Black communities, such as rap, as something exclusive and unique, hence their effort of emulation.”

What do these words mean?


bae: AAVE pronunciation of “babe,” used as a term of endearment toward loved ones. “Bae” can be a pronoun or an adjective.

squad: Crew, posse, gang; an informal group of individuals with a common identity and a sense of solidarity.

salty: Being salty is when you are upset over something little.

on fleek: A neologism that means “on point.”

©UrbanDictionary.com

Look at the English we learn today then look at AAVE. This is just the accent of one subset of the English-speaking population, and it encompasses so much culture and history. Further, the distinctive features of AAVE, in particular, are not only the differences in speech, but the sense of community and belonging it provides. The Argus hopes that the readers take the chance to imagine the special traits of other English accents as they continue to go about their English studies and realize that “English ain’t just a tool,” but also the door to a world of culture. 

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▼ AAVE speakers throughout history created some of the most lively and soulful genres of music.

©Ted Williams



©Legacy Recordings



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The Man Who Started It All: Iron Man



©Marvel Studios

By Na Geum-chaе

Associate Editor of Theory & Critique Section

From *Iron Man* in 2008 to *Avengers: Endgame* in 2019, it is not too much to say that the success of Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) was initiated by Iron Man. At first, the image of Iron Man was somewhat different from what we generally think of as a hero. But through a series of events, he grew up and eventually became a true hero, while protecting his loved ones.

Many people face critical turning points throughout their lives, which lead to considerable changes in their values and behaviors. What turning points did Iron Man have in his life and how did these moments change his values? With the release of *Avengers: Endgame*, The Argus looked deep into the changed values and behaviors of Iron Man, one of the key figures in the Avengers, and analyzed them based on psychological theories.

The Chronicle of Iron Man

- Iron Man (2008)
- Iron Man 2 (2010)
- Avengers (2012)
- Iron Man 3 (2013)
- Avengers: Age of Ultron (2015)
- Captain America: Civil War (2016)
- Spider-man: Home Coming (2017)
- Avengers: Infinity War (2018)
- Avengers: Endgame (2019)



▲ Marvel Summary Part 1 (L)
Marvel Summary Part 2 (R)

 **Warning: If you have not seen Iron Man and Avengers series, beware of spoilers**

For this playboy, Tony Stark, there seems to have none of the features of a hero—only anguish and retrospection. However, he breaks the mold of a typical hero, who normally disguises his true identity by proudly speaking out to the public, “I am Iron Man.” At the beginning of *Iron Man*, with the displays of his macho bravado, this narcissist shows off a new weapon named Jericho in Afghanistan. On answering a U.S. soldier’s question, “Is it true you went 12 for 12 with last year’s Maxim cover models?” he replies, “That is an excellent question. Yes, and no. March and I had a scheduling conflict but fortunately the Christmas cover was twins.” This is the story of Tony Stark, who graduates from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at the age of 17 with his brilliant talent and serves as the present CEO of the world’s top arms company, Stark Industry.



Heroes are made by the path they choose

Iron Man’s childhood: Narcissistic personality disorder

The portrayal of Tony Stark in the beginning of *Iron Man* is exactly in line with that of a playboy. He does not attend the awards ceremony, but instead has fun at the casino and invites a reporter to his mansion in Malibu to enjoy a one-night stand. He even drinks sake while traveling on business by his private plane and relishes the flight attendants’ pole dance. This kind of life is nothing but a routine for Tony. He is overconfident in his ability and enjoys others looking up to him. Narcissistic personality disorder is the most appropriate term to define Tony Stark’s character.



▲ Tony once led a life of debauchery.



▲ Tony gives a demonstration of his new missile named Jericho.

Lim Chan-young, a medical doctor, department of psychiatry, diagnosed that Tony has a lot of personality traits in accordance with narcissistic personality disorder. He said, “In the early days of the Iron Man series, Tony shows excessive self-confidence, an arrogant attitude which allows him to ignore people around him, and a perception that he is a special person. Most of all, the lack of empathy he has for others is remarkable. The famous scene which Pepper Potts, the personal assistant of Tony, carves the phrase “Proof that Tony Stark has a heart” on the arc reactor and returns it to Tony directly represents Tony’s personality problems before he was reborn as a true hero, Iron Man.”

“Ho Yinsen: You are a man who has everything and nothing.”

Tony’s narcissistic personality disorder can be traced back to his unhappy childhood. As can be inferred from the words of Dr. Ho Yinsen, who had been kidnapped in Afghanistan with Tony and saved his life by placing an electromagnet (which later became the arc reactor) on his chest, Tony was not properly cared for by his parents. In *Iron Man 2*, Tony even describes his father, Howard Stark, saying, “He was cold, he was calculating. He never told me he loved me.” In addition, Tony lost the chance to reconcile with his parents as they passed away in a car accident when he was 20 years old.

About Tony's deprived background, Dr. Lim said, "If a person does not get the proper care in the process of growth, his or her self-image won't be formed correctly, resulting in low self-esteem. To overcome this, one creates an exaggerated self-image which only recognizes oneself as a special being and tends to underestimate others." He also stated, "Characters are greatly affected by hereditary traits. Recent studies particularly insist that antisocial personality, so-called, psychopathic temperament is inherited. Considering the case of Howard Stark featured in *Avengers: Endgame* during a trip into the past undertaken by Tony, he hopes that his soon-to-be-born son, Tony, would not resemble himself—one keen on valuing his interests over public interests. It can be inferred that Tony's selfish personality was highly influenced by his father, although he did not intend it."



▲ Tony makes the first model of the Iron Man suit with the help of Dr. Ho Yinsen.



▲ The first arc reactor later becomes an ornament.



Jarvis, do me a favor, blow the Mark 42

Iron Man's self-image: Iron Man suit as Persona

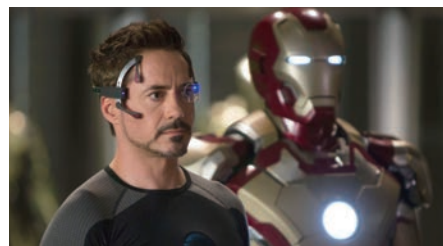
Initially, Iron Man's chronicle focuses on the performance and design of the Iron Man suits, which are upgraded repeatedly, not on his awakening as a hero. In other words, Tony's role as a hero is limited to making a high-performance suit. The one inside the suit does not matter. The conclusion that Tony without a suit is just "a rich and smart playboy" was already made during the argument with Captain America in *Avengers*. That is what everyone around Tony knows, including Tony himself.

"Captain America: Big man in a suit of armor. Take that off, what are you?"
"Iron Man: Genius, billionaire, playboy, philanthropist."

The Iron Man suit acts as strong persona for Tony along with its high strength. Persona is a psychological concept presented by Swiss psychologist Carl Gustav Jung, which means a kind of mask carrying out one's social role expected by other members of society. The agony of other Marvel heroes, such as Hulk and Thor, was based on their amazing power and responsibilities. However, that does not exist for Tony. His feeble physical abilities, which are not different with those of an ordinary person when he takes off the suit, make him enveloped by a fear of death. In particular, this anxiety was maximized when he was thrown into space alone with a nuclear missile, as shown in the final scene of *Avengers*.



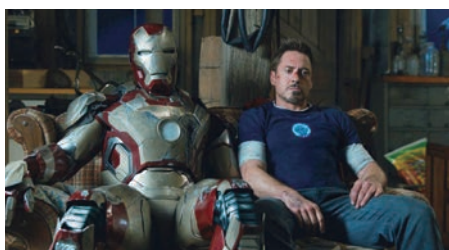
▲ In *Avengers*, Iron Man intercepts the nuclear missile and carries it into outer space.



▲ In *Iron Man 3*, Tony can remotely control the suit.

Since then, Tony tries to hide himself more and more into the suit. In *Iron Man 3*, Tony tests his brand-new suit, the MK. 42. He cranks out a lot of suits, suffering from insomnia and anxiety which is little short of panic disorder. He claims that the suits are being upgraded according to his will, but in fact, the suits are dominating his daily life. The suit is transformed into 007 bag in *Iron Man 2*, remotely controlled in *Avengers*, and in *Iron Man 3*, pieces of a suit fly from anywhere and assemble when Tony wants. The suit, which has become remotely controlled by itself like an avatar, creates a paradox – Tony is safer when he is not wearing the suit. The reason for this is because Tony can command the suits to do dangerous tasks from a safe place. Therefore, Tony is separated from the suit.

In other words, the progression of these advanced suit designs is leading to Tony's regression. In the paradox and contradiction of the Iron Man suit, which was originally a tool for him to show off in, the suit turns into a persona in which to hide himself. Thus, "human" Tony is preoccupied by anguish. Tony overcomes these worries by introspection, and realizing that he is just an ordinary human being. After his house is destroyed by a group of terrorists, Tony makes an emergency landing in a remote area as the suit is turned off. However, he resolves his crisis with his extraordinary brain and creativity. The scene in which Tony moves from suit to suit whenever it is broken during the battle against the villain, Killian, shows that the suit is no longer a complex or a persona, but a tool for Tony.



▲ Tony overcomes his crisis by reflecting on himself as a human being.



▲ Tony blows up every suit he made as a part of the Clean Slate Protocol.



And I am Iron Man

Iron Man's last moments: Erikson's psychosocial developmental theory

Through a series of events, Tony has come to demonstrate a lot of physical and mental growth. His life can then be analyzed using "Erikson's psychosocial developmental theory." Eric Erikson, a German-American developmental psychologist and psychoanalyst, divided human life into eight stages, from infancy to senescence, claiming that everyone interacts with the social environment on the basis of a genetic disposition and goes through those eight stages one by one. Successful completion of each stage can lead to the development of a normal, healthy individual, but failure at any stage leads to a mental defect associated with that stage. Erikson also said that there are core virtues at each stage and one's developmental status can be determined based on whether or not the core values have been achieved.

Dr. Wind Goodfriend, a psychology professor and assistant dean of graduate programs at Buena Vista University, explained, "As an adult, Stark is currently in the stage called "Generativity versus Stagnation." To successfully pass through this stage, one must develop a sense of generativity, or a concern for guiding the next generation, either by parenting or by working with groups of young people. A lack of generativity, also known as stagnation, is a feeling of emptiness or questioning one's purpose in life." In fact, Tony did not have a son or daughter until *Avengers: Infinity War*, nor did he have any direct relationship with young people until *Captain America: Civil War* except for the little boy, Harley Keener, whom he had met for a while in *Iron Man 3*.

However, according to Dr. Wind, Tony has an influence on the next generation by being a superhero and serving as a role model. Also, this type of relationship changes to a more direct form in *Spider-man: Home Coming*. Making a mentor-mentee relationship with spider-man is a case in point. For example, after Tony meets Peter Parker (Spider-man), Tony gives advice to Peter, who has similar concerns with him.

