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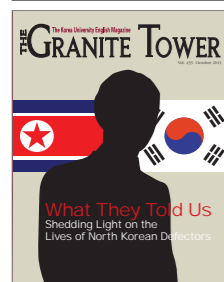
The Korea University English Magazine

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What They Told Us
 Shedding Light on the
 Lives of North Korean Defectors

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THE GRANITE TOWER

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EDITOR'S LETTER

It is not abnormal to feel strange when we meet strangers, especially when they are famous or have totally different backgrounds from us. It could be because they have sort of charisma that makes people feel intimidated or because we, beforehand, draw a line between "us" and "them" in our mind.

In the October issue of *The Granite Tower* (GT), we met several people who are often thought to be different from normal people like us: Hong Joon Pyo, the chairman of the Grand National Party, and the North Korean defectors who just settled into the South Korean society. It is not the first time we met socially well-known figures like Hong, but the interview with four North Korean defectors entered deeply into our heart; their pre-defecting life story, escaping odyssey, and present life here.

The weird thing is, after all the listening is done, we realize that we no longer live in a different world from them. Hong was one of our Korea University (KU) students who had failed the bar exam three times and the North Korean defectors are just like us, worrying about overdue bills, the college entrance test, and family health care.

The lesson from the last September issue is that it is always hard to satisfy all readers' expectations, especially in this semester, during which we have already decided to set our aim at actively participating in social issues. Even at the moment of writing this letter to you, I can see that you are all ready to send a message to our e-mail. No offense, however. All the comments on our articles are contribution to GT. All we want is for you to enjoy. And the next time you meet a North Korean, remember what I said: Don't draw a line.



Kang You Kyung (alswhr89@korea.ac.kr)
Editor-in-Chief, *The Granite Tower*

Proactive KU

By Song Gyu Jin (ssong915@korea.ac.kr)



On September 9, a new slogan for Korea University (KU) was announced: "Proactive KU." This new slogan was created based on the pursuit by the 18th president of KU, Kim Byoung-Chul, of a leading KU. The word "proactive" means to anticipate and to take charge of situations. Proactive KU looks ahead and leads the future world.

"Proactive" is just a word; it also contains the seven essential factors KU pursues in its future development:

- PROfessional Administration
- Consistent Finance
- Teaching
- Initiative Research
- Valuable Service
- Environment and Welfare

Through development, KU intends to achieve professionalism, innovative administration, and stabilized finances; provide open education and pioneering research; and deliver social service and welfare to society.

Two squares located on the right-hand side of the slogan symbolize the past and future of KU. The small square on the left is the past 100 years of KU history and the one on the right is the 1000 years of a future filled with challenges. These two lying upon each other represent the harmony and development of humanities and social science with natural science and engineering—one of the Kim's plans for developing the Natural Science and Engineering Departments, as KU's first president from that field.

The new slogan successfully embraces the future plans and goals Kim aims to make and achieve during his term. Proactive KU, based on the last 100 years of history, will make a new leap forward, leading the future world that lies ahead.

The Annual Ko-Yon Games

By Lee Da Hyeon (daniellalee@korea.ac.kr)

The Annual Ko-Yon Games of 2011 marked its end with the roar of victory from the Korea University (KU) students. It was two long yet compact days with swarms of blues and reds flowing in and out of the Jamsil Olympic Stadium and the Mokdong Ice Rink. With the rivalry between KU and Yonsei University going back many decades, this year, KU players and students excelled in both the games and the cheering competition. Total scores: three victories (basketball, rugby, and soccer), one tie (ice hockey), and one defeat (baseball).



Photographs by Kim He-Joong

Exploring the Media Hall

By Kim Ha Joong (hajoong91@korea.ac.kr)

Granite is the stone that symbolizes the marvelous buildings of Korea University (KU). On August 31, 2011, KU added the latest Media Hall to its collection of granite. This newly built 12-story edifice is expected to brighten the path of KU into a brighter future by cultivating media specialists. *The Granite Tower (GT)* zooms inside the Media Hall.

Many students have waited for this moment. For the past few semesters, taking lectures at the Woo Dang Hall has been a pain for both students and faculty as the noise from the adjacent construction site rattled endlessly, disturbing the academic atmosphere. Our patience has been rewarded with the Media Hall, and it has been more than worth the wait.

