



No. 539 DECEMBER 14, 2023

# The Argus

Since 1954

**Wounds Left Behind the National Tragedy**

**Trauma Ripples through Korean Society  
Victims Unjustly Shoulder the Burden of Blame  
Political Bickering and National Indifference Impede Recovery  
Memorial Spaces, a Sanctuary for Expressing Grief**

# The Argus

ESTABLISHED 1954

Published monthly except on school holidays by and for the students of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, The Argus, the campus English magazine, pursues the highest standard of campus journalism and academism.

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## Editorial

# Just Love

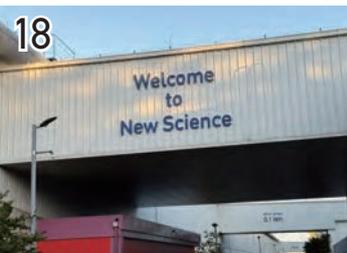
We express love to our family, friends, and partners. Regardless of whether our relationships with family, friends, or partners are always harmonious, we eventually express love to them. Although each person may express love in different ways, there is no doubt that the love we speak of carries the same meaning. What power does our love possess that compels us to keep loving? With just one phrase, "I love you," miracles happen—new strength emerges, and seemingly impossible things become possible. When I was young, even when my stomach hurt badly, a gentle touch from my grandmother, who loved me, would quickly heal the pain, even more effectively than going to the hospital or taking medicine. Love not only makes us stronger but also holds a magical power to heal wounds. Could it be that we speak of love at the end of our lives, a force more powerful and pure than anything else in the world?

In recent years, South Korea has suffered the loss of many precious people due to various accidents. This has brought us the pain of loss, and for whatever reason those accidents happened, we needed to find a way to heal from that loss. However, we are often hindered by the unwinnable battle that unfolds between those who have lost their loved ones and those who have not, and this battle often turns into a tool for someone else. Why does every mourning scene seem to inevitably take on a political aspect? Despite the various emotions and conflicts arising from it, why should some mourning be political? Why is our grief interpreted in different ways, and why are some sorrows not even granted the qualification for grief? Does the right to forget supersede the right to remember? If mourning for something is a statement of someone's political stance, what can we mourn? Sometimes it feels as if we are trapped in a maze with no exit. When none of the choices seems like a real answer, how far can we go with love?

Nevertheless, we must make a hopeful declaration that we will transmit love from mouth to mouth, from word to word, so in the end, we have come to a conclusion about what we must do in order to survive. Let's just love. Love must be preserved, and it does not need to be preserved as a whole. Let's just protect it from shattering. Even if we sometimes fail, believe that through love, there will be a better tomorrow. 

By Lee Jue-hyun  
Editor-in-Chief

이 주 현



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## No. 539

>> The tragedy of October 29, 2022, in an alley of Itaewon, Seoul has undermined public trust in Korean society's safety and security. The incident has left survivors, the bereaved, and even citizens experiencing mental distress. Despite the ongoing grief, victim blaming and ridicule of those mourning the victims are persisting, further impeding the recovery of survivors and the bereaved. Effective recovery requires an environment free from political discord and secondary victimization, where survivors and the bereaved can receive social support. Now, let's examine the appropriate roles of the state and citizens in addressing the trauma caused by this man-made disaster.

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## HUFS Seoul Campus Smoking Areas Cause Inconvenience



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▲ The smoking areas on the Seoul campus of HUFS are located next to the University Library (1st from L), the Law School building (2nd from L), the Humanities building (2nd from R), and the Graduate School (1st from R).

Smoking areas on the HUFS Seoul campus have been a source of aggravation for students. There are currently no designated smoking booths and the main smoking areas are typically located in three spots—beside the University Library, next to the Humanities Building, and between the Law Building and the Main Building. However, these areas are not officially designated as smoking zones by the university. In contrast, the Global Campus has smoking booths installed throughout the campus. Also, Kyung Hee University strictly differentiates between smoking and non-smoking zones and even took measures to close smoking areas in response to frequent complaints in 2021. HUFS Seoul Campus has faced ongoing requests to relocate smoking areas according to municipal regulations, ensuring a distance of more than 10 meters from building entrances or installing smoking booths. However, due to the limited campus space and the associated installation costs, these requests have not been addressed yet.

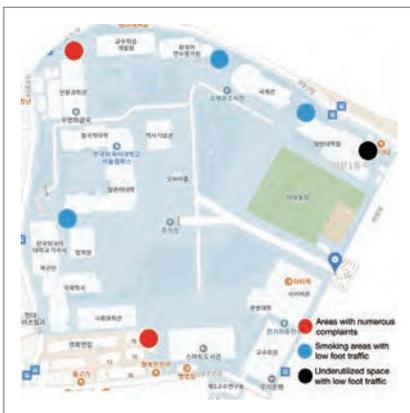
Areas near the Humanities Building and the Social Sciences Building are frequently inquired about in terms of smoking on campus, as they are heavily trafficked by students attending classes throughout the day. Park Soo-bin (Division of Chinese Language, Literature and Culture '22) said, “I use the elevator

on the basement floor of the social science building a lot, but every time I go, I hold my breath because I don't want to smell cigarettes.” Also, Lee Jong-kook (Department of Political Science and Diplomacy '21) said, “I also feel that the smell is too bad even though I am a smoker. The smell of the smoking area is so strong that my efforts to get rid of the smell seem to be meaningless. I think smoking areas cause people to have a more negative perception of smokers.” However, examining designated smoking areas on campus reveals that while some are accessible, they may have lower foot traffic or are currently unused. For instance, the area next to the Law Building has moderate foot traffic, but it allows for distance between the pathway and the smoking area, and it is not directly adjacent to building windows.

The 58th Student Council, whose term will commence in 2024, is also aware of the issue and has pledged to address it. Their campaign promises include considering options such as relocating designated smoking areas or installing smoking booths. Simply relocating smoking areas may not immediately resolve the conflict between the right to smoke and the right to a smoke-free environment. However, efforts to find a compromise and concession between smoking and non-smoking rights are essential in navigating this delicate balance. 📄

**By Lee Jue-hyun, Kim Min Seon**

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## MS Lowers HUFS OneDrive Storage Capacity

Microsoft (MS) will decrease personal OneDrive storage capacity, which has been offered for HUFS students, to 50GB. By February 1, 2024, those whose total file size exceeds 50GB should move their files since some will become read-only and then automatically deleted. This change is a result of MS deciding to offer 100TB (1TB=1000GB) to each school, revising its free storage policy.

Previously, the OneDrive capacity provided by MS was 1TB per person and was unlimited for each university. However, after the policy change, it decreased to 100TB per university, causing confusion among universities and students. Fortunately, HUFS allocates 50GB per person, which is 10 to 50 times larger than other universities. This is because few students activate their OneDrive account, and even activated accounts are not using a significant amount of capacity. Consequently, HUFS does not need to purchase extra storage capacity.

MS stated that they changed their policy because most schools are not utilizing their allocated capacity and there were security problems. Google also underwent severe changes in July 2021, canceling the unlimited storage capacity policy and deciding to provide 100TB per university. Due to these frequent changes in overseas services and the expensive cost of purchasing additional capacity, Sungkyunkwan University decided to use a domestic cloud service, “Naver Cloud,” from September 2023. Choo Hae-yeon (Department of Thai '23) expressed her worries, commenting, “Most students cannot afford to buy expensive programs, so support from schools is essential. However, if policies change frequently, it is confusing for students because the only way to find out is through school announcements.” The ongoing criticism of policy instability among office program providers for universities underscores the need for schools to explore more effective measures to ensure students can reliably utilize these services. 📖

**By Cho Subin**

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▲ OneDrive is a Microsoft service that allows users to upload files to the cloud and access them from web servers.

## HUFS Global Campus Holds 3rd Reading Marathon

The 3rd Reading Marathon is being held at the Global Campus Library for a total of 12 weeks from November 6, 2023, to January 28, 2024. The reading marathon is a reading record keeping event aimed at improving reading and helping students reflect on their reading habits. Any member of the Global Campus can participate by filling out and submitting the “Application for Participation” form on the library website. A gift certificate of 50,000 won (US\$38.5) will be given to the first 29 people who complete the half course. The number of books available for loan in the first semester of 2024 will be increased based on the results of this event.

The first step in participating in the reading marathon is to fill out an application. After reading books—excluding cartoons, major books, test papers, original books and periodicals—participants can record their reading on the “Reading Record Diary” page. Participants should then write a book review of more than 200 characters, including spaces, on the detailed page of the book on the library’s website. There are three courses in this event: short, half, and full. To receive a gift certificate, at least half of the course must be completed, and it will be distributed by mobile phone. The progress will be updated every Wednesday on the library’s website. Notices and Q&A sessions will also be conducted through the KakaoTalk open chat room. HUFS librarian Park Jung-hye commented, “I hope students develop healthy reading habits and organize their thoughts while reading books and writing book reports.” The reading marathon will provide an opportunity for students to sustain their regular reading habits for a longer duration. 📖



▲ The Reading Marathon is open to all members of the Global Campus and the current status of participation can be accessed through the library website.

**By Gil Tae-yeon**

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## All Wi-Fi in Seoul Campus to Be Replaced with New Equipment

From mid-January to the end of February 2024, all Wi-Fi provided by HUFs Seoul Campus will be replaced with wider-range and faster networks. The Wi-Fi devices' standards are changing, and as a result, both the frequency range and the network speed will improve. This change comes in response to the inconvenience faced by numerous students.

The 57th HUFs Seoul Campus Student Council, known as "Doyak," obtained permission for the Wi-Fi upgrade during the 2nd University Innovation Steering Committee on October 18. The replacement applies to all official HUFs-provided Wi-Fi, such as "Hufs\_Seoul," "eduroam," and "Hufs\_library." Unofficial Wi-Fi not provided by HUFs, such as that in each department's space, is not applicable to this upgrade. The Wi-Fi Access Point (AP) model 5 will be replaced with model 6E. With this replacement, the existing frequency range will extend from 2.4G and 5G to 2.4G, 5G, and 6G. Additionally, the network speeds of 2.4G and 5G will be twice as fast as the current ones.

Since the beginning of the last semester, students have experienced considerable inconvenience due to slow internet connection speeds and the instability of the HUFs Wi-Fi. Hwang Ha-eun (Department of English Linguistics & Language Technology '23) said, "Even when my devices are connected to the HUFs Wi-Fi, they frequently become disconnected, so I tend not to use the Wi-Fi that HUFs provides. I rather use my personal cellular data when taking classes because of these issues." The improvements resulting from the Wi-Fi replacement will create a better studying environment and campus life for students. 📷

**A comprehensive replacement of the campus-wide Wi-Fi has been officially confirmed**

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**Schedule :**  
After the conclusion of the winter term in 2023

**Target :**  
School Wi-Fi systems such as Hufs\_Seoul, eduroam

**Coverage :** Entire campus of Seoul campus

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▲ During the winter break, HUFs Seoul Campus undergoes a comprehensive replacement of the Wi-Fi system.

**By Joo Heejin**

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## Graduation Gown Rental Method Requires Modification

Graduates of the Global Campus experience difficulty with the rental of graduation gowns at each graduation ceremony. The fact that, in the past, the rental of graduation gowns was on a first-come, first-served basis, and that there was an omission about alternatives, caused inconvenience to students. Attention is now focused on the changes that the Student Council will bring at the upcoming graduation ceremony scheduled for February 16, 2024.

The problems with the graduation gown rental method for the 2023 graduation ceremony can be examined by dividing them into the first and the second graduations. At the previous graduation ceremony, graduation gowns were rented on a first-come, first-served basis through a Google form.

The issue arose when alternative options were omitted for those who did not receive confirmation of rental, leading them to wait without further information. At the latter graduation ceremony, rentals were made on a first-come, first-served basis on the day. This method created anxiety about whether students could actually rent a gown by omitting information about the quantity and number of graduates, resulting in a situation where even students who graduated in the afternoon came in the morning to rent graduation gowns.

Students point out that the rental system did not proceed smoothly. Lee Yoo-yeol (Department of Mathematics '19) commented, "There would have been less confusion if real-time information announcements had been made through social media." Students hope that in the future there will be no issues, regardless of the method chosen. The Student Council should take responsibility for listening to students' opinions, fixing previous problems, and proceeding with the graduation procedures more systematically. 📷



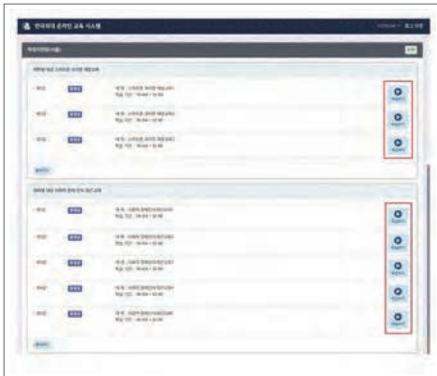
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▲ Graduates who attended the commencement ceremony in the latter part of 2023 are taking commemorative photos.

**By Lee Seun**

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## Restricted Access to Grades if Compulsory Education Not Completed



▲ Students can access the education program through the HUFSAbility Online Lecture System or the HUFSAbility website.

All members of HUFSAbility are required to complete “Violence Prevention Education” on the “HUFSAbility Online Lecture System” by December

20, 2023, or access to final semester grades will be restricted. International students should also complete the “Understanding Korean Laws” course by the same date.

Students can fulfill these requirements by clicking “Take Compulsory Training” on their My Page on the HUFSAbility website, or by directly accessing the “HUFSAbility Online Lecture System.” Since 2020, the Human Rights Center has been conducting two hours of mandatory “Violence Prevention Education” annually, with one hour dedicated to sexual violence prevention and another to domestic violence prevention. This is in compliance with relevant laws, including the Basic Gender Equality Act. In addition, Seoul Campus students are obligated to undergo “Social Disability Awareness Education” and “Smartphone Overdependence Prevention Education” annually until December 31.

Kim Min-jin (Department of International Economics and Law '21) said “The system prioritizes completion rates over true educational goals. Exploring alternatives, such as using rewards instead of grades, may be more effective.” Though system may be imperfect, sincere student engagement remains vital for this program to achieve its intended purposes. Students should consider this, rather than completing it solely for the sake of checking grades. 📧

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## HUFSAbility Holds Non-curriculum Program Awards

Spanning from September 1, 2023, to January 15, 2024, HUFSAbility Institute for Educational Innovation is holding a HUFSAbility event, the Non-curriculum Program Awards. Thirteen students who took over 10 non-curriculum classes will be awarded without extra applications, ranked in order by the most credit points. The results are to be posted on the site’s notice board on January 18, 2024. Jung Ji-min (Department of English for International Conferences and Communications '23) said, “I was not aware of this event because I have not been on the site for so long, but if I had, I would have thought about taking a chance.” As HUFSAbility offers various classes focused on employment, job searching, scholarships, extracurricular activities, and more, students can enhance abilities that the university aims to strengthen by sourcing from outside of the campus. 📧

By Kim Yun Seo  
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## Improvements Needed for HUFSAbility School Bus System

At HUFSAbility, students are experiencing inconvenience due to school buses arriving later than class start times. While the scheduled arrival time for the school bus is 8:50 a.m., students have consistently complained about buses on the Pangyo route arriving after 9:00 a.m., causing inconvenience before the first class. Moon Byung-kyu, the head of Dongyoung Tourism Management’s management office, stated, “We are considering extending the operating hours of the Pangyo route to 7:35 a.m., 7:45 a.m., and 7:55 a.m.” These school bus issues need to be addressed to ensure students can commute to and from school without inconvenience. 📧

By Jo Hwan-hee  
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# Share Your Failure Stories!

By Cho Subin  
Cub Reporter

Is a failure proud moment to share? At the end of 2023, reflecting on the past year, many may recall both the positive and regrettable experiences. Rather than concealing one's own failures, sharing them with others can provide an opportunity to seek lessons and overcome challenges. From the experiences of others' failures, people may discover alternative paths and gain strength to not linger in the places where they stumble, but rise again, even if they fall. The Argus asked HUFSSans to proudly share their most memorable failure of 2023.

**Failure!**

Park Jun-sun (Division of French Language '23)



In March 2023, I finally purchased the Sony headphones I had been longing for. I was contemplating this for a long time because of the relatively high price. As I was browsing the internet, my eyes caught the words "Today's Special Deal!" I was impulsively drawn in and clicked it. After a few seconds, finally, I made the purchase. However, I discovered later that it was a counterfeit model as I searched for the serial number of the product. My headphones had an invalid serial number. Naturally, I was quite taken aback when I learned the truth. However, I am still using it without any issues, and it seems to be functioning just fine. This experience

served as a stark reminder that I should thoroughly examine and verify items before making a purchase. It made me realize the importance of being meticulous when buying things. Moreover, it prompted me to consider, if I had believed the Chinese knockoff to be genuine and used it as such, would it not be authentic for me? This proud mishap of mine led to various contemplations and reflections.

**Failure!**

An Eui-jin (Department of Scandinavian Languages '19)



This year's Chuseok, I decided to take a train to visit my hometown in Jeongeup, North Jeolla Province. Given the notorious difficulty of booking train tickets during the Chuseok holiday, I set an alarm for the exact moment the tickets would be released. However, on the day of ticketing, I overslept. As soon as I woke up, when I checked the website, all the train tickets were already sold out. With no other option, I hastily booked a bus ticket, departing at 7 a.m. on Chuseok day. Due to heavy holiday traffic, the journey took nearly 9 hours, and by the time I arrived at my hometown, it was already 4:30 p.m. Exhausted from spending almost the entire day on the road, I

had no choice but to rest the entire next day as well. My golden Chuseok holiday was ruined by my oversleeping. I learned the lesson that for important events, I need to start preparing a day in advance. I resolved to approach such occasions with greater foresight, understanding that starting preparations a day in advance could make all the difference.

**Failure!**

Chung Min-seo (Division of French Language '22)



I went backpacking in Canada during my winter break. On the first day of my arrival in Quebec, I happened to meet two Koreans, and we ended up traveling together for two nights and three days. However, they preferred to explore different places, and as the days went by, I found myself becoming quite exhausted. I could not hide the fact that I was getting tired. Actually, I believe it is crucial to master the art of controlling and concealing emotions—it is a form of consideration for others. It is still an area where I feel inexperienced, and observing my own shortcomings, I could not help but feel sorry for them. Amidst this, I was genuinely grateful for

their consideration and kindness. Through this experience, I have made a resolution to practice managing and concealing emotions to avoid making others uncomfortable or uneasy. Ultimately, the journey became not just an exploration of Canada but also a journey into understanding myself and improving how I deal with my emotions in tough situations.

**Failure!**

Lee Da-yeon (Department of Electronics Engineering '20)



While interning at a corporate research lab this year, I worked on a project to develop an AI model for mammography tissue classification. Since the developers were me and my supervisor, communication centered around my supervisor. As well as my first goal of developing a qualified model, the second goal was added, incorporating functionality for left-right imbalance, to be used as a part of another project. However, communication difficulties with other team members resulted in a lack of clarity on the progress of the second goal, leading to delays. Unfortunately, the team leader was unaware of this situation, and the project continued only with the initial development goal. From this failure, I learned that consistent sharing of project status, issues, and concerns with team members can facilitate effective schedule management, since seemingly individual projects ultimately contribute to larger initiatives. Moving forward, engaged in team projects, I aim to share progress with team members regularly, prioritizing effective communication for successful collaboration.

# Fortune for the Unfortunate



By **Kim Jun-hong**

*Associate Editor of Social Section*

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**T**he French government has begun to relocate homeless people in Paris to other cities as part of city maintenance ahead of the 2024 Paris Olympics. In the past, South Korea has also implemented a policy of temporarily relocating homeless people to shantytowns away from the city center in order to keep them as inconspicuous as possible during national events such as the World Cup. From the point of view of the state and citizens, the homeless are simply a detriment to the aesthetics of the city and a general nuisance to the public. Nonetheless, as they are integral members of society and vulnerable people who deserve protection, support policies for the homeless exist and are still being implemented. However, since it is an area that is not of interest to many people, the reality is that there is slow progress on implementation and little discussion on the effectiveness of the policy. The number of homeless people is decreasing day by day, but a decrease in absolute numbers does not automatically solve the root of the problem. In the long run, helping homeless people become self-reliant and safely reintegrated into society will act as an effective support measure. The Argus aims to raise awareness of the vulnerabilities in South Korea's homeless policy and to help spread a warmer view of the homeless based on inclusion by giving readers a chance to think over the direction for improvement in policy.

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### Problem 1 Endless Cycle of Entering and Leaving Homeless Facilities

According to the “2021 Homeless Survey” released by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the number of homeless people in South Korea as of 2021 was 8,956. When thinking of the homeless, people often think of those who live and sleep on the streets, such as in subway stations and vacant lots. However, not all homeless people live on the streets. Many live in government-provided shelters or in homeless care facilities. As of 2021, there are a total of 128 welfare facilities for the homeless in operation. At first glance, it may seem that there is adequate support for the shelters since the facilities are in place and there are many people who use them. The problem is that these facilities are not conducive to providing eventual stability for the homeless. The purpose of a homeless facility is not to provide a permanent shelter, but to provide humanitarian aid for those who seek a living for themselves. However, there are many cases where facility residents are unable to maintain their reintegration after being discharged from the facility and repeatedly enter and leave the facility, making actual independence impossible. This is often referred to as the “revolving door.” Like a revolving door, the homeless just hover around facilities and streets, far from breaking away from their homeless lives. Such phenomenon has been a problem for homeless people in the past and remains unresolved even now.

### Cause 1 Homeless Policies Aimed at Prioritizing Facilities Over Housing

So why does the revolving door phenomenon remain unresolved? Difficulties in becoming self-reliant may be a reason preventing people from escaping homelessness, but the lack of a stable home and institutional support can be cited as key causes. South Korea’s support policies for the homeless are designed to focus on facilities rather than housing support. Shin Won Woo, a professor of Hyupsung University’s Department of Social Welfare, explains, “From the beginning of the rise of the homelessness problem in South Korea to the present, the priority has been to support the homeless with living facilities so that they are not visible on the streets.” The problem is that facilities do not ultimately eradicate homelessness. Living in a facility is somewhat different from the life that an individual leads on their own, making it difficult for them to ultimately support themselves, and as a result, it is impossible to prevent

the repetition of the revolving door phenomenon.

In addition to the difficulty of being self-reliant, the level of satisfaction with the facilities among the homeless is actually low. For the homeless, most of whom were accustomed to living in a house prior to their homelessness and then on the streets, facilities are an unfamiliar environment with the additional burden of adjusting to group life. In response, Professor Shin adds, “Even if the living facility can solve the problem of food, clothing, and housing, it is bound to be perceived as a place for the homeless to live temporarily for a while.” For the homeless, who are accustomed to living with privacy, the facility is an environment that makes their lives uncomfortable. This discomfort makes them decide to leave, but the harshness of reality they face outside of the facility makes them come back. Then this causes them to leave again shortly afterwards, and the cycle continues.

### Solution 1 Expansion of Support for Independent Living Spaces and Strengthening Follow-up Management

For the homeless to become practically self-reliant, providing a home is more necessary than a facility. According to the “2021 Homeless Survey,” the analysis of the types of housing support desired by all homeless people showed that preference toward “general housing where they live alone” was recorded the most. Governmental support for stable housing should be adequately tailored to the needs of homeless people who want stable housing that allows them to live independently. In this regard, Professor Shin points out that a paradigm shift in housing support for the homeless should also be prioritized. “The housing that homeless people prefer is not simply a ‘facility that provides anything,’ but ‘housing that may be modest but that allows one to live independently.’ It may seem like a natural argument, but there is still a lack of understanding among stakeholders such as the government, local governments, and homeless welfare facilities.”

Bridging the gap between the housing that homeless people want and facilities the government is providing is a priority, and the next step should be ongoing follow-up. Professor Shin adds, “Even if homeless people manage to find a place to live independently, it is often difficult for them to live a stable life due to lack of access to support services,” emphasizing the need for consistent follow-up management. It is important to have a social worker who not only provides housing, but also

helps people regain their ability to live independently or acts as a bridge to homeless centers, that is, to provide ongoing care. If those who are unable to live independently are given a home, but no additional help is given, the revolving door phenomenon will persist.

### **Problem 2** Medical Support Accessible Only to the Minority

According to the “2021 Survey on the Homeless,” 37.5 percent of the homeless on the streets responded that they “endure pain without going to the hospital” when they get sick. This is an increase of 6.5 percent compared to 2016. Medical care is necessity for the homeless, but it is almost impossible to get the appropriate care that is needed. This is because the range of medical care available to them is limited. Homeless people cannot afford to pay for medical care, so they have to take advantage of universal health care. The problem is that there are only certain medical facilities where homeless people can receive medical benefits. According to the Ministry of Health and Welfare’s “2022 Guide to Homeless Welfare,” there are a total of 289 medical facilities nationwide where homeless people can receive medical benefits. Of these, 213, or about 73 percent, are public health centers, and only 76 are general hospitals. Homeless people must travel long distances to visit designated hospitals, making many of them give up treatment due to the burden of transportation fees. Also, diversity of medical specialties is not guaranteed. Many medical institutions for the homeless do not offer psychiatric, ophthalmic, or dermatologic treatment. Regional availability is also a problem, as most of the designated hospitals are located around the capital area. Areas such as Gwangju, Ulsan, and Jeju Province do not have designated general hospitals for the homeless.

### **Cause 2** Discrimination Arising from the Allocation of Medical Facilities and Criteria for Granting Medical Benefits

The current system of designating medical facilities for the homeless is a method in which the national or local governments separately designate which medical facilities the homeless may use. In other words, the homeless can only receive medical benefits when visiting the specified hospitals. Such system can cause discrimination against the homeless

since they have to be treated only in designated hospitals to receive benefits. Homeless people who lack financial means may access only a handful of the appointed hospitals in order to receive subsidized care, and even then, their options are very limited. Regarding this, Professor Shin explains, “In policy and nominal terms, the possibility of hospital use for the homeless appears favorable. The problem is that it mainly consists of public hospitals. Opportunities for medical treatment are given along with other vulnerable social group patients, mixing the homeless with a large number of other patients. It is a doubt of whether they can get the care they want whenever they need.”

Meanwhile, there are a limited number of homeless people who can receive health care, which lowers the number of people able to visit the designated hospitals. Medical benefits are provided under the Homeless Medical Cost Support System, which exempts homeless people who meet certain criteria from paying out-of-pocket expenses for the use of medical facilities. This seems to help increase access to medical care for the homeless by easing the burden of medical expenses, but in reality, very few people actually receive medical benefits. In order to receive medical benefits, one must meet all the following requirements: maintaining homelessness for at least three months, not being enrolled in national health insurance, and not paying health insurance premiums for at least six months. Beyond meeting the above conditions, one must also be a resident of a homeless facility or receive regular counseling at a homeless support center in order to actually receive medical benefits. In fact, the number of homeless recipients of medical benefits was as low as 271 as of 2021. Those who do not meet the requirements are in a complete blind spot of the medical benefit system.

### **Solution 2** Relaxing Eligibility Criteria for Medical Benefits and Expanding Support to Diverse Areas

In March 2023, the Ministry of Health and Welfare extended the current measures to expand the number of designated medical institutions for the homeless another year. The plan is to increase the number of medical institutions available to the homeless, but the systemic discrimination that makes the homeless visit only the designated hospitals will still remain unresolved. Restriction regarding the use of certain medical institutions exists only among homeless recipients, not other vulnerable groups, and this leads to discrimination. Eventually,



▲ People are chanting slogans for the abolition of designating medical facilities for the homeless.

in order to guarantee the right to health for the homeless, it is necessary not to simply increase the number of hospitals designated for a limited time, but to eliminate the hardships of medical care restriction and discrimination. Furthermore, in order to ensure that more homeless people can receive medical benefits, the criteria for those eligible for medical benefits should be relaxed and the application route should be expanded.

Meanwhile, Professor Shin suggests expanding the operation of free clinics as another solution to provide better medical services for the homeless. According to the Ministry of Health and Welfare's "2nd Comprehensive Plan on Welfare and Self-Reliance Support for the Homeless" (2021), as of 2021, only four local governments are operating free clinics: Seoul, Busan, Daegu, and Daejeon. Regarding this, Professor Shin adds, "When calculating the main outcomes related to medical support, the operating expenses of free clinics of each local government are also included. Free clinics serve to improve access to medical care for the homeless, so more municipalities should provide free clinics," emphasizing the need to expand free clinics.

**Problem 3** Jobs for the Homeless that Lack Support for Self-Sufficiency

Contrary to the implicitly prejudicial stereotype that homeless people are not willing to work, the demand for jobs among homeless people is high. However, the quantity and quality of jobs provided by employment programs do not meet the aspirations of the homeless who are desperate for work. Basically, jobs for the homeless are given in the form of public work managed by local governments. Some are provided occasionally through cooperative projects between local

governments and public enterprises. However, due to the lack of capacity, not all homeless people who want to work can participate, and many of them are short-term projects that only last for about six months, which does not contribute to long-term economic stability.

Jobs for the homeless are divided into two main categories according to work capacity. The largest proportion involve simple labor tasks such as cleaning and folding cardboard boxes, which are jobs provided to homeless people with low work capacity. The other is given to those with relatively high work capacity, and they participate in an internship at homeless facilities or community rehabilitation centers. The key is to use the internship as a pretext to be connected to a local rehabilitation center and eventually be incorporated into the local community. However, there are few cases where the participants succeed in fully reintegrating with the local community. Lee Jae-woong, Senior Director of Korea Development Institute for Self-Sufficiency and Welfare, says, "Cases of homeless people who have succeeded in supporting themselves through job linkage can sometimes be seen through news articles.

However, these best-case scenarios are only for a small minority. If 300 people participate in the employment project, only about 30 percent will be connected to a local rehabilitation center and get a full-time job," explaining the difficulty of the homeless in actually being integrated into the community.



▲ The homeless are participating in the cleaning work provided by the local government.

**Cause 3** Structure that Makes It Difficult to Connect to Employment Programs

Then why do homeless people find it difficult to obtain a job, and even if they do, fail to actually become self-sufficient? First of all, participants in the homeless employment program are not regularly recruited. There is a fixed number of jobs,

and whenever people quit due to frequent absences or health reasons, additional participants are secured on all such occasions. Regarding this, Director Lee adds, “The ‘Self-Support Policies Specialized for the Street Homeless,’ held by Korea Development Institute for Self-Sufficiency and Welfare has 13 job openings per month, but no particular recruitment notice is made. Whenever there is a job opening, people are hired and if there are no applicants, no additional recruitment is held. There is a steady stream of people looking for jobs, so if there is a staff shortage, it usually gets filled immediately.” New jobs are not created annually, and recruits are being made only when vacancies arise.

Difficulty in access to employment programs can also be cited as a cause. Basically, in order to get a job through the homeless employment program, one must register oneself in a homeless facility. The problem is that many homeless people are reluctant to be restricted, to belong somewhere, or to be placed in a controlled situation, which causes many to give up looking for work. Director Lee adds, “Only those who have proven their identity can apply for a job since jobs are supported through the national budget. Existing programs that match jobs to the homeless based on homeless facilities have high hurdles since registration is mandatory and various regulations of the facility must be followed,” representing the grievances of some homeless people.

### **Solution 3** Systematization of Job Placement Methods

What is most needed to champion the homeless who want to work is the professionalization and systematization of job

matching methods. As can be seen from the fact that job employment is operated in a way that fills the shortage of personnel every time it is made, additional new jobs are not regularly designated for the homeless; jobs are only created and provided in some cities and organizations in the form of social contribution. Regarding this, Director Lee emphasizes the need to introduce a form of formal announcement and matching system. “In the case of the youth employment program, the Ministry of Health and Welfare or local governments issue an announcement for the recruitment of youth internships, officially advertise them, and directly match applicants with companies. However, in the case of the homeless, such procedures do not exist.” Only the type of participants differs, so it is necessary for the homeless employment program to have the same form as the support project for other vulnerable groups.

Systematizing the method of matching is also crucial. The low quality of jobs and the low number of the homeless who eventually succeed at integrating into the local community are due to the poor role of intermediaries. In response, Director Lee adds, “We need to build a pathway from homeless facilities to local rehabilitation centers, and from local rehabilitation centers to the private market.” There needs to be a pathway to connect these three steps, from the initial homeless facilities to local rehabilitation centers that help the participants integrate into the local community, and finally to private jobs that will eventually help them function as a productive member of society. Without such systematic procedures, ultimate self-support of the homeless will be difficult.

Reports on the lives of homeless people in the news and media are rare and far removed from many people’s interests. The homeless only appear in the news when they are involved in a crime or when they freeze to death because they succumb to the bitter cold. Even if they are carried out on stretchers because they cannot cope with the cold, no one mourns or wonders about their deaths. Raising questions and paying continuous attention to the effectiveness of support for the homeless, which is the most underfunded and underserved among the areas of social welfare, is essential for eradicating homelessness in Korean society. Homeless people are also an integral part of society that the nation and society must take care of. Put aside the cold gaze towards the homeless just for a while, and let society become warm enough to lend a hand to those in need. 

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# Scars Bearing Witness to Tragedy's Legacy

By **Kim Su-yeon**

*Associate Editor of Theory & Critique Section*

**T**rauma can be contagious. Trauma caused by shared experience can spread quickly and last a long time. “I thought there was a war going on!” A startled reaction swept across South Korea (hereafter Korea) as disaster text messages blared early in the morning. This reflects the deeply embedded Korean War trauma that has been passed down through generations. Collective trauma fueled by shared memories can linger and manifest in daily life. The 10.29 Tragedy in Itaewon, Seoul on October 29, 2022, revived the nightmare of collective trauma that Korea has experienced on multiple occasions. In response, the Seoul Metropolitan Government plans to provide psychological counseling services to the bereaved and survivors until the end of December 2023 to address lingering trauma persisting a year after the incident. In addition to psychological counseling, what else is necessary to heal the emotional scars of the bereaved, survivors and others who recall the tragedy? The Argus exposes the diverse psychological reactions to social disasters, outlining the nation’s optimal response approach.



## Before Reading

### 10.29 Tragedy

On the night of October 29, 2022, a calamitous stampede swept through the bustling street of Itaewon, Seoul, during a Halloween festival. The incident resulted in 159 deaths and 197 injuries, for a total of over 300 casualties. The stampede was predicted due to the large number of people in a narrow alleyway, a contrast to its limited capacity, but the lack of prompt crowd control measures led to the massive stampede. The bereaved have been demanding a thorough investigation into the specific shortcomings that led to the response system’s failure at the time of the incident. In 2023, a year after the tragedy, many citizens are still honoring the victims and lending their support to the bereaved families. However, there is also a disturbing trend of blaming the victims, with some people resorting to criticizing the victims’ decision to attend the Halloween festivities. The misplaced blame perpetuates a cycle of secondary victimization, causing further pain for those who are already grappling with unexpected loss.

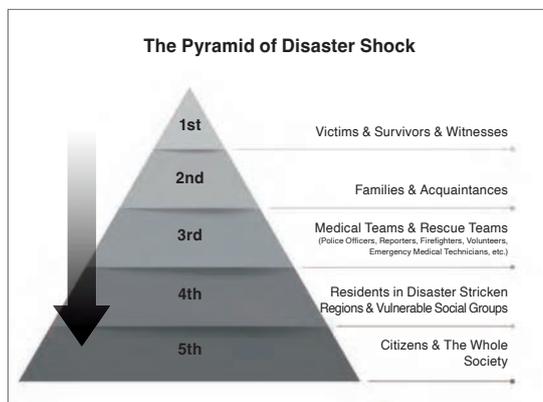


## Collective Trauma

The morning subway commute in Korea underwent a dramatic transformation following the 10.29 Tragedy. Without the need for staff intervention, citizens cautiously ascended the stairs, maintaining a respectful distance from one another. At the mere sound of someone shouting “Do not push!” their movements would instinctively halt. While it might appear that safety consciousness has increased because of the tragedy, the underlying reality is closer to a manifestation of collective trauma.

Collective trauma, a concept first proposed by ego psychologist Erik Erikson, is a psychological trauma experienced by a community. It arises from a major event that shocks society, such as a natural disaster, war, or epidemic. It is a shared pain that stems from a common memory, rather than the sum of the individual traumas experienced by individuals. In essence, the members of a society collectively feel the shock of an event. Lee (School of English for Interpretation and Translation '22) had visited Itaewon with his friends for a drink, but he was forced to leave hours before the incident due to the overwhelming crowd. Recalling his experience, Lee said, “I felt a chill run down my spine when I saw the news of people being injured at the very place where I had been a short while ago. I could have easily been a victim. Since then, I have been extra cautious, even avoiding minor but potentially dangerous behaviors like jaywalking,” implying that he is still caught in the shock. Meanwhile, at the same time, Kim (Department of History '23) was at home when he came across a video of the incident on social media. Kim described the scene, saying, “My family and those around me who watched the video of the victims with their swollen bodies were all deeply affected. Even now, when I think about that scene, I cannot shake off a sense of depression.” This highlighted how the shock of the disaster transcended physical proximity, those who were at the scene as well as those who encountered it online. According to the “Pyramid of Disaster Shock” model

developed by the Korean Society of Traumatic Stress Studies, trauma spreads from victims of the disaster to members of the same society through family, acquaintances, and medical personnel. Therefore, even ordinary citizens who indirectly witnessed the incident may experience vicarious trauma. This type of stress response, characterized by anxiety and depression, stems from exposure to the scene of the occurrence through media coverage and secondhand accounts. While it can be a stressful experience, vicarious trauma typically resolves over time.



▲ The trauma experienced by first responders can have a significant impact on the mental health of the wider community.

However, the trauma experienced by survivors and bereaved families far surpasses that of ordinary citizens. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), a prevalent symptom among them, is a concept established by the American Psychiatric Association in the 1980s and refers to an anxiety that arises solely in individuals who have directly experienced trauma. PTSD stems from the fear and anxiety following a traumatic event, often manifesting as a symptom of re-experiencing it. This means that the traumatic event reappears through dreams or flashbacks, causing survivors and the bereaved to feel apprehensive when encountering reminders like the Itaewon banner on the street. In addition to anxiety symptoms, anger is a common psychological reaction, particularly among the bereaved. First introduced by Berlin psychiatrist Michael Linden, post-traumatic embitterment disorder (PTED) is distress rooted in injustice, despair, and

insult, rather than fear. Individuals experiencing unfairness may feel angry and helpless, which are primary symptoms of PTED. Unlike general trauma that evokes fear, the emotion of anger associated with PTED experienced by the bereaved stems from society's inadequate response. In the preface of "Embitterment and Posttraumatic Embitterment Disorder (PTED)" (2021), Linden identifies the social stress of perceiving a lack of justice and support from society as the root cause of anger. When trust erodes due to the absence of protection from unfairness, resentment takes hold. Paik Jong-woo, the head professor of the Department of Psychiatry at Kyung Hee University College of Medicine, said, "Unlike with natural disasters, in the case of the man-made disasters, the role of social leaders can significantly impact the traumatic response. If those in charge fail to fulfill their responsibilities and uphold their promises to the bereaved, their recovery from trauma will undoubtedly be delayed." Therefore, uncovering the truth through a thorough investigation is essential for the bereaved to escape from PTSD and PTED.



## Victim Blaming



▲ The phrase "Stop enforcing remembrance," as written in a post on Everytime, a college community network, shows hostility towards grieving the loss of victims.

Even amidst the outpouring of grief for the victims of the 10.29 Tragedy, there existed a chilling indifference towards them. In the immediate aftermath of the accident, victims faced a torrent of criticism. Harsh remarks such as "They went out to have fun and paid the price," and "Why did they

choose to be there?" were prevalent. Some online commenters callously declare that the victims, despite being aware of the usual crowds at the annual Halloween festival, are accountable for their decision to be there. Mockery with the assertion that it is unnecessary to mourn those who died while seeking leisure continues to stain the online landscape.

Why is victim blaming particularly severe in disaster situations? According to "Searching for Variables Related to Victim Blaming in a Disaster Situation" (2022), written by Ham Seung-kyung, a media lab researcher at Ewha Women's University, people are more likely to blame victims when they hold negative perceptions of the event and when they feel that the victim is different from them. First, negative perceptions of the incident can lead to misestimation of the victim and lead to victim blaming. In fact, when the 2015 MERS outbreak in Korea occurred, the dissemination via the internet of false information about the severity of the disease led to negative perceptions of MERS, which in turn led to blame directed at infected patients. In addition to negative perceptions surrounding the incident, victim blaming can also occur when individuals do not feel very similar to the victim. According to the defensive attribution theory (DAT) proposed by American social psychologist Elaine Walster, people perceive themselves as different from the victim to reduce their own anxiety about the possibility of becoming a victim themselves. The blaming of the victims of the 10.29 Tragedy can also be interpreted as being based on a personal perception that the victims who went out to enjoy the Halloween festivities are different from themselves. In this way, the negative perceptions that individuals have of a disaster, such as the anxiety and fear that an incident can trigger, and the instinct to distance oneself from the victim, can lead people to blame the victim.

Can secondary victimization that causes further pain by blaming the victims of accidents be reduced? Researcher Ham contends that reducing the uncertainty of disaster information is a key strategy for minimizing victim blaming. This is because

the greater the uncertainty surrounding disaster information, the more inclined people are to view the incident negatively and blame victims. Uncertainty in disaster information encompasses the ambiguity surrounding the disaster's cause, progression, and aftermath. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, there were voices blaming the infected patients. This was because false information about the cause of COVID-19 infection and the side effects after infection exacerbated the public's anxiety, which led to negative views of the infected. Providing clear information can effectively alleviate public anxiety, thereby mitigating the likelihood of victim blaming. Furthermore, fostering community resilience offers an additional avenue for reducing victim blaming. Community resilience refers to the ability of a community to respond to a disaster. A strong sense of collective trust and the shared belief in a community's ability to address disaster challenges can mitigate uncertainty and foster a culture of empathy, thereby preventing victim blaming. Regarding this notion, Suh Kyung-hyun, a professor of Counseling Psychology at Sahmyook University, asserts, "The government should demonstrate its commitment to preventing a similar tragedy from recurring." When the perception of disaster victims as unpredictable individuals prevails, and when there is a collective belief in society's ability to manage disasters and prevent similar occurrences, the tendency to blame victims can be mitigated.



### Post Traumatic Recovery

The makeshift memorial altar in Seoul Plaza in front of Seoul City Hall and the mourning tributes lining the streets of Itaewon serve as poignant reminders of the 10.29 Tragedy. In the aftermath of a national tragedy, the establishment of memorial spaces has become a common practice to honor the victims. The memorial spaces for the Daegu subway fire\* and Gangnam Station murder,\* created by citizens at exit 10, serve as notable examples. Through these

acts of remembrance and mourning, citizens and the bereaved strive to heal from the trauma of the tragedy.

\* Daegu subway fire: On February 18, 2003, a fire swept the Jungangno station of the Daegu Metropolitan Subway, causing 192 deaths.

\* Gangnam Station murder: On May 17, 2016, a man murdered a woman in her 20s in a public restroom near Gangnam Station.

©Hankookilbo



▲ A makeshift memorial altar stands in Seoul Plaza, in front of Seoul City Hall, where mourners pay their respects to the victims.



▲ A year after the tragedy, mourning tributes still line the streets of Itaewon, drawing citizens who seek solace and remembrance.

©Kim Su-yeon/ The Argus



▲ In the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, citizens create a makeshift memorial space with countless sticky notes at Itaewon Station Exit 1.

©Yang Yu-min/ The Argus

Memorial spaces and mourning altars are places that help both citizens and the bereaved recover from trauma. Professor Suh says, "The trauma caused by a shocking event is often alleviated through empathy and solidarity. And memorial spaces provide comfort for the bereaved by fostering a shared sense of remembrance and contributing to their recovery." Professor Paik also explains, "National tragedies are important to address not only through individual psychological approaches, but also through holding a social funeral." He emphasizes the importance of memory and mourning in the recovery process for the bereaved. Post-traumatic recovery (PTR) refers to the process of overcoming the impact of a traumatic event and returning to a normal state of mental well-being. Therefore, the top priority for survivors and the

bereaved who have experienced a tragedy is recovery. According to Professor Suh, PTR requires the integration of the traumatic event into one's cognitive framework. Individuals who experience a traumatic event that disrupts their cognitive frameworks are often reluctant to think about the event. Overcoming avoidance and gradually incorporating the traumatic event into one's cognitive framework are crucial steps in the recovery process. Professor Paik also highlights, "Admittedly, confronting the trauma is a difficult process, akin to feeling the pain of broken pieces of heart piercing the entire body. However, recovery only begins when one actively faces the trauma."

Self-disclosure is a therapeutic technique that helps patients face their trauma by encouraging them to openly express their thoughts and feelings about a distressing event in front of others. Through this process of emotional expression, individuals naturally recall the event, gain a more objective perspective on it, and finally incorporate it into their cognitive frameworks. Professor Suh explains, "Survivors and the bereaved, by genuinely expressing their emotions, can contemplate the meaning of death and realize the meaning of life. This process, when met with positive societal support, can foster their growth beyond recovery." However, for self-disclosure to effectively help survivors and the bereaved in their recovery from trauma, a supportive environment is essential. Professor Suh is concerned that political discourse

surrounding the tragedy can disrupt the mourning process and give negative emotional stimulation to them, hindering their recovery. The minimal support that the nation should provide to survivors and the bereaved is to create an environment that facilitates their full engagement in mourning and remembrance, enabling them to embark on a path of emotional stabilization.



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▲ An inscription beside the memorial alley in Itaewon reminds of the importance of remembrance.

Is Korean society becoming safer? Are its members more trustworthy? The recurring man-made disasters of the past three decades have cast a shadow over these questions. However, it is time to address the systemic flaws that have led to these tragedies and reclaim a sense of safety and mutual trust. The irresponsible leadership and societal divisions following the 10.29 Tragedy have exacerbated the pain of the bereaved and survivors. Recovery from trauma demands setting aside political interests and cherishing the victims while preserving the memory of the tragedy. Additionally, a pledge to prevent future tragedies will offer solace and hope for those still grappling with the aftermath. The Argus envisions a compassionate Korean society where empathy and support of citizens and the nation permeate the victims, survivors, and bereaved. 📧

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# Slashing the Dream: What Cuts to South Korea's Synchrotron Mean for Science

By Ryu Hyo-rin

Associate Editor of Theory & Critique Section

The operation of the synchrotron radiation accelerator in South Korea (hereafter Korea) is facing a crisis as the Korean government has cut its 2024 synchrotron radiation accelerator budget by about US\$14 million compared to the previous year. Pohang Accelerator Laboratory originally planned to operate the synchrotron radiation accelerator from October 20, 2023, to December 28, 2023, but reduced the operating period from November 28, 2023 to December 28, 2023. The scientific community and opposition parties say that the reduction of the Research and Development (R&D) budget will have a significant impact on the Korean science and technology community and related industries. Meanwhile, synchrotron radiation accelerators are dubbed “researchers’ dream microscopes” - serving as exceptionally powerful light microscopes to examine nano-scale materials precisely. How will reducing the operation period of the synchrotron radiation accelerator, which is a basis for new technology development, affect the Korean scientific community? The Argus intends to examine the importance and future of Korean synchrotron radiation techniques by finding out what a synchrotron radiation accelerator is.

## What Is a Synchrotron Radiation Accelerator?

### 1) Concept

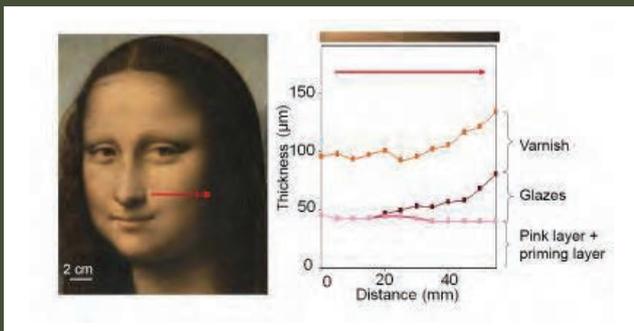
The European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF)

identified the nature of the brush strokes layered around the mouth of the Mona Lisa through “X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy” in 2010. Using a synchrotron radiation accelerator, it was discovered that the secret of the mysterious smile lies in lead oxide paint that can dry quickly after several coatings. The synchrotron radiation accelerator was the first to do what numerous studies were unable to. As such, the synchrotron radiation accelerator can vividly see protein structures that cannot be seen with conventional microscopes or cell movements equivalent to a trillionth of a second. So how can the synchrotron radiation accelerator capture small structures? First and foremost, synchrotron radiation accelerators operate on the fundamental concept of producing intense beams of light to observe particle interactions. Just as bright light lets us examine things clearly, even more intense beams reveal minute details. Synchrotron accelerators thus speed up electrons to emit radiation 100 million times brighter than sunlight—powerful enough to illuminate nano-sized particles.

When electrons are accelerated in a vacuum accelerator, the electron energy rises to 10 billion volts. As the 10 billion volts of electrons pass through a very finely made permanent magnet,\* white light, a powerful radiation light, is emitted. The radiation accelerator is a large research facility that makes white light containing all different wavelengths, such as X-rays and visible rays, and then sprays it into the material to

observe the microstructure and phenomenon of the material. In addition, the synchrotron radiation accelerator is excellent for observing various materials because it can generate light of a wide variety of wavelengths, such as X-rays, visible rays, and ultraviolet rays. Of course, there are several observation tools that can capture microscopic substances such as rare isotope accelerators\* and microscopes. However, Professor Weon Byung-mook\* of the Department of Advanced Materials Science & Engineering at Sungkyunkwan University explains, “The synchrotron radiation accelerator is the only observation device in the world that can capture the structure of matter as well as the presence and activity of fine matter compared to other tools.” Therefore, the synchrotron radiation accelerator is being actively used not only in basic science but also in various industrial sectors such as advanced semiconductor processes and new drug development.

\* Permanent magnet: A magnet that maintains a strong magnetization for a long period of time.  
 \* Rare isotope accelerator: A device that accelerates ions in atoms other than protons or helium.



▲ For the first time a quantitative chemical analysis is conducted on the Mona Lisa from the Louvre Museum without extracting any samples.

## 2) Utilization

Synchrotron radiation accelerators have seen their applications progressively expanding to various industries such as bio and advanced materials, including pharmaceuticals, as well as basic sciences such as physics and chemistry. The synchrotron radiation accelerator is possible to search for new drug candidates through protein binding structure analysis using radiation light. As a representative achievement, Ian Wilson’s research team at the Scripps Institute in California used the synchrotron radiation accelerator to identify the structure of antibodies that interact with the COVID-19 virus; and Lee Sang-yeop’s research team at the Department of Chemical & Biochemical Engineering at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) identified the

three-dimensional structure of enzymes key to biobutanol\* biosynthesis for the first time in the world. Through structural analysis of antibodies and enzymes using the synchrotron radiation accelerator, effective vaccines and antiviral treatments that replicate their structures and characteristics have been developed. Professor Lee’s research team was able to significantly improve the productivity of biobutanol through structural analysis and imitation of enzymes.

Moreover, as adapting infrastructure avoids additional costs, biobutanol is in high demand as a fossil fuel alternative. Presently, synchrotron radiation accelerators see prime usage in high-tech materials research - spanning electronic materials like semiconductor components and displays, energy materials including secondary batteries, and polymer development. According to Professor Weon, light is used to make semiconductor circuits, and when a synchrotron radiation accelerator shoots light after drawing a circuit sketch with a material that does not react to light, only the material that reacts to light reacts to create a delicate semiconductor circuit. The shorter the wavelength of the shone light, the higher the transmittance and energy of the light, so that the material reacts more clearly to light. The sharpest semiconductor circuits forged presently harness extreme ultraviolet wavelengths from synchrotron radiation. Additionally, these accelerators advance cosmetics, agrifood, forestry, automotive tires, steel, shipbuilding, and sundry other industries.

\* Biobutanol: An eco-friendly fuel made using sugars and bacteria extracted from waste wood and waste crops.



▲ Scientists are deploying the synchrotron radiation accelerator facility to study COVID-19-related biological molecules.

## What Are the Types of Synchrotron Radiation Accelerators?

### 1) Linear Accelerator (X-Ray Free-Electron Laser)

The wavelength and intensity of light produced by each accelerator are different depending on how it shoots light. The shape of the accelerator is largely divided into circular

## Prometheus

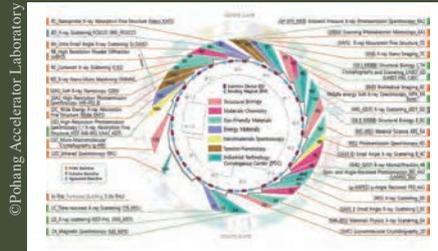
and linear shapes. A linear accelerator emits a bright and powerful straight line of X-rays as the particles pass through an accelerator tube in the form of a straight laser beam. As synchrotron beams radiate intensely in straight lines akin to lasers, they maintain strength over great distances. Linear accelerators produce radiant light over two different sections of length for acceleration. First, electrons are accelerated through the 780-meter-long acceleration section. After that, when the accelerated electrons pass through an undulator of about 200 meters in which the N and S poles are alternately arranged, very bright and strong radiant light is generated. The reason why the light of the linear radiation accelerator is so bright is that the speed of light is amplified as the electron beam passes through a long straight magnet, just as acceleration increases if you ride a straight slide rather than a winding one. Linear radiation accelerators do not produce light of various wavelengths by focusing only on X-ray wavelengths, but they produce very fast light equivalent to one-thousandth of a trillionth of a second, allowing the observation of instantaneous natural phenomena such as atomic bonding and nuclear fission. Therefore, the linear radiation accelerator is called the world's best microscope for the brightness of X-rays and the observation of microscopic matter.



▲ The XFEL consists of Hard X-ray (HX) and Soft X-ray free-electron laser lines.

### 2) Circular Accelerator

A circular accelerator refers to an accelerator that emits various kinds of light as the accelerated particles pass through a circular tube. Circular accelerators are the same as linear accelerators in that they generate radiant light by passing accelerated electrons through a permanent magnet. However, the difference is that circular accelerators produce light of various wavelengths. According to Ko In-soo, an emeritus professor of Physics at Pohang University of Technology, circular accelerators produce light via a two-step process. Electrons initially accelerate through a 170 meters linear system. Next, they reach a 280 meters circular storage ring, emitting radiation as they circulate. Beamlines tap into this storage ring, fractionating the white light across various wavelengths similarly to a prism dispersing sunlight into



▲ Synchrotron radiation spans a broad spectrum from infrared to Hard X-rays.

wavelengths are in operation in the Pohang circular radiation accelerator. In other words, it means that there are 35 lights of different wavelengths with 35 different experimental purposes in the Pohang radiation accelerator. Some beamlines can be used for crystal structures and others for protein structures, respectively. Therefore, circular accelerators are suitable for observing the structure of objects with different wavelengths and sizes and the elemental composition of materials. Moreover, circular accelerators operate as versatile general research facilities - concurrently running numerous beamlines enabling easy adoption by many investigators given reasonably acquirable emission time.

### Vision and R&D Budget of Synchrotron Radiation Accelerator

#### 1) Experiments Using the Synchrotron Radiation Accelerator

Cutting-edge R&D defining national competitiveness necessitates substantial funding - beyond currently debated budget reductions. Operating synchrotron radiation accelerators consumes tremendous electricity, incurring substantial costs. According to the Pohang Accelerator Laboratory, electron acceleration for high-voltage energy generation demands immense electricity inputs. Hwang A-bin, a public relations team member, at Pohang Accelerator Laboratory, says, "As a result, the cost of operating the accelerator laboratory is overwhelming. In addition, it takes a lot of money to operate accelerators, such as maintenance and management costs and labor costs, and to help researchers use accelerators to do experiments without difficulty." However, steeply rising electricity prices now severely burden research institutes operating large-scale equipment - basic operation bills alone already face a about US\$2.31 million budget shortfall. Thus, curtailed R&D funding jeopardizes guaranteeing accelerator functionality both this year and next.

Consequently, the researchers' scheduled experiments



▲ Cheongju City is constructing a next-generation synchrotron radiation accelerator, aiming for completion by 2027.

risk potential cancellation. “This synchrotron operating reduction proves unprecedented since the accelerator’s inception,”

Professor Weon declares, “resulting in lost research time across Pohang’s 35 beamlines that excellent Korean teams cannot recover.” Establishing supplemental facilities like the proposed Cheongju Synchrotron Radiation Accelerator Center could mitigate operation and beamline limitations - albeit budget deficiencies currently inhibit this solution. According to Heo Jin-ah of Chungbuk Research Institute, proposed Cheongju facilities remain in preliminary phases. Beamline number and angles dictate cost efficiencies - tailored positioning optimizes operating expenses. However, development budgets currently prolong projected timelines. Therefore, supplementing with additional accelerators remains impossible to address disrupted national synchrotron access and use, given strict present fiscal limitations.

## 2) Industries Related to the Synchrotron Radiation Accelerator

Since the synchrotron radiation accelerator is a device with a bright industrial utilization outlook, if the operation of the synchrotron radiation accelerator continues, it will also affect related industries. Professor Weon says, “Korea is a powerhouse in the development of rechargeable batteries\* used in electric vehicles and electronic devices. The synchrotron radiation accelerator is a key device in the development of secondary batteries.” This is because the synchrotron radiation accelerator plays an important role in capturing a process in which a chemical reaction of ions in a battery is smoothly performed by exposing X-rays to a rechargeable battery. In a secondary battery production process, it is important that a chemical reaction of ions moving between the cathode and the anode in the battery is smoothly performed. This is

because the charging and discharging process of the battery consists of a chemical reaction of ions. Therefore, synchrotron radiation accelerator may help improve rechargeable battery performance by checking for defects or discovering new chemical reactions of ions in the battery that were not discovered before the secondary battery was commercialized. Synchrotron accelerators’ adjustable radiation spectrum facilitates identifying minute through massive particulates. That is, tuned wavelengths grant synchrotrons unparalleled sensitivity calibrating purity.

In recognition of its excellence in the development of rechargeable batteries, North Gyeongsang Province and Pohang City held the “4th Accelerator-based Green New Materials Industry International Symposium” at the Pohang Accelerator Laboratory on November 8, 2022, promising to accelerate the development of rechargeable batteries in 2023. However, it is unclear whether the development of rechargeable batteries can proceed smoothly as planned due to the current reduction in accelerator operation. “The level of development of Korea’s rechargeable batteries accounts for a large part of the country’s future growth amid the prospect that demand and development of rechargeable batteries are increasing in line with demand for electric vehicles and electronics,” Professor Weon says. “Of course, there will be a time difference in the impact, but there is a risk that the experimental interruption related to the development of rechargeable batteries caused by the suspension of operation will adversely affect the development of rechargeable batteries.” Pohang’s 2023 second-half research docket showed ballooning demand - spanning battery firms and companies across myriads of industries.



▲ The R&D budget decline is correlated with natural science industries in Korea.

Thus, synchrotron budget cuts likely hinder multiple critical initiatives from fundamental science realms to affiliated applied tech sectors.

\* Rechargeable battery: A device that converts external electrical energy into chemical energy and stores it to generate electricity when needed.

National dignity can come from various sources - economic might, political stability and R&D advancement. Research success comes from investment in education and yields hitherto nonexistent innovation - the core of competitive countries. Synchrotron accelerators’ multifaceted applications position them on the frontlines in the battle for scientific dominance. Curtailing budgets now ominously imperils Korea’s basic research and technological futures. Such trailing-edge concessions demand redress. 

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# Toward Limitless Beauty Consumption

By Kim Ji-hyang

Staff Reporter of Culture Section

Every December 3 is Consumer Day, a day established to raise consumer rights and protections. People consume a variety of goods throughout their lives. Among them, cosmetics are consumed regardless of age or gender, as people's common routines often include washing faces with a cleansing foam, applying cream after washing, and using sunscreen when they go out. In the recent cosmetics market, the revival of health and beauty stores (hereafter H&B stores), the launching and selection of products based on personal colors, and the new fad of vegan beauty products are leading the trends of the Korean cosmetics industry. The emergence of H&B stores and the emergence of a new consumption culture have a great influence on consumers. The Argus aims to promote healthy cosmetics consumption and consumer rights and interests by analyzing new phenomena, causes, and limitations in the cosmetics market.

## Phenomenon

### 1. The Rise of H&B Store



▲ Major H&B stores in Korea are Olive Young, Lalavla, and Lohbs.

A Korean H&B store is a Korean drug store that sells cosmetics and health food. Before the advent of the H&B store, road shop brands led the beauty market in the early 2000s. These mid-to-low priced beauty brands are in a one-brand system, such as Skin Food, Missha, Etude House, and The Face Shop. However, according to the Federal Trade Commission's Affiliation Information System, Innisfree, The Face Shop, Missha and Skin Food have more than halved their stores from 2018 to the end of the third quarter of 2022. Thanks to the influence of the Korean Wave, road shops that led K-beauty were eager to operate overseas and attract more international customers. But

in the aftermath of China’s THAAD retaliation,\* the number of Chinese tourists began to decrease. Compared to their market share in 2017, The Face Shop dropped 13 percent, Innisfree dropped 12.8 percent, Missha dropped 14.3 percent, and Skin Food dropped 20.3 percent in 2018. In addition, according to market researchers Kantar World Panel and Meritz Securities, road shop cosmetics growth slowed to 3.2 percent from 2014 to 2018, compared with an average annual growth rate of 3.5 percent in 2012 and 2014. On the other hand, during the same period, the average annual growth rate of health and beauty stores increased from 25.1 percent to 48.5 percent. In addition, looking at the overall market size of H&B stores, it showed an increase from US\$1,071,046,445 in 2016 to US\$1,846,777,574 in 2018. Though Olive Young, Korea’s first H&B store, was once a company that had fallen in the red, it was able to return to the black nine years after its launch.

\*THAAD retaliation: Shortened from Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, the placement of THAAD in Korea caused China to economically retaliate in response to the decision by banning its people from traveling to Korea.

## 2. Personal Color Based Product Launching and Selection

“Am I a warm or cool tone?” Those interested in beauty must have thought about this question at least once. Personal color, also called “Beauty MBTI,” is a color theory that finds the color that best suits a person’s skin tone, hair color, and eye color. The personal color system refers to the classification of colors, divided into four seasons: spring warm tones, summer cool tones, autumn warm tones, and winter cool tones. Furthermore, according to the contrast between colors, it is further classified into about 10 colors, such as light and bright in spring, light and mute in summer, mute and dark in autumn, and bright and dark in winter.

Personal color is emerging as a trend in the beauty market because it determines the optimal compatibility of a person’s face and a beauty product. Search volume for “Spring Warm Tint” on the style commerce platform “ABLY” jumped to 1,225 percent, about 13 times higher than the previous year in May 2023. A 340 percent increase in the search volume of “Cool Tint” implies that consumers tended to buy products that fit their personal colors. In addition, “Zamface,” a service that assigns personal, surpassed 1 million cumulative users in four months after its launch. Such numbers showed how consumers prefer to actively utilize personal colors when consuming products. Before personal color analysis became a beauty trend, brands in the beauty industry launched their products with their own strategies. “Bbia” named a product line in concept of the cry of a tiger, and “Peripera” matched the product name with the gelato concept. However, as consumers’ interest in personal color has increased since 2021, diversification in the tones of colors has been demanded. Before personal color analysis became popular, there were many warm-toned shades in the beauty market. However, personal color has given rise to the need for cool-tone hues. In response to this need, the “Bear Grape” color of Rom&nd’s juicy tint was named No.1 in the lip makeup category for the 2022 Olive Young Awards. Since then, CJ Olive Young’s own brand, “WakeMake,” has released their “Soft Blurring Eye Palette” by categorizing personal colors and was able to win first place overall in CJ Olive Young’s makeup category. This indicates the effectiveness of merchandising (MD) and marketing strategies based on personal colors of cosmetics brands.



▲ Personal color theory categorizes individuals into four seasons.

©Korea JoongAng Daily

### 3. Vegan Beauty Wave

In April 2023, ten years after singer Lee Hyo-ri rejected commercial advertisements, she promoted a hand cream of “Cita,” a South Korean vegan brand. Consequently, the product created a sensation by selling out a year’s worth of inventory immediately after its release. Her good will and fondness for animals had reached consumers through vegan beauty advertisements. The phrasing of “vegan beauty” came from the word “vegan,” which refers to a person who does not consume meat, fish, or meat products such as eggs or milk. Vegan cosmetics do not contain any animal ingredients during the manufacturing and processing stages. Then how much impact does vegan beauty have on the Korean cosmetics market? In 2022, the beauty app “Hwahae” revealed that searches for vegan products jumped 951.6 percent over the previous three years, and the launching of vegan brands increased by 662.5 percent. Becoming a trend that both companies and consumers are paying attention to, vegan beauty is expected to reach a market worth US\$771,378,760 in 2025.



▲ Singer Lee Hyo-ri advertises a hand cream from “Cita.”

Korea’s leading vegan beauty brands include Dear Dahlia, Athe, and Melixir. Among them, Dear Dahlia was the first vegan brand to launch in Korea, and it is currently leading the domestic and international vegan beauty market. In a 2022 survey of the MZ generation conducted by Allure, a beauty magazine, Dear Dahlia was also ranked as “the most eye-catching domestic beauty brand.” This is because their products are 100 percent vegan cosmetics and have attracted attention for their eco-friendly packaging. Meanwhile, “Lush Korea” is famous for banning animal testing and making products from natural materials. It has grown 20 percent every year since 2020, with sales of US\$62,316,831.8 in 2020, US\$76,709,231 in 2021, and US\$92,985,453 in 2022. In response to this trend, brands that have not previously advocated veganism, such as Espoir, Clio, Wakemake, and TonyMoly are also joining this trend by establishing or converting to vegan lines.

## Causes

### 1. Korea’s First Experiential Drug Store

The rise of H&B stores caused a downturn in the road shop brands. H&B stores began to emerge as consumers preferred spaces where they could see various products in one place. In 2019, a market research company named Embrain Trend Motor surveyed women aged 19 to 58, and 47 percent answered “product diversity in the H&B store” as the reason for their visit. Unlike road shops, H&B stores were able to make a leap forward by constructing a space based on experiential marketing. Experiential marketing is a significant variable in purchasing decisions, according to Bernd H. Schmitt of Columbia University’s School of Business in the United States, who theorizes that the experience provided to customers is an important variable in consumption. Han Hae-ryeon, a professor of Interior Design Major at General Graduate School of Hansung University, wrote “Spatial Composition of Drugstore Applied with Experience Marketing for Sales Promotion,” in which Han explains, “Distribution companies are actively proceeding with experiential marketing because customers’ ideas about shopping are changing from “buying products” to “an enjoyable culture.” Shopping in a H&B Store entails an experience in which entertainment and interest-seeking consumption take place.



▲ “AMUSE” uses Jang Won-young’s concept photos when disposing their products.

Experiential marketing is classified into five segmented strategies: sense, feel, think, act, and relate. Product testing is part of the sensory marketing in which customers are allowed to apply scents or product samples to one's body. It is a service designed to allow individual consumers to find products that suit them. In emotional marketing, images and videos are placed throughout the store to stimulate consumers' senses. In Olive Young, the brand stand of "Amuse" displays the concept photo of Jang Won-young from IVE, the brand model of Amuse. For the brand section of "Clio," it displays the product by using the photo of Ahn Yu-jin from IVE. Cognitive marketing provides a space for displaying information that explains the product and displays popular products promoted through Instagram or YouTube. Moreover, relationship marketing entices customers' interest through price discounts, special coupons, and free gifts and prizes. Olive Young holds "Olive Day" from the 25th to the 27th of every month for members. In October 2023, it also announced that it would provide "slow-aging kits" for those who make purchases of more than US\$27 that include mask bags and skincare products. In regard to this H&B store experience marketing, Professor Han said, "The factors that stimulate consumers' emotions and senses entertain customers and improve the quality of shopping. It can also attract consumers' attention and increase brand loyalty."

## 2. Era of Personal Branding

How did the personal-color-trend begin? In a Kyunghyang Shinmun interview, Lee Eun-hee, a Consumer Science professor at Inha University, explained, "The reason why modern people do self-analysis tests is that they have a strong interest in themselves, that is, 'Meism.'" Meism is a compound word that includes the word "me" and "ism," which means "theory," meaning egocentricity. In other words, "meism" is a way of thinking that judges and decides based on oneself. The strong will of the MZ generation to know about themselves is what drives the trend of self-diagnosis tests such as personal color, MBTI, and fortune telling. In Trend Monitor, a research firm, asked 1,000 men and women aged 13 to 59 years old about their perception of themselves. As a result, it was revealed that younger people want to know more about themselves. In July 2022, Jeong In-ho, a management critic, explained in a column for the Korean Lecturer News, "In particular, the MZ generation has fewer opportunities to form their personal identities, as the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult for them to find a job. In this situation, we will have no choice but to think more about who we are." Their desire for personal color led to their satisfaction with cosmetic selection. In 2021, Ryu Soon-hee, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Beauty Industry at Sungshin Women's University, concluded that "the influence of personal color perception on eyeshadow and lipstick color selection and makeup satisfaction – focusing on women in their 20s, recognizing their personal colors and selecting eye shadow and lipstick colors that match their personal colors, increases their satisfaction with makeup." Lee Min-seon, a 20-year-old college student, said, "When I wear makeup with cool-toned summer products, I'm satisfied to hear that my face is lively." It has the effect of killing two birds with one stone, whereby customers find out about themselves through personal color and improve their makeup choices at the same time.

## 3. Rise of Value Consumption

What is "Value consumption"? Value consumption refers to the act of consuming a product because of personal value, even if it is expensive. The emergence of "Skintellectual," a term that refers to consumers who carefully check the raw materials contained in products, is a point where consumers' value judgments can be seen. In 2022, 8 out of 10 consumers responded they have experience in value consuming, according to Lime, a Lotte Members research platform. Additionally, 54 percent of the MZ generation, 46.4 percent of the X generation, and 42.4 percent of the baby boomers responded that they had done activities related to animal protection. According to the "Reading With Keywords - The Age of Value Consumption" report from the Korea Consumer Agency, it states "The meaning of value consumption varies by the age

group and income group. It's different. For example, people with high income value utility more than price. However, middle class people tend to focus more on the price." Value consumption is based on one's value judgment, and the spread of such a trend led to the growth of the vegan cosmetics market. This implies that consumers appreciate vegan cosmetics that do not contain raw materials from animals and that have not been tested on animals.

### Limits

#### 1. Abuse of Power Through Unfair Deliveries and Exclusive Contracts

Unlike when there was once a variety of H&B stores on the street, such as Olive Young, Lalavla, and Lobbs, only Olive Young stores are left in the current state. Pressured by Olive Young's momentum, once-rival GS Retail's "Lalavla" decided to pull out of its brick-and-mortar stores in November 2022, and Lotte Shopping's "Lobbs" decided to pull out of its brick-and-mortar stores at the end of 2022 as well. As a result, Olive Young's success is more evident than ever. As of the fourth quarter of 2023, Olive Young had a 71.3 percent share of the H&B store market.

This revival of Olive Young has led to a monopoly problem in the H&B store market. In 2019, CJ Olive Young was fined US\$769,615 for unfair returns. In the same year, Olive Young violated the Distribution Business Act by unfairly returning products worth US\$315,523 to a supplier company. Olive Young's distributing system is in a structure in which a distributor buys products directly from a supplier and resells them to the customers. The margin rate for the process is 45 percent, but the problem is that when inventory remains, the return risk is passed on to the supplier. In October 2023, the Fair-Trade Commission determined that CJ Olive Young abused its monopoly position to force exclusive transactions

against companies in partnership. Lee Eun-hee, a Consumer Science professor at Inha University, said, "The monopoly is likely to infringe on consumer rights and interests. Though consumers should be guaranteed the right to choose a certain product, Olive Young's misuse of power violates it by limiting the free choice of customers to determine what is good among several brands." Professor Lee then added, "Some form that can compete with Olive Young should emerge, and the government should help the market become a competitive system." If Olive Young, which announced the start of the H&B store, abuses its monopoly position, it will eventually add to the burden on consumers.



▲ The Korea Fair Trade Commission fines Olive Young.

#### 2. Degradation to Marketing Strategies

The reactions of people who have experienced personal color diagnosis are usually divided into two types. Some people like it because they have found the right tone for themselves, but others point out that personal color theory is an area of unfounded pseudoscience. In response, Shin Se-young, a Makeup Design professor at Seokyeong University, said, "There is an ambiguity in saying that the personal color theory is scientific because the tone of a person changes from moment to moment depending on one's condition." Personal color analysis identifies the most suitable tone for facial colors considering skin color, hair color, and eye color. However, a person's complexion changes depending on the condition of the body and the external environment. In the case of people who did not sleep the previous day, their skin color may become darker as their complexion becomes emaciated. In addition, going outside without sunscreen and getting a sunburn, changing contact lenses, dyeing one's hair, or tanning causes changes in melanin pigment, which changes one's skin color.

Regarding the Rom&nd and Wake Make products' response to the trend of personal color, Professor Shin said, "Cosmetics brands are using personal color as a marketing element. Products that are released based on the brand's own classification are usually divided into warm and cool tones, and some consumers may not fit warm tone products when they buy products despite being a warm tone. She added, "It can be seen that the classification criteria of a brand cannot be consistent and applicable for everyone." Professor Han emphasizes that though it is good for cosmetics companies to launch products based on personal color to meet the needs of consumers, it is important for consumers to expand the available choices. Professor Shin also stated that consumers should not be overly blind to personal color. It is more important to find one's own charm through a combination of various colors rather than locking oneself in the frame of warm tone or cool tone categories in the color system theory.



▲ The "Bear Grape" color of Rom&nd wins first place in the 2022 Olive Young Awards for lip makeup.

### 3. Unclear Vegan Standards

"Vegan beauty saves skin and saves the planet." This is an advertising phrase from a company that produces vegan cosmetics. People often perceive products made from good ingredients as "nice." Are vegan cosmetics always nice? To begin with, this is not the case. Vegan cosmetics are products that do not use any animal materials and exclude animal testing. However, the raw materials of vegan cosmetics do not guarantee efficacy. The recent influx of vegan cosmetics serves as a marketing tool for companies. Yang Jae-chan, a professor of Cosmetics at Mokwon University, explained, "Vegan cosmetics are the result of marketing strategies because they do not bring any special benefits to the skin." Consumers only assume that vegan cosmetics are good because of their image, but just because vegan cosmetics contain vegetable ingredients does not mean that there is no possibility of them causing an allergic reaction. In conclusion, vegetable ingredients are not toxin-free, and they are not necessarily good for the skin.

The vegan certification procedure conducted by the Korea Institute of Vegan Certification is granted based on not conducting animal testing of the product and by managing it to prevent cross-contamination without using animal-derived raw materials. Professor Yang noted, "Companies receive vegan cosmetics certification through certification institutions to gain consumer trust." However, it is questionable whether products are completely "vegan" just because they are certified. There is no standard for raw materials or content that can be considered as "vegan" under the standards of cosmetics. Currently, the certification process judges vegan products based on standards set by domestic and foreign institutions. Professor Yang said, "As organic cosmetics did in the beginning, standards for vegan cosmetics should be established by combining expert opinions and market conditions. If the market for vegan cosmetics grows in the future and consumers increase, the state should make a definition so that there is no confusion in the market." With the growth of the vegan beauty market, it is time to establish a standard for unified vegan cosmetics.

Just as personal colors cannot capture all a person's individuality and charm, cosmetics that match everyone are different. The recent rise of H&B stores using experiential marketing, the launch and selection of personal color cosmetics derived from the beauty industry, and the spread of vegan beauty through value consumption are revitalizing the cosmetics industry. However, the color standards of color cosmetics that hinder consumers' free choice and the lack of clarity as to what "vegan" indicates in vegan cosmetics need corporate improvement. Since consumption standards believed to be absolute and ethical are different from reality, everyone's concerns and efforts are needed for proper consumption. 

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# Exploring Everyday Bliss: Unveiling the Joyful Tapestry of “Ilya Milstein: Cabinet of Memories”

By Jang Yewon

Staff Reporter of Culture Section

At the end of the year, as the final chapter unfolds, people gather to discuss the significant events that took place over the past year. While the focus often leans towards these major events, it is easy to overlook the small joys of daily life. Enter an exhibition that illuminates the easily ignored happiness found in the ordinary. The first large-scale special exhibition in South Korea (hereafter Korea) by Ilya Milstein, titled “Cabinet of Memories,” utilizes the metaphor of a cabinet filled with small objects that evoke a variety of memories, capturing moments of trivial yet blissful everyday life. His maximalist works showcase an overwhelming level of detail, and every small object carries meaning. These details play a crucial role in expanding the viewer’s world, reaching beyond the realm of appreciating artworks to encompass the personal stories embedded in Ilya Milstein’s creations. The Argus invites everyone to experience “Ilya Milstein: Cabinet of Memories,” offering human warmth in the midst of the cold winter.

## Before Reading

- **Location:** My Art Museum, Seoul Textile Center Building B1, 518 Teheran-ro, Gangnam-gu
- **Period:** 2023.09.20 - 2024.03.03
- **Time:** Mon.-Sun. 10:00 a.m. - 7:40 p.m. (Entrance closing: 7:00 p.m.)
- **Docent:** 11:00, 14:00, and 16:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. An audio docent can be purchased at 3,000 won (US\$2.29).
- **Admission:** Adults (age 19 or older): 18,000 won (US\$13.74) / Youth (13 years through 18 years): 14,000 won (US\$10.68) / Children (4 years through 12 years): 12,000 won (US\$9.16)

## Ilya Milstein

Ilya Milstein is a commercial illustrator who gained recognition through “ADC Young Guns,” one of the world’s top 10 advertising contests. His works straddle the realms of commercial art and fine art, where he strategically places advertising products or logos throughout the painting, creating a hidden picture puzzle effect. This unique approach stems from his maximalist painting style.\* Thanks to the overwhelming detail in his works, they are sometimes described as “reading” rather than “seeing.” In his paintings, small objects brim with the artist’s feelings, memories, and recollections, densely arranged to evoke both a realistic and dreamlike feeling. Milstein attributes symbolism to each small item, emphasizing the message of his work. This provides an opportunity for viewers to connect Milstein’s personal experiences with their own.

\*Maximalist painting style: According to Communication Arts Magazine, the maximalist style utilizes bold colors, patterns, textures, layers, and detailed intricacies, often leaving little to no white space in the painting.

Memory Cabinet

The exhibition sequence is interesting. Cabinet 1 and 2 depict the joys of daily life, while Cabinet 3 and 4 contain social messages. As observers progress through Cabinet 1, 2, 3, and 4 sequentially, a sense of the interconnectedness of individual worlds emerges; people gather to build cities and culminate in a reflection of a world without humans. The flow of the cabinet shows the interconnectedness among people.

**Cabinet 1** From leisurely contemplation in winter to lovers of a cheerful day

In Ilya Milstein’s exhibition, the walls of the exhibition hall are also part of the artwork. The background color of the exhibition hall, harmonizing with the artwork, amplifies the atmosphere conveyed by each cabinet. The wall of Cabinet 1 is adorned with a saturated yellow hue.

“A Library by the Tyrrhenian Sea,” a painting hung on the yellow wall, depicts a man sitting at a desk holding a pen. The man is Ilya Milstein himself. Because people can only see the man’s back, observers feel as if they are spying on the artist at work. In this painting, the library is depicted as a place where Ilya Milstein’s unique world is built. In the library, books are piled up all over the floor, and the bookshelves are jumbled rather than neatly organized. However, there is still



©Ilya Milstein

▲ “A Library by the Tyrrhenian Sea” (2018) depicts Ilya Milstein’s unique world.

After viewing “A Library by the Tyrrhenian Sea,” visitors enter a space with a combination of white and vibrant red. The artist juxtaposes the energetic yet aggressive quality of red with the calmness of white. This allows the energy of the red to be preserved, while tempering it with white so it does not feel too harsh.

The work encountered in that section is “Relax, Drink, and

a sense of silence in the space evoked by the calm seascape visible through the window. The contrast between the dizzying study and the calm sea allows viewers to feel relaxed while the artist is busy working and to take a moment to admire the scenery outside the window.

Love,” which is a 2022 commissioned work by LG, a Korean electronics company. Advertisements are subtly embedded throughout the work, such as the LG logo attached like a laptop sticker and various LG products depicted; however, these commercial elements are seamlessly integrated into everyday scenes. Ilya Milstein’s ability to blend advertising into fine art demonstrates his talent for bridging fine art and commercial art. “Relax, Drink, and Love” depicts lovers relaxing on a sofa. During the holidays, rather than talking about something special, the lovers simply hold drinks and make eye contact. Although it is an ordinary daily life, it is full of happiness. For modern viewers absorbed in their cell phones and headphones, the scene of a couple simply making eye contact and focusing on each other’s words has an impactful resonance. By depicting such an intimate moment of human connection, Ilya Milstein prompts reflection on the significance of personal bonds that many now overlook in daily life. This artwork calls viewers to ponder when they last experienced meaningful eye contact and conversation with another person.

©Jang Yewon / The Argus



▲ “Relax, Drink, and Love” (2022) shows lovers spending happy and lazy time.

**Cabinet 2** About human connection through sunlight and windows

The blue wall of Cabinet 2 evokes a sense of expansiveness and connection to the outside world, conveying the emotion people often feel during joyful holidays spent amongst family and friends.

“Riviera Memories” provides an opportunity to look into the joyful moments of everyday life. People on vacation move their bags and enjoy picnics in front of the hotel. Through the picnicking artists in his painting, Ilya Milstein shows vacation as a place to gain both relaxation



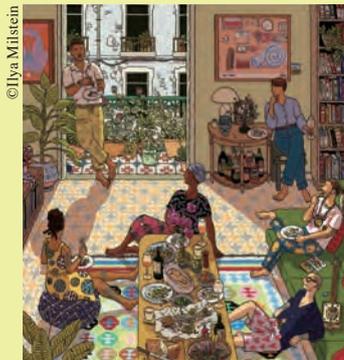
©Jang Yewon / The Argus

▲ “Riviera Memories” (2021) illustrates a beautiful summer vacation.

## Culture Trip

and inspiration. Their leisurely poses - lounging on a mat, comfortably playing guitar and sketching - conjure images of a European holiday where one can unwind while channeling creative passions. This scene makes viewers envision taking time off not just for rest, but also to rejuvenate inspiration.

In addition to the artists, there are two more people appearing in the corners of the picture. They look like the residents of Riviera, as they carry a shopping cart full of food. In addition, the towels, electric wires, and gas pipes scattered throughout the hotel make the picture more realistic. These parts help people perceive the Riviera as “a place where people live” rather than just as a resort. This painting was created in 2021 when COVID-19 was at its peak. Through his paintings, Ilya Milstein makes people realize that the world is still “a place where people live,” although they may have felt disconnected at that moment.



▲ “The Raconteur” (2019) captures a moment of home party.

light as devices to connect subjects to the outside world, the raconteur’s positioning likely represents how he is sharing personal tales, conveying his experiences beyond the room’s walls. The window and illuminating light symbolically extend his storytelling out to the wider world.

“The Raconteur” evokes a sense of intimacy, like being welcomed into a close friend’s home to enjoy a casual house party. This feeling is heightened by the sunlight and the subjects’ relaxed poses. As 22-year-old visitor Choi Seongmin commented, “Ilya Milstein skillfully uses lighting, like the sun and lamps, to emphasize the lively yet warm mood. This painting reminded me of early summer weekends after long work weeks, when my friends and I would gather at someone’s place on Saturday afternoons to play music and cook a meal together.”

### Special Cabinet Chaekgeori

The special cabinet is titled “Chaekgeori,” a space Ilya Milstein himself conceptualized. As defined in the Encyclopedia of Korean Culture, “chaekgeori” refers to Korean still-life paintings depicting books, ceramics, stationery, incense burners, and bronze objects arranged on bookshelves. Milstein drew inspiration from this traditional art form, integrating chaekgeori-style elements into his earlier piece “A Library by the Tyrrhenian Sea” featured in Cabinet 1.

Upon entering the chaekgeori cabinet, Mr. Choi was reminded of times spent in his hometown of Busan reading in a seaside cafe. The three-dimensional nature of space vividly brought this memory to mind. “Seeing the calm seascape in the painted window made me feel peaceful, allowing quiet moments for self-reflection,” he added. This Memory Cabinet exhibition features an extensive collection of over 120 Ilya Milstein artworks rich in detail that take time to fully appreciate. Visitors can easily experience fatigue or boredom. However, Milstein incorporated experiential elements like this special cabinet to actively engage audiences and prevent disengagement. By translating his work into three-dimensional form, he fosters communication and comprehension.

### Cabinet 3 The meaning of cities and crowds

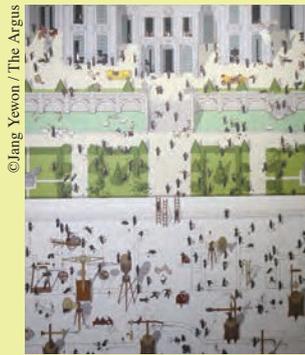
The cityscape works are hung on cheerful yellow walls. In contrast, the space displaying Milstein’s socially conscious pieces is painted black. This darker backdrop allows visitors to feel the heavy atmosphere and take in thought-provoking messages. The opposing color schemes mirror the differing tones of the collections, enhancing comprehension.

“Evening in Soho,\* Summer 1983” shows a familiar cityscape as part of Milstein’s “New York Series, Summer 1983.” This piece features more people than the works covered in Cabinet 1 and 2. Looking at the picture, there are people talking as they finish their day. Neon signs and streetlamps brighten the smiling faces of people strolling down the street. This “Evening in Soho” scene hides an Easter



▲ “Evening in Soho, Summer 1983” (2018) delivers an image of summer night street full of artists.

egg: Pop artists Andy Warhol and Jean-Michel Basquiat make cameo appearances, recognizable by their signature hairstyles. A white-haired man is Warhol, while Basquiat walks behind him wearing a blue shirt. By embedding these contemporary figures, Ilya Milstein captures the zeitgeist and lets visitors soak in the ambiance of this artistic neighborhood.



©Jang Yewon / The Argus

▲ “On Exactitude in Science” (2018) criticizes human pursuit of avarice and elite apathy amid others’ struggles.

garden folks indulge in greed using dead bodies as weights or fighting with swords. Through this stark scene, Ilya Milstein criticizes the human pursuit of avarice and the apathy of elites as others struggle.

\*Soho: An area where many galleries and artists are. The store with the red sign that appears in the work is an actual restaurant that is still in operation to this day.

**Cabinet 4** After the apocalypse, life continues

Entering through the small door in the Cabinet 3 exhibition hall leads to a cheerful space with a grass floor. Despite displaying dystopian works, Cabinet 4’s bright yellow-green wall lightens the heavy subject matter.

The painting “Untitled” catches eyes with its dark, gloomy

backdrop contrasting beautiful pops of flower color. The American flag and U.S. government seal indicate this wasteland was once the White House. Seeing the wrecked epicenter of power evokes humanity’s demise. Looking out the window, there is a white landscape reminiscent of the 2013 film *Snowpiercer* directed by Bong Joon-Ho, which depicted a frozen apocalyptic world. Devoid of human warmth, only colorful floral life persists in this barren scene. Against despair, resilient blooms convey that life continues even after humanity’s end.



©Jang Yewon / The Argus

▲ “Untitled” (2020) delivers a message of “life continues even after humanity’s end.”

Part of the “After Man Series,” “After Man 1” depicts nature rather than a cityscape. Bears, turtles, hedgehogs, snails, and anthropomorphic flora populate the frame. Amidst them, a white-haired creature eyes a curious flower. The background shapes of streetlights, cars, and buildings peek through lush overgrowth, indicating this was once a bustling road. By utterly transforming familiar urban backdrops into resurgent plant life, Ilya Milstein presents a brightly dystopian natural world post-humanity.



©Jang Yewon / The Argus

▲ “After Man 1” questions the future of humanity.

This work allows visitors to escape anthropocentric thinking and appreciate nature’s beauty.

Humans resemble puzzles comprised of small pieces – with even piece one missing, the picture stays incomplete. Like puzzles, life’s everyday recollections amass to form identity. In Ilya Milstein’s “Cabinet of Memories,” lies beauty tucked within the mundane. As with cherishing life’s details, happiness similarly sprouts from minor routines. Rather than only remembering the landmark events, why not reflect during this frigid year-end on the overlooked joys sprinkled through the minutiae of daily life? 

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# The Christmas Gift Everyone Has

By Cho Eun  
*Editorial Consultant*

“**M**ele Kalikimaka is the thing you say on a bright Hawaiian Christmas day,” is a lyric from an old, famous carol by Bing Crosby. It does not depict a cold winter Christmas but rather a tropical summer Christmas in Hawaii. While many associate Christmas with shivering cold weather and white snow, there are areas like the equator regions and the southern hemisphere that experience Christmas on a hot summer day. Because this is not a common experience for many, a summer Christmas is sometimes regarded as a fantasy. I was also one of those with this fantasy as a person who does not like winter. However, now that I am living in Fiji, in the middle of the South Pacific, I truly miss the cold air and heavy sweaters I wore during Christmas.

©All Photos taken by Cho Eun

Celebrating Christmas in sweltering summer weather is a unique experience, but it feels a bit awkward as if something significant is missing. The fantasy of a summer Christmas I had is gradually fading as Christmas approaches. Perhaps my admiration was rooted in the fact that I had never experienced it.

Living on one of the beautiful islands in the South Pacific, I do feel that my life is adventurous and eccentric. Earlier this year, I was obsessed with work and studying, barely sleeping. My latest voluntary vacation to Fiji is a memory I will always remember. I unconsciously craved the warm sunlight, relaxing to the sound of a ukulele, and the lazy air of the tropical island. My passion for social involvement and volunteering also motivated me to book a ticket to Fiji. Just like the life I admired and dreamed of earlier this year, I wake up to birdsong, walk through streets lined with palm trees, and teach adorable kids in settlements. However, I soon got accustomed to the wonderful scenery and the new life and became weary. A few days ago, I was watching the vlog of a businesswoman living in New York, admiring and envying her busy but vivacious life surrounded by skyscrapers. I was so jealous of her life and became fretful about my career and future. Fortunately, just as I was about to regret my wonderful time in Fiji, I recognized how contradictory I was.

How greedy and ignorant one can be, forgetting that the present is what one craved before, and coveting things without satisfaction and gratitude! I had to admit that I thought acquiring what I did not have would make me happy, and that I wanted it only because I did not have it and someone else did. Realizing my greedy and selfish heart, I felt embarrassed and ashamed. Coincidentally, it became clear that I already have so many things to be thankful for and satisfied with. I have found that one's happiness does not depend on the circumstances and that happiness, accomplishments, and peace are choices, not outcomes. The world and our contexts may not change, but the way we see and deal with them can change through our choices. In other words, we can choose to be satisfied and happy with what we already have by simply changing our greedy perspective and mindsets to one of thankfulness.

In the last month of 2023, what is your wish? And what are you envious of? It is not that I am negative about dreaming, but if you are craving something different and admirable because you are unhappy and feel depressed about where you are and what you have, the point is that happiness is not found in your status and assets. When you reach your aspiration, sometimes you suddenly realize that it was nothing or even forget that you received it, just like the Christmas summer fantasy I had. Like each hemisphere shows an opposite season, everyone owns different things. Also, as the seasons change, one's circumstances change throughout life. Rather than seeking what we do not have now, if we are thankful for the present, we will also be thankful for the future, whether it is the same or not. I hope this Christmas that all the HUFSSans find and appreciate the gifts they have been given. Happy holidays! 📧

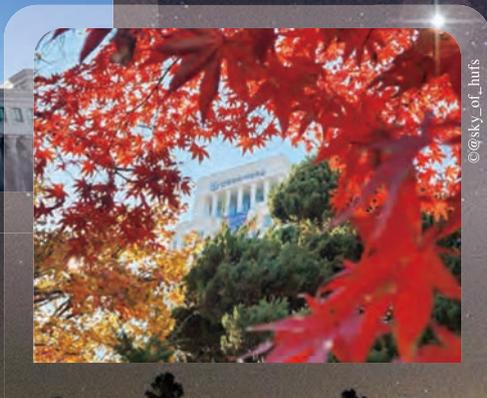
*glgrace@hufs.ac.kr*



# Que Sera Sera



▲ On November 20, 2023, during the book talk event "Carrying the Light - <I Do Not Bid Farewell>," hosted by HUFSS PRESS, the novelist Han Kang shared behind-the-scenes stories of her previous works and engaged in a Q&A session with the audience.





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▲ On November 20, 2023, HUFSS SPORTS hosted the FC24 event, with broadcaster Jonathan (Department of Political Science and Diplomacy '20), singer Yun Du-jun from HIGHLIGHT, and soccer commentator Lim Hyung-cheol joining.



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▲ HUFSS has a self-driving patrol robot! The autonomous patrol robot "Goalie" is in the process of charging.



© Lee Jae hyun/The Argus

# A Gift from The Argus

## Lee Jue-hyun

Since taking on the role of an editor, I have pondered a lot on how to produce better articles and how to attract more attention to our writings. While some may view this as just a small newspaper for students, being aware of how passionately everyone writes each article made it a more serious position than one might think. In the process, I tried things we had not done before and sometimes revisited good ideas from the past. Looking back, I feel sorry for not being more attentive to my surroundings due to my own concerns and passion. Nevertheless, I am grateful for all the trust and cooperation. Many thanks to all those who have assisted The Argus. Working with our dedicated Argusians, who undoubtedly worked harder than anyone else, is the greatest gift I have received from this experience.

## Kim Su-yeon

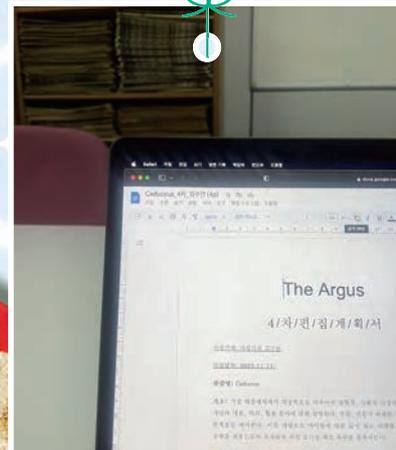
It is challenging to precisely define the lessons I have learned through this extended journey. Instead, it is a gradual process of internalization, subtly shaping my actions and thoughts. However, I can unequivocally state that I have come to recognize communication as a cornerstone of problem-solving. Only with questioning and expressing my thoughts, can I approach the truth. When initially engaging in discussions with other reporters and interviewing numerous professors, I was apprehensive about being criticized, feeling as if my ideas were being dismissed. However, these hesitations only delayed the satisfaction I could have experienced by boldly asking and sharing my thoughts from the outset. Granted, fears still linger, but I have gained the ability to manage them.

## Kim Jun-hong

I learned how to truly love and cherish something. To be honest, I did not know what it feels like to truly “cherish” something. I have never loved someone with all my heart, or even valued something like a treasure. Looking back on it now, I guess I did not give much weight to giving love to others and at the same time, I was afraid of being shaken by such emotions. But things changed after I joined The Argus. It began from my love for the articles I wrote. However, watching my fellow reporters treat my article as if it were their own, and making decisions solely for others soon made me adore my fellows too, eventually making me love this organization itself. Now I truly get to know the value of cherishing something and am no longer afraid to act just by following my heart, with no calculation, of course.

## Ryu Hyo-rin

I learned lots of things as one of the Argusians. However, I learned how to be modest as a writer. At my first editorial meeting as the Argusian, I was so proud of my writing skill, but the result of it was abundant feedback on my article. Writing alone, it is easy to overestimate my article and be self-absorbed about it. With The Argus, I could read my articles with a critical point of view; and I always took a careful and doubtful attitude when writing. As a result, I could improve my writing skill and also give meaningful feedback to my colleagues. Of course, my writing is still immature, but I am sure that I have learned invaluable lessons through The Argus.



**Kim Ji-hyang**

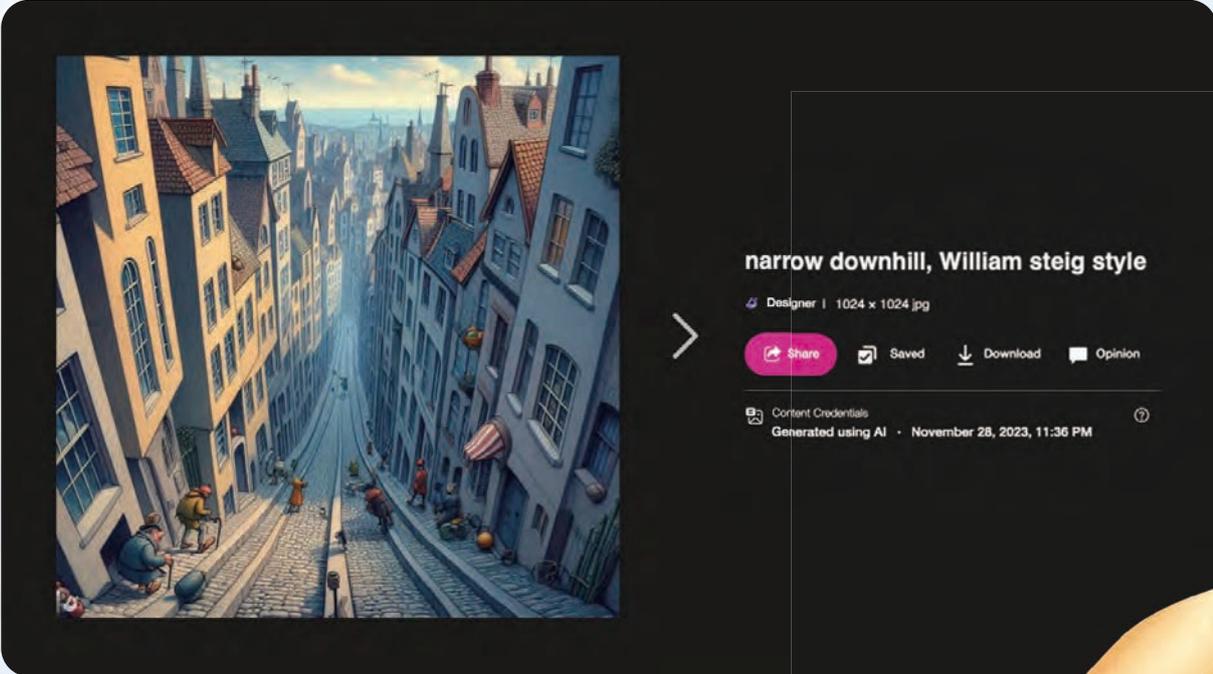
My answer to this theme is straightforward: I was able to improve my reading and writing skills. When participating in a two-week-long meeting that takes approximately 24 hours in total, I got to read other member’s writing and give feedback. Of course, my legs did get numb most of the time, but still, it was a time of growth for me. I also gained meaningful experience functioning as a member within this systemic organizational structure. Whether I liked it or not, there were norms and hierarchical structures that I had to accept. I look forward to a bright future for all and say, “farewell.”

**Jang Yewon**

There is so much I learned through The Argus, from how to write, how to manage time, how to do interviews, how to think logically, and far more; I cannot choose one. However, if I choose just one, it is about adapting to a new environment. Entering university for the first time away from my parents was really difficult. It was lonely and there were a lot of difficult things to do, but it was nice to meet new people and be busy working, so I was not buried in my emotions. Additionally, as I met and communicated with various experts through The Argus, I learned how to think more maturely. I am grateful to The Argus for helping me learn so much during the semester.

**Cho Eun**

Reflecting on my past self before joining The Argus, I realize I had little confidence. Unable to discern truth or scrutinize facts, I doubted my own opinions. Through working and studying at The Argus, I have gained the ability to find, analyze, and form opinions based on the truth. I can now effectively inform, explain, and argue through writing. I have confidence in what I know and write, as I am aware of the right resources and people to assist me. Additionally, I have faith in the Argusians I work with. I express my gratitude to The Argus and all the Argusians who have contributed to shaping the person I am today!





*The Argus*  
[www.theargus.org](http://www.theargus.org)