“Spider-man: I am nothing without the suit.”
“Iron Man: If you are nothing without the suit, then you should not have it.”

Regarding this relationship, Dr. Wind commented, “Working with the next generation to leave some type of legacy is a key to successful Generativity. So working with Spider-man and other youths in various films (e.g., *Iron Man 3*) shows us Stark’s sincere wish to connect with the future. The relationship he formed in *Iron Man 3* appears to continue, as this person attends his funeral in the final scenes of *Avengers: Endgame*.”

Also, about Tony’s change of character, she said, “Stark’s personal evolution from selfish to altruistic is a slow progression throughout the Marvel series of films. We see him put others first, make a commitment to a life partner, and give the ultimate sacrifice of his own safety to protect others. He realizes that he can not protect other people or his own legacy completely alone, and that he needs to be part of a team. This is what makes The Avengers so successful; they work together and achieve more as a group than they would as individuals.”

Eventually, in *Avengers: Endgame*, Tony sacrifices himself to save the universe and dies in the presence of his best friends—War Machine, Spider-man, who is like a son to Tony, and Pepper, his lifelong companion. Tony Stark, the playboy and typical narcissist he once was, is reborn as a true hero, “Iron Man,” and bids us farewell.



▲ Tony gives advice to Peter, who has a similar concern with Tony.



▲ Tony will go down in history as a great hero with his noble sacrifice.

Why are we so enthusiastic about MCU movies? A solid worldview based on intimately connected storytelling, realistic action and high-quality computer graphics may be the major reasons. Among them, what cannot be ignored are “humane heroes.” Each of the heroes of MCU has its own distinct character, pain and anguish. In particular, the scene that Tony sacrifices himself, who once was an impersonal millionaire, creates a huge impression. The death of Iron Man, who shared the same fear and pain with the public, a hero who was human — all too human. The reporter applauds him for his courage and self-abnegation. Love you, 3,000. 🇺🇸


“Old soldiers never die and they never fade away.”

People who helped the reporter write this article

Lim Chan-young, Medical Doctor, department of psychiatry

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THEY WERE TORTURED IN PLAIN SIGHT

Kwak Hyun-jeong and Park Chang-hwan
Staff Reporters of Theory & Critique Section

Incredulous of its past, the imposing grey edifice looms over a bustling street of central Seoul. It is the former anti-communism investigation division office of the police's National Security Bureau in Namyeong-dong. Midnight disappearances, secret detentions, mass executions, and extra-judicial killings occurred with a disturbing regularity under Korea's military dictatorship. This building was a part of this peculiar stench that perhaps still wafts through Korean society. The truth is, the torture of civilians and students were the regime's main objective. The systemic injustices laid on the victims still prevail — that is, they were never resolved. The Argus visits this torture facility, now turned into a memorial hall for human rights and democracy, where the atrocities of the past no longer stay secret.

Footsteps

Seoul Station and Yongsan Station: between these vibrant transportation hubs humbly lays Namyong Station, where The reporters' journey started. The station's only exit led to a neighborhood riddled with hotels. There stood among them a dark, seven-storied, "L"-shaped structure, surrounded by barbed wire and unwelcoming walls. It was labeled, "Memorial Hall for Human Rights and Democracy." Not far off, the reporters could clearly hear the trains busily heading to their next destination. How could ordinary life and the screams of the tortured coexist in such close quarters for such a long time?

The reporters entered the steel gates and found themselves in front of the security box. Visiting the building and its grounds required registering either online or on-site. Signing in, the reporters could not help but notice the displays showing CCTV footage—a striking reminder of the 24-hour surveillance of the torture victims.

The tour of the exterior



Walking out to the courtyard in front of the imposing structure, the reporters were greeted by the 56-year-old tour guide Koo Kwang-sook. Eagerly, the guide began introducing the building, "The Anti-communism Investigation Division Office was built, originally as a five-story building in 1976, specifically for cases dealing with communism..." The guide and the reporters sauntered the grounds of the compound.

While communism was a definite threat in South Korea following the Korean War, the military dictatorship learned to use the fear of communism to legitimize their power. This manifests in the building's design. "The building was commissioned to renowned architect Kim Swoo-geun by the Ministry of Home Affairs. It was meticulously designed to provide the best working environment for the policemen working here, as well as facilitate indescribable forms of emotional, psychological, and physical torture," explained Koo. Across the courtyard from the building, there was a clearing, about the size of a soccer field.

"You may have noticed on our way here that there is nothing out of the ordinary. Does it not feel like a great place to relax?" asked the guide. The greenery covering the compound provided plenty of shade and the courtyard was easy on the eyes. "This place was originally a tennis court," pointed out the guide, "It was designed for the policemen of the anti-communism division and other administrative staff. This peaceful mood was in stark contrast to the torture that went on inside."

The institute's plot of land directly neighbors Namyong Station. The reporters could hear the constant stall and chug of the trains that passed by. As the guide led the reporters to the wall that divided the compounds and the station, she pointed out, "The windowless walls are there to prevent the sound

from entering the compound. The prisoners who were located on the fifth floor at the other side of the building would only hear the distant howls of the trains, which were a source of psychological terror."

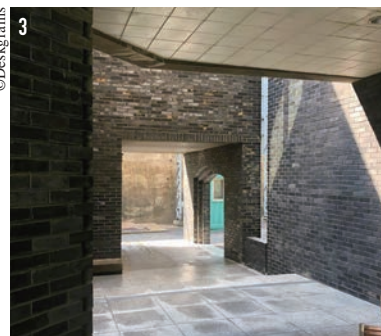
At the corner of the "L"-shaped structure, there was a path that cut through the building. It was a sunny early summer day, but there was a windy chill. Ms. Koo said, "The structure was designed to focus the wind to this little alleyway here. In the summer, the policemen would come out here to enjoy a cigarette and chat with their colleagues. However, in the winter, prisoners were brought here to be asked riling questions as the blast of winter wind beat at their faces."

Through the walkway, the reporters were back at the starting location of the tour. In front of the building, the reporters met 27-year-old Rak Yun-kyeong, who studies Architecture at Kangwon National University. Regarding the structure, he commented, "This place was designed to be perfect for torture. I believe the architect committed a huge sin against society by building such a horror. In the future, I hope the building is used to truly fulfill democracy. Personally, it is horrendous to see something so out of the ordinary placed amid the ordinary."

"Before we go in, take a look at the fifth floor of the building," recommended the guide. The fifth-floor windows were extremely slim, as opposed to the rest of the building, which had large windows. "The windows belong to the torture rooms located on that floor. The building's width incrementally increases as the floors go up - a strategic design to make the observer feel as if the building is towering over them. What is

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©Deskgrams



1. The clearing once used to be a tennis court.
2. The wall neighboring the station was windowless.
3. The structure naturally focuses wind into the pathway.

more, the windows on the backside of the structure are narrow and few. The neighboring building facing that side was Lotte's head office in the 1970's. The narrow windows kept curious eyes from getting a better look."

Hereafter, the guide led the way up the steps to the first floor of the building, where there was a gallery showing the structure's history.

The backdoor: where the torture started



Between the gallery and the set of stairs, there was a large door and a small elevator. The tour guide chimed in, "This door was a divide between the area for the police and the victims. For the victims imprisoned in these buildings, there was a small back entrance, hidden from plain sight." The reporters asked, "Why was this?"

"In this building, there were not only anti-communism agents, but also administrative police who did not get involved in the interrogations," answered the guide, "For security reasons, the space had to be sealed off. In the area where the gallery is now situated, the administrative police would go about their everyday tasks. Coming into the building, you may have noticed a normal set of stairs and a larger elevator. This was used by the people who worked in the building. The small elevator and spiraling staircase you see here were designated for the 'suspects.'"

"These stairs lead directly to the fifth floor," Koo pointed out,

"They say it befuddled the victim's sense of height, further building up fear. Normally, interrogation rooms in the other anti-communism division offices were underground, separated from the outside. On this premise, they were unusually located on the fifth floor. The architect, by designing this narrow, twister-shaped staircase, used height to create terror."

By just viewing the space, the reporters could paint a picture in their heads:

The handcuffed torture victim's head is covered in cloth. He hears and shrinks at what seems to be a tank rolling by. It is the sound of a monstrous iron door, so large that it needs to be opened by motor. He is brought into the compound in a van which comes to an abrupt stop, about five meters away from the small backdoor. The policemen violently handle the victim and bring him through the door, which he barely fits through. Then, the climb up to the spiraling staircase begins.

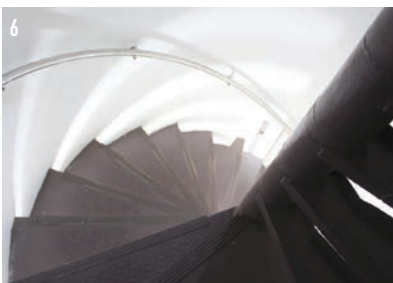
Meanwhile, the police in the building go about their business on the other side of the wall, apathetic to whatever is going on beyond the walls and beyond their working area. Why would they? Their job has a nice balance between work and recreation.

Knowing this, the path to the torture chambers was chilling. "As the torture victims would climb closer to the fifth floor, they would hear the frightening shouts of the interrogators above, all the while losing their sense of direction as they went round and round up the stairs," commented the guide. Every step made a clatter against the metal steps, which looked not even a foot long. There was no way to tell which floor it was,

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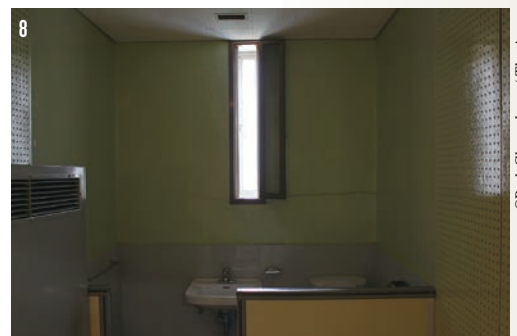
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©Park Chang-hwan/The Argus



4. Opening the iron gate would have made a deafening sound.
5. The back of the building had a small entrance for the prisoners.
6. These stairs were also a torture device.
7. This is the hallway of the fifth floor.
8. Each interrogation room were naturally dark due to the slim windows.

Footsteps

and the only light came from a few thin windows. To the disheveled victim, with not a soul in the world at his side, the end of this staircase to hell would merely be the start of the “interrogations.”

At the end was a door that opened perpendicularly into a narrow hallway. It was in these very halls where the martyred democracy activist Bak Jong-cheol and deceased politician and democracy activist Kim Geun-tae were once tortured. The doors were placed diagonally from each other. When the door was open, the person inside would only see a wall.