The Media Hall is a 12-story building with two basement floors. With a total area of 11,663.37m² (3,528 *pyeong*), there is plenty of room for students to explore the fields of media communication and journalism. The new media hub will serve as both an educational and a research institution.

“As the members of the Media Department fulfill their

long-cherished dream of the Media Hall, the Media Department shall continue to innovate, exceeding the achievements of the past,” said Kim Byung-chul, President of KU, in the completion ceremony. “The Media Hall shall lead a comprehensive education that encompasses the traditional branches of media as well as professional education of broadcasting and film,” Kim continued.

Despite its name, the building is not only for Media students, but also for students of Art and Design and houses various student-friendly facilities. The School of Media and Communication uses the basement floors up to the 6th floor and School of Art and Design uses from the 7th floor to the 10th floor. The entire 11th floor will be used by the Admissions Office and the 12th floor places the Sky Lounge.

Photograph by kim Ha Joong

1F Dongwon Lounge

Located to the left corner of the main entrance, the Dongwon Lounge provides a cozy rest area for students who have nowhere to go between classes. Electrical outlets are available at all tables, enabling the use of laptops and other electronic devices for team projects. For those who need to use computers, Dongwon Lounge is the place to look, for it has eight new computers ready for use during school hours.

The name of the lounge commemorates the financial contributions of the Dongwon Group. As a reminder, a small exhibit of the Dongwon Group history is displayed in the lounge for students' interest.



Photograph by kim Ha Joong



Photograph by kim Ha Joong

Art Hall

4F

The rumor turned out to be true, and the Art Hall theater's grand opening is happening this November. With approximately 140 seats available, the theater will screen a selected variety of films in the new Art Hall. Currently, the type of movies that will be screened in this facility has not been decided just yet. In mid-October, the Board of Film Management will be chosen to head up the theater a performance.

The Art Hall will also function as a performance stage. KU Performing clubs will be able to utilize the state-of-the-art facility for producing their ideal performances.

11F Admissions Office

The Admissions Office is currently located in the Central Plaza. As Central Plaza is home to many different administrative offices, it is often filled with people seeking different services. The Admissions Office, which has full responsibility for selecting future KU students, is one of the busiest places all-year-round. Thus, to alleviate the lack of space and overcrowded conditions of the Central Plaza, the Admissions Office is to be transferred to the Media Hall on October 3.



Photograph by kim Ha Joong



Photograph by kim Ha Joong

View from the Sky Lounge

Sky Lounge

12F

The Sky Lounge is located on the building's top floor. Being one of the tallest buildings in the area, it grants the visitor a magnificent view of the KU campus and surrounding area through its transparent glass walls. Its usage is still under consideration by the KU Facility Management but a restaurant is most likely to take place. ■

Establishing the Department of Cyber Defense at Korea University

By Lee Sihyoung (lsh4464@korea.ac.kr)

On July 7, 2009, a cyber attack named Distributed Denial of Service attack (DDos) from North Korea swept several government sites of South Korea and the U.S. The vaccines for the computer virus and the security system were not so efficient enough for such cyber attacks. Although the Internet itself and its industries have been advanced since the beginning of the Internet, the security for those is still fragile for the external assaults. For this situation, Korea University (KU) newly founded a department for cultivating specialists of the cyber wars.

When it comes to the military services, it is extremely important to establish and keep the data base for national security. Actually, every country, including North Korea, has already cultivated cyber warriors who can break into other countries' data base systems and get secret information.

On June 28, 2011, KU and the Ministry of National Defense (MND) of Korea made an agreement for the founding of the Department of Cyber Defense in the graduate school of Information Security at KU. The main purpose of the department is to cultivate the elite officers specialized in cyber wars. Although the department belongs to the graduate school of Information Security, its recruitment is for the 2012 freshmen class of the undergraduate school.

There are already many colleges and departments specialized in training officers in Korea. However, the Department of Cyber Defense at KU is the only one that is specialized for training officers who only conduct cyber war and take charge of information security on national defense. Unlike the institutes such as Korea Military

Academy, Korean National Defense University, and eight other universities that founded the department of national security including WonKwang Univesity, Chosun University and Yeungnam University, the students of the department do not have to undergo physical training for actual combat. They are going to serve for the army in the Cyber Command after taking a minimum period of combat training. The fundamental difference between the department of cyber defense and the department of national security is that the department of cyber defense requires mathematics and computer science rather than physical strength. The guideline for applicants states that there will not be any students who fail to enter because of the physical test itself.

Therefore, according to the Academic Affairs Department of the Department of Cyber Defense, the most important factor is the applicants' mathematics grade in the College Scholastic Ability Test (CSAT). Since the main purpose of the department is to cultivate military officers, only Korean students who have not violated reasons for disqualification can apply for entering.

The curriculum of the Department of Cyber Defense consists of general courses such as mathematics, statistics, and military science courses. And in the major courses, the students are going to take classes such as cryptology, hacking, computer programming, and forensic courses. Through this curriculum, the students could become elite officers specialized in cyber wars and information security.

The faculty of the department is also filled with the authorities of each field, such as Lim Jong In, the master of information security policy and dean of the graduate school of Information Security, Lee Dong Hun, the most outstanding cryptologist in Korea, and Kim Huy Kang, former hacker who became a professor after all.

There are several benefits for the freshmen of the Department of Cyber Defense. They can receive priority for entering the dormitory if they are from local areas. Moreover, they are exempt from paying entrance and tuition fee until their graduation. Also, the school offers the students opportunities of joining hacking contests and conferences, applying for studying abroad, and developing their specialty through seminars. If the students want to receive more financial benefits, they can participate in the national security industry as researchers from the university. During their serving term in the army, they could get their master's degree with a government expenditure.

Since it is still on the begining stage, there is no concrete plan of requirement for graduation yet. The instructor of the Department of Cyber Defense responded however, that it is not difficult to graduate from the department. The students do not need to obtain the Chinese character certification, and the TOEIC score for graduation also will be not as high as other departments in College of Science

and Technology. However, total credits for graduation would be relatively high due to the nature of the department.

After graduation, the students have to receive military training for a couple of weeks, and then are commissioned into officers who serve the army for seven years. For this reason, the students are expected not to be conscripted into army like other twenties of South Korea. Since then, the graduate can continue their term as an officer, be hired for a government organization related with the security in cyber space, or be employed in a private company. On August 30, 2011, the Ministry of Knowledge Economy announced a plan saying it would offer the alumni of the Department of Cyber Defense who wants to start a venture company a subsidy of five thousand million won maximum, just like the Singularity University System of the U.S. Moreover, they can apply for The National Intelligence Service (NIS) through the special employment program. Also, they can enter the graduate school and become certified researchers or professors. Regardless of what vocation the alumni choose, they are expected to contribute to Korean society with their own talents.

With the IT background and the cyber space spread day by day, the Department of Cyber Defense attracts many high school students. Moreover, the supports and benefits such as scholarships and the experience as officers for years by Korean government give the freshmen of the department lots of merits than other university students. ■



Studying Seoul's Success Stories

By Kim Hak Young (jensophie7@korea.ac.kr)

Many people are so absorbed in their daily lives that they have little interest in how the city is run. People usually only think about city management when it comes to some maintenance problems or change in their surroundings, and not much about issues that are not directly related to themselves. While Koreans or Seoulites do not pay much attention to their city's management, some foreigners actually take courses to learn city management at Korea University (KU).

Encountering foreign students on campus is no surprise these days. However, it might be surprising to know that some of them are city officials from foreign countries with at least three years of working experience. The KU Graduate School of Policy Studies is holding a Master's course for these foreign officials.

This program is an opportunity for city officials from developing countries to discuss and learn about city management, using Seoul City as a model. Seoul City government started this project as an Official Development Assistance (ODA) with KU, of which Administration Department is prominent. This program aims to utilize Seoul's administrative cases as its case studies.

Another aim and benefit is that later, students of this course would build the friendly relationships between Korea and their own counties.

For the fourth-year class 18 students were chosen from 30 applicants from 18 cities in 15 countries. Most students applied, because of Korea's fast development after the Korean War. "Korea is one of the best examples in the world, considering the fast urban development and the velocity for recovering from a war. This 'Korean way' of dealing with public policies was one of the enticing factors that made me apply to this program," says Eder Brito (28, Brazil). Champika Nirosh Dharmapala (34, Sri Lanka) had a similar reason. Champika says, "After the Second World War, Korea and Sri Lanka were in similar rank in the world economy. Unfortunately, we faced a three-decade-long civil war. As we are trying to redevelop the country now, we need examples from the world. I believe that Korea, especially Seoul City, is a good example for us." Students were selected based on academic performance, career experience, English conversation skill, and recommendations.

The program lasts 25 months; 13 months in Korea, and 12 months back in their home countries. In Korea, students will take four courses this semester, three of which are on city management theories. Throughout the year, they take courses on Urban Planning, Urban Management and Policies, Environmental Management and Policies, Public Budgeting and

Finance, Public Policies and Institutions, and Transportation Management and Policies. Every Thursday, Seoul City officials who have participated in critical administrative affairs in Seoul, visit KU as guest lecturers. They introduce examples of Seoul manage-

ment. For a practical approach to city management from different aspects, courses are largely carried out in the form of discussion. "Students are used to and enjoy debate," says Professor Jun Koo (Department of Public Administration). "Students make some propositions about city management based on their own experiences as city officials, and I learn from them sometimes."

They also go out on field trips. Although some students think, "increasing the number of field trips would make this program more helpful," according to Brito, Professor Koo

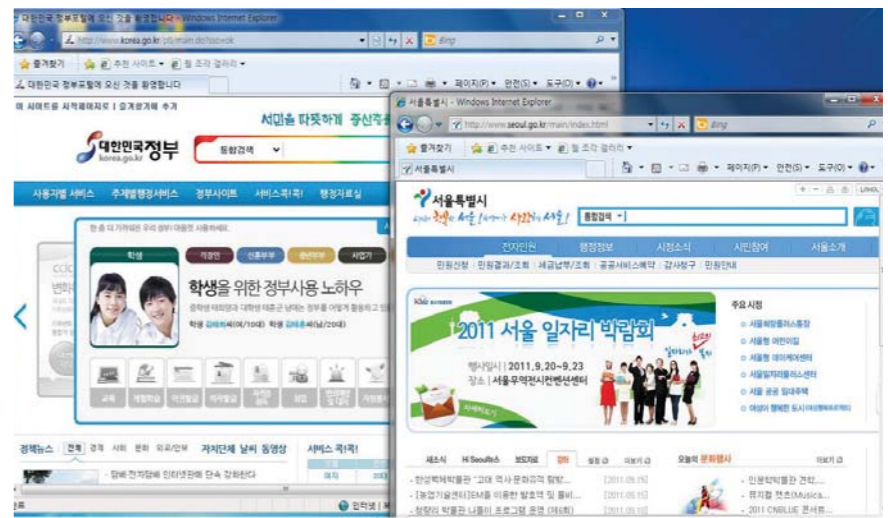


suggests increasing the number of visits to city governments for a better program. "Many students seek experience similar to an internship, to see the administration work up-close. However, the city government does not provide that kind of experience, partly due to the problem of getting interpreters for students. It is the most disappointing thing about this program," says Koo.

After completing the course in Korea and returning to their countries, students write a thesis, comparing the city management in Seoul to their own cities. "In my country, things are far different from Seoul. My country is a developing country, and we need to learn more from some successful cities like Seoul, particularly in the fields of transportation, cultural attraction and infrastructure, such as highways and subways. Also, public services are better in Seoul in terms of quality and diversity," says Diagne Saliou (41, Senegal).

"One good example is Dasan 120, a free call service for public information which conducts in a very short time. It is very useful and helpful to citizens and tourists in Seoul. In my country, the quality of public services is not relatively good enough."

"Comparing the city management in Seoul and Sao Paulo, Brazil, I realized that Brazil is more about improvisation. In Korea, rules, goals and hierarchy are more concretely instituted. Although it can be a barrier in solving problems sometimes, it definitely has positive aspects," says Brito. "However, in Brazil, people are too informal and too flexible all the time. It is hard



to keep the same procedures, goals, rules, and hierarchy for more than two years. This can be good for adapting to changes, but it is a total disaster in long-term projects."

Discussing these kinds of perspectives in class with people from different countries is truly beneficial. It is not easy to see one country or city's own management objectively, especially when someone is stuck in one city or country. However, by staying in Korea and experiencing almost at first-hand, participants in this program can see the good and the bad of city management, both in Korea and their countries.

During this program, students come across many examples of city management in Seoul that are thought of as successful. There might be some doubt about whether Seoul's administration is good enough to be others' role model. However, "it does not fall behind, but actually excels in several ways," according to Professor Koo. Especially, Korea's E-Government Service took first place in 2010 Global E-Government survey by UN. In Korea, it is super fast and easy to get administrative services online, such as getting a copy of residence registration.

Learning about Seoul's city management cases, most students chose the transportation system as an outstanding one. Seoul Metro effectively links almost everywhere in Seoul with nine lines. The subway system in Seoul is known to be well-organized and is appreciated as a contributing

factor to better life for residents. The Hangang Development Project is an exemplary case of using city's natural resource, in this case, a huge river. This project greatly changes the value and environment of Seoul. In that sense, the Hangang Renaissance Project and other Hangang-related Projects create a leisurely and communal place for citizens. "The restoration of Cheonggyecheon, was also a good model, that what seemed impossible was put into action," says Brito and Diagne. Other remarkable examples are the Seoul International Business Advisory Council (SIBAC), Seoul Welfare Foundation, and facilities for the disabled, such as paths for blind people.

However, nothing has only a positive aspect, as do these "good" examples of city management. It is the job of students and professors to distinguish what to retain and what to discard from the examples, gathering as many different, objective views as possible. Also, although Seoul City officials might want to talk only about successful cases, it would be better to also make failed cases the subject of debate and learn from them.

The program is three-years-old, and everyone is pretty much satisfied with its progress. "I get the feeling that students are content with it, and are making some great memories here," says Professor Koo. "The third year class even made an alumni association, and I guess it means that their year in Seoul was memorable." ■

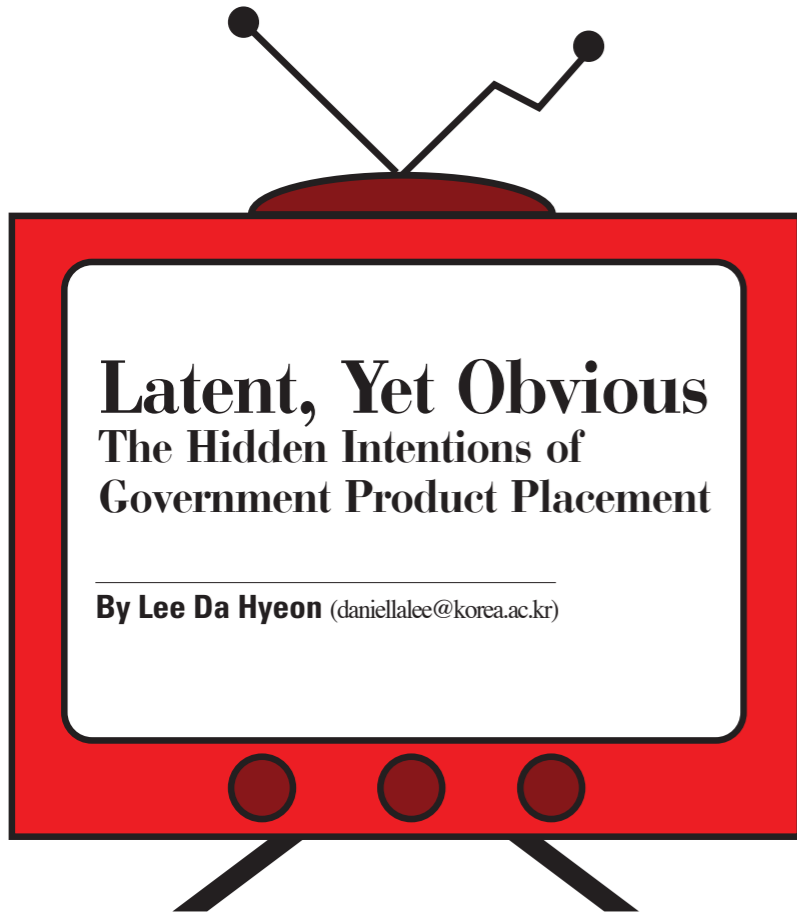


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Photograph by Communications Dept.

Features



“Really? So if I tell them not to smoke, they won’t?” said OSKA as he walked on to the stage as the honorary ambassador for the No Smoking Campaign. He then stood on stage with “No Smoking” banners in the background to persuade his fans and many viewers not to smoke. This is a scene extracted from the recent Korean drama *Secret Garden*, a great hit program. This is what we call government Product Placement (PPL).

Most people are usually aware of what PPL is. However, not many can distinguish PPL from large enterprises from those created by the government itself. Such PPL may include “No Smoking” or even a message for a higher birth rate. While such engagements of national promotion in dramas are in pursuit of positive results from their viewers, many audiences have also complained about the disruptions it causes to the purity of entertainment.

Such controversy arose along with the legislation of the Broadcast Act in 2009. Politicians in Korea have been

in conflict many times due to opposing views about the Broadcast Act. Yet, overcoming all the ups and downs, the Act itself was finally passed with cheers on one end and cries on the other. Although the act itself was legislated for a reason, its influence in our society is still questionable.

The Double-Edged Sword, Government PPL

While many investments in the media from the government are done with good intentions, there are both positive and negative consequences. “Usually, the PPLs of gov-

ernments are inclined to send out good messages. In this sense, they will certainly bring a desirable outcome in convincing some of their viewers. Such methods seem very optimistic,” says Kim Ji Su (’10, Mass Media and Communication).

Moreover, people who think of laws as being very firm and cold will be able to approach them and become aware of them more naturally. Such indirect means of informing the public about governmental messages may be more efficient compared to direct notifications. “Media is one of the easiest yet practical ways to get to people. The ways in which the government can approach their people is very limited and television, especially, seem to be the most successful method,” says Woo Jae Ho (44, Seoul).

The ultimate result of these positive consequences is that it is beneficial for both the government and the people. While governments get their people to listen to them, the public will learn to make a better society around them rather naturally. In addition, the media industry will profit from this act as well since a lot of money is being invested by the government to make such programs.

There are, however, numerous defects due to the engagement of the government in our mainstream media. Many argue that these PPL distract many viewers watching the program for pure entertainment. “Sometimes, these PPLs are very random. They appear out of the blue and interfere with our desire to become absorbed in the show,” adds Kim. Here, she expresses her dissatisfaction with some of the government’s PPL that seem to cut the flow of the plot. “For example, Ha Ji Won and Hyun Bin having three babies at the end of *Secret Garden* was a bit of an exaggeration. They would have been fine with one child. Three was just too many,” comments Yoon Ha Youn (21, Seoul).

There is also a continuous discussion going on about the effectiveness of government PPL through television and especially through popular programs. While one side argues that it is the most appropriate and successful way to reach the public, others argue that not many people will be able to distinguish such government’s effort. In this aspect, these attempts of the government may seem like a waste of money and time as well.

“I also think that there are better ways than television through which governments can advertise. For example, they should invest more on educating the public, especially students. Such awareness of social rules and norms as a student will not only reduce the number of social problems but also prevent them from happening in the future,” adds Woo. Many doubts concerning government PPL are still left unanswered. Although there is a clear distinction between the two sides of opinion, the best explanation for the effectiveness of government PPL lies within individuals for now.

Examples of Recent Government PPL

	<p>Secret Garden Advertising to promote childbirth. The Ministry of Health and Welfare intended to encourage childbirth in our society where the birth rate is lower than ever.</p>
<p>Infinite Challenge (Muhandojun) Advertising to encourage energy saving. The Ministry of Environment intended to make more people become aware about our environmental issues such as global warming.</p>	
	<p>Three Wheels (Saebakwi) Publicizing reducing food waste. The Ministry of Environment intended to call the viewers’ attention to reducing the amount of food that goes to waste, especially during traditional holidays in Korea.</p>

“I don’t see a problem with government PPL as far as its intention is to enhance our society. Also, although the government is using the mainstream media at this moment as their main source to reach the people, this will definitely change along with the development of technology. So, even if a line that government should keep up to may be necessary, it will be rather difficult to set a standard for how much the government can engage,” says An Seung Geun (’06, Business Administration). It is true that there are limits that governments should not cross if they want to advertise successfully. So far, the productiveness of these government PPLs seems faint, yet their future seem bright as people more and more look up to television for all sorts of reasons. ■

<p>Government PPL: Product placement of governmental issues that occur through the media due to independent investments of different branches of the government.</p>	<p>Broadcast Act: A law that allows private companies to own shares from major broadcasting stations in Korea and also allows the creation of private channels.</p>
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Seunggawon: Taking a Peek into this Merciful Place

By Park Jong Hun (polo3355@korea.ac.kr)

Have you ever watched an Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) special documentary *The angels of Seunggawon*? There are lots of angels who take care of one another as if they are brothers and sisters. Especially there were two young angels in the spotlight, Yu Taeho (12, Anam) and Hong Seongil (9, Anam), and volunteer workers in Seunggawon that embrace all of these little angels, and make them live with confidence despite their disabilities.



Seunggawon was founded in June 11, 1998 by the Joongang Sangha University under a name of *Samnagwon*. From then on, it changed its name to its current name *Seunggawon*. Thanks to its close location to Korea University (KU), some KU students may have heard about the name, but most students of KU do not even know what *Seunggawon* is.

Currently, Seunggawon takes care of about 70 children from five to 18-years-old who have a physical or mental disability. Apart from them, there are lots of social workers and volunteers who help the cute little angels.

Living next to children, social workers foster children's social-life ability. This includes using public transportation, ordering at an eatery, and using facilities of a public institution or regional community. For accomplishing this goal, children of *Seunggawon* not only go to a special-education school, but also to an ordinary school like Jongam Elementary School or Jongam Child Care Center.

In addition, social workers make an effort to foster children's personal-life ability, including controlling one's health, handling urine and feces, and preparing food. Also, they help in the rehabilitation of children. Physical therapy, verbal remediation, and children-based play therapy are things of the rehabilitation process done by social workers with help of some volunteers.

"We, as volunteers, help social workers plan programs such as education service, massaging the oral cavity, and physical massaging. We blow bubbles and play with children to form a sense of intimacy. To stimulate the oral cavity, we work on several activities using an electric

toothbrush, spoon, and chopsticks from silicon. Massaging the oral cavity consists of treatments for strengthening mandibular movements for children who cannot speak well naturally and who are not good at chewing things. Sometimes, professional teachers come and let us know various ways of massaging the oral cavity," says Cha Sang Young ('10, Russian Language and Literature), one of the volunteer workers.

As all of the aforementioned things are aimed at children's standing on their own feet, when one reaches at the age of 18, he or she is sent to a group home or experience home where they can live as an individual member of our society with dignity.

Above all, the social workers of *Seunggawon* strive to improve people's awareness toward children with disability. They advertise *Seunggawon* on campuses of many universities and sometimes open a one-day teahouse, in which *Seunggawon's* angels serve guests from nearby places.

As university students, we can help them in various ways. Almost 2000 volunteers come to give the little angels a helping hand, in just a year. However, it is not enough to pay attention to all children who need help in every move they make. For this reason, children need more volunteers who can look after them persistently. Although there are some hesitant students just because the children are disabled, there are ones who get over this kind of prejudice.

"In doing volunteer work on a weekly basis at *Seunggawon*, the one thing that I hesitate the most is my prejudice against some children with physical or mental dis-

ability. I have realized that the prejudice rooted in the lack of my direct or indirect experiences with them, is really wrong. I have become aware that each of them has their own personality, favorite things, and matters interesting to them. Also, they try to communicate with other friends with their own ways during my work at *Seunggawon*," says Cha.

Seunggawon is close to KU and some other universities, but a lot of university students hardly notice what *Seunggawon* is. Moreover, even though they have seen some TV programs regarding *Seunggawon*, they do not pay much attention to it. Cha points out that "Every time I lead our club members to *Seunggawon*, they are surprised and say, 'I have not been aware of this place until now; it is really close to KU.' Shocked by this, I started thinking of some places that need our help and places we can help around us. And *Seunggawon* is one of those places. We should take a profound interest in those places."

Volunteer work is done on a weekly basis, and taking care of children with disability for long hours is extremely exhausting. You have to be patient and adapt yourself to the circumstances of *Seunggawon* where beneficiaries of your services could sometimes feel hard understanding what you say to them. But, as time goes by, once you are accustomed to being at *Seunggawon* and children start recognizing who you are, saying hello to you, you will see yourself shedding tears before leaving them.

"When I first took part in the volunteer service at *Seunggawon*, I was somewhat stunned, because I have never had opportunities to face disabled ones. Then, unexpected events came up. The Children seemed diffident,

and denied participating in some programs with me. Often they caused troubles that made me feel really flustered," says Cha. However, like everyone else, he has been accustomed to those situations. Moreover, apart from getting accustomed to that, he also fell in love with the little angels of *Seunggawon*.

Like so, before experiencing *Seunggawon*, most of us may have thought that we could not communicate with children who have a physical or mental disability. However, it will not be long before you realize that it was a mistake. Language ability is not the only communication tool. By contacting eyes and exchanging smiles, and sharing warmth of hand, we can communicate together from the heart.

Just because of being born in a little different way from other children, *Seunggawon's* angels have more "do" things than "do not" ones. Their defect does not make children feel depressed; rather, it makes children far stronger with their inconvenient body.

Greeting snugly, smiling broadly without hesitation, *Seunggawon's* angels have given volunteers a never-to-be-forgotten impression. And it may be the reason of volunteer's going back to *Seunggawon*. ■

If you want to join
Contact direct to *Seunggawon* (02-921-6410) or
via KU social service club, ROTARACT
(010-9543-7703)



Before & After I was a Soldier

By Lim So Hee (pumpkinhero@korea.ac.kr)

“Boys become real men after their military service.” This familiar statement has some truth behind it since boys do seem manlier and more mature after almost two years in the military. But exactly what kind of transformations do they go through after having been soldiers?

On the subway, walking down the street, or sitting at a coffee shop, you see many men around, but you realize that average Korean men are not the big and the tough type. Instead, most, young and old alike, have small frame. But you will be surprised to find that these men are much tougher than they look. Most of them had been trained fighters and had practiced shooting rifles, throwing grenades, and mastering other tactics for killing their enemies. Who can be tougher than this?

Unlike other young men around the world, Korean men are required to give up two years of their lives for their country. During that time, they become soldiers, no matter who they had been and what kind of lifestyles they had led beforehand. And it is during this harsh and long period that they go through many changes.

Photograph by Lim So Hee



Goals/Values

After spending two years in the military, many students often have a different perspective on the world. This change may come from the new lifestyle to which they have to adapt in the military. With the strict hierarchy and the need to follow orders and cooperate as a group member, students become more alert and aware of their surroundings. If they had been day dreaming as civilians before, they become fully awake as soldiers. For this reason, they seem more practical after their military service and thus begin to construct a more detailed plan for their lives.

“Before I did my military service, I had only a vague picture of my future. But after my service, I had a more detailed plan and began to prepare more systematically. It was not that my goal had changed, but now I feel like I have a blueprint for my future.”

Cho Dong Hyun ('08, English Language and Literature)

Some also realize the importance of certain values or characteristics. Before their service, they may not have been aware of the fact, but after the two years, they see the importance to which they had been blind before.

Photograph by Lim So Hee

"I learned the importance of tenaciousness. In the military, I had to be very determined in order to complete a task and I learned that without this persistence, I could not achieve anything. When I returned to school, I became more tenacious in studying. If I felt the need to study more for exams, I pulled all-nighters for consecutive days, which I would not likely have done before."

Park Seung Chan ('09, International Studies)

"After my military service, I became more appreciative of the people around me. After I finished my service, I could see who my true friends were. The shallow relationships I had maintained before were long gone. On the other hand, the few who had stayed became more valuable to me."

Hwang Jun Hyun ('09, International Studies)

Relationship

One other significant change students go through is the altered attitude toward relationships. During their time in the military, they change their thoughts about relationships and look for different aspects in a woman than before.

"Now when I look for a woman, I want someone whom I can relate to and share values and ideas with. Also I now look for someone who can be with me for a long time. I want a proper relationship rather than a small fling."

Cho Dong Hyun ('08, English Language and Literature)

"I experienced a heartbreaking break-up. Not long after I entered the army, I received a letter informing me of the terrible news. This heartbreak, along with other realizations I had in the military, changed my thoughts about relationships. Since my military service, I find it difficult to love with deep emotions. Now I find myself to be more practical and realistic when looking for a woman."

Woo Hae Min ('09, International Studies)

Fashion

Another change that is more noticeable to the eye is the change in fashion. After wearing the dull military uniform for two years, students are now free to wear whatever they want. They are free to choose clothing of their own tastes. But they realize that their tastes have changed from two years ago.

"Before, I used to wear overalls and sweatshirts almost every day, but now I prefer to wear shirts. Instead of comfortable looks, I go for neat looks. I tend to look for more mature clothes when I go shopping."

Kim Sung Min ('08, Japanese Language and Literature)

But interestingly for others, it is quite the opposite. They become less concerned about their outer appearance. They feel much more responsible and burdened than before, and thus, focus more on their works than their outer appearance. As a result, they do not give too much thought about how they look.

"Right after I finished my military service I bought many new clothes and tried different styles I had not worn before. But after a while I started to wear comfortable clothes to school to be more comfortable when studying."

Cho Dong Hyun ('08, English Language and Literature)

Lifestyle

Changes in small details of lifestyle can make a big difference. