

The Argus

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Since 1954



COVID-19 IS AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE

CAUSED BY THE 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-NCoV), WITH AN ESTIMATED DEATH RATE OF TWO PERCENT, SYMPTOMS INCLUDE FEVER, COUGHING, MUSCLE PAIN, SHORTNESS OF BREATH, AND TIREDNESS. THE VIRUS SPREADS FROM PERSON TO PERSON, FORCING THE MASSES TO COVER THEIR FACES WITH MASKS. LEVELY CITY STREETS ARE NOW A MAJOR BARRIER TO MINIMIZE HUMAN CONTACT. THE VIRUS HOLDS OUR LIVELIHOODS HOSTAGE. HAS THE WHITE RIDER GRACED US WITH HIS PRESENCE?

DECLARE THE
PAST
DIAGNOSE THE
PRESENT
FORETELL THE
FUTURE

-HIPPOCRATES-

The Argus

ESTABLISHED 1954

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Editorial

When a cough is not just a cough

What a confounding winter it was. Masks were on, coughs everywhere. It was indeed sobering to hear that in just under a month, a new coronavirus called 2019-nCoV continued its relentless march outward from the Chinese city of Wuhan, sparking fear and anxiety throughout mainland China and across the globe. Apparently, in the wrath of a deadly airborne virus, people frantically panicked and steered clear of contact with anyone who is sick. Those who cough or sneeze when riding the subway or a bus got a glare with a snarl; Asian overseas students were said to face jokes, stares, isolation on campus, and rejected by their homestays; stores posted signs telling customers that Chinese are not welcome; every airline suspended direct flights in and out of Wuhan, no longer accepting bookings as well. They even intensified entry port screenings and virus-hit cities were under unprecedented quarantines orders; Wuhan residents even shouted out from social media that they are in desperate need of help, describing real-life challenges under the lockdown.

Amid escalating fears of this public health disaster, the irony is that problems remain with China's attempts to control the flow of information, as they are now being heavily criticized for clamping down on information about the severity of the viral disease. The authorities even arrested and muzzled a group of eight individuals who expressed dissenting views about how Wuhan officials handled the coronavirus. They were accused of being rumour-mongers who spread misinformation on the internet without verification. While this modern-day plague outbreak sickens thousands with severe respiratory ailment and tragically has killed thousands, public faith and regular communication are urgent. Still, it is said that the information that has spilled out of China so far is incomplete. What more could there be? Everything worsened from the start of the four-day Lunar New Year holiday, the world's largest annual human migration, overlapping with the peak of the flu season between December and February. That means—the worst may be yet to come.

Is this first horseman on the horizon an outrider for the coming Apocalypse, providing us the end scenario to envision? Over the entire course of our history, disease has been one of the most powerful agents of human tragedy. This semester, The Argus plans to clarify mysteries of the “four horsemen”—four looming threats that endanger 21st-century progress and imperil 21st-century possibilities. In this first issue of 2020, we start with “pestilence,” warning our readers that our world is edging closer to the point of no return. 

By Kwak Hyun-jeong
Editor-in-Chief

Kwak Hyunjeong

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>> It is no exaggeration to say that human history is a history of struggle. Humans have constantly fought for freedom, for equality, for justice, and what lies at the root of all these acts is survival and reproduction. The urge to survive and the desire to make the world a better place inspired people to undertake innovation. Ironically, however, humans had no choice but to join hands with some diseases during the progress, and the consensus at the time was passed down to their offspring. In this March issue, The Argus follows the track of evolutionary pressures that had been exerted on our ancestors and delves into the tenacious ties between humans and diseases.

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RC Program Begins This March

HUFS is going to start the “Residential College Program (RC)” at the Global Campus during the of Economics and Business, College of Natural Sciences, and College of Engineering in March 2020.

RC is English immersion education. Every RC participant needs to live in a dormitory. The program will provide additional education on existing English-Zone programs.

There is no criteria for the selection of participating colleges. Kim Shin-woo, a student of the Dept. of Linguistics and Cognitive Science ‘15, said, “RC needs participants to live in the dorms. It reduces dormitory vacancies for people who do not participate in RC. He added, “It is inefficient.”

Professor Lee Jin-hwan, the head professor at the Foreign Language Education Center at the Global Campus, who is in charge of the program, said, “The system is suitable for HUFS, a leader of foreign language education, and it will help out economically troubled freshmen with dormitory rent, while some of them will be allowed to reside elsewhere by going through a separate consultation process.”

By Kim Do-kyung
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GSC Demands Direct Election at HUFS



©GSC

▲ “From the Dawn” is pushing for direct election by putting up a banner on the Social Science Building.

The General Student Council (GSC) of the Seoul campus, “From the Dawn,” is supporting the plan for adopting the system for the direct election of the president of HUFS.

The GSC criticized the existing election style as outdated and unfair, where

the council of professors elect two candidates and the board appoints one of them. Unlike the current method, the GSC insisted on the direct election of the president by student vote to guarantee the rights of students. This procedure is used at Seoul National University, Ehwa Womans University, and others.

Kim Na-hyun, the president of the GSC, said, “The current system is absolutely ignoring the university’s main constituent, the students. If the school does not accept our appropriate demand, ‘From the Dawn’ will fight against the undemocratic and illogical school authorities through an indefinite hunger strike.”

By Yoo Chan-heum
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HUFS Takes One Step Forward in the Era of AI



©metanetworks

▲ AI technology is in the spotlight as one of the key elements of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

HUFS Seoul Campus establishes “Artificial Intelligence Convergence” (AI major) as one of the second major tracks. This is the result of a good mix of national demand and HUFS’ humanities-focused curriculum.

The South Korean government has adopted "Human-centered AI" as its national strategy and has been asking for talented people who can combine both science and humanities. As this social trend goes in line with with the educational philosophy of HUFS, it has decided to found the AI major which mingles computer science and engineering with social and foreign studies.

HUFS is planning to actively expand and develop the AI major as a HUFS-specialized course and strategic major in the era of Fourth Industrial Revolution. The same major will later be opened in the Global Campus, and the Software Convergence Major and Language and Technology track will be integrated into the AI major.

By Na Geum-chaе
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HUFS Alumnus Bae Dong-hyun Makes Monumental Donation



©HUFS NEWS

▲ “Alumnus Bae Dong-hyun (L) and HUFs President Kim In-cheol pose for a picture during the ceremony.

On Jan. 17, HUFs held a ceremony to celebrate Chang Sung Group Vice President and HUFs alumnus Bae Dong-hyun’s contribution of 100 million won (\$83,600 USD) to the HUFs development fund. Held in the Lee Deok-sun Conference Room, the function was put together in appreciation of the alumnus’ act of charity and love for his alma mater.

Director Lee Jae-won of HUFs Fundraising and Cooperation Team kicked off the event saying, “It is an honor to officiate the ceremony of 2020’s first development fund donation.” HUFs President Kim In-cheol said, “Vice President Bae Dong-hyun of Chang Sung Group outstandingly bears the values of our university.” Gratefully, he added, “We recognize the significance of Mr. Bae’s generous contribution. We thank him for his New Year’s decision to donate 100 million won out of love for his alma mater.”

Alumnus Bae remarked, “It is meaningful that I can express in this way the gratitude I have always felt for my alma mater while operating Chang Sung. I hope that HUFs continues to develop as a school that nurtures global talent and contributes even more to our nation and the world.”

Key members of the school faculty and Chang Sung Group participated in this event.

Mr. Bae Dong-hyun graduated HUFs as a Business Administration major and stands out as a businessman who faithfully performs the social duty of an enterprise. In addition to this donation, Bae contributes to the training of future talent. He established and is currently running the Chang Sung Scholarship committee. He also established the first private enterprise-sponsored Nordic Ski team for the para athletes and was South Korea’s chef de mission to the Pyeongchang Paralympics. 🇰🇷

By Park Chang-hwan
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Novel Coronavirus Disrupts Schools Year



©Park Chang-hwan/The Argus

▲ A notice was posted at the entrance of every HUFs building prohibiting the entrance of people who have recently visited China or are showing symptoms of the coronavirus.

On Feb. 6, HUFs officially announced the delay of the start of the spring semester by two weeks due to the threat of the coronavirus. Key school events including the entrance and graduation ceremonies were cancelled or postponed.

HUFs investigated the number of students and faculty who visited China after Jan. 13. HUFs required that these people self-quarantine themselves for two weeks to make certain that the coronavirus’ incubation period had passed. No one associated to HUFs has shown symptoms of the illness or has been infected with the virus as of writing this article(Feb. 12).

Among the cancelled programs were all “7+1” and exchange programs to China scheduled for the 2020 spring semester. The Office of International Affairs is working to make sure damage to student academics regarding this matter is minimized during this ordeal.

At HUFs, an Emergency Committee was established to deal with the issue at hand. The General Student Council, uninvited, tried to participate in one of the committee’s meetings, but was not welcomed.

In China, the Spring Festival holidays were extended by ten days to prevent the virus from spreading further. According to Moon Chae-un, Dept. of Russian ‘17, a HUFsan in the Guangdong province during this period, shops remained unopened and streets remained empty, with the Chinese government strictly monitoring mask usage and scanning body temperatures on public transportation. 🇰🇷

By Park Chang-Hwan
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News Briefing

By Kwak Hyun-jeong
Editor-in-Chief

#I Am Not a Virus, I Am a Human

The outbreak of the coronavirus epidemic has shown the potential to violate human rights. French national newspaper Le Courier Picard used incendiary headlines such as “Alerte jaune” (Yellow alert) and “Le peril jaune?” (Yellow peril?), both paired with a photograph of a masked Asian-looking woman. Outraged Asians in France have created the hashtag #JeNeSuisPasUnVirus (I am not a virus) to eradicate the prejudice, criticizing the racists who acted out of fear of the coronavirus. The virus may have started out from a bat, but it seems to be that the main agent turning our daily life into a dystopian science-fiction movie, is human.



Tokyo 2020: The Radioactive Olympics

Amidst the excitement of the summer Olympics in July, South Korea worries that the contaminated produce from Fukushima may be served to the athletes. The four-month torch relay will begin from March 26 and pass Fukushima. In 2011, Japan experienced nuclear meltdowns as a magnitude 9 earthquake and tsunami hit the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant's cooling systems, forcing 160,000 people to evacuate the area. Tokyo 2020 organizers have branded their Olympics to convey a narrative of recovery and normality, but its safety is greatly disputed. Masses of population, especially the inhabitants of irradiated regions, are expected to be exposed to extreme health risk. As a result, at the very least, the athletes from South Korea plan to bring radiation detectors and their own food during the Games.



Lowering Voting Age

The legal voting age in South Korea has been reduced from 19 to 18, allowing high school seniors to take part in the upcoming general election on April 15. South Korea was the only OECD country where the voting age was above 18.



Donald Trump's Border Wall Faces Embarrassing Fall

A segment of the infamous 3,000-kilometre-long U.S.-Mexico border fence between the Californian town of Calexico and Mexicali, Mexico toppled under strong gusts of wind of up to 37 miles per hour on Jan. 29, 2020. The barrier was built to keep President Trump's 2016 signature campaign promise to ban the invasion of undocumented migrants. The construction crew was half-way done, but the concrete had not yet hardened.

Previously, Mr. Trump had a long government shutdown, demanding Democrats to sign off for \$5.7 billion USD bill in federal funds for his "big, beautiful" wall. No one was injured during the fall-down, but Trump is faced with widespread mockery from his opponents. Tom Steyer, a Democratic presidential candidate, quoted Trump bragging about the wall's infrastructure on Twitter, "I own buildings. I'm a builder; I know how to build. Nobody can build like I can build. Nobody. And the builders in New York will tell you that. I build the best product."



©STR/AFP/Getty Images

Difficulties as Trauma Surgeon

Dr. Lee Guk-jong, a leading surgeon in South Korea, expressed his intentions to resign from his position as the head of the regional trauma center at the Ajou University Hospital on Jan 20. Lee kept on admitting that his hospital had been misusing government subsidies while they gave no support and assigned no sickbeds for patients to the trauma center. While trauma patients are in need of being hospitalized longer than ordinary patients, the center is in the red.



©loongang Ilbo

A Conservative Political Party Fusses over Fiction-based Soap Opera

On Jan. 22, the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency reported that The Christian Liberal Party sued Cable channel tvN's romantic-comedy series "Crash Landing on You," for violating the National Security Law (NSA). The story is basically one of the overused subjects in South Korean entertainment: North Korea. As the drama spotlights heroic acts of North Korean officers and portrays a normal or somehow ideal life in North Korea, this party claims that the citizens may be provoked, unable to differentiate who the enemies are.



©tvN

The Fate of South Korea's First Transgender Soldier

Transgender soldier Byun Hui-soo (22), who joined the army as a man, insisted on continuing her service in the female corps after undergoing gender reassignment surgery in Thailand last August. However, the military decided to discharge her as they saw her loss of male genitalia as a mental and physical handicap, proving South Korea still remains sexually conservative.



©The Telegraph

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Creating HUFSSan Culture at Imun 107



“107, Imun-ro, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea 02450”

By Park Chang-hwan

Editor of Theory & Critique Section

107 is a number that holds a special place in HUFSSans’ hearts. It is the address we saw when we first received our acceptance letters. It is the address we, as excited freshmen, searched for when visiting the Seoul Campus for the very first time. It has become a number that represents the growth and experiences of our college years. Last November, this number was imbued even more meaning when the multi-purpose café Imun 107 opened in the place of the HUFSS bookstore Oedae Seorim.

Is it just a café? Is it still a bookstore? Or is it a lecture hall? Performance stage? Try all four. The Argus introduces to readers this novel space at the Seoul Campus that is not a café per se, but a store that offers culture.

Imun 107 is a place of healing and shared values

According to its homepage, Imun 107 is where we rediscover unchanging cultural values that help us live our busy and stressful lives. The meaning of the café's name is twofold. First, it stands for leisure in HUFS college life. HUFSSans are often swamped with schoolwork and job searching. The space is a retreat from all this, reminding us that we need to relax sometimes. Second, the name stands for regional community. Imun is not the identity of just HUFSSans, but also of our neighbors. They are just as welcome to the store as HUFSSans are.

The manager of Imun 107, Hwang Ju-yeon (42), said, "This is a place for everyone. By accommodating both HUFSSans and the Imun neighborhood, we hope to bring the local community together. We just want people to visit and enjoy culture."

Hwang explained further, "This is a place aimed to suit all the cultural needs a person can have. If it is coffee that you are looking for, there is a café. If it is reading that you want to do, there are books. For music, we provide weekly performances. For life improvement, we hold lectures every week. The best thing? The programs themselves are free."

What People Can Do at Imun 107

Drink a hot cup of tea as you study, chat or relax

Like many of the cafés surrounding HUFS, there is a place for people to study. People can plug in their chargers and study away. There are seats that resemble a study hall for those that want to quietly study. A bit apart from this area, there are seats for people to sit and chat.

The café offers a wide range of beverages and a selection of sandwiches. It is a refreshing change from the rather clinical bookstore that once stood in the café's place.



▲ The aroma of coffee flows out from the café booth.

©Park Chang-hwan/The Argus



▲ People can freely read the books on the shelves.

Get comfy and read the latest book

Once you get yourself a nice cup of tea, you will notice the shelves are full of books. These books are there for everyone to read, free of charge.

While it is true that the café now replaces the university bookstore Odae Seorim, the bookstore was mainly active during the start of the spring and fall semesters. At the beginning of each semester, students would queue up to buy their textbooks for the semester. After the shift from the Seorim to Imun 107, there was a significant reduction in book space, and the space can no longer hold all the books it once offered. In consideration of this, during seasons of peak demand, Imun 107 will temporarily expand its selection of books and function as a proper bookstore.

Enjoy a nice performance

Imun 107 has made it an objective to schedule at least one or two professional performances every week. The performers range from amateurs to professionals. The schedule for these performances can be checked on Imun 107's website.

The chance to perform is open to all HUFSSans, as well. The HUFSS Club Association, a.k.a. HUFSSCA, provided a bridge between the café and HUFSS clubs when they requested that HUFSS Philharmonic (HUFSSPhil) perform for Imun 107 back in November 2019. HUFSSPhil, the university orchestra and acoustic music club, sent members to perform.

HUFSSPhil member Lee Bu-yun, Division of Media and Communication '18, a HUFSSan who performed at Imun 107, said regarding the space, "It was nice to perform in such a relaxed and open atmosphere. The cozy space allowed me to connect with the audience, and it was delightful when people who noticed my performance from outside the café came in to check out what was going on."

The new grand piano, according to an anonymous source, was not in great condition, and background noise during performances does exist. However, downsides aside, HUFSS now caters to another key aspect life: music.



▲ Lee Bu-yun of HUFSSPhil performs for the Imun 107 audience.

©Lee Bu-yun

©Park Chang-hwan/The Argus



▲ People can make reservations to use the lecture halls in the café.

Nurture your mind

There are two lecture rooms in Imun 107. These rooms can be reserved for anything ranging from formal meetings to language exchanges to casual get-togethers. When reserving, people can pre-order food from the café for convenience.

People can also participate in lectures that are held weekly. The schedule for lectures can also be checked online.

This is our space

HUFSSans are excited that there is now a place for culture at HUFSS. HUFSSPhil member Lee says, "It is profound that HUFSS, even with its limited space, finally has a place for culture. I am ecstatic that there is another place where HUFSSPhil can perform."

This space for culture is undoubtedly hard to come by. A 24-year-old male Imun 107 customer, requesting anonymity, said, "It is definitely different from the other cafés around HUFSS. The potpourri of music performances, lectures, books, and coffee gives me a sense of freedom. I can study if I want, watch a performance, and then read a book. Where else can I do that in one place?"

It is indeed freedom. Visitors can choose what to make of the space. There is, however, one concern. Manager Hwang said, "Not enough people know a place like this exists. We are excited to serve the cultural needs of people, but I wish more people could participate. We have so much to offer."

Hwang points out the lack of participation in the yet ongoing promotion efforts. Hwang explained, "We have not reached out to enough people yet." There are plans to promote the café with the help of both Dongdaemun-gu and Seoul governments.

Space has always been a limited resource at the Seoul Campus, and the fact that HUFSS tried to make room for a culture hub shows what an important part of life culture is.

More importantly, however, the place is what we HUFSSans and our Imun neighbors make of it. When we participate and add our individuality to the collective value of Imun 107, we are celebrating not just the meaning of the café, but the culture of our local society. The Argus hopes that its readers truly make the best out of this platform. 📧

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Your 20s in the 20s

What would your 2010 self think about your 2020 self?

By **Park Chang-hwan**

Editor of Theory & Critique Section

The decade of 2010 marked vast advancements in technology and lifestyle. Social movements, shifts in paradigms, and a flurry of significant events made the world a completely different place. Ten years ago, just like we had no idea of knowing how the world was going to change, we had no idea how we were going to change. The Argus asks HUFSSans what their 2010 selves would think about their selves now and gives readers a chance to reflect on their 2010s.

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Park Ji-hoon

(Division of Chinese Foreign Affairs and Commerce '17)

If my middle school self of 2010 saw my current self, he would think there was immense change. I was immature and did not know what embarrassment was. Now, I act carefully, self-conscious and mindful of others. I lived in obedience to my parents and teachers; but now, I know what I want, and make plans accordingly. I am in the process of getting to know myself.

In 2010, I felt that people in their 20s were adults, but now in my 20s, I have no idea what it means to be an adult. I still do not know whether I am an adult or not. I often wonder, "Do people in their 30s think of themselves as adults?"

I like my current self, but I have no way of knowing if the experiences that lay ahead of me will change me into someone else. All I hope for is that I accept these changes gracefully (or naturally) and for that change to exert a good influence on the people around me.



Lee Jun-woo

(Dept. of Scandinavian Languages '14)

Before anything else, I would be proud of the fact that I am doing something I really like and I am good at. My 2010 self used to think that I was too ordinary. I have now figured it out. I know what I am good at and what my talent is. Moreover, I am recognized for what I am good at and who I am. I reckon this very fact will give me of ten years ago a form of confidence.



Lee Sang-gi
(College of Business Administration '17)



In 2010, I was an ordinary middle schooler who liked soccer. In 2020, I am still ordinary – an ordinary university student on my way back to school after my military service – and I still like soccer. Getting into college and getting through the military service are two rather ordinary worries, but my 2020 self has nevertheless overcome these worries. My 2010 self would deem this praiseworthy. Also, he would know that the decade that faces me will be more challenging than the decade that has passed and hope that I work harder.

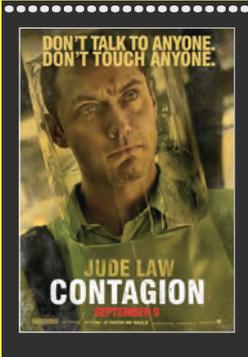
Jang Soo-hyun
(Division of International Studies '18)



In 2010, I was in the 7th grade, attending Longfellow Middle School in Fairfax, Virginia. As a middle school student, I was often pressured by a sense of belonging to a group of friends. I wanted to be prettier, I wanted to be skinner, and I wanted to dye my hair all for the reason of being more acceptable. It was after I entered university that I realized I enjoy spending time alone, and it is actually okay to spend time alone. I do not feel the necessity to belong as I used to when I was in middle school. If my 2010 self could see my 2020 self, I hope she would realize that she should learn to love herself just the way she is.

This month, in Pestilence...

©Movie Posters Archive



Contagion

Addressing a concept of a doomsday scenario is even more relevant these days. Steven Soderbergh's film, "Contagion," has gone viral due to its unusually accurate depiction of our reality.

Dr. Erin Mears: "Dr. Cheever, I think I'm sick."

Dr. Ellis Cheever: "What? What's going on? What kind of symptoms do you have?"

Dr. Erin Mears: "Can't swallow, severe headache."

Dr. Ellis Cheever: "What's your temperature?"

Dr. Erin Mears: "101.8. I've definitely infected other people..."

It portrays the outbreak of a deadly virus, MEV-1, which was modeled off a combination of the influenza and Nipah virus—a bat-to-pig-to-human infection identified 22 years ago in Malaysia. Millions die, and society shuts down. The Chinese SARS of 2003, H1N1 swine flu in 2009, MERS coronavirus in 2012 and 2015, Ebola in 2014, and recent 2019-nCoV outbreak. What comes next?



©Warner Bros/Shutterstock

©Z-Man Games



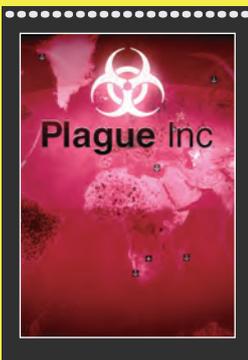
Pandemic

Pandemic is a cooperative board game in which players work as a team to treat infections. Because viruses flourish in cities all over the world every moment, and the speed of disease spread gets accelerated, players have to make an all-out effort in developing cures. The occurrence of unexpected events during the game is similar to that of the actual pandemic. Last winter, we came up against the harsh reality of life: the 2019-20 Wuhan coronavirus outbreak. Just as Pandemic players agonize and consult together to win the game, the reporter hopes that governments, agencies, and individuals jointly take more effective and thorough actions to prevent further damage.



©Z-Man Games

©Ndemc Creations



Plague Inc.

Infect and annihilate the world with your pathogen. Evolve the disease and work against human effort to overcome the cure! Published by UK-based game developer Ndemc Creations, Plague Inc. is a real-time strategy simulation game where the player creates and evolves a pathogen with the objective of killing all human beings. Though such a game seems insensitive amid the coronavirus scare, it hit the charts in the AppStore. Perhaps it is only natural that we are drawn to this game. The simulation shows how easily a sickness can infect the world, reminding us to be ever more cautious.



©Steam



Classic Blue
19-4052



©Pantone

**DO YOU SEE
WHAT I SEE**
?

By Park Chang-hwan

Editor of Theory & Critique Section

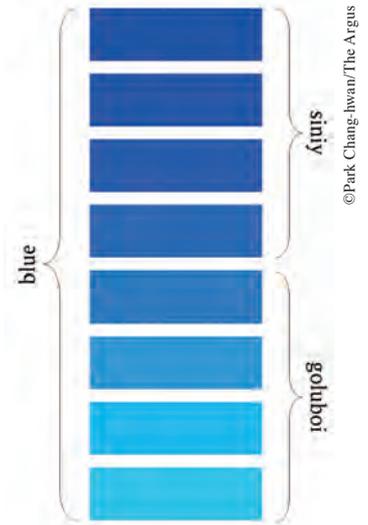
Pantone's 2020 Color of the Year is "Classic Blue." According to Pantone's description, it "instills calm, confidence, and connection." Classic Blue brings us back to the basics and anchors us. The color's purpose is to give us peace of mind and body as we enter the tumultuous new decade. The Pantone Color of the Year will be noticeable all throughout this year, as Pantone's reaches in anything color-related stretches far and wide.

This color may not leave the same impression on all who perceive it, however. In the field of cognitive linguistics, it has been repeatedly concluded that color perception is deeply related to the language one speaks. That is, a speaker of one language perceives color differently from a speaker of another language. This difference is also applicable in the difference between vernacular language. The Argus sheds light on this factor and the relativity of how one sees the world.

Wait, we see colors differently?

A speaker of one language may perceive the color spectrum differently from a speaker of another language. This is not to say that when one person sees red, another person sees an entirely different color like green. The difference in perception is in the way people label the color spectrums. People see the same colors, but some languages simply divide the color spectrum with more terms than others. For example, while English speakers have just one everyday word for the color blue, Russian speakers have two – *siniy*, a lighter blue and *goluboi*, a darker blue. In a way, Russian lacks a single term for blue, which forces its speakers to differentiate between hues of blue.

Some languages have significantly fewer everyday words for color than English does. The Tsimané, an indigenous tribe in Bolivia do not distinguish colors as well as English speakers or Spanish speakers. A 2017 research article titled “Color naming across languages reflects color use” (Gibson et al.) revealed that Tsimané speakers had trouble coming to a consensus on many of the colors English speakers can easily distinguish, such as blue and green. Other than black, white, and red, Tsimané speakers had troubling agreeing on color terms used to describe various colors. The study suggests cultural aspects of language play a role in color naming.



▲ The range of colors considered blue in English is divided into two colors in Russian.

©Park Chang-hwan/The Argus

Other factors that may affect color perception

Profession

The difference in color perception can also root from what use a person has for color. Sohn Yu-jin, a 22-year-old artist residing in Sangsu-dong, says, “Artists tend to know more color terms because it is useful for us to know more words to describe the world. Having more color vocabulary lets us wonder and see different combinations of colors.”

People who work closely with color naturally have expansive knowledge on color terms. It may be that some people are inherently more sensitive to colors, just like there is color weakness or color blindness. However, Sohn suggests, “My eyes take in the same information of this world as anyone else’s does. I can label more colors out of the color spectrum than other people only because I have always had a keener interest in color due to the nature of what I do.” In a sense, the jargon related to a job affects color perception.

Gender

A 2019 research titled “Differences in color categorization manifested by males and females: a quantitative World Color Survey study” (Fider & Komarova) shows that men and women label colors differently as well. While this difference may be attributed to genetic differences between males and females, socialization and behavioral patterns are also factors. This means that to a certain extent, the culture surrounding gender affects the language men and women speak. The study discusses how women are more likely to engage in activities that involve color, leading to their ability to more specifically subdivide colors.

In a similar 2017 study titled “Color Category of Brown and Pink by Different Languages” (Heo & Park), men were less capable of categorizing brownish and pinkish colors than women. Moreover, women more clearly distinguished colors.

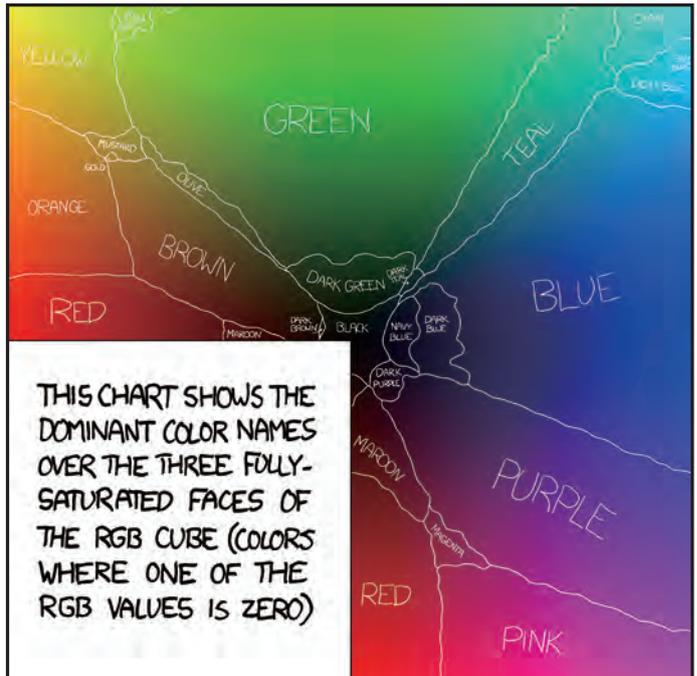
Color terms still give us a common point of reference

Despite the differences in color terms depending on gender, profession, or language, we name colors for a reason. Ms. Sohn says, “Everyday words for color work as standards. You know, I know, and we all know, for example, what the word ‘yellow’ means. Color terms make it easier to communicate our intentions and expedite things in daily life. Is that not what languages do?”

The American webcomic XKCD held a color survey where over two hundred thousand users named millions of colors. This conductor of this survey, Randall Munroe, recorded common color terms and mapped them out on a part of an RGB (Red, Green, Blue) cube. This distinction shows color boundaries based on the most common answers for a given color range. People agree on what hue and tone ought to be called purple or magenta. This shows that color has universality.

Pantone takes this point of reference a step further when they choose the Color of the Year. They always provide explanations for the colors they choose, which implies that the colors we perceive can have shared value. Some find it hard to believe, but the colors hold meaning.

“Because Pantone is a company that defines colors for a living, people may think that they label colors with a couple adjectives and simply request money. However, their color selection is not baseless. When they pick colors, they are aware of the consensus of the general public surrounding a certain color,” says Sohn. There is also no doubt that Pantone has expertise – their experts are always analyzing the colors that appear in daily life and figuring out the trends in color.



On one hand, everyone’s eyes see the same thing. It seems like there is no reason to believe that color vocabulary, which is based on what we see, is not universal. On the other hand, it seems to be that cultural and environmental influences on language make speakers perceive the world differently. Knowing this, how true does the meaning behind Pantone’s Color of the Year ring for you? The Argus leaves readers with this question: how much do you think the languages of your gender, nation, and environment affect your perception of the world? 

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Dead Men Tell No Tales



By Na Geum-chaе
Editorial Consultant

If you are diagnosed with diabetes, you will most likely be disappointed or bummed out, but if a doctor went back to the Ice Age and diagnosed Homo sapiens with diabetes, perhaps they would be pleased. You may think that is nonsense, but it would be quite reasonable to consider that in the past, it was more important to survive the bitter cold than worry about a stroke or kidney disease caused by diabetes. That is because diabetes increases glucose concentration in the blood, which lowers the freezing point of blood.

Many modern people are suffering from various diseases, and these maladies seem to be far from eradicated, despite the development of new medicine and technology. However, when we look back on the root cause of this problem, we are confronted with a major inconsistency. Although it is clear that humans have evolved over a period of time, there are still threats from a variety of illnesses lurking in our DNA. In March, designated as “The Month of Life” to raise awareness of the sanctity of life, The Argus searched for answers to this mystery through Sharon Moalem’s book, “Survival of the Sickest.”



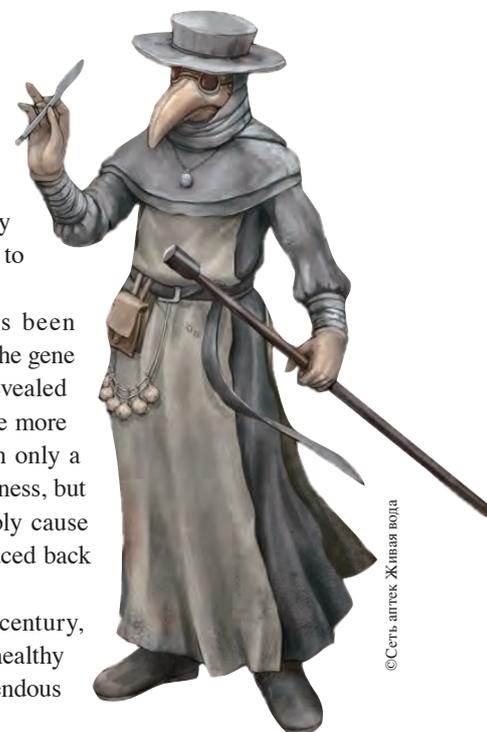
“Why would you take a drug that is guaranteed to kill you in 40 years? One reason, right? It is the only thing that will stop you dying tomorrow.”

Hemochromatosis: Cohabitation with the enemy for survival

Hemochromatosis is a genetic disorder that interferes with the body's iron metabolism. The human body naturally regulates the blood iron level to maintain homeostasis. However, if you get hemochromatosis, this function is paralyzed and your normal state is perceived as lacking iron. Thus, cells constantly absorb iron, and such overloaded iron is deposited in every corner of the body, damaging the metabolism, which can lead to death in severe cases.

Since it was discovered in 1865, hemochromatosis has been considered an ill-defined disease for 125 years. However, after the gene responsible for the disorder was confirmed in 1996, it was revealed that about one in three or four Western European children have more than one replica of this gene. In other words, there have been only a small number of patients due to the weak penetrance of the illness, but quite a number of people have had genes which could possibly cause hemochromatosis. The origin of this ironic situation can be traced back to the Middle Ages.

The Black Death swept through all of Europe in the 14th century, killing 75 million to 200 million people. In particular, many healthy young men died because their abundant iron served as a tremendous



ally for the growth of the virus. Iron is one of the essential ingredients for humans, but it is also beneficial for bacteria and pathogens. Therefore, ample iron is a feast for these viruses.

As mentioned above, the blood iron level rises when a person suffers from hemochromatosis, and most of the cells become full of iron. However, there is an exception: macrophage, which kills the harmful organisms in our bodies, is bad news for the plague bacteria. Originally, the plague bacteria continued to grow by absorbing iron from the macrophages even after being captured by them. In other words, pathogens could further develop their power in the Trojan horse called macrophages and cause harm to the human body.

However, if a Black Death carrier suffers from hemochromatosis, there is less iron in the macrophages. These conditions inhibit the growth of bacteria, making it easier for macrophages to control them. In fact, studies have proven that macrophages with hemochromatosis are far better at suppressing viruses than normal macrophages. In short, some people with hemochromatosis survived the attack of the Black Death, and genes somehow chose to coexist with hemochromatosis, which did not threaten their lives immediately.

“If you knew that you might be able to reduce your excess cholesterol by getting enough sunlight to convert it to vitamin D, wouldn't you rather hit the tanning salon before starting a lifetime of Lipitor?”

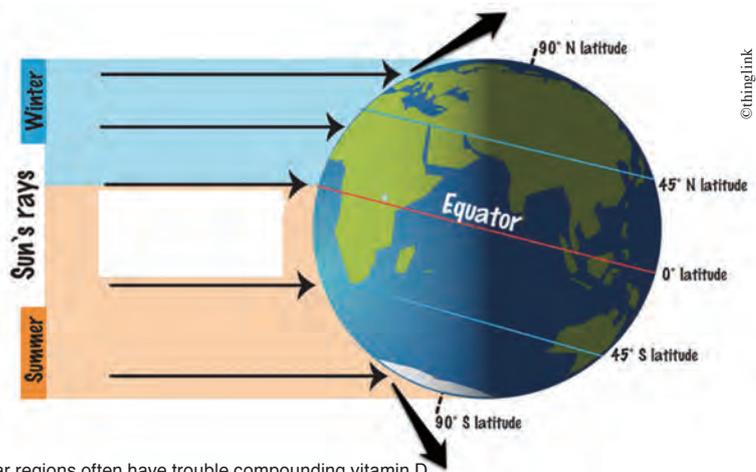
 Skin color and cholesterol genes: Vestige of adaptation to the dilemma

Biochemically, humans and the sun are in a very interesting relationship. Sunlight helps mankind produce vitamin D while also destroying folic acid stored in the body. As both substances are essential to maintaining health, it makes mankind face a dilemma of sunlight. To solve this problem, our ancestors evolved several countermeasures to retain folic acid while fully producing vitamin D. Typical examples are various skin colors and ApoE4 genes.

When people take in the sun, cholesterol is converted to vitamin D by ultraviolet B in sunlight. Because the efficiency of cholesterol-vitamin D conversion is so high, people can accumulate enough vitamin D without any major problems. However, as the UV rays also damage folic acid, humans cannot help but produce melanin, a pigment that specializes in light absorption. When the human body is exposed to the sun, the pituitary gland stimulates melanocyte to produce melanin. The skin turns black due to the dark-colored melanin, and therefore can easily absorb sunlight, protecting folic acid from destruction.



©Scott Olson/Getty Images



©thinglink

▲ As the sun's rays are indirect, people who live near the polar regions often have trouble compounding vitamin D.

However, since humans started to move to the northern part of the world from Africa, their skin's protective actions have become bothersome. Although black skin could keep folic acid safe from UV rays, it could not manufacture enough vitamin D in an environment with less sunlight. To solve this problem, one had to make the most of sunlight, and mankind's DNA confronted evolutionary pressure on white skin.

In 2000, anthropologist Nina G. Jablonski and geologist George Chaplin explored the link between skin color and sunlight, and it was found that people who had stayed in the same place for more than 500 years had almost uniformly changed in skin color depending on the exposure to sunshine. They even presented an equation of this correlation. Their research attracted notably more attention as they found a gene that can change skin color within 1,000 years after an individual moves from one climatic zone to another.

$$\text{Equation: } W=70-AUV/10 \text{ (} W=\text{ Relative white degree, } AUV=\text{ Annual UV exposure)}$$

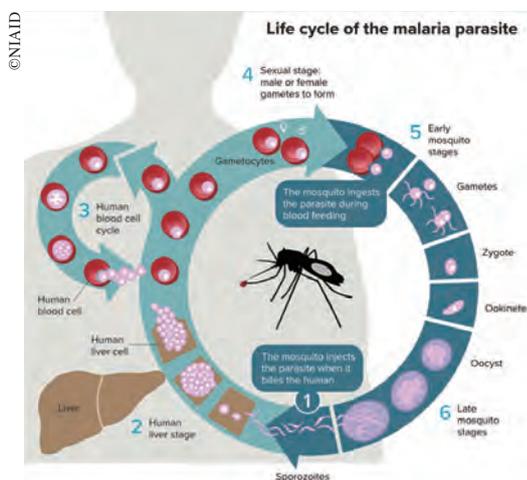
Then, how do people who still have dark skin, produce vitamin D? Evolution also took this into account and left behind a gene named ApoE4. This special gene increases blood cholesterol. With more cholesterol, which can be converted to vitamin D, people with dark skin can make the most of the decreased sunlight and offset the lack of UV exposure.

A similar problem occurs among Northern Europeans. Even though the problem of sun blocking has been solved through white skin, their living conditions are too poor to produce sufficient vitamin D. Therefore, ApoE4 genes are also commonly found among Northern Europeans. Of course, as is always the case with evolution, ApoE4 is not a panacea. This is because ApoE4 is accompanied by extra blood cholesterol, which increases the risk of heart disease and stroke. One generation's evolutionary solution has become an evolutionary problem for others.

Skin color and the cholesterol gene tell us an astonishing story. They inform of where our ancestors came from, of how they adapted to the new environments, and that where we live now can all have a big impact on our current health. Understanding this can be a basic step that can move our lives in a positive direction. Clarifying the source of the disease, humans can solve their problems in a more effective and tactical way.

Favism gene and malaria: Herbal remedy using a poisonous herb

Favism is one of the most common enzyme-deficient genetic disorders in the world. As many as 400 million people who suffer from the disease often die of acute hemorrhagic anemia, when they eat broad beans or take certain drugs.



▲ G6PD deficiency is common among people living in fava bean growing regions as it prevents malaria.



It was during the Korean War that the truth behind the illness was revealed. As malaria erupted into a wave of death in Korea at the time, U.S. soldiers dispatched to Korea were prescribed anti-malaria medicine such as primaquine. Soon after, however, about 10 percent of African-American soldiers who took primaquine had anemia, and Mediterranean descendants suffered more serious side effects.

In 1956, three years after

the Korean War, the cause of the side effects was identified. The soldiers lacked the enzyme called G6PD. G6PD is believed to be in all cells in the body, protecting cells by wiping out chemicals that destroy red blood cells. More specifically, primaquine turns red blood cells into a malaria-free zone by pressing red blood cells, thus preventing malaria. However, if the cells are not kept intact due to a lack of G6PD, red blood cells cannot withstand such pressure, and surviving chemicals also deteriorate membranes.

If a person who has shown symptoms of favism eats broad beans, the person shows a similar reaction to someone who takes primaquine. Sugar in broad beans produce free radicals and hydrogen peroxide. However, these toxic substances are not completely wiped out in the absence of G6PD, and they cause anemia by destroying red blood cells. What is more interesting is that favism outbreaks and broad bean farms are located in the same areas: Africa and the Mediterranean region. Have millions of people cherished the gene that causes problems with eating broad beans? That does not make sense. The gene must have been favored by evolution, as it is advantageous to humans.

- 1. Eating broad beans produces free radicals and hydrogen peroxide.**
- 2. People who are lacking in G6PD suffer from anemia as they cannot remove them.**
- 3. The broad bean farmers and the G6PD-deficient humans live in the same area.**

Thus, the benefits of this mutant gene would outweigh its drawbacks.

What is the risk factor overflowing in Africa and the Mediterranean region? It has to be associated with red blood cells as well. Nine out of 10 experts on infectious diseases will point to malaria as the answer to this question. Even now, about 500 million people are infected with malaria every year, and more than one million of them die. However, as you can see, malaria does not kill everyone. What is the secret behind these blessed men?

Plasmodium falciparum, a unicellular protozoan parasite causing malaria in humans, is, in fact, a weak and small creature that can thrive only in clean and pure red blood cells. However, the blood cells of G6PD-deficient people are not only unsuitable for malaria parasites to live in, but they also cause confusion in the life cycle of the parasites, as they have a shorter life span compared to those without mutation. Thus, the genes exposed to the threat of malaria are obliged to choose favism as an alternative. Then why do these individuals cultivate broad beans? The answer to this question is quite simple: To come up with a double countermeasure.

Because malaria is widespread and deadly, vulnerable populations have had to mobilize all possible defense systems for their survival. Since eating broad beans releases free radicals, red blood cells of normal people are also converted into wastelands for malaria parasites. The facts that the G6PD mutation is inherited only through the X chromosome and that there are two X chromosomes in women add stability to human reproduction. Unless both X chromosomes mutate, there is no need to worry about G6PD deficiency, and if only one X chromosome mutates, red blood cells are partly normal and partly not, so they do not show any negative effects from either broad beans or malaria.



Earth, History and Genome: More like an illusion than a dream

When penicillin was first used in 1942, very few staphylococci were resistant to it, but just eight years later, 40 percent of staphylococcus became resistant, and in 1960, the figure rose to 80 percent. This is quite staggering. In fact, microorganisms are more competitive than humans in evolution thanks to their simple and fast breeding, but this competitive quality is not enough to end the game. Human beings understand how evolution works with their intelligence and manipulate it in their own favor. In contrast, the other side is governed by biological commands.

So now, here is an interesting question. What would happen if certain bacteria could more easily survive in a healthy human? Would there not be evolutionary pressure that would make bacteria behave in a manner beneficial to humans? That is exactly what Paul W. Ewald is thinking. Ewald is an evolutionary biologist who specializes in the evolution of

infectious disease. He believes that the toxicity of the illness is controlled by the way that germs move from one host to other. More precisely, if a virus has clever allies (e.g., mosquitoes) or a sound transport system (e.g., poor sanitation), peaceful coexistence with the host is pushed back on the priority list. As a result, the severity and virulence of the disease are increased.

The basic principle of this theory is as follows: When the path of non-human infection is blocked, the evolutionary pressure works in a way that allows the human host to roam. As there is no other method, the longer a virus stays within the host, the higher the chance of transmission. For example, cholera, which was popular in the Latin American region in 1991, was less virulent in countries like Chile, where water supply facilities and sanitation were good. After all, what gives us an advantage over the malaria parasite and cholera bacteria is clear. We know what evolution is.

Last winter, the world began suffering from an unprecedented epidemic. The new coronavirus infection, which started in Wuhan, China, quickly spread to other countries, and the Republic of Korea was no exception. Thorough quarantine work was carried out, and anyone showing fever and other symptoms related to the new coronavirus was quarantined. Although it is said that the days are numbered for cancer, dementia, and other currently incurable diseases to be conquered, humans are still helpless against illnesses.

Evolution is a relative concept. It is not that life repeats future-oriented advances at an absolute level, but rather that a highly relative act of choosing the best option in a given environment is the basic concept of evolution. In other words, what we can achieve is not the complete eradication of disease through evolution, but we can induce various creatures to follow the most advantageous direction for humans in line with the provision of nature. Dead men tell no tales, but living genes do. The Argus hopes that readers are clearly aware of evolution and the relationship between men, disease, and evolution. 

“We have a sense of where we want evolution to end, and we adjust the environment so that the organism freely evolves to that endpoint, which is in its interest and also in our interest.”

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▲ We will find a way as we always have.

As a Thousand Wishes Graze Our Skies

By Na Geum-chaе and Park Chang-hwan
Editorial Consultant and Editor of Theory & Critique Section

“**T**he diversity of the phenomena of nature is so great, and the treasures hidden in the heavens so rich, precisely in order that the human mind shall never be lacking in fresh nourishment.” This remark by Johannes Kepler, a German astronomer who is best known for his laws of planetary motion, amply illustrates the beauty and mystique of astronomical phenomena. From Yuri Gagarin’s first journey into outer space to Neil Armstrong’s giant leap, the universe is widely accepted as the unknown frontier, as well as an object of admiration:

In particular, meteor showers that embroider the night sky provide us an enchanting spectacle and elicit exclamations. As it happens, people’s interests toward meteor shower are rising. The International Meteor Organization (IMO) announced that the world’s top three meteor showers will be observable in South Korea in 2020. Celebrating the start of 2020 with the dazzling cosmic show of the Quadrantids, The Argus delved into the identity of the meteor shower.



▲ Portrait of Urania, Muse of Astronomy

Tell me, who are you? ✨

A meteor shower refers to an astronomical phenomenon caused by meteoroids – pieces that break off from a comet. After meteoroids are caught by the Earth's gravitational pull, they start producing a bright stream of light due to friction with Earth's atmosphere. Most of them are small in size and perish before reaching the surface. However, some huge pieces fail to do so and fall to the ground. Also known as shooting stars, they are called meteorites.

In order to have a clear understanding of the meteor shower, we need to know the concept of the comet. A comet is a small Solar System body composed of loose collections of ice, dust and small rocky particles. Although their birthplace and size vary, it is thought to originate from the Kuiper belt and Oort cloud. Comet consists of three main parts: nucleus, coma, and tail.

Where do you come from? ✨

Because comets are low in mass, their orbits are easily influenced by large celestial bodies with strong gravitational pull. This causes comets that enter the solar system to collide with planets, get sucked into the Sun, or even fly out of the solar system. Comets undergoing such gravitational interactions leave behind meteoroids that fly along with the comet's original orbit. These meteoroids come in all shapes and sizes, and therefore, fly at different speeds and form a band in line with the comet's orbit. When celestial bodies exert their gravitational force, the tail becomes longer and uniform. This is called a meteoroid stream.

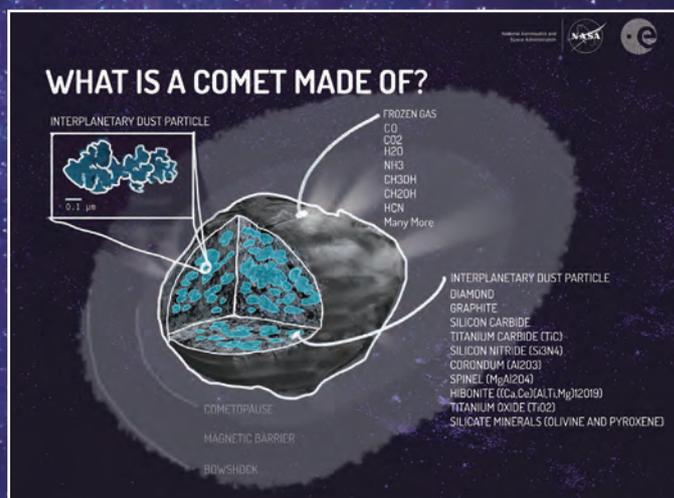
When the orbit of the meteoroid stream and Earth intersect, a meteor shower occurs. Generally, in a meteoroid stream, the meteoroids are distributed cylindrically around the line of orbit. The stream is denser at the center, and when Earth happens to pass by this center, more meteoroids are observed. When the meteor shower is at its peak, it is called the maximum. The meteors steadily increase until the maximum, hit its potential, then decrescendos.

Do tell us a little bit more about yourself ✨

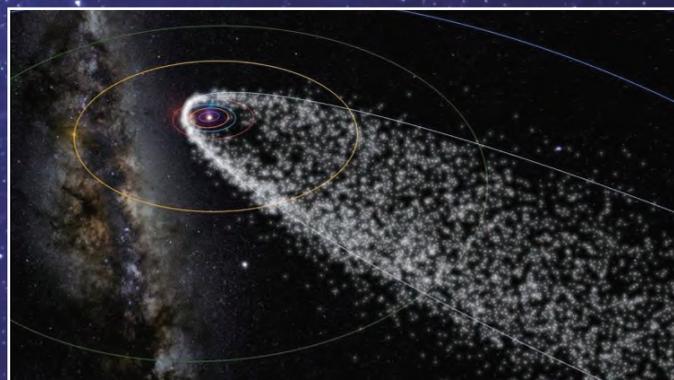
Observing a meteor shower, one will notice that the meteors seem to come from the same point in the night sky. This point is called the radiant, and meteor showers are named after the constellation with which their radiant overlaps. For example, Earth meets the meteor stream that Halley's Comet makes at two points in her orbit. The meteor



▲ Space objects have different names depending on their size and characteristics.



▲ A comet is an icy mixture of an assortment of materials left over from the formation of the solar system.



▲ Meteor showers occur where the Earth and meteor stream orbits meet.

Urania

shower that happens at each point are differently labeled Eta Aquiriids and Orionids, depending on the location of the radiant. The comet that becomes the source of a meteor stream, like Halley's Comet, is called a parent comet.

The strength of a meteor shower is measured by the Zenith Hourly Rate (ZHR). Assuming the radiant is at the zenith, it is the total number of meteors that someone would see per hour. The number of observable meteors, brightness distribution, color, and radiant all depend on the type of meteoroids that break away from the parent comet, and the speed and direction of their entry into the Earth's atmosphere. For example, if the radiant sits below the horizon, the observer will see meteors that shoot up. Additionally, the chemical composition of the Earth's atmosphere varies by altitude, causing meteors to show different colors at different altitudes.

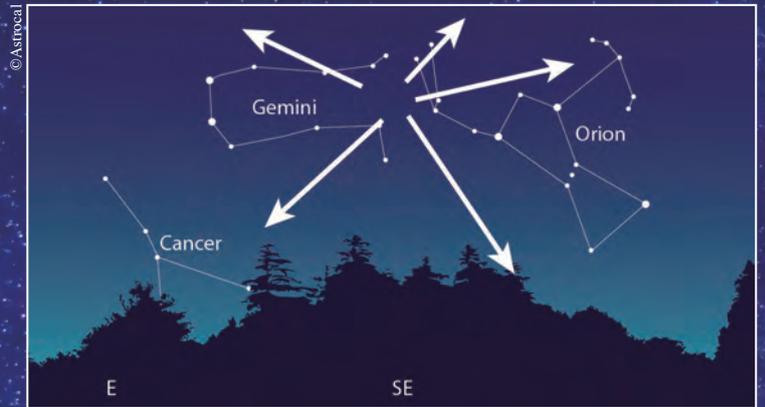
Where will we meet each other? ✨

Thanks to meteor streams and their parent comets all having predictable orbits, it is possible to know the maximum of a meteor shower. As the name of each meteor shower indicates its radiant, a knowledge of the constellations and their relative locations are required. A viewer must know where a constellation is in relation to the Earth, even if they cannot see it. For example, if Australians want to see the Perseids meteor shower, they cannot directly find the radiant as the Perseus constellation is only visible from mainly the Northern Hemisphere. In this case, Australians must determine where beyond the horizon the Perseus constellation hides. With the right knowledge, all one must do is be at the right place at the right time.

The ideal time for a meteor watch is usually midnight, when the Earth is situated in a position to sweep up more meteoroids from an intersecting meteor stream. It is necessary for observers to be somewhere with minimal light pollution and for the weather to be in their favor. Advanced observers often measure the limiting magnitude, a unit that indicates how visible celestial bodies are in the night sky, then record the number of meteors they observe. For casual observers, all they need to do is just enjoy the sight.



▲ Including the well-known Halley's Comet which is expected to next appear in mid-2061, humans have explored 12 comets to date.



▲ A meteor shower's name is coined from the nearest constellation of its radiant.



▲ Some constellations in the northern sky are impossible to see from the Southern Hemisphere and vice versa.

In Korea, the three major meteor showers are observable this year: Quadrantids, Perseids and Geminids. The Quadrantids has passed us already on Jan. 4, the Perseids will hit its maximum on Aug. 12, and the brilliant streaks of the Geminids will visit us on Dec. 14. For those interested in watching meteor showers, the IMO has detailed information on when and where to see the meteor showers.

“Descend from Heav’n Urania, by that name
 If rightly thou art call’d, whose Voice divine
 Following, above th’ Olympian Hill I soare,
 Above the flight of Pegasean wing.”

In John Milton’s epic poem, “Paradise Lost,” he calls upon Urania as he carols the creation of the universe. Just as Milton had and for generation after generation, humankind has sought for the knowledge of the universe. It was Urania who philosophers, astronomers and astrologists found solace in as their guardian and guide; a Muse who commands the universe, who is utterly sensible of its workings and who reads the stars to tell of its future. She wears a robe laced with stars, and before her feet, lay a turtle that signifies silence. She holds the globe in one hand, a compass in the other and looks to the skies, Urania.

Perhaps it is this image that reflects the efforts that our forefathers made to figure out the essence and mysterious mechanics of our universe, them too, looking silently to the skies. And though our time on Earth is short, the meteor showers we see today transcend time. Our forefathers were dazzled by their beauty, while future generations will be studying their scientific meaning. Indeed, simply broaching upon this phenomenon lets us know humankind is connected beyond time. Through this, The Argus hopes to add depth to readers’ spirits and hopes that they take a moment to ruminate over the marvels of the universe. 

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▲ Geminid Meteor Shower 2018



▲ Perseid Meteor Shower, 2016



▲ Quadrantid Meteor Shower 2018



Living the Sweet Life

By Kim Do-kyung

Staff Reporter of Culture Section

Sugar is originally sugarcane. After processing, sugarcane becomes sugar and this sugar shows infinite possibilities of change, such as turning into cookies, chocolate, and candy. You may have seen a dessert houses made of cookies and chocolate in “Hansel and Gretel,” a childhood fairy tale. A sugarcane becoming a house is happening in reality!

The profession that specializes in this procedure is called sugar crafting. A sugar crafter makes various works of art, including flowers, animals, and curtains, from sugar. The Argus met with Choi Doo-ri, who is a sugar craft pioneer in Korea.



©sugarcraft.co.kr

▶ These are the artworks that Choi Doo-ri made.



First of all, please introduce yourself.

Hello, I am Choi Doo-ri, the first sugar crafter in Korea. I am currently the president of the Sugar Craft Association, the female vice president and a subcommittee member of the Korea Confectionery Association, a member of the Council of Bakery Professors and the director at the Choi Doori Sugar Art Research Center.



Why did you decide to go into sugar crafting?

In my 30s, I studied baking with my husband for about eight years at the Tokyo Confectionery School in Japan. Everyone was younger than me, and I did not want to lose, so I worked hard. I had children in Korea, and my parents were against me studying abroad, so I had to study both bakery and sugar crafting. I worked several times harder than others. Then I entered the Tokyo confectionery contest. I did not expect any awards, but I got a really good result. That is when I realized that my efforts can produce good results, and I worked harder. So, I was able to reach my present level of achievement. My husband graduated first in our class and I came in second. I studied both baking and sugar crafting for two more years, in both England and France.



How did it feel being the first to go into a new field, in Korea?

I am the first in Korea, and I am proud of it. But there was a lot of pressure. Since I am the first, I had the responsibility of teaching the next generation of students. I worked hard to teach and passionately to teach each student. Even though I felt so much responsibility and pressure, I did my best not to forget what I felt like when I first studied. Now I am proud to have many students who are better than I am. The past of our sugar crafts was Dalgona. Dalgona is Korean junk food; we can make it with baking soda in sugar. When we were making Dalgona, China was crafting dragons with sugar. They were 20 to 30 years ahead, and now, all over the world, there is a certain level of sugar crafting, and there is a steady increase in the number of skilled sugar crafters every year. Now, at most

famous confectionery contests, you have to master a certain level of sugar crafting skill to participate. Without an option sugar crafting is becoming an essential requirement for a bakery to move to higher levels. Of course, I need to try harder.



Tell us about the charm of sugar craft!

The fact is that, sugar crafting is the most difficult thing in baking. Chocolate and other kinds of desserts are not easy to make. But in the case of sugar, when the temperature-mixing balance topples, the sugar breaks right away. It is so fun to make, but it requires a lot of concentration, skill, and, accuracy, so it is the most difficult part of baking. I guess that is why I feel the most excited when I make it. I think I have mastered it perfectly, and I am proud to see the polishing work, which depends on the temperature.



What are typical examples of your sugar crafting?

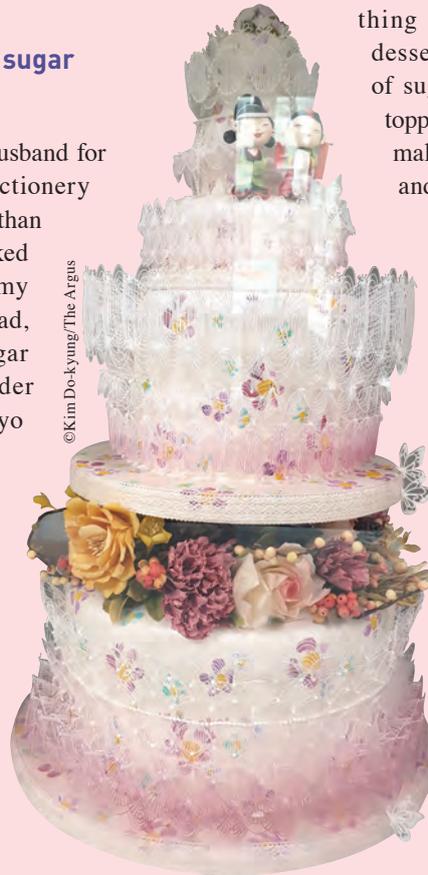
There are cake decorations and food colorings which range from curtain shapes to flowers, hanbok, and people, all made of sugar. There is one skill, however, that landed me the Grand Prix in Japan. At the time, it took the highest quality of skill, called the “piping technique,” to make a butterfly shape, which I utilized. It took a lot of effort, solving and squeezing the egg whites, but it was said that the details were the best among the contestants that used the piping technique. There is also this: In the U.K. royal culture, they have three-tiered

wedding cakes. The first floor is for the guests who attend the wedding. The newly-weds send the sugar sculptures of the second floor of the cake to relatives and close acquaintances who could not make the wedding. The third floor is stored in the freezer until the couple’s yet unborn child has its first birthday.



When was the most difficult time for you as a sugar crafter?

Actually, I loved sugar crafting itself very much. So there was nothing difficult about the job itself because I always feel happy when I work. Maybe it could be when I get sick. One



©Kim Do-kyung/The Argus

▲ This cake won Japan Grand Prix. Its colorful decorations stand out.

Rendez-vous



▲ This is the certificate she has received.



▲ She took a picture with other crafters.

time, I was preparing for a competition while studying abroad. It was the hardest because I had a lump in my body. I guess I was stressed out because I was aiming for a good performance as a national team member. Whenever I was under stress, my lump kept getting bigger, so I lost a lot of blood, and due to surgery, my body was swollen. Preparing for the tournament while holding back the pain was so hard. And the busiest seasons are Valentine's Day (February) and White Day (March). Because each piece is usually custom-made, it takes a lot of time, but everyone has different demands like "please put up flower decorations," "make animals," etc. The price was 10,000 won per piece 15 years ago, but at that time, 50 to 100 orders a day were placed. My hands really hurt on such a day.

When do you feel the most rewarded as a sugar crafter and why?

When I am done, I am happy to appreciate the polish, and I am happy to see it. When I see people who are surprised or happy to see my work, my happiness is doubled. When works made with high concentration and effort show off their beautiful appearance, I feel proud of myself. That is when I feel most rewarded. Now and forever, sugar crafting is my life's companion. Sugar crafting is the best thing which gives me happiness. Doing what I love makes me concentrate well and gives me happiness every time I do sugar crafting.

What kind of dream do you want to achieve as a sugar crafter in the future?

Since I was the first to learn sugar crafting in Korea, I learned baking in Japan, and I went to England and France to learn more about sugar crafting. Now, I am trying to become a master chef at the bakery. My goal is to achieve the certificate of master craftsmen. I will keep studying to improve my skills. I have learned, sugar crafting abroad, but I can adapt it to Korea. Although sugar crafting originates in foreign country, there are still many things to learn in Korea. I hope many people from East Asia to Europe will visit Korea to learn sugar crafting.

What qualities do you need most as a sugar crafter?

I think effort is far more important than talent. No matter how incompetent one may be, they can always follow me if I teach from the beginning. If you fail again and again, patience is the most important thing. Especially because, as I said, sugar crafting requires extreme caution. Never be in a hurry. Patience and persistence. With that? No problem.

Can you give advice to the HUFsans about sugar crafting?

It is true that there are a lot of humanities students at HUFs. Whether you learn sugar crafting for hobby or a job, you may be hesitant to dream about it. But I think it is good if everyone has their own skill, regardless of their academic background. It is really important to keep your technical job open and not look down on it. Being doctors and lawyers are great, but by having your own skills and dexterity, you can work after retirement. There are some students who specialize in baking during university, but I think you can try your best even if you are not at baking school. With constant patience, anyone can do it even if they are not dexterous. Do not hesitate to give it a try.

While we were talking after the interview, she said, "You have to do what you like. Just for yourself, not others. I am so happy when I am crafting sugar. I want you to find the job that suits you. Being stressed is the worst thing in society, so do something happy." This is the secret of Choi, who started sugar crafting at a late age to become the best in Korea and continues to make achievements in Korea's sugar crafting to date. When you do what you really like, wealth and honor will follow you. In Choi's notebook that holds what she studies, *The Argus* was able to find her affection and passion for her work. 

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STOVE LEAGUE

DR

Culture Focus



©Mathews Henriques

HOW 'STOVE LEAGUE' HEATS UP BASEBALL FANS

What does Stove League actually mean?

The term “stove league” originated from the situation in which, after the regular baseball season ends, people sit around the stove and talk about players’ annual salary negotiations and trades. Baseball teams negotiate annual salaries with ball players and scout players to strengthen their teams’ rosters. Trades, the 2nd draft which is held every two years (similar to rule five draft of Major League, teams can pick players who are not included in the 40-man roster) and scouting of foreign players all happen during the stove league season.

Summary of Stove League

Since Dreams, the baseball team in this drama, lost 100 games last season, the GM resigned and Baek Seung-soo became the new GM of Dreams. Baek Seung-soo worked as GM for ssireum, ice hockey, and handball. Interestingly, all of the teams he worked as a GM won the championships, but also they were dissolved afterwards. Baek Seung-soo analyzed Dreams and decided to change many things. He had some friction with some members of Dreams such as Lee Se-young, department of management’s leader, Go Se-hyuk, department of scout’s leader and Kwon Kyung-min, senior vice president of Dreams. He started to get support from them with his leadership and analysis. It seems that it is a drama with the theme of “sports,” but baseball is just a topic through which to illustrate how Baek Seung-soo leads the team.

By Kim Ji-hyeon

Staff Reporter of Culture Section

“I think it is time for baseball teams to prepare for the upcoming season. I want to know what our team’s General Manager (GM) is doing right now, and I am curious if they deal with their responsibilities well.” Some people may have these kinds of thoughts if they are fans of a professional baseball team. Before the regular season starts, especially during the hot stove league season, each team does lots of things such as negotiating annual salaries with players, scouting foreign players, and talking about trades with other teams. Korean drama “Stove League,” which ended last February, showed how a GM and employees of a baseball team deal with many aspects of their works. The Argus analyzed how “Stove League” is different from previous shows and how well it reflected reality.



©SBS

▲ Stove League is a program from the view of General Manager (L) and other employees of a baseball team.

No programs existed from the view of employees in sports teams

Before Stove League was released in December 2019, there were several dramas, movies, and entertainment programs under the theme of “sports.” Celebrities and normal people played sports together in “Our Neighborhood Arts and Physical Education,” which was an entertainment program. “Take Off” and “Glove” were movies released in 2009 and 2011. Both of them showed the process of how players overcome their hardships.

Stove League shows the overall aspects of preparing for the upcoming season from the team’s employees’ view, unlike the previous programs that focused on experiencing sports and their players. A team consists of various departments, including management, scouting, advertisement and analysis. Baseball fans call Seong Min-gyu the GM of Lotte Giants “Namgungmingyu” since Baek Seung-soo (Namgung Min) has some things in common with him. Both of them are new GMs of low-ranking teams and take unconventional actions. Baek Seung-soo plans to make some trades to make the roster stronger, and he goes on a business trip to scout new foreign players. Actually, several GMs go on business trips to check out foreign players and talk with other GMs to make trades. Scouts who take charge of finding foreign players, report about players after they watch Minor League or Dominican League

games.

Lee Kyoung-mo, a student of Soongsil University, said, “It is not easy for fans to know the exact process of transfers and trades. They also do not know if there is trouble between the players. In reality, when fans get the shocking trade news like in the show that Kang Doo-gi, the ace pitcher of the national team, and Lim Dong-kyu, one of the top hitters in the league, were transferred through trades, they just react in two ways. They think either ‘The teams made the trade deal to make our team better,’ or ‘Why are they trading our star player? This is crazy!’ But the show “Stove League” described the detailed process of trading and the discord between the team and players. By this show, people can learn about the things they do not really know about. The show can act as a guidebook to the beginners of baseball.”

Baek Seung-soo is reminiscent of Billy Beane

Baek Seung-soo’s performance reminds viewers of the movie “Moneyball” that was released in 2011. The main protagonist Billy Beane worked for Oakland Athletics as GM for the poorest team in Major League Baseball. He tried to find a way to be competitive against rich teams such as the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox. He decided to improve the Athletics’ roster in a low-cost and high efficient way. He



▲ Baek Seung-soo explained to staffs of Dreams why he decided to trade Lim Dong-gyu.

focused on players who recorded a high on base percentage (OBP), which measures how frequently a batter reaches base, since those players have a higher chance to score points. At first, other staff members of Athletics did not trust Beane and criticized him, “We do not play baseball with numbers.” However, after some players such as Chad Bradford and Scott Hatteberg, whom Billy Beane scouted by his theory, became key players of the Athletics, others started to trust his strategy.

After Baek Seung-soo took the position of GM, he decided to trade Lim Dong-gyu, the franchise player of Dreams. Other staff opposed this at first because Lim Dong-gyu had a huge impact on Dreams. Baek Seung-soo explained why he made the decision. Lim Dong-gyu had not shown helpful performance for Dreams in the summer which is the most important period since the regular season ranks are mostly decided in summer. Moreover, Dreams remodeled their home stadium to make it bigger than before. Baek Seung-soo’s statistics showed that Lim Dong-gyu’s homeruns would decrease if he played in the remodeled stadium. Kang Doo-gi transferred to Dreams through the trade and he recorded higher wins above replacement (WAR), a statistics which shows one individual player contribute to team’s victories, than Lim Dong-gyu for the last season. He was the ace of Korea’s national team, and he always garnered respect from other players.

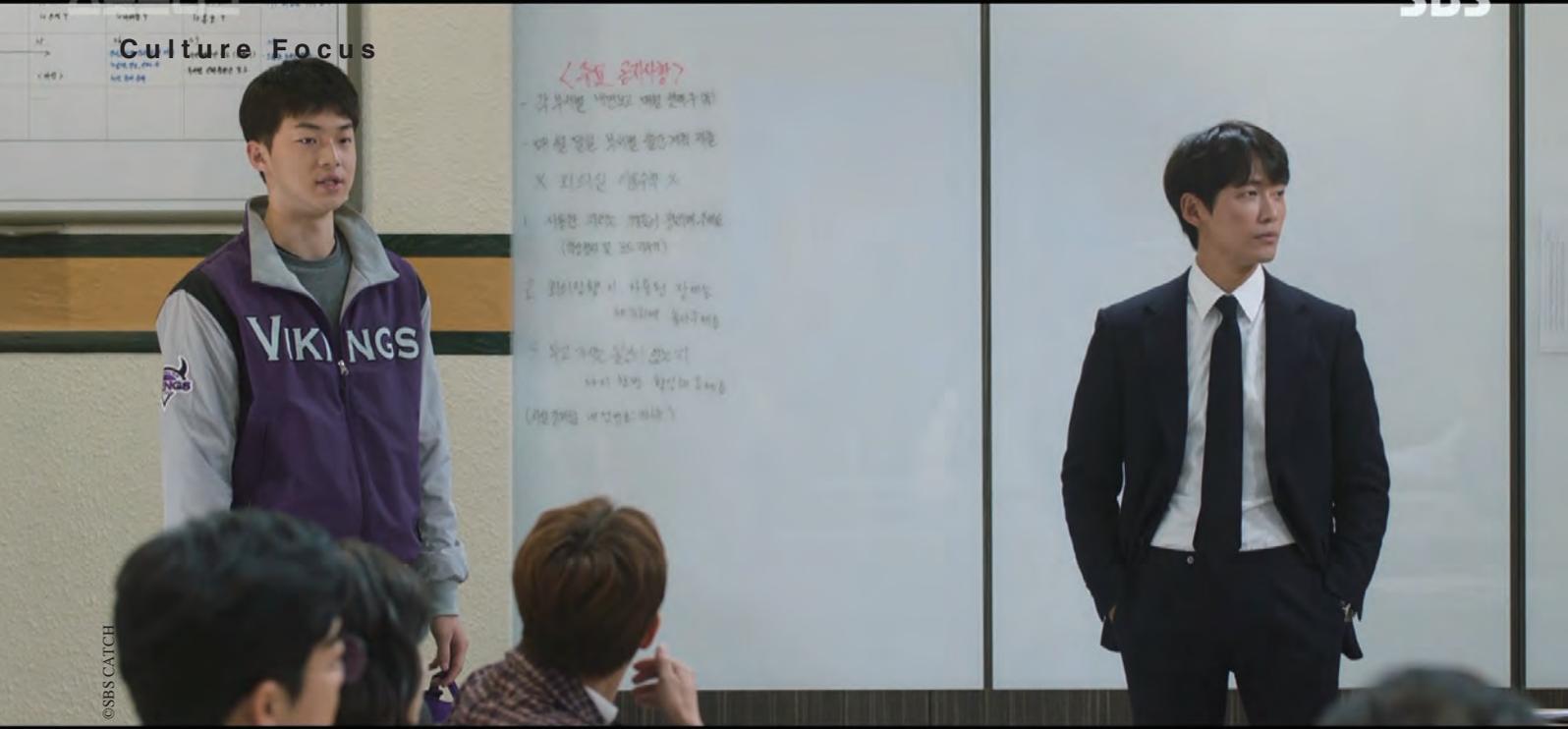
For those reasons, Baek Seung-soo’s decision got support from the staff of Dreams. Dreams recruited new analyst

Baek Young-soo, who had participated with the nickname “Robinson” in the online baseball community forum as a baseball statistics blogger. With his recruitment, they focused on analyzing sabermetrics. Naver Sports Major League Columnist Lee Chang-seob commented, “They mentioned some indices such as WAR and Win Probability Added(WPA) to make the drama more realistic. It was fresh because other dramas or movies did not use those statistics. However, in reality, there are no perfectly reliable statistics, but unlike what was suggested in Stove League mentioned about WAR.”

Stove League points out the troubles of reality

Stove League pointed out the problem that occurred in the past. Baek Seung-soo started to find the reason why there was an argument among the scouts on rookie draft day. Dreams had the first pick overall, and that means that they could pick the best player from a high school or university. Most teams usually decide who they will pick before the draft starts if they have the first pick overall. It is difficult to imagine that there is an argument on the draft day.

Dreams planned to select Yoo Min-ho from Myeong-il High School for the first pick overall, however, Go Sae-hyuk wanted to select Lee Chang-kwon currently playing for the Vikings on the draft day. But in the end, Dreams finally picked Yoo Min-



▲ Lee Chang-kwon (L) visits the Dreams office and confesses about the process of corruption.

ho, and Baek Seung-soo formed a committee for punishment of the argument. As a result, it was revealed that Lee Chang-kwon’s mother paid 50 million won (US\$ 4.18 million) to Go Sae-hyuk and promised to pick him in the first draft. Even though Lee Chang-kwon was not selected by the Dreams, Go Sae-hyuk told him that he could not give him the money back. Lee Chang-kwon visited the Dreams’ office and confessed what had transpired, so Go Sae-hyuk was fired.

A similar case occurred in the amateur baseball league. Former Lotte Giants head coach, Yang Seung-ho accepted bribes from high school coaches when he was the head coach of Korea University’s baseball team. They paid him to scout their players for Korea University’s baseball team. He was sentenced to one year and three months in prison with an additional 100 million won (US\$ 8.3 million) fine for corruption.

There was also an episode which points out the doping

problem in “Stove League.” There was a rumor that several professional players took prohibited drugs, and soon the rumor turned out to be true. All teams, except Dreams had players who used performance-enhancing drugs. The Vikings, the team that ranked second for last season, had five players who were penalized and cannot play for two seasons because of doping. Kwon Gyeong-min criticized the penalty for doping, “It is shameful that the penalty is weak. We should strengthen it and refer to the penalty from professional soccer leagues.”

There are several players in the Korean baseball league who used performance-enhancing drugs in the past. However, most teams did not care much about doping in the past, and players also did not think of it as a serious problem. Kim Jae-hwan, the player of Doosan Bears used performance-enhancing drugs in 2011; however, he was suspended for only 10 games. After term of his penalty ended, he had an interview with the media and commented as if it were not a serious problem at all.

Heo Kyung-min, the third baseman of the Doosan Bears and the Korean national team talked about Stove League in the media, “I really looked forward to watching Stove League on Friday and Saturday. I became a huge fan of it.” Several players posted on social media that they really enjoyed watching it. Some of them supported Dreams to be the champion of the league. Stove League ended, and the regular season is coming. The Argus wants HUFsans to enjoy Stove League by finding aspects reflected from their favorite team. 

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Black Diamond Burns Australia



By Yoo Chan-heum
Associate Editor of Social Section

The people of Australia must have felt that Apocalypse, which they had only seen in the movies, was approaching. It has already been months since the first wildfire, but the flames that are burning Australia have yet to stop. There are a lot of opinions about the cause of disaster, but many people do not have a good grasp of this issue as to the root cause of the fire. The Argus investigates to find out the current situation of the Australian wildfires, the root cause, and background.

Poirot's Deduction

©Greenpeace Australia Pacific



▲ 2,100 households in Australia lost their home by wildfires.

©BBC News



▲ Wildfires in Australia ranked first in the history of wildfires all around the globe.

©Greenpeace Australia Pacific



▲ Many wildlifes in Australia are endangered due to the wildfires.



What damage have the Australian wildfires caused?

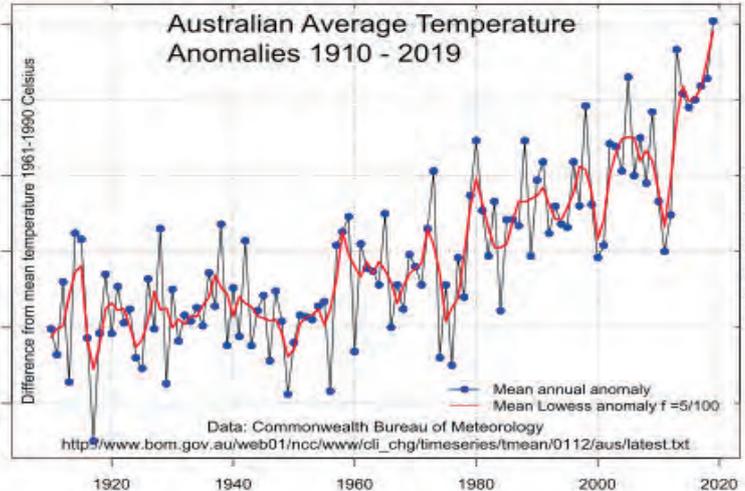
The death toll from the fires continues to rise, with more than a dozen people still missing. More than 2,100 houses have also been destroyed across the country.

Nearly 11 million hectares of land have been burned so far, a land area larger than South Korea (100,210km²), according to the Australian government. The 2019 Amazon forest fires burned an area of 900,000 hectares and the California fires, which burned an area of 800,000 hectares. Mark Graham, an ecologist of the Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales said, “The number of animals killed in the fires is now about one billion. If we extend the scope to the entire range of plants and animals, more than five billion creatures are victims of the fires. We may no longer see unique animals and plants like kangaroos in Australia.”

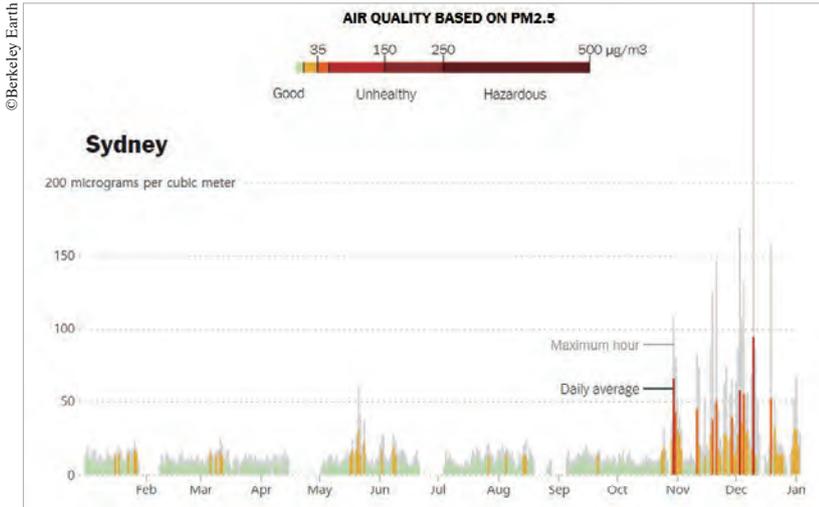
The air pollution problem is also serious. According to statistics website Berkeley Earth, the level of fine dust pollution in Sydney and Brisbane hit 150 to 250 micrograms per cubic meter, which is the worst in the world and considered “unhealthy.” The ashes made by the wildfires aggravates respiratory problems in children, the elderly, and people with underlying diseases such as asthma. Medical experts worry that prolonged air pollution could lead to various health problems.

The damage caused by the wildfires is not limited to Australia. Parts of New Zealand, about 2,000 kilometers from the area where the fire broke out, were also covered with air pollutants caused by the wildfires. New Zealand’s snow-covered glaciers have become yellowish with piles of dust and particles from Australia. Such polluted glaciers cause secondary damage as they cannot reflect sunlight well and eventually melt faster.

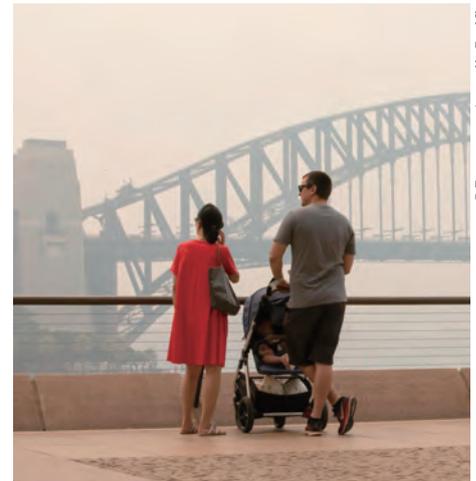
©Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology



▲ Australia's temperature gets hotter continuously as the years go by.



▲ Sydney's air pollution level is seriously considered unhealthy.



▲ Australia's sky is blurry like a misty day.

The worst climate change conditions in Australia

What is being blamed for the wildfires is a long, severe drought and a record-breaking heat wave. The Southeastern part of Australia is suffering from the worst drought in history. Many of the wildfires affected areas recorded the driest January-August period since meteorological observations last year. Last November was the first time in Australian history where there was no rain anywhere.

The temperatures continued to soar, breaking all-time highs in mid-December, and the trend continued to 2020. Many of the wildfire affected areas have reached 40°C. The suburban areas, Australia's hottest region, recorded 48.9°C earlier this year. Historically, Australia's dry climate has caused some record-breaking wildfires during the December-January period. But each year, climate change has led to earlier, longer lasting, more serious, and unpredictable aspects of wildfires. Eventually, it led to a five-month-long disaster. This growing hot and dry climate has an absolute correlation with Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, which cause global warming. According to a study released by the think tank Australian Institute, Australia's domestic greenhouse gas emissions are the fifth largest after China and the United States, Russia, and Saudi Arabia. Also, Australia ranked 14th in per capita emissions, which is 10 times the global average and far more carbon emissions than 40 other countries with a higher population density than Australia.

This begs the question: Why is this increase in greenhouse gas emissions that is accelerating climate change happening to such a significant extent in Australia?

Australia, the world's worst exporter of coal

Australia's economy is the world's eighth-largest by GDP. However, according to a Harvard University study, Australia's economy is ranked 93rd after Kazakhstan, Uganda, and Senegal when calculated by the Economic Complexity Index (ECI), a gauge of diversity in the structure where higher complexity is more beneficial. According to their research, Australia is a major



▲ Dust from the wildfires makes glaciers in New Zealand yellow.



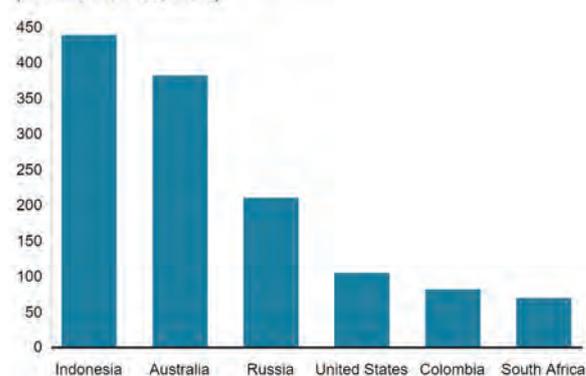
▲ Scott Morrison government leads coal friendly policies.

Poirot's Deduction



▲ Although Australia's GDP ranking is high, ECI ranking is surprisingly low.

Biggest exporters of coal
(In million tonnes, 2018)



▲ Australia is the second best exporter of coals in the global market.

exporter of fossil fuels, especially coal — it ranks second worldwide. But they also point out that Australia is overly dependent on the coal industry. Still, politicians like Morrison have always touted the coal industry as Australia's core industry, refusing to switch to renewable energy.

Dr. Nikola Casula, the Head of Research and Investigations at Greenpeace Pacific Australia, said "Australia has the chance to become a renewable energy superpower. We are the world's sunniest continent and one of the windiest, so we can harness this to power our nation, and also export to Southeast Asia and the Pacific through projects like sun cable and clean hydrogen exports." He expressed disappointment with the current government's movement.

In fact, the public's opinion is quite different from that of politicians. According to a survey by the Australian Institute last September, 81 percent of Australians believe climate change will bring more droughts and floods. Two out of three Australians said the government should target net zero by 2050 by reducing coal production.

The so-called climate strike last September was the largest protest in Australia's history as part of a global effort led by children. It led to protests against climate change, including the "Extinction Rebellion," an international anti-climate movement, and anti-mining protests in Melbourne.

The coal industry, as well as public opinion, is losing real meaning in Australian society. According to a survey by the Australian Institute released last year, Australians believe coal mining accounts for 12.5 percent of Australia's economic output and employs 9.3 percent of its workforce. However, coal mining accounts for only 0.4 percent of Australian workers and 2.2 percent of Australia's GDP. This means reducing coal mining will not hurt the Australian economy as much as people think.

In fact, the coal industry is leaking Australian money overseas. According to Greenpeace's Dirty Power Investigation,

the Australian taxpayer gives fossil fuel and mining companies \$42 billion USD each year in subsidies despite these mining companies being 83 percent foreign-owned. So, while the mines destroy the Australian landscape, Australians were actually paying the price for foreign profits.

This is quite far from what the Morrison government has been advocating for coal mining as the centerpiece of Australia's jobs. Why were they so desperate to protect the coal mines, which are so unpopular and have no bright future?

The worst form of crony capitalism: Australia

While attempts have been made to reduce coal usage year after year around Europe, Australia is going against the trend, with politicians openly backing the coal industry. Why are they showing this anachronistic behavior?

Through investigative reporter Michael West, Greenpeace looked at the source of the enormous levels of benefit that Australia's coal giants such as Adani, Peabody, and Exxon receive, along with their relationships with Australian politicians. According to his coverage, Gina Reinhart, chairman of the mineral exploration and extraction company Hancock Prospecting, showed off her close ties with politicians by sponsoring the political campaign of Barnaby Joyce, the former leader and deputy prime minister of the National Party. After the election, Reinhart obtained three mine ownership licenses.

Adani's process of obtaining permits for underground water construction in Queensland was also unable to avoid such suspicions. Adani was authorized by Morrison in April 2019 to construct underground water facilities in the Queensland area, contrary to the opinion expressed by The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO). The CSIRO strongly opposed the plan, saying, "Adani lacks sufficient monitoring capability for environmental protection

and is not capable of carrying out construction in a direction that minimizes environmental destruction.”

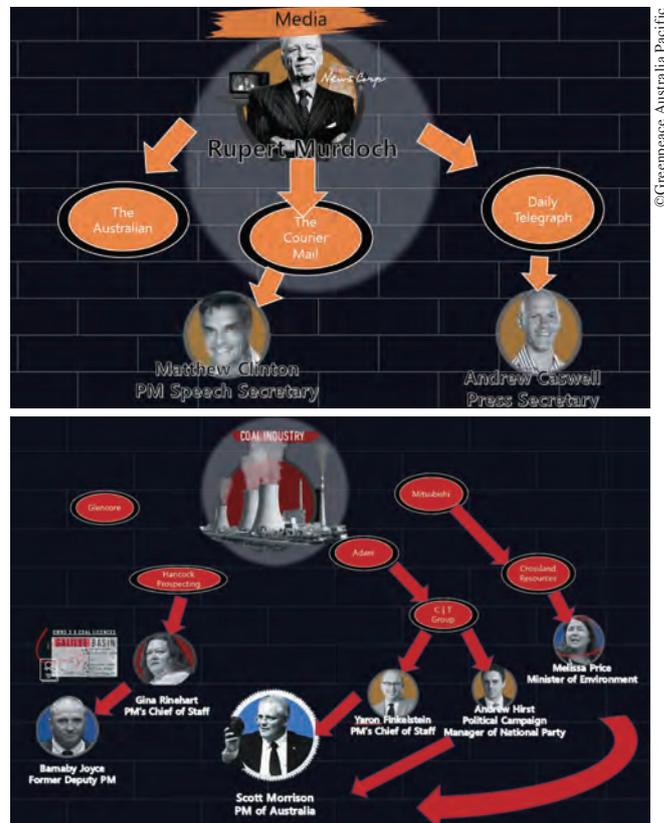
Melissa Price, former Minister of the Environment who approved the construction plan of Adani and Australia’s current Minister for Defense Industry is also fueling Australia’s environmental crisis. She worked as the vice president of the legal and business development team at Crossland Resources, a former subsidiary of mining giant Mitsubishi. In such ways, Australia’s current and former senior officials are urging the destruction of the environment by having direct and indirect connections with the coal giants.

As such, it is hard to find any close aides to Morrison, who currently heads the Australian government, who are not related to the coal industry. Let’s look at the case of Andrew Hirst, the National Party’s political campaign manager, and Yaron Finkelstein, who serves as the prime minister’s chief of staff. They both have a career in high-level posts at the Crossby Textor Group (CIT Group), one of the world’s top political strategy companies that designed campaigns for politicians like the former Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott. However, the CIT Group is associated with coal giants such as Glencore and Mitsubishi and is a pro-coal company that has been criticized by environmental groups for conducting the so-called “Caesar Project,” which tarnished the image of renewable energy and glorifies the perception of fossil fuels.

The Australian press is also deeply involved. Matthew Clinton, the prime minister’s speech secretary, and Andrew Casswell, press secretary, are former editor of The Courier Mail and chief executive officer of Daily Telegraph, respectively. What these media companies have in common is that they are the subsidiaries of News Corp., which controls 58 percent of the Australian newspaper market, as well as those affiliated with Rupert Murdoch, which is one of the media giants. Rupert Murdoch is also known to have close ties with pro-coal politicians as well as being deeply involved in the coal industry. Experts like climatologist Michael Mann of

Pennsylvania State University and foreign medias such as the New York Times, strongly criticized News Corp.’s subsidiaries such as The Australian, Herald Sun, and The Sky News for producing fake news that the fires were caused by arson and underreporting the effects of the heat and drought, which have become serious due to global warming.

Australia’s ecological environmental crisis was secretly escalating day by day as politicians, media, and capitalists formed a huge well-organized web with the coal industry.



▲ The big web made with coals is killing Australia without any notice.

Australia’s flame, reminiscent of a hellfire, has not been completely extinguished for a long time now. But one day, these dreaded flames will eventually die down, just as there is an end to everything. However, if Australian society fails to firmly cut the tightly coupled chain of political, economic, and media collusion based on the benefits of coal, the butterfly effect of it may strike Australia hard again. It is coal that once served as an economic diamond of Australian economy, but should we not start erasing the word from Australians’ minds for a better environment and future? As everyone knows, however, the shift in economic paradigm is a far cry from being based on the premise that the members of the society think and agree. But, if Australia hesitates to proceed to a new stage and stays stuck in its past familiarity, the society will never avoid the fate of looming decline in the end. The wildfires gave scars to its image as a clean country and its competitiveness. The Argus hopes that Australian citizens, living in one of the most beautiful countries in the world, will use this disaster as an opportunity to break with the outdated political and industrial order and leap into a new paradigm.  rabbit0326@hufs.ac.kr



Photo Essay

By Jang Soo-hyun
Associate Editor of Social Section

LAGOM

is a Swedish word that means “just the right amount.” It is the Swedish philosophy that one should be in balance — not too much or too little, as being

perfect may be seen as being too ambitious. Just enough is “just the right amount.”

Korean students are often devastated in our competitive society while striving for perfectionism. Although the perfect equilibrium of lagom is difficult to achieve, how can we as students also enjoy a moderate lifestyle without lack or excess? 🇸🇪

BEAST PIERCES ANOTHER BEAST'S HEART



WHY
HE
PULLED
THE
TRIGGER

THE
MAN
STANDING
NEXT

남산의 부장들

LEE BYUNG-HUN

A WOO MIN-HO FILM

SHOWBOX PRESENTS A HIVE MEDIA CORP / GEMSTONE PICTURES PRODUCTION

2020.01.22

By Yoo Chan-heum

Associate Editor of Social Section

“Bang!” The sound of gunfire in the safe house shook Korea. President Park Chung-hee was murdered by Kim Jae-gyu, one of the directors of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA) in Oct. 26, 1979. Why on earth did the man standing next to the president pulled the trigger? The movie, “The Man Standing Next,” tells the story of the 40 days before the Yushin Regime was overthrown.



▲ Today's Seobinggo-dong, Namyong-dong, Namsan are just ordinary places with a splendid view.



The Change of Nuance in Proper Nouns

As we know, the nuance of proper nouns varies with the times. Like in the late Joseon Dynasty, Pimatgol has been a place that reflected the public's rebellious mood for those who did not want to prostrate themselves to the royal family's visit. But in the 90s, it changed to a romantic place where there are cozy bars for young people.

Namsan, Namyong-dong, and Seobinggo-dong. What ideas pop up when you hear the names of these places? Do you not come up with the image of N Tower, the symbol of Seoul, shining brightly in the dark or a quiet place where the war memorial is located beyond Sookmyung Women's University? You even might think of a place where property value rises day after day with the magnificent view facing the Han River. But there was a time when these proper names, which sounds so ordinary for us today, brought trembling fear to many people. The KCIA in Namsan, the anti-communism investigation division office of the Police National Security Bureau in Namyong-dong, and the sheriff of Seobinggo-dong. Under authoritarian regimes, these three organizations competed fiercely with each other to be the protector of dictatorial power. They violated citizens' human rights and blocked the development of democracy in South Korea by fabricating numerous cases against so called "pro-communists" and espionage agents. But amongst the three the most notorious place among them was the headquarters of the KCIA.

The movie "The Man Standing Next" was based on a nonfiction novel of the same name written by the former Dong-A Ilbo reporter Kim Choong-sik. The 880-page work deals with the smoldering strife and conflicts of the power cores of the Third Republic through the stories of 10 directors of the KCIA, including Kim Jong-pil, who founded the KCIA, along with Kim Hyung-wook, Lee Hu-rak, and Kim Jae-kyu. Woo Min-ho's film, however, focuses only on Kim Hyung-wook and Kim Jae-kyu among them and faithfully depicts the last 40 days of the Third Republic heading toward collapse by deploying President Park Chung-hee and Presidential Security

Service (PSS) Chief Cha Ji-chul on their confrontation. Audiences who watched carefully would know this film captured the characters' rivalry relationship based on historical materials. Also, they may notice that the nuances of the proper names of Park Chung-hee and Kim Jae-kyu have been renewed over the decades.



The Noir in Politics

Film Noir, which is originated from "black," is a term referring to a series of crimes and gangsters under the influence of French Nouvelle Vague. As a result, Noir inevitably portrays the story of the struggle for power and the resulting conspiracies and betrayal as the core narrative. Director Woo Min-ho's latest films, "Inside Men," "The Drug King" and "The Man Standing Next," reveal the grammar and color of Noir films, which are centered on money and power. So with or without knowledge of Korea's modern history, it is no coincidence that we naturally recall Francis Coppola's film "The Godfather." In fact, Director Woo Min-ho said so in an interview, when asked by a reporter about his intention to plan for "The Man Standing Next."

Q: The movie's first half is like a Noir, and the second half seems like a thriller. You intended this because you saw the incident as Noir?

A: I wanted to make it like Noir. The fate of those who have no choice but to end tragically and their cold features were like gangsters. Such things as loyalty, betrayal, and contempt were like Noir, which I had seen in film studies. So I naturally made it look like Noir.



©Sisaweek



▲ But in the past, these places were the nightmares of Korea.



◀ Former coup comrades are divided into two teams to fight over power.

The original writer Kim Choong-sik also told an anecdote about his meeting with Woo. “He seemed to have seen the bugging, kidnapping, tailing, assassinations, and smuggling carried out by the KCIA under the protection of its power as a subject of the movie. He was thrilled that he could make something greater than the movie ‘The Godfather’.”

The plot, betrayal, and murder stories created by two sides: Park Chung-hee, Kwak Sang-cheon (Cha Ji-chul) vs Kim Kyu-pyeong (Kim Jae-kyu) and Park Yong-gak (Kim Hyung-wook), is not far from the plot of “The Godfather.” While the pivotal roles of power, such as the President of South Korea, the Chief Officer of PSS, and the director of the KCIA, imposes great discourse of the nation and the people for their cause of evil. But the decisive driver that motivated their actions was money and power. Just like drinking sea water only makes one thirstier, money and power make a person thirstier for more. Eventually, the degree of anxiety and the desire are bound to rise endlessly. Those who have become slaves who are controlled by money and power are no longer the same people as they used to be. So the main characters who have become corrupted murderers, reminisce about the old days when they had nothing and think those times were the time of their lives. At the fancy, but lonely and isolated safe house in Gungjeong-dong, Park Chung-hee, and Kim Jae-kyu talk about their old days over a glass of Makgeolli(rice wine) mixed with cider.

The former comrade, who had vowed to share his death with the cause of revolution and the creation of an advanced nation, is now in a position to contemplate who will first draw the sword on his opponent, while recalling the days of purity that have been lost forever.

Who is the Beast

After the 10.26 incident, Kim replied, "I shot the heart of Yushin Regime with a beastlike mind." But after we saw the movie, we all know that one beast aimed at the heart of a greater and more tyrannical beast.

The central characters in this film are all human beings who lack human sensitivity. Regardless of what kind of human beings they were before the time the film depicted, and what achievements they had made in our modern history, they are all mad men in the last 40 days of the Third Republic. First of all, the conversations between Park Chung-hee and Kwak Sang-cheon (Cha Ji-cheol) over the Bu-Ma Democratic Protests prove this. Against Kim Kyu-pyeong (Kim Jae-kyu), who reports the seriousness of the Bu-Ma Democratic Protests and suggests a conciliatory policy, Kwak Sang-cheon roars at his face like this. "Dear Mr. President, more than three million people were killed in Cambodia, it is not a big deal. If those bastards behave like that again, I will crush them with tanks whether they are students or members of the New Democratic Party!" It is a problem that there is a type of person who would carry out a genocide for a dictator, but Park Chung-hee, who smiles and sympathizes with these absurd remarks, is no less than a corrupt dictator who has lost even the basic virtues of humanity. What about the beings in their confrontation?

Park Yong-gak (Kim Hyung-wook), who was abandoned by Park Chung-hee and died miserably by being split in a chicken farm shredder in France, also was not free from the sins of his evil deeds. One of the most famous lines in the film is, “You have me on your side, do as you wish,” which means that even though there is some unspoken pressure from the commander in chief, not rejecting it is like choosing the life of a beast himself. Kim Kyu-pyeong (Kim Jae-kyu), who is portrayed as an intellectual conflicting between loyalty and the greater good, is not different from them. The size of the evil of the other characters is so great that he looks like the guardian of the country. But it is hard to deny that he was also a faithful guardian of the Yushin Regime until the moment of rebellion, whether it was accidental or premeditated. Isn't Kim the one who led to the death of Park Yong-gak (Kim Hyung-wook), who was a coup comrade and a friend of his, in order to preserve his position as the head of the KCIA?

Therefore, we can summarize the film with this phrase. One beast shot the heart of a larger, more violent beast. 

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◀ The beast kills the tyrant but he eventually dooms himself, too.

Entrance to Korean Culture: Learning Hangul

By **Kim Se-Chan**
Overseas Correspondent

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As the reporter entered room 167 in Schumacher Hall, he encountered five college students sitting in the front row staring at the notes they took from the last class. Their eyes were shining with enthusiasm. Five students, all with different majors, ages, and backgrounds voluntarily added Korean 101 to their schedule to learn everything about Korea. All the students in the class are learning from scratch, so for the first few sessions, they had to deal with one of the biggest hurdles, which was learning how to write and pronounce consonants and vowels, the basic structures of Hangul. Especially for Maya, a student from the class, pronouncing tense consonants was a huge stumbling block. "I have never learned other languages before. I never knew it could be this difficult. My friend just dropped this class because she thought she was lagging behind." She added, "I also thought about dropping, but after practicing over the weekend, I somehow managed to pronounce it better."

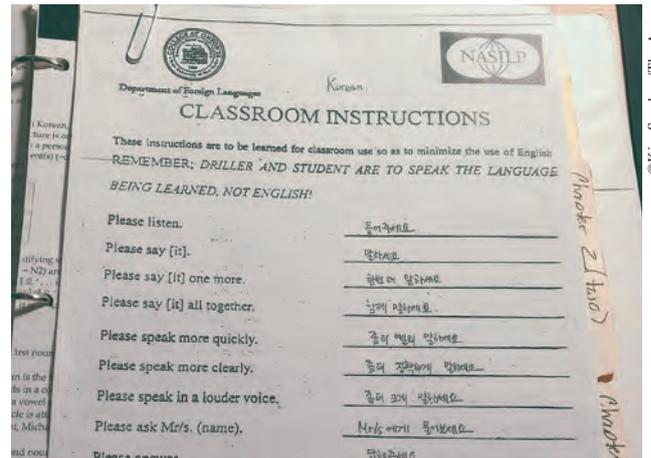
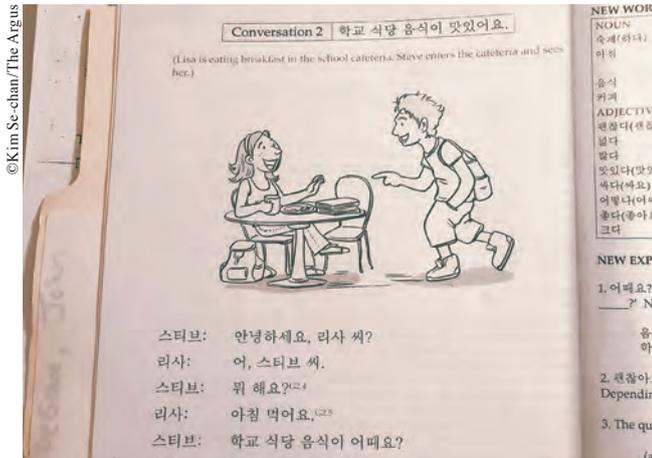
When the clock ticked 4 p.m., the class began. "Every class starts with a pop quiz. Last class we covered dialogues and vocabulary from chapter one. I studied hard throughout the weekend to get Hangul in my head," said Maggie, one of the five students in the class. Normally ten questions are on the quiz, and among those, one question is a special question for extra points. However, the format of the quiz varies from each session. On today's quiz, the hardest part was writing from zero to ten in Sino-Korean, and extra points were given for being able to write the classroom number in Korean. Ten minutes had passed, but most of the students were still looking through the paper to figure out the missing puzzle. After an additional five minutes, students finally put down their pens with a sigh.

This class is part of the Self-Instructional Language Program (SILP) at State University of New York at Oneonta. As is noticeable from the name, the course is basically a self-study course. It is different from other classes with a qualified instructor who leads the class. This means the course time can be flexible, and what they do in the mandatory three-hour class time is completely unrestricted. In other words, the class can be seen as informal. However, it is still a three-credit course that the school approves if students pass the final oral test. Since the SILP course is opened completely on the basis of student demand, the participating students are expected to actively engage and be responsible for their studies.

The reporter is currently a tutor for Korean 101. The tutor's role is to provide opportunities for practice and feedback. The tutor needs to prepare language practice activities for the tutorial sessions in accordance with the syllabus and textbook provided by the SILP supervisor.



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After a few sessions with the class, a question arose in the reporter's head. "Why Korean?" Or to put it differently, "What about Korea makes you want to come to class each week?" Foreigners learning Korean is totally different from us learning English. English is widely considered to be a universal language and a mandatory skill in a globalized world, which is not the case when learning Korean. If not planning on living in Korea, learning Hangul is more of a luxury or even worse, unnecessary knowledge. After class, the tutor and the students got together at a coffee shop and discussed the topic.

←

Korean 101

🔍 ☰

What got you interested in taking Korean 101?

Maddison

For me it was a straightforward choice. I want to work in Korea. Currently, I am majoring in music industry, and I have a huge interest in learning about the K-pop music business. When I first heard K-pop songs in high school, I was surprised how good they were. Ever since, I am always thinking about visiting Korea and hopefully getting a job there.

Aleyah

My reason is similar to Maddison's. Before I graduate, I want to study abroad in Korea. I have never left the United States.

Aya

I am from Fukuoka, Japan. When I was growing up, I saw a lot of Korean people throughout the city. Every time I saw Korean people, I wished I knew Korean so that I could talk to them. Also, over time I got curious about Korean and Korean culture, so I wanted to learn about Korea. At the start of the semester, I heard that there was a class that teaches Korean, so I registered for this course.

Maggie

I had friends who were hugely into K-pop when I was attending middle school in Hong Kong. I was not into K-pop then, but when I came to this school I somehow joined the Korean Culture Club, which led me to learning about Korean culture. I think it was my friend's influence that got me into that club. Besides, I also like learning other languages. The act of communicating in another language has always thrilled me, which is why I am studying abroad here to learn English. Eventually, I will visit Korea to use the phrases I am learning in this course.

How did you first encounter Korean culture?



Maya

In my high school years, friends talked about K-pop a lot such as Super Junior, BigBang and Blackpink. This was how I first came to know about Korea.



Aleyah

In college, somehow I started watching K-dramas. I knew about K-culture back when I was a middle school student, but it was in college that I really encountered Korean culture.



Aya

Famous K-dramas were on television when I was young. I watched some episodes of "Winter Sonata." One of the actors in this drama, Bae Yong-joon, was especially huge in Japan. I think that was when I first learned about Korean culture.



Maddison

I first heard about Korean culture through YouTube. When I was in middle school, YouTube was becoming a huge thing. Many videos were popping up, including K-pop music videos. I watched music videos from KARA, Girl's Generation, and 4Minute.

What is your impression of Korean culture?



Maya

Formality, etiquette, and respecting elders. I am learning a lot of words and phrases in Korean that are used differently depending on the person you are talking to.



Maddison

I heard there are also different ways of acting or "rules" when drinking alcohol with elders. Politeness is the word that comes to mind when I think of Korean Culture.



Aya

For me, I think of diverse Korean food. I like grilled pork belly (samgyupsal), bulgogi, and any food with kimchi in it. One of my friends made me tteokbokki, and it became my favorite food recently.

Impressions of Korea along with Korean culture have gone through drastic changes over the last few years. As K-pop and Korean media starts to earn global fame, many people, especially those of the younger generation, have positive views toward learning about Korean culture. Not only do they want to learn about the culture, but some of them are actually planning on starting a life in Korea. The continuing demand of the Korean 101 class in this small town supports the phenomenon. As more and more people are becoming interested in Korea, we Koreans have a responsibility to lead our culture in a positive direction so that positive features get exposed. We should do it not only for the sake of the nation, but also for ourselves. When we are out in the world, people view us through their impressions on Korean culture before they get to know us as individuals. In addition, these days Koreans talk about leaving so-called "Hell Chosun," but we should know that on the other side of the world, there are people desperately learning "Hangul" in order to start a life in Korea. 🇰🇷



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Kindness Does Not Belong to Everyone

By Lee Jae-won

Editorial Consultant

In an old South Korean drama with a title that I cannot remember, characteristics of the rich and poor were different from each other: the rich are unkind and the poor are kind. Such characteristics, however, do not go together with current South Korean society. How our society has changed is shown in the recent popular movie “Parasite” (2019). Implicit in the movie are two intriguing notions: first, that the rich are kind but the poor are unkind; and second, that the poor fight with each other.

In “Parasite,” three families are positioned at different points on the class ladder: the Kims live in a semi-basement hovel and the Parks live in a big two-storied house and Geun-se lives in a basement of the Parks’ house thanks to his wife Moon-gwang, a housekeeper for the Parks. Because of the wit of the son, Kim Ki-woo, who has become the tutor of the Parks’ daughter, the Kims become the Parks’ domestic staff, pretending not to know each other. The father, Kim Ki-taek, says, “The Parks are all kind even though they are rich.” His son Ki-woo wants to marry the Parks’ daughter to whom he teaches English. The Kim family aspires to be wealthy like the Park family.

At the same time, the Kims express contempt for the lower class: Geun-se and Moon-gwang. When the Kims found out that Geun-se lives in the basement to hide himself from moneylenders, Moon-gwang asks the Kims to help her husband, but they refuse to do so. Why did they refuse even when they had experienced such economic difficulties themselves? A few moments later, it was revealed that the Kim family members are one family, after which Moon-gwang threatens the Kims by lashing out with abusive language. Why did she threaten them even though she also hid her husband in the Parks’ house?

For a reply to this question, let us look at two surplus groups in South Korea: the high surplus group and the low surplus group (Shin Jin-wook, “A Bloody Society of the Unbloody”). The rich are getting richer (the high surplus) and the poor are getting poorer (the low surplus). Many Koreans, according to Shin, criticize the high but they want to become like the high; and sympathize with the low but they fear to become like the low. The Kim family is a typical example of us that portrays contrastive emotions to the high and the low respectively. Their behavior indicates the fact—in modern society, kindness is nearly a state based on our economic conditions, rather than a fixed part of our identity.

Happy ends elude a majority of the film’s characters. This end is one of the outcomes we could face if the conflict between the classes remains unsolved. Seeking solutions to this problem is our job. How can we settle the issue?

The answer is solidarity with “the abject.” Philosopher Julia Kristeva once examined the idea of the abject, which means the abandoned things. People try to stay away from the abject; and literally abandon them; and see them as non-existent (Moongang Hyeong-joon, “A Politics of Extermination”). When you are looking at Ki-taek, who due to his smell was belittled by the Parks; and at Moon-gwang, who due to her disease was fired from her work; and at Geun-se, who due to his poverty was isolated from social life—then you will understand that these characters belonged to the abject.

“Good society teaches how to live with the abject; bad society eliminates the abject, veiling an imbalance of the system” (Moongang, the same passage). When we reach the good society where we band together against the contradictions in our system, only then we can say the following—kindness belongs to everyone. 

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#Pestilence

- : Pestilence is any very serious infectious disease that spreads quickly and kills large numbers of people.
- : The personification of pestilence, often depicted riding a white horse

©WHO

Kwak Hyun-jeong

#IAmNotAVirus

We are not the latest outbreak. We are not “those Asians.” We are not TV or web images. We are not numbers, statistics, and projections. We are mothers, fathers, children, scholars, artists, doctors, fighters, survivors...PEOPLE.

- Parody of #IAmALiberianNotAVirus Facebook page campaign

Kim Do-kyung

The way we perceive the environment determines our health and destiny. The core is that, health and destiny also change as the way we respond to the environment changes.

-James Nared & Rory Nadell, “happiness genes.”

Kim Se-chan

Starting off the issue with the word “pestilence” is surely ominous. Yet, there is not much of a better word to replace it with, considering the present situation. “Plan for the Worst, Hope for the Best.” This is a phrase I acquired the hard way at the army. Stay with The Argus this semester and stay notified. As an overseas correspondent in the U.S., I will do my best to deliver news from the other side of the world.

Kim Ji-hyeon

It is time to greet the new semester but most of us feel nervous because of the virus. Everything is going to be all right if we remember the proverb, “Prevention is better than cure.”

Na Geum-chaee

“We will either find a way, or make one.”

- Hannibal

Park Chang-hwan

Swine Flu, SARS, Ebola, and MERS. Every so often, the white rider knocks on humankind’s door.

“Are you ready for the end now?” he asks.

“Not yet,” we answer and turn him away.

He is knocking again, but we will answer once more, “See you never, white rider.”

Yoo Chan-heum

These days, the coronavirus is the most infamous pestilence putting humankind’s life at stake. But in the dark, there are much more unknown plaguelike problems. Find out with The Argus in the March issue.

Jang Soo-hyun

“Here’s some advice. Stay alive.”

-Haymitch, The Hunger Games



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