In the unlighted halls, it was difficult to tell whether it was night or day. The light controls were all outside the rooms. Between the switches, there was a light brightness control, not just for turning the lights on and off but intended to be psychological devices that distort the prisoner’s sense of day and time. On the green-painted doors, there were peepholes that looked outside in, most certainly installed for surveillance.

“Did you notice the dark panel horizontally lining the wall in every room?” asked the guide, “They were 24-hour surveillance cameras. The dividers, originally low, exposed even the toilet area.”

Most rooms were not even 10 square meters in size. Inside them, there were toilets and faucets all in pristine working conditions. “Surprising as it may be, during renovations in 2002, all the bathtubs inside the rooms were removed and the dividers covering the toilet area were replaced with taller ones. It was almost as if the police were implying their focus on human rights by covering up their trails.”

Out of the narrow windows, the prisoners would have only seen the sky. In this room, the only other person would be the police agent. The opaque window severed the prisoner from the rest of the world, and its narrowness kept them from jumping out to commit suicide.

“The soundproof walls were also not completely soundproof. They carried the sounds of the prisoner’s screams and moans throughout the entire floor. Even when a prisoner was being rested up for the next torture, they would constantly be in fear, unable to sleep or rest.

“People who came to this facility were severely scarred when they left, if they ever left. They were tortured to the point where they would reveal the names of their companions, often driving them into unspeakable guilt,” said the tour guide sadly, as she led the reporters to the next area.

Freedom fighter Kim Geun-tae



Walking down to the end of the narrow corridor, the reporters came across Room 515. The room held an exhibit in remembrance of the late politician and human rights activist, Kim Geun-tae. Larger than the other rooms, this room was

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9. The blood stain looks to have been impossible to wash out of the towel.



10. People left letters to the late democracy activist, Kim.

one of the only two that could fit the electric torture device. The interrogation officers used this machine profusely on Mr. Kim. After surviving, he went on to actively lead the movement against human rights violations the rest of his life.

The room had a display of books Kim would read to stave off his time as a prisoner, some of his memorabilia, and a towel stained with blood used during his torture. There was a screen playing a video of Mr. Kim’s life on repeat. A middle-aged couple were solemnly viewing the screen. “What brings you here?” the reporters asked.

“We are here because we were part of this generation,” answered the woman. “In that era, all the students gathered. It was more a rally than a protest,” added the man, reminiscing. The reporters asked if they had anything to say to the HUFsans.

“I hope students today realize that these events are not in the past, but directly affect their lives. The younger generation struggles to adjust to the imperfect society we built. Truly, it is our fault, and we hope you embrace a vision for the future,” the man reflected pensively. The reporters thanked the couple, as they went on to view the rest of the room.

In the corner, there was a shelf where visitors could place letters to the deceased freedom fighter. The reporters each wrote a message of thanks and remembrance. The reporters placed their message rolls and respectfully left the memorial.

Martyr Bak Jong-cheol



Stepping out, the reporters reached another interrogation room that holds the fatal case of Jan. 14, 1987. There was a bath there, probably used for water torture. According to the initial police report, 23-year-old Bak, a linguistics student in Seoul National University was claimed to have fallen dead after the investigator slammed the desk with his fist. It was only after a doctor, a prosecutor, a reporter of Joongang Ilbo, a priest,



11. This spot was where Bak spent his last moments.

12. Bak's memorial gallery displayed his memorabilia and photos of his era.

and a mass of others came forward did the lie get nailed to the counter.

Enveloped by memorabilia, this room was the only one that had not been remodeled. In order to prevent damages, visitors could only view the room through a protective glass. A portrait of Bak sat on the wall above the bathtub, next to which were a urinal and toilet. White flowers decorated the adjacent tiles. This was all surrounded by a low orange brick divide. Though equipped with a bed and desk, bathroom fixtures occupied over half of the room.

Ms. Koo threw a question, "Quite fancy for a torture chamber, no?" The reporters wondered, surprised that the prisoners of the 80s had stone bathtubs of their own. At that time, only the rich could enjoy such luxury. "Once this nightmare of an interrogation began, for an average of twenty to thirty days, the prosecuted were not allowed to step out of their assigned areas. Their meals, bodily business, sleeping, and all kinds of torture happened here. It would persist until they admitted to the fictitious story of being a North Korean infiltrator," illustrated Koo.

On closer inspection of the room, the reporters noticed that every object was bolted to the floor. These were installed to prevent self-harm. The officers turned every object in the room into an instrument of torture. The interrogating officer would lay on the bed, to provoke the sleep-deprived victim, and order them to draw up a report. As the tired victim would doze off, the interrogator would stab the prisoner under their fingernails with a pen or drop it on the desk. It is said that the drop felt like

a sudden clap of horrifying thunder.

Shocked, the reporters went down to the fourth floor, where situated the Bak Jong-cheol memorial hall. The hall was full of displays containing newspapers from the 80's and the letters Bak exchanged with his family as a son, brother, and boy. One of the letters to his sister read, "I heard you're studying to get into college again this year. If you don't even score 100 points less than what I scored, don't even think about calling me family. I'm going to disown you!" The reporters realized that, besides his title as a martyr, he was just a good-natured college student.


"We mourn and remember Bak Jong-cheol in these halls, but take a moment to think about the institutional use of torture that brought an end to his life. In the mid-1980s, if it were not Bak who was sacrificed, there would have been another 'Bak Jong-cheol.' This is the significance. It was not because Bak was special, but because Bak was like you and me," Koo added. "Martyr" and "sacrifice" may seem like very distant concepts, but it comes as a shock when these labels are put on individuals not much different from the ordinary person.

Exiting the gallery and going down the stairs, there were placards on the wall, each one containing one of the thirty articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The reporters could not help but notice Article 5:

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

And with this, the tour of the infamous torture machine came to an end.

What you read here is not a small facet of our modern history. It is one of the key pillars that constitute the foundations of our free society. Along with Bak Jong-cheol and Kim Geun-tae, people who were tortured here are revolutionaries who gave up their blood, sweat and tears hoping Korea would see a better tomorrow. It is now that tomorrow, and what do we see? Are we on the path these pioneers of democracy and freedom paved out for us? Or are we complacent in our individual worlds, only worrying about what's "mine?"

The history of the democratic movement in Korea is by no means distant. The freedom fighters of yesterday are still active members of society today. Let us not let their sacrifice dissolve into the swirls of history but become a light that tells us that there is a greater good to fight for. 

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Hidden Stories about Busan: How Refugees Endured



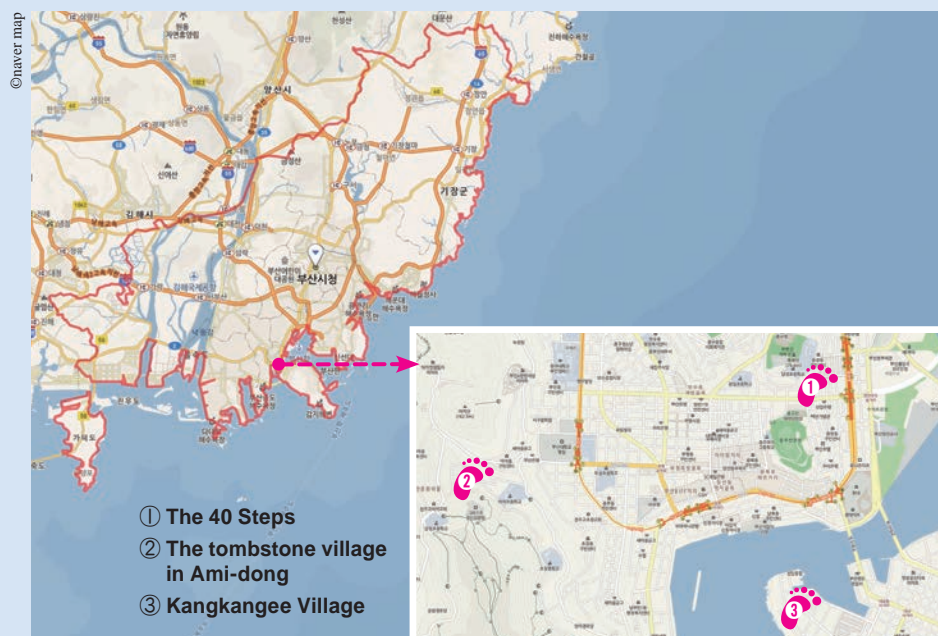
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By Oh Ju-yeong
Staff Reporter of Global & National Section

When we take a trip to Busan we enjoy taking pictures of the summery vibe or relaxing on the beach. But when the Korean War broke out, the Busan ocean retained the eyes of countless people who were missed and the lives of refugees who worked hard to make ends meet.

To avoid the war, a third of the Korean population fled their hometown to Busan. Many spots with historical significance of the refugees who went through the period from the Korean War to the era of industrialization remain in Busan. Among them, The Argus would like to visit three specific places: the 40 Steps, tombstone village in Ami-dong, and Kangkangee Village in Daepyeong-dong, which are situated at the center of the front of the ocean of Yeong Island and hold traces of the refugees, and follow their footsteps.

 **Where did The Argus leave footprints in Busan?**



The 40 Steps, a meeting place filled with wait and longing for someone

1) Landscape of the 40 Steps

The reporter got off at Jungaga Station on line 1, came out of exit 13 and found a sign for the 40 Steps on the right. The large evergreen trees along both sides of the road to the 40 Steps provided a shade for people to rest under them.

In front of the reporter's eyes, the 40 Steps and a large monument were laid out. The 40 Steps can be easily considered as a passage to go up, but they contain traces of refugees from the Korean War.

A board introducing the 40 Steps was placed in front of the steps. That said "Refugees who came to Busan during the Korean War built numerous shanties on Bokbyeong Mountain, 40 Steps behind. The 40 Steps is the way from the shack to the coast. Also, it was considered a meeting place for separated families." The lyrics of the song "Gyeongsang Provinces Lady" from 1955 were carved in back of the monument. Looking at the words "refugee life," "shack" and "hometown in North Korea" in the lyrics, the reporter could once again confirm that the 40 Steps was a place related to the Korean War. On the middle of the Steps, there was a statue of a man blowing an accordion to the sound of the accordion. At that time, it was assumable that he was the one who played the accordion on the stairs, keeping to his flow in the midst of a hard time during the war.

2) The 40 Steps Memorial Hall

About 120 meters away from the 40 Steps, there was the 40 Steps Memorial Hall. The hall with displays of four themes "That Day," "That Place," "They," and "They have to survive" archives the history of the 40 Steps and lives of the refugees. A 71-year-old Jeong Seok-geun, the guide of the hall, came to introduce the memorial hall. He was born in Jung-gu, an administrative district of Busan where the 40 Steps is located, and he has lived here until now. With him, moving to the first theme "That Day," the reporter could hear the origin of the 40 Steps and the transition of the surroundings.

"Since the Korean War broke out, there have always been a lot of refugees around here. They had nowhere to rest and no place to stay. The 40 Steps was the only space for refugees to rebuild their lives from scratch. Thus, it was always crowded with the people who do not have their own shelter. A popular saying, "If you want to find your separated family, go to the 40 Steps," also stemmed from this spatial feature.

Now many tall buildings are in front of the 40 Steps, but in the old days we could see the ocean view of Yeong Island from the 40 Steps. I still remember the moment in my head. When I was seven years old I was playing on steps, and there was a woman on the steps carrying a burdle, watching the sea and crying. Now I guess that she was also a refugee, and since she did not know how to live without her family, she cried. Do you know the song "Gyeongsang Provinces Lady" related to the 40 Steps? The lyrics of the song are based on a true story. When a man coming from North Korea was crying on the 40 Steps, a lady from Gyeongsang Provinces talked to him and gave him consolation."

The place with the theme of "They" and "They have to survive" displays how the refugees lived during the war. He continued "There was a well below the 40 Steps, and people had to pass there to get the water. At that time, women carried heavy buckets of water on their shoulders while going up and down these steep stairs. Some people slept in tents under the stairs. I played games with my friends such as rock-paper-scissors."



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▲ The 40 Steps and the monument are laid out.



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▲ The lyrics of the song "Gyeongsang Provinces Lady" are carved on the monument.



◀ The song "Gyeongsang Provinces Lady"



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▲ The 40 Steps Memorial Hall displays "They" theme, one of four themes.



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▲ Picture of the 40 Steps in the past.

The reporter left the hall and headed back to the 40 Steps. After listening to his vivid stories, the reporter grasp more of the meaning of the 40 Steps compared to the first time the reporter visited. Their pain and sorrow for refugees who were missing their family or hometown had permeated every step.

The tombstone village in Ami-dong, a living foundation for the refugees

1) Entrance of the tombstone village

Taking the bus No. 87 from Jungang Station for about 10 minutes, the bus gradually went up to a mountain leaving the busy streets in Nampo-dong. The bus stopped at Yangseong market. To go to the tombstone village in Ami-dong located in the mountain, the reporter had to take a byway on foot between houses on the slope. Going up the narrow passage between houses for about 15 minutes, the reporter arrived at the entrance of the village and found boards and photographs introducing the village's history on the wall.

The village is introduced as such: the village located on 19th street in Ami-dong was a cemetery built under Japanese imperialism. When the Korean War broke out and refugees were distributed around Ami-dong, the refugees who did not have the right materials to build their houses, used the tombstones of the cemetery for stairs or as the foundation stones of their houses. Even now, many tombstones used by refugees are embedded in the stairs and walls around Ami-dong.

2) Hidden tombstones and villagers

The reporter headed to the playground to find remaining tombstones in the village. It was easy to see the walls studded with memorial stones written in Chinese characters and patterns. The reporter took a look around to find other tombstones and approached the two elders who were resting on the playground to ask where other tombstones were situated.

One elder named Kim Min-ja, a 84-year-old, said, "The stones with Chinese characters or patterns are not the only tombstones. If you look at the stairs next to you, they are all tombstones. Do you know the plain stone on which you can put food for ancestor-memorial services when you go to the tomb? They are all used for stairs and cornerstones. You can see a red-painted cornerstone over there, which is also a tombstone. The houses here are almost all built on tombstones."

The reporter asked what this village looked like during the Korean War. Another 79-year-old elder named Kim Jeong-yeol, who moved here in 1953 with her husband born in North Korea, said, "There was not any paved roads on this high mountain at that time. There was only mud or dirt roads. There were many houses sitting at the top of the mountain, but it took at least an hour to arrive there from downtown. Refugees who came to Busan took tombstones from the vacant lot and built houses on them, or some rented a house with a monthly rent of 20 won. Since almost everyone had little food, we usually ate Sujebi, wheat-flour dough boiled in soup, because it was easy to get the flour or olio called piggie soup, which contained scraps left by the American soldiers." Kim Min-ja the old woman who has lived here for more than 70 years, continued. "Many people died due to starvation or because their houses collapsed. We could not build such people's graves here since there was no room, so we just buried them in the ground



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▲ There is a map of the village in the entrance.



©Oh Ju-yeong / The Argus

▲ It is a old house built in 1950s.



©Oh Ju-yeong / The Argus

▲ The tombstone which is carved in Chinese characters is used for the wall now.



©Oh Ju-yeong / The Argus

▲ The plain tombstone is used for the wall now.

and built houses again.”

The two elders told reporters, “You can find an observatory and an Ami Culture Learning Center if you pass this alley and go straight.”

3) Touring the village

Off the alley, there are numerous colorful houses lined up along the slope, and beyond them, the Yeong-do Bridge and the Busan Port could be seen further away. There was also a building called Ami Culture Learning Center which was 3km away from there. A gallery of documentary photographer Choi Min-sik who took photos of this village was located on the 2nd floor in this building. At the entrance to the gallery, there was an introduction of him. He is well-known for capturing the difficult lives of the people during the Korean War. The gallery displays photos from the 1960s to 1970s. The pictures showed the entire landscape of Ami-dong, which was full of shanties during the war, and the daily lives of people who lived there, like people in transit with objects on their shoulders, and children with a genial smile.

The words written on the gallery, “Wouldn’t nameless people called grass roots be the source of life power?” caught the reporter’s eyes. Like the two elders whom the reporter met, many people who went through the Korean War are still living here today. The will to survive the hard environment of the War revitalize the village and has so far firmly stayed around us.



© Oh Ju-yeong / The Argus

▲ It is possible to see the landscape of the village at an observatory.



© Oh Ju-yeong / The Argus

▲ The gallery of documentary photographer Choi Min-sik.

Kangkang Village full of the hammering sounds of livelihood

1) Where refugees worked

After crossing the Yeong-do Bridge, the reporter came to Daepyeong-dong where the strong scent of the salty sea is widespread and many ships are harbored. Numerous ships and ship parts stores were lined up alongside the wharf. This quiet and still village is called Kangkang Village.

The reporter was able to meet Kang Ja-soo, a 77-year-old village guide who was born in kangkang village and still lives here till today.

“The original name of this village was Daepung-po, which means “avoid the wind.” In the late 1800s, Japanese fishermen began to come to Busan to take advantage of the fertile fishing ground. Particularly, they often used Daepung-po as a fishing port to repair boats and get drinking water. Shipyards and ship repair stores gradually became concentrated in this village. Henceforth, Daepyeong-dong, which had more than 200 ironworks, shipping tool shops, electronics companies and parts shops, grew into a region with “the best ship-repairing technology in Korea.” There was always a “Kang-Kang-Kang” sound throughout the village. It was the sound of hammering that came from the shipyard, which is for workers to repair ships. Thus, the name of this village was changed to “Kangkang Village.”

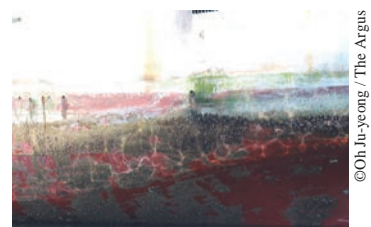
Following the guide, the reporter arrived at “Uri Shipyard” located near a dock. He said, “This shipyard’s name was “Tanaka Shipbuilding Factory,” and it was the first place to set an engine on a wooden boat in Korea.”

Besides this shipyard, many other shipyards were located along the dock. The guide pointed to the big boat and asked me to look at the rust and shellfish attached to the



© Oh Ju-yeong / The Argus

▲ Many stores that seem to sell parts for ships are lined up alongside the wharf.



© Oh Ju-yeong / The Argus

▲ The rust and shellfish are attached to the boat.

Reportage

boat. He said, “From the 1960s to the 1980s, middle-aged women were in charge of removing rust and shellfish by hammering. They worked to support their family, particularly for their children, risking falling or getting an industrial ailments such as hearing loss or tinnitus. An acquaintance of mine hammered so much for such a long time that she cannot hear well now.”

2) Where refugees lived

The reporter asked how the village was during the Korean War.

“There were a lot of refugees. They built houses made of rice bags or soil. When it rained, it was hard to fall asleep because of water leaks. Women either sold mugwort or sticks of taffy or hammered on the boat as I mentioned before. Men gathered at the ship’s wharf to learn how to repair the ship.”

In the alley entering with the guide, there were houses that looked only 180 centimeters tall. There were several rooms under one roof. Each room looked to be only three to four squared meters. It is said that different households lived in each room of house.

“This area was named “North Korean Neighborhood,” where especially the people from Hamgyeong-do, a province in North Korea, lived. After the war broke out, there were a lot of people coming down from North Korea. There were so many people that they could not build houses. Now there are mostly empty houses.”

On the way, a person greeted the guide. The guide introduced him as Park Young-ho, vice president of the Daepyeong-dong Community Association.

“I will tell you what I experienced during the war. When I was in sixth grade, many schools said that if you turned in scrap metal, they would give milk or bread to students. One day, a bomb exploded at Youngsun Elementary School. Someone brought things like metal to the school, but he did not know that was a bomb. So, a lot of students died. That was a haunting moment.”

There are many paintings and art sculptures in the theme of the village. This village, which many people had left as the shipbuilding industry shrank, became an art village, and the art and sculptures have made the history of village visually stand out.

Leaving the village and crossing the Yeong-do Bridge, it is no longer simply seen as one village with a dock. The village, which contains the lives of the refugees, seemed to be showing more images of modern Korea.



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▲ The houses built during the Korean War are in “North Korean Neighborhood.”



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▲ A middle aged woman who earns her living by hammering is painted on the building.

Most people recognize that Busan has explosively grown to be the second largest city in South Korea in terms of population and production focusing on port functions, and it has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in South Korea, taking advantage of Busan’s regional characteristics. However, readers can recognize that Busan they met through this article is still a city where the history of the lives of the refugees and the vestiges of war vividly remain. From the period of the Korean War to the era of industrialization, Busan retains stories and histories that we did not know of. Through this article, the reporter hopes the readers to take have a chance to look at Busan from a different perspective and engrave the images of refugees who endured hard times in their minds. 📷

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Should We Disclose the Faces of Convicted Criminals?



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By Jang Soo-hyun

Staff Reporter of Global & National Section

Every murder, rape and kidnap case shown on the news leads one group of citizens trembling in fear. A second group questions why the media does not allow the faces of criminals to be shown on television. Korean law protects the privacy of criminals under certain circumstances, which results in debatable reactions—should the criminal's face be revealed to the public? The Argus gathered students with different opinions to discuss the issue.

• Interviewees •

For

☺ **Eom Da-young**, Dept. of Scandinavian language '18

☺ **Lee Seung-wook**, Dept. of German '15

Against

☺ **Mahdad Mohammed Ilies**, Division of International Studies '18

☺ **Kim Jin-yi**, Dept. of English Linguistics & Language Technology '18

The Argus: Please share your stance.

☺ **Seung-wook**: There is an increasing number of brutal criminal cases that have shocked the nation, such as the Cho Doo-soon case in 2008 and the Gangseo District PC room murder in 2018. As these kinds of indiscriminate crimes are repeating, the request to disclose the identities of the criminals is growing amongst Korean citizens. The public is afraid of becoming a victim of crime, so we all need to find a measurement of protection.

☺ **Da-young**: To add on to his point, the current Korean law specifies that criminals' faces can be disclosed under the following conditions: first, if the case is considered cruel; second, if there is sufficient evidence to say that the criminal has committed the crime; third, if the suspect is not a teenager; and fourth, if the disclosure will prevent repeated crimes and is for the public good. These conditions are such that the disclosure of criminals' faces is not irresponsibly made.

⊗ **Ilies:** The first point I want to mention is that the seriousness of the crime does not matter. There is a case that perfectly exemplifies this. I am from Algeria, and in Algeria, there was an incident called the “Black Decade,” and it was a big wave of terrorism. A group of terrorists, 50-100 of them, would encircle two or three villages and kill everyone in one single night. What concerns us here is what happened afterward; the government stated that if the members of the organization surrendered their weapons, they would not be considered guilty. It happened, and now these people talk to one another like nothing happened! This is an extreme example, but it proves that the seriousness of the crime does not matter, and not showing the murderers’ faces is the only way to allow the criminals back into society.

☺ **Da-young:** I agree that the fundamental purpose of the government is to assist criminals in re-entering society; however, therein lies a question: Who is going to care for the citizens that would live near them if the criminals are free to go back into society?

⊗ **Jin-yi:** I am not saying that the rights of criminals are greater than the safety of the public, but I want to mention that sometimes criminals are wrongly judged. Furthermore, people like us would not be held responsible for the false charges the innocent experienced. I want to mention the case of Anthony Porter in 1982 in the United States. He served 16 years in prison before finding out that he was not the culprit.

☺ **Da-young:** In recent cases in Korea, the percentage of improper convictions is very low. I want to mention an incident where there was a picture claimed to be of Jo Doo-soon on the internet. However, it was later found out that it was a picture of an ordinary citizen. He suffered from a lot of reputational damage; this would not have happened if the government had disclosed the identities of criminals ahead of time.



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⊗ **Jin-yi:** Thank you for that point, but I was thinking about a side effect of disclosing criminal faces that exactly contradicts that point. A friend of mine said that she saw a picture of a criminal’s face, and then she saw a civilian that resembled the criminal. She experienced negative feelings about that person even though he was not a criminal.

☺ **Seung-wook:** To mention the Gangseo District PC room murder that occurred on Oct. 14, 2018, the murderer stabbed the victim about 80 times. It was a severe case in which the public agreed that the suspect’s face should be disclosed. I want to question, what are the benefits of protecting the criminals’ identities from being disclosed?

⊗ **Ilies:** The side effects of revealing the criminals’ faces outweigh the benefits. First, the disclosure would not deter the criminals from committing the crime again. When disclosing the information, it will create a sense of hatred as criminals will lose their job and family, which could lead to poverty or other severe consequences. According to a study by State Commission of Criminality in Washington, social exclusion can lead marginalized convicts to repeat murder by 52 percent, any form of sexual assault by 38.4 percent, and manslaughter by 38.8 percent. In addition, certain studies show that among the convicted, the rate of those who are actually innocent ranges from about 2.3 to 5 percent of all prisoners. What do you want to achieve by disclosing the criminals?

☺ **Seung-wook:** The prevention of future crimes.

⊗ **Ilies:** However, there is a very thin line between making a person feel guilt and humiliation, which is also considered as a punishment, and that is why human rights organizations strongly disagree with the disclosure policies. The disclosure does not prove a person to be guilty—the jurisdiction has already proven that. Furthermore, it does not prevent these actions from recurring in the future.

☺ **Seung-wook:** Making a criminal’s identity public can set an impression for the citizens that if one committed a crime, they too would have their identity disclosed and criticized, and they would likely be excluded from the public, even by their families. That itself is prevention of crime.

☺ **Da-young:** These mostly focused on a single criminal's human rights, but the general population's right to know is the priority, rather than the right of one single criminal. Crime prevention and peoples' right to know is something on which the government should focus. Many western countries are opening up criminal histories and their conditions. And in the case of murder, murder is directly connected to the people's right to life.

☺ **Seung-wook:** Countries such as the U.S., the United Kingdom, France and Germany allow the public to see the faces of criminals because it is an official affair, and the people have the right to know. These countries place a higher value on the public's rights than on the privacy of the criminals.

☹ **Ilies:** There is not a definite relation between western countries and what is right. It does not make a policy right or wrong. Further, the disclosure does not always bring a sense of guilt. Like the example of the Gangseo District PC room murder, they do not know their wrongdoings because these people could be mentally unstable. Furthermore, social pressure and experiences could further push him or her to that state of mind. We can only assume that humiliation resulted from the disclosure.

☺ **Seung-wook:** I think you are looking at the bright side of the topic. What if the criminals committed the crime again? What about the victims? We need to secure and protect the lives of the victims. Let us say, for example, victims are living in critical and terrible conditions, and criminals, who have admitted their wrongdoing, are rehabilitated, and have a job again. Is that really fair?

☹ **Jin-yi:** You guys are only concentrating on the rights of the criminals and the public. I want to bring up another point where we should focus on the purpose of the law because this law of disclosing criminals' faces is to ensure public safety, which is


the main point. However, the law is proven to be ineffective. In a TV show called "True Story of Exploration," a criminal's address, name, and face were revealed, and it turned out that the address did not match the actual residence. Therefore, will it really change the lives of victims afterward?

☺ **Da-young:** First, the probability of the Korean government and the police to be incorrect is very low. Second, I want to add that the disclosure of a criminal face can help second-hand investigations. There was a murder case that took place in Ansan Shihwa Lake in 2015. The police were unable to find the culprit, but after the disclosure of past convicted criminals' faces, the witness could help the police to catch the suspect.

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Seong-wook and Da-young, who debated for the disclosure of criminal faces, emphasized the protection of the public, and the people's right to know. On the other hand, Ilies and Jin-yi focused on the ideas that disclosure does not cause a deterioration in crime, effects of disclosure can sometimes fall on the innocent, and the inevitable consequences of the disclosure.

Regardless of what one may choose to believe, it is easy to see that different opinions can exist in one debatable topic supported by various reasons. Readers should understand that diverse opinions exist, and taking a step further, readers can also create their own circle of Agora, a public gathering place for further discussions or debate. 

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Welcome to Namiya General Store



By Jang Yu-jin and Kim Min-ji

Associate Editor and Staff Reporter of Culture Section

Everyone must have wanted to express their worries at least once. Sometimes just telling a story to someone can be a boost. Here is someone who performs this role very well. It is an old man from Namiya General Store. His warm heart has been passed on to the readers, so the book has been loved so far, and it was released as a movie in 2017. The Argus looked at the book and the movie in detail to find the message they wanted to convey, and in what ways the plot changed.

INTRODUCTION TO BOOK AND MOVIE

Japanese writer Keigo Higashino's "Miracles of the Namiya General Store" dominates the best-seller lists for the sixth consecutive year since it was published in Korea in 2012. The book has sold more than 1 million copies in Korea and 12 million copies worldwide from 2008 to 2017. The movie was also released in Japan under the same name in 2018.



Storyline

Shota, Atsuya and Kohei are three thieves. In 2012, they enter a house with no one with intent to steal but rush out when the landlord comes in. They run away and stop by Namiya General Store. It seems like it has been a long time since it was abandoned, but when a letter comes into the house, the three thieves get tangled up in a strange way.

Letter from Fish Shop Musician

After dropping out of college, Matsuoka, under the pen name of Fish Shop Musician, leaves his home and plays



▲ Shota, Atsuya and Kohei are surprised to receive letters from the past.



▲ Matsuoka is singing for the children in an orphanage.



▲ Harumi receives a response letter from three thieves.

music in Tokyo. Matsuoka, hearing of his grandmother's death in 1980, comes back home in three years and finds his father, who runs the fish shop, has become decrepit. Matsuoka agonizes over whether it is right to quit the music and take over his father's fish shop. Then he finds Namiya General Store by accident and writes a letter. The answer written by the three thieves includes blaming Matsuoka, who is not taking over the store and is focusing on music that is not making him money. Matsuoka writes a reply saying that the fish shop is almost going bankrupt and he really wants to do music in reply, and he plays his own song on the harmonica in front of the mailbox of the general store.

The three thieves instantly realize that the song has been remade by a famous singer, Seri. It is a remake of Matsuoka's song as a tribute to him, who saved Seri's brother and sacrificed his life when a fire started in the Maru Garden orphanage. The three thieves who already know Matsuoka's future send a reply again saying they support his dream.

Letter from Green River

Midori, under the pen name of Green River, pregnant with a married man's child in 1980, writes a letter to Namiya, wondering if it would be right for her to give a birth. Namiya replies, "If you can make your child happy, give birth." Soon after, Namiya sees a newspaper in which a woman tried to kill herself with her baby by driving into the sea. Fortunately, the baby survives, but Namiya, who finds out that the woman is Midori, falls into despair that his letter has left her unhappy.

This leads Namiya to wonder if his answers to many letter were helpful. He comes back to the general store that he should have left because he was sick, and he finds that letters thanking him for his answers have arrived from the future of 2012. Meanwhile, Namiya receives a letter from

Green River's daughter, saying she is happily doing well. She informs Namiya that her mother did not intend to commit suicide with her, and that the accident was caused by drowsy driving. After finding out that Green River had been living her life for his daughter as best as possible, Namiya realizes that his letter of counseling was not in vain.

Letter from Confused Puppy

In 1980, a woman named Harumi, under the pen name of Confused Puppy, works for a small company by day and at a bar by night. A guest suggests her to offer a loan in exchange for becoming his lover.

She agonizes over whether she should accept the offer because her grandparents need money because of poor health. The three thieves let Harumi know future economic situations in a letter such as where to invest and how to build up economic wealth. Thanks to the letter Harumi becomes rich in eight years through a jackpot.

Harumi, who grew up in the Maru Garden orphanage, tries to take it over after hearing about the fire at the orphanage and the embezzlement of the orphanage's head. However the three thieves, misunderstanding that she is trying to get rid of the orphanage, steal Harumi's money and bags and bind her. They later find out Harumi has revived the orphanage through a letter in her bag.

Feeling strange about the letters to and from the past and the present, the three thieves put a white sheet of paper in the mailbox after sending all the counseling letters. It arrives to Namiya, who is in the past, and he sends his last reply.

"Your map is still blank. Even if you try to set a destination, you do not even know where the path is. But because it's blank, you can draw any map. Everything is free and the possibilities are

endless. I sincerely hope you believe in yourself and live your life to the fullest.”

The three thieves, enlightened by this answer, repent of their mistakes in stealing and take the right path.



Three major differences between the book and the movie

Top 1. Difference in chance to find out time crossing

At the beginning of the book, the fencer has a busy day to train to compete in the 1980 Olympics. Her lover, who is terminally ill, is in the hospital. She agonizes over whether to take care of her lover or concentrate on her training. Knowing that Japan boycotted the Moscow 1980 Summer Olympics, the three thieves advise her to quit training and stand by her lover's side, but the letter concludes without convincing her. The three thieves in the novel find that the time background of the counselor is in the 80s, based on the movies and pop songs written in the letter. Starting with this letter, they learn that the past and the present are connected.

However, the above is omitted from the movie. Instead, early in the movie, the three thieves run away from Namiya General Store, but discover an old alley and the train passing through their bodies. After a mysterious experience, the general store is in front of them again. Through this, they find themselves entangled in delicate matters that go back and forth between the past and the present.

Top 2. Maximizing the growth of three thieves

The book concludes with the three thieves realizing that the house they broke into was the home of Harumi who exchanged letters with them.

Meanwhile, the movie goes further and ends with a scene in which the three thieves run in front of Harumi. The facial expressions of the three thieves show intensively that they have gained a lot of enlightenment and achieved self-growth over a short period of time.

As a result, the book does not show the future of the three thieves. In the movie, however, they start a new life becoming a doctor, aircraft mechanic and cook, respectively.

Top 3. Maximizing the impact of the book

The relationship between Akiko and Namiya as well as

Akiko's story about the establishment of the orphanage is described in detail in the book but only briefly in the movie.

Originally Namiya and Akiko were in love, but at the time Akiko was a person of higher status than Namiya. Because of the difference in status, the two were finally unable to make love and broke up.

While these cause and effect relationships are described in detail in the book, they are portrayed in a slightly different way in the movie. In the film, when Namiya comes to the general store just before his death and reads letters of thanks from people in the future, young Akiko in his memory appears in front of him. In his fantasy, they talk together.

The book, which describes in detail the relationship between Namiya and Akiko and the establishment of the orphanage, helps readers to understand the content better than the film that shows a more superficial view. Also, by understanding these relationships, the book is more poignant.



What is the most impressive passage for readers?

“You must not ignore whatever sounds that flow in the human mind.”

Seo Jun-gyu, management and foundation consultant:

This quote comes in the scene in which Namiya talks to his son Takayuka. People always live with their anxieties. In fact, everybody knows that the answer to every question must be decided by themselves and they should be responsible for it. However, most people want to confirm whether their decisions are correct. Therefore, they look for advisers from their family, friends, seniors, juniors, etc. in consideration of areas such as faith, respect, and professionalism. As far as the process goes, the counselee does not get a word out to the counselor easily. I absolutely agree with this quote, which says that we should never ignore anything someone says because it comes out of their mouths after a lot of agonizing in their mind.

“Your map is still blank.”

Kim Eu-gene, blogger: This is the phrase that Namiya wrote in his last letter. As I read this book, I was concerned by the three thieves who had been consulting others. It was impressive that the three thieves, who arrive at a dead end, grew up gradually through counseling other

people with letters and receiving answers to the letters. I think that they could grow up in a short time because they were recognized for their presence. Also, the figure of the three thieves is probably the reflection of college students now. Features of college students who are pressured to gain experience and compare themselves with others interrelate with the three thieves. If there are those who are losing their presence, I would like to convey to them the above phrase and support their lives.

If I received a letter from the fish shop musician, how would I reply?

Seo Jun-gyu : You want to be a famous musician, but you agonize about going on the path because of the circumstances of the family and your situation. I empathize with your situation that is hard and difficult. I also have been through that period, and I am still experiencing it. Nevertheless, I hold out the hope for myself because I have a strong affirmation and clear goals about my future.

You know what you want to do; therefore, if you try to do it, you will naturally come up with ways to achieve it. The good thing about youth is to have the strength to be able to stand up quickly when you failed. Even if you say goodbye to the world tomorrow, it would be better to live without regrets in your life.


Kang Han-sol, a reporter of the Korea Foundation for the Advancement of Science and Creativity: I think you are standing at the corner of a difficult choice. I know how valuable family is to you. The most painful moment for a person who loves something enthusiastically is when his or her loved ones are having a hard time due to own choices. However, giving up your dreams is not for those who love you and those whom you love. If you gave up your dreams, they would think that they took away your dream, so they would feel sorry for a long time. Likewise, it is painful to live with lost dreams and love those who have taken away your dreams. Therefore, you should not stop singing for your sick father and yourself. I think you can only make yourself and others happy when you make choices for yourself, not anyone else.

Is there a moment when readers became Namiya?

Kang Han-sol : I work as a graduate student during

the day and as a science reporter and writer at night who communicates with people through writing. Until I started studying at a graduate school, I had a lot of twists and turns during writing, pushing through my studies for a long time. I participated incessantly in contests and I rarely received a manuscript fee. By the time I gave up writing, a friend who cherished my writing from the old days recommended me to be a science journalist, so I became a reporter. Sometimes I could experience a moment when there are people who recognize me and who have the same thoughts as I. Like those who went through the Namiya General Store, I get the strength to work harder thanks to those who find and read my articles.

Ko Jun-seok, a college student: Last summer, I participated as an admission mentor at a university fair. There I met a student who came from Daegu to Seoul for admission counseling. I remembered my past as a student studying in the province when I was anxious about the entrance examination. Therefore, I relayed to the student my experience for a long time. In the following spring, I met her in the same department of my school. She thanked me and said that she was encouraged through our meeting at that time. From that moment on, I realized that my experiences can be a great force for others and that others could be tied to each other under the name “we” through the link of sympathy. With that in mind, I now have a YouTube channel for students who are not guaranteed equal education opportunities due to the imbalance of admission information, in a club of the school. I produce videos that can ease examinees’ anxieties and communicate with them through comments and e-mails.

The time to finish this semester is coming. You may have been in a lot of trouble while you are in school. If there are such troubles, the reporters hope that a place like the mysterious Namiya General Store will appear in front of you and have a chance to resolve your agonies. Plus, if you see someone who has worries in the surrounding area, how about performing a role like Namiya? Our daily life will shine more when we share and listen to each other's thoughts. 

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Why Are We Here?

By Gintare Ziceviciute

Guest Reporter

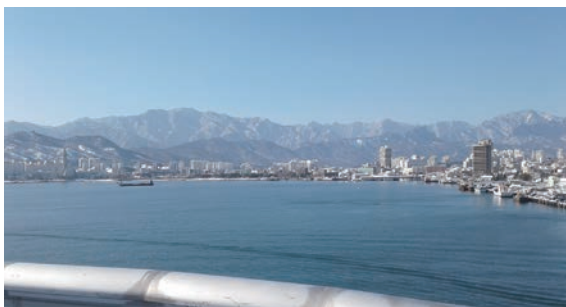
On a Friday evening on Metro Line 1, my friend, another exchange student from Singapore and I were going to the Lotus Lantern Festival next to Cheonggye Stream. Lots of people were on the train, which was nothing out of ordinary. That is, until we heard two old ladies wondering why nowadays there are so many foreign students in Korea. It got me thinking, too. Really, why are we here in HUFS, so far away from home?

Of course, being practical often comes first. Exchange programs are a good way to add job-market value to oneself. In my home university back in Lithuania, when I was asked why I chose Korea as my destination during the interview round of selections for exchange programs, my answer was not any different from a lot of my peers. “Business relations between Korea and Lithuania nowadays are getting stronger and stronger, so I want to become an educated, more skilled future employee with international experience in that particular country”. However, when my flight landed

in Korea, I came to realize that academic credits and possibly a better job are not the only reasons why we, exchange students, are here.

Looking back at it now, when my calendar says “36 days until departure to Vilnius”, I came to realize that Korea helped me mature more than any country I have ever been in. Coming from a small town with a population of a bit more than 90, 000 people, Seoul was a reality check, a sign that I had to kick myself out of my comfort zone, which I have gotten too attached to. It started with trivial things, such as simple shopping for groceries, a thing that I used to do automatically without much thought. I will never forget my first days here, with my back sweating from anxiety while trying to ask a cashier for a shopping bag using only gestures, because she did not speak any English and the Korean conversation, which I had rehearsed in my head just in case, did not go quite as planned.

Other customs have taken some adjusting to as well. For example, having to bow while greeting someone, which is a strange concept back at home, always



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thanking the professor after a class, getting familiar with all the odd-sounding Korean dishes. I slowly realized that the last time I spoke my mother tongue out loud was two months ago, because due to the 8 hour time difference I almost never get to talk with my family or friends. At some point, it felt like I was going to have a breakdown from everything as I had to internalize and accept as the rules of this “game”. At that point, I understood that it was not all about me anymore, that I have to make efforts to adapt to the new experiences without having any shortcuts or easy paths, because I am the guest here, and not the other way around.

I was not alone in this. I soon found out that a lot of international students went through the same trial-and-error-based path of growth. For instance, my fellow exchange student from the United States, Kiara, told a story about how once a friendly restaurant owner near the campus laughed at her for thinking that a small plate of bean sprouts is supposed to be one of the main dishes. Another international HUFSan, Michelle, lost her documents during a weekend trip to the city of Pohang, so we had to visit a local police station for help. It was rather comical. Police officers were just as frightened by us, as we were by them. Due to all the panic, we could not even communicate properly, spilling of words in a weird mix of Korean and English, and yet they tried their best to calm us down and help us.

These experiences have changed me. All of these experiences might seem like something you can experience anytime, without being an exchange student; however, I believe that it resonates more when you are abroad for studying. Mostly because when it happens to you as a tourist, you know that you are going home soon, maybe it is going to be a day or two, or perhaps a week. Meanwhile, most of the international HUFSans stay here for at least four months, some of them even for a few years, so we have to “suck it up” and adapt in

order to survive. Through these experiences, we learn to be flexible, and tolerant, as well as being independent.

Another reason why we are here, is that exchange students feel the urge to explore places in ways we usually would not otherwise. As I have already mentioned, being a tourist is one thing, and actually getting a taste of everyday life is a completely different deal. It teaches you to be critical, and sometimes to take off your rose-tinted glasses, and realize that no country is as what it looks like on tourist booklets.

Many exchange students have realized their false assumptions about Korea. For example, Tako, an exchange student from Georgia, once said, “Sometimes, reading the news, one can get the idea that Korea is just a land of idols and enormous pressure on students, the kind of news we usually get. There is no way to check it without experiencing it for yourself. It took me only a week to realize that a lot of things are left unseen to people. I am glad I chose to see all that with my own eyes, not through what media tell us.”

Summer is approaching and a lot of us will leave soon, but the experiences we have gone through while in HUFSan and Korea will stay with us forever. Some of those experiences are fun, sometimes even hilarious; others are not that positive, as life cannot always be a flower-laden path. Nevertheless, these memories will always remind us that we did something more than people who stayed at their home countries. We decided to challenge ourselves, and that is why we are here, at HUFSan. 🇰🇷

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A Letter from October 31 2016



By An Kwan-ho
Argusian

Dear dad,
Sorry for not calling you for a while. I have been too busy these days.

You probably know why. The whole country is on a rampage, all because of the president's political scandal. Our radios are on fire, and the entire force in our police station are on standby 24/7.

You may wonder why I am writing to you since it is not a very common occurrence. But guess what? Today I made a lifelong promise to myself that you might be interested in, too.

Remember the day before I first entered middle school? The evening when the whole family went to Sejong Center of Performing Arts to watch a clarinet solo by an Austrian guy? My squad and I had a backup call from there last weekend. Yet, it was not so artistic as 10 years ago.

The place seemed more like a battlefield. A few dozen policemen were being squashed at the main gate of the building, blocking the mob from rushing toward the Blue House. Some fellow policemen with their uniforms ripped off were lying behind the vanguard, fainting or screaming in pain while covering their limbs. Anything throw-able



—paving rocks, water bottles, fire extinguishers—were hovering overhead. Lots of effing were too, as usual.

Dad, after all these 17 months in this uniform, I have tried so hard to understand, but I still do not get it. What is wrong with them? Why do people out there simply see what they want to see and only care about themselves?

The media drools over reporting about how violent the police are, but remain silent about my fellow officers' injuries. Violent protesters heckle us as traitors of justice, though we are actually the ones trying to protect it. I see lots of angry people fuming at us, shouting, "Would you do the same to your parents as you do to us?" But their red-rimmed eyes and pale, clenched fists do not seem like they are seeing us as their children. There are other options galore, though, and they still favor violent and irrational ways to make their ends meet. They say they act upon a good cause, but can anything be right if the only means to make them heard are assault and insult?


It is all the same with those politicians, who always trigger this kind of a mess. What could they ever see beyond the lining of their own pockets? If the president were able to see public interests clearly, other than just hers, would this sort of event have happened? As has always happened throughout history, the very same corruption plot repeats: shunning their charges and covering up their wrongdoings. What a cliché.

It is too exhausting to bear these self-centered individuals. What I have expected is not about enlightenment on something like saintly, agape-style philanthropy, but just the simplest details. Simplest, and the most basic qualities as a human being—thinking of the consequences my actions would bring about, seeking what seems right, and most importantly, valuing others' as I value mine.

After another bout of clashes at Jong-ro and classic denials on today's news (again!), I had to admit that, yes, those qualities are too much to ask for. They just cannot do it. So, I gave up and chose to not to be bothered for now.

Instead, I made a promise to myself for the rest of my life. The promise that I shall never be one of them.

However, I do not want to be indifferent. I would rather choose to be backed up with constant encouragement and fervent hopes, knowing that my actions could inspire others. One little thought, one decision, one person can drastically change everything.

The world will continue on changing for the better, if the inspired can do the same to others. It feels like we can brave anything if the warm-hearted begin to triumph over selfishness. If they can beat it up someday, that is enough for my scheme. 

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The Argus Prize 2019 English Essay Contest

Winners

- 1st place** Shim Yun-kyung (*Dept. of English Linguistics and Language Technology '18*)
2nd place Kang Hyeong-won (*Dept. of English Literature and Culture '18*)
3rd place Oh Ji-su (*School of English for Interpretation and Translation '17*)
-

Topics

- 1) Party Politics
 - 2) South Korea's Anti-abortion Law
 - 3) Burning Sun Gate
 - 4) US-China Trade War
-

Judgement Criteria

Content, Creativity, Logic and Fluency

In May, The Argus hosted the 2019 Essay Contest for HUFSA students. Undergraduate students wrote 800-word essays on one of the four topics: Party politics, South Korea's Anti-abortion Law, Burning Sun Gate and US-China Trade War. A great many students submitted their writings, showing their passion for English.

Two foreign HUFSA professors helped score the entries in accordance with seven criteria which included the ability to communicate a consistent idea and develop it in a logical and an organized manner. The essays were also graded on whether they abide by the style requirement, or the document format.

The Argus announced three awardees on May 24 via social media channels: Facebook and Instagram (@hufсарgus). The first, second and third place essays are published in the following pages. 📖



That Is Not the Point



Shim Yun-kyung

Dept. of English Linguistics
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Let me introduce you to Minerva. As an average Korean woman she fortunately grew up with no experience of sexual abuse of any kind. She also did not have any thorough sex education so she is not fully aware of protection methods or how unprotected sex potentially causes pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases. Unfortunately, Minerva represents the vast majority of Korean youth.

As a teen, she learns about sex through media like pornography and YouTube because her sex education at school is mostly occasional activities or lectures for only 17 to 34 hours a year. (Lee, 2016). As a young adult, she has a boyfriend who has also grown up receiving the same education. Minerva starts working at her new job when she realizes she is pregnant. She and her boyfriend are taken aback. She can barely afford to raise a child in Korea and she is hesitant to take maternity leave (An, Kwon, & Lee, 2018). She thought of abortion as many others do. According to Korea Institute for Health and Affairs, 33.4% said being troublesome in building a career, 32.9% said not being financially stable, 31.2% said not wanting a child were the multiple reasons for an abortion. Conditions that already allow abortion such as fatal health problems were around 10% and sexual abuse was 0.9% (Kim, 2019). By looking at Minerva, there are problems we all need to address.

Minerva thinks back to how she ended up pregnant. She did not realize the difference condom usage, cycle observation, and birth control medications could make. This is typical because even until university, students are constantly taught to maintain abstinence with no explanation or background information (Hur & Cho, 2007). This is because throughout their whole lives, Koreans have not been taught the practical do's and do not's of sex. We are raised with adults regarding sex as something shameful rather than natural and do not educate students on the risk of unprotected sex (Kim, 2014). In addition to protection and risks, we should learn to understand responsibilities equal of men and women of irresponsible sexual behavior, not allow abortion to compensate. Some people think that sex education is not that important at such a young age. However, the average age of first experience for university students across the country is 11 for men and 16 for women, the frequency of sexual relations reaches its climax around ages 20 and 21, and most importantly, only 24.9% of both men and women knew to use protection (Lee, 2010). Imagine how many pregnancies that could have been prevented without abortion operations. Sex education in Korea is failing to fulfill this efficacy. Allowing abortion for accidental pregnancies is implying that abortion is the inevitable result of ineffective sex education without pursuing improvement.

Also, women like Minerva cannot seem to easily decide to take maternity leave. By leaving, other workers will have to increase work time and more contract workers will be needed (An, Kwon & Lee, 2018). This is not her fault but women are indirectly blamed for being pregnant and causing complexities in the workplace. For a policy with the intentions of providing welfare to its female workers, pregnant women are not comfortable benefiting from it. No one tells a woman to leave or not to leave but not only does she feel guilty for leaving, she feels she will have disadvantages later. Being a woman was already a social disadvantage in getting a job. Missing almost a year in the workplace degrades her competitiveness and level of experience that

will not easily be recovered. This social inequality and pressure prompt women into thinking that pregnancy is a hindrance in building their career. The reality that women want abortion in response to social standards devaluing pregnant women should be enough to highlight the fundamental problems we really need to fix. Legal abortion for these problems will only postpone positive change.

What we are doing by legalizing abortion for pregnancies that are accidental and troublesome is taking the passive position. The first thing that we should be doing in regards to abortion is to analyze why so many women want it in the first place and how we can make amends properly. Abortion should not complement all the mistakes of sex education when it could have prevented countless unwanted pregnancies beforehand. It should not function as an escape route for numerous women who feel like they have to change in response to social stigma. Abortion will not change anything underneath the surface of the problems women face. In fact, women now and of the future generation will probably not recognize that they can change things and resort to abortion. Allowing legal abortion is a haphazard solution, neglecting the big picture, and besides the point.



Trade War, a Clash Between Two Economic Tycoons



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The United States and China are acknowledged as nations ahead of the curve with the largest economic scales of the contemporary era. However, a closer analysis of the two nations' economic status indicates that the U.S. have been recording a continuous trade deficit over the past decade, whereas China has seen an exponential growth in trade benefits. The focal cause to such contrasting economic performances lies within the trading relationship between Washington and Beijing. The revenue made from exporting American goods to China was far outweighed by importations of Chinese products. Donald Trump had always expressed hostility towards Chinese economic policies, and imposing a 45 percent tariff on Chinese products was one of his pledges during the election campaign. Finally, in the turn of March, 2018, the tension between the two nations ignited into a full-scale trade battle. Being entitled as the greatest economic war in history, it is significant to gain insight on this ongoing economic war.

Trump's signing of executive order to invade Chinese economy in the March of 2018 marks the official beginning of this trade war. In an attempt to decrease trade deficits by 375 billion U.S. dollars, Trump had targeted to end China's illegal subsidies, overproduction, and possibly, currency manipulation. On July 6, the U.S. imposed a 25 percent tariff on 34 billion dollars' worth of Chinese products, a bold move that declared an actual strike on China's economy. These products included steel, aluminum and agricultural goods which were China's primary trade goods. In response, China imposed the same percentage of tariff on 34 billion dollars' worth of American products, clearly indicating a vindictive motive. By August, an additional 16 billion dollars' worth of products were set with 25 percent tariffs on respective nations. The process

only aggravates as the U.S. imposes a 10 percent tariff on the greatest number of products in trade history, an amount that adds up to over 200 billion dollars' worth. By levying tariff on an additional 60 billion dollars' worth of U.S. products, China endeavors to stand up against Trump's uncompromising pressure. However, as the U.S. importation revenue overpowers that of China by 300 billion dollars, there were no existing trading goods left for China to put tariffs on. Finally, on Dec. 2 of 2018, the two countries reach a truce agreement where no more tariffs are set for the duration of 90 days, under the circumstance that existing tariffs are not removed.

Several observational points are being highlighted regarding the negotiation of trading terms between Washington and Beijing. As the U.S. holds advantage of tariffs set on 140 billion dollars' worth of products more than China, Xi-Jinping is hoping to conclude at an agreement as soon as possible. However, using the upper-hand, Washington is pressing Beijing with some aggressive clauses. First of all, Trump has required the Chinese government to stop the funding of state-owned oil enterprises, and to alter them into private corporates. This can be understood as American intervention into China's political fundamentals, a challenge against China's communist governing system. In addition, opening up Chinese Internet industries has been demanded, allowing foreign-invested enterprises including Facebook, YouTube and Google to position themselves in Chinese servers. Moreover, an institution to confirm that terms and conditions of the negotiation is being properly implemented is to be installed within China. This signifies the strengthening of American surveillance, a provision that the Chinese are strongly refuting against. Such humiliating clauses ultimately lead to the degrading of the nation and its leader's prestige, which is why this negotiation is considered a very sensitive matter.

With the continuing ambiguity of this trade war, World Trade Organization (WTO) has indicated that global GDP is predicted to decrease significantly, with South Korea's GDP dropping by almost 0.65 percent. Uncertainty is discouraging global investors from releasing capital, which is a serious problem to global economic development. The Chinese have decreased their target economic growth rate by 6 percent, whereas the U.S has revealed to have experienced a 0.04 percent loss of national GDP. It is fair to say that this ongoing trade war is extremely detrimental to world economy, and that in the eyes of the global community, the trade war must come to an end. The world is at its attention as the two economic superpowers clash against each other.



The Messed-up Great Gatsby in Korea



Oh Ji-su

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"The Fermi Paradox," an article written by Tim Urban, refers modern humans dwelling on Earth as "highly intelligent beings." Also, he presents the readers with a hypothesis that humans might be the "only" intelligent beings in the observable universe that is measured to be about more than 27.4 billion light years across. After a thorough reading of the article, one would ponder about a question like this: So, what exactly differentiates us "rare intelligent beings" from the non-intelligent prokaryotes and eukaryotes? Among numerous and seemingly endless probable claims, "the ability to control one's desire or to make rational decisions" sounds like

a persuasive standard in making such distinction. Even Sigmund Freud would agree with this opinion with a comment like, “Human beings, not suffering from mental diseases or illnesses, should be fine in controlling one’s ID with one’s Ego and Superego.” Well, this was not the case for the “should-be intelligent beings” related to the Burning Sun Club Scandal.

The truth of the nonsense that took place at the Burning Sun Club was underneath the surface hidden before a man known as Kim Sang-kyo reported on his social media that he was attacked at the club on Jan. 28, 2019 when Seung-ri was on staff as the publicity director. The next day, Burning Sun responded to the news of the assault by accusing Kim for making attempts to harass women. Kim’s case of sexual harassment was sent to the public prosecutor’s office whereas the club director who supposedly had abused Kim was not accused of anything for lack of evidence. Later, the CEO of Burning Sun Lee Moon-ho responded to the controversy by firing Jang, or the club’s director, who assaulted Kim. Alongside with Moon’s action, Seung-ri, who self-claimed that he had low level of involvement with Burning Sun management, apologized on his Instagram for the issue related to the Burning Sun Club and made sure that he would be ‘more careful’ about everything next time. The scandal seemed to end peacefully.

However, the time-bomb hidden somewhere in the Burning Sun Club exploded when a group Kakaotalk chat that supposedly contained around 200,000 messages regarding Seungri’s prostitution scandal as well as hidden sex tape in Jung Joon-young’s cell phone was revealed. The prostitution scandal was just the tip of the iceberg. More serious problems seemed to lie far below the surface. To clarify, the group Kakaotalk chat also displayed ridiculous crimes regarding sexual assault, prostitution, drug distribution, tax evasion, hidden camera footage and police corruption with involvement of many famous celebrities such as Eddy Kim, Roy Kim, and so on. Surprisingly, Seung-ri, who supposedly embezzled 530 million won from the Burning Sun club and procured a dozen prostitutes for his investors, has avoided jail for now as the Seoul court rejected to issue a warrant. The reason was clear: “lack of evidence.”

As a citizen of Korea, a mixed emotion of glee, indignation, and sorrow stirred in one corner of my heart when the controversies around the Burning Sun Club Scandal went viral. At last, people were beginning to realize how serious the problem sexual crimes are! For so many years, female victims involved in sexual crimes such as sexual harassments, rape, and hidden sex tape videos had to weep silently and were offered little or no help. Due to the lack of awareness of how serious those problems were, so many of their cases were not notified to the audience and the jury of the world. Thankfully, as more people have been shouting out for women’s equal treatments these days, more awareness regarding sexual crimes have been raised. The feeling of glee acquired from such fact, however, plunges down and reaches the feeling of indignation and sorrow when realizing the gruesome fact that, still, numerous cases regarding sexual crimes are not being tackled down properly. It is not only the celebrities who are committing such crimes but could be anyone around us. In fact, there are hundreds of sex tape videos posted on illegal sites with millions of viewers! Yet, due to “lack of evidence”, criminals still walk around our neighborhood feeling unguilty whereas the victims shiver under their bedcovers “feeling” the unnecessary guilt. Alas, is it in the human nature to enjoy others’ pain?

People related to the Burning Sun Club may have fantasized the Great Gatsby’s party, but what they have dreamed of was no fantasy. It was just full of grim chaos. Plato once mentioned that a nation or a society’s goal should be to create a ‘well-being’ society. For certain, things that happened in the Burning Sun Club Scandal are epidemic plague spread by the non-intelligent eukaryotes that is very detrimental to the wellness of a society, and so should be tackled ‘as soon as possible.’

Where Is Your Happy Place?

Everyone has a place where they can forget about their stress.
Mine is on the boat. Where is yours?





Moon Chae-un



I remember the days when I used to desperately wish to be all grown up. Dreams of sleeping outside at night without my mom's permission; dreams of going to my desired university; dreams of being old enough to obtain a driving license. Basically, dreams of everything I can do when I am all "grown up." It is not long before I realized that growing up is never easy. A lot of times I fell off a cliff, things did not go well, and my work had been devalued and marginalized or ignored. However, I have come to a point in life where I realize the fact I am where I am now because of a past decision and action—and look where it brought me! It is now going to shape my future, and it would not have been possible if it were not for The Argus. Thank you to all of you whom I get the privilege to work with each day. My sincere gratitude towards all for making me who I am right now. It feels truly surreal that this is going to be my last "official" issue working with The Argus, but my nostrils quiver at the thought of starting another chapter of my life outside of The Argus. So long, everyone!



Kwak Hyun-jeong



"I am afraid of everything. I am not by nature a profound thinker, and I take little interest in such questions as the life beyond the grave, the destiny of humanity, and, in fact, I am rarely carried away to the heights. What chiefly frightens me is the common routine of life from which none of us can escape. I am incapable of distinguishing what is true and what is false in my actions, and they worry me. I recognize that education and the conditions of life have imprisoned me in a narrow circle of falsity, that my whole life is nothing else than a daily effort to deceive myself and other people, and to avoid noticing it; and I am frightened at the thought that to the day of my death I shall not escape from this falsity. To-day I do something and to-morrow I do not understand why I did it."

- 『Terror』 Anton Pavlovich Chekov



Oh Ju-young



This semester also has passed all too soon; the June issue was finished in no time.

The time I spent with The Argus was so special that I will never forget these moments.

As a reporter, I met many people who positively influence society, and from them, I gained enlightenment. Furthermore, I felt that I improved throughout my stint as a cub reporter, helping to prepare and write articles. Above all, I was lucky to meet my colleagues through The Argus. We have spent a lot of time together writing articles, attending every meeting, eating and chatting, etc. There are so many things The Argus family does together and I cannot list all of them. Anyways, for these reasons, I really wish to express my thanks to The Argus. Lastly, I want to express thanks to the readers who read our issues and kept an interest in what we do here at the Argus. The Argus is always trying to publish good articles; please give us lots of support!



Na Geum-chaе



Do not forget the glare of the day when we were "us." You and me back then. It was more like an illusion than a dream. Do not worry. I will cherish the memories of us, to help me remember the season when we part company. I just want you to know that I meant it. Bye.

Fine Dust: Is It Fine?—The Devil's Advocate on Avocado—Chilgung: Traces of the Seven Royal Concubines—The Man Who Started It All: Iron Man. I am always grateful to my fellow reporters, experts and readers who make my article perfect. Last but not least, thank you very much for your help, Kwan-ho.



Kim Min-ji



I have already written the last article of the first semester of 2019. Since February, I have had ups and downs while working as a culture reporter for The Argus. I would like to express my gratitude to my fellow reporters for their unwavering advice and support whenever I faced a problem. Also, I sincerely hope the readers read my articles with interest. My experience as a reporter of The Argus will remain the most rewarding memory of my school life.



Park Chang-hwan



Springtime lethargy hits me like a bus. I lack the energy to do anything and fell into a period of depression. I look outside, and see the world, green and teeming with life. Then, I look within: zip, nada. Nothing really changed, and I am just me, really. I feel void of life, though. The gap between the outside world and my reality pushes me into the deepest recesses of myself. I wonder how far I can fall. The fall is perpetual, as the world becomes greener and brighter, and I become the antithesis. When the burning contrast tears at the bonds that hold me together, time stops. Like a boomerang returning, my state of being rushes back to life. The fiery energy of youth finds me, again and I am rejuvenated. I am catapulted from my state of depression into the highest high, beyond where I used to be, all the way to the horizon. Spring does not mean me any harm. Spring lets me know how precious it is. Spring gives me the most life.



Jang Yu-jin



This semester, time really passed by quickly. I cannot believe the time to finish up my duties as a reporter at The Argus is coming to an end. I hope that the articles that I have written in the meantime have given a lot of joy to the readers. As I wrote this last article and looked back at my works in The Argus, many memories flashed through my mind. In the beginning of this semester, I felt a lot of pressure as an associate editor, but I could experience so many valuable things thanks to my position.

Activities and duties that I undertook for The Argus occupied a very big part of my university life. I will never forget the precious and happy experiences in The Argus.



Jang Soo-hyun



My largest takeaway from this semester would be my mental breakdowns. Although it may sound odd, I actually learned three valuable insights from my breakdowns. The first thing I learned is that it is very easy to have a breakdown. The second thing was learning how to get back up. Every individual has their own way of finding their way back up, and I found mine through my experiences here at The Argus. The last thing I learned is that there are going to be continuous challenges from here and beyond, and time is too precious to waste it on what is already over.



Kim Tae-young



Just stop your crying
It is a sign of the times
Welcome to the final show
Hope you are wearing your best clothes
Remember everything will be alright
We can meet again somewhere
Somewhere far away from here
-“Sign of The Times” Harry Styles



The Argus

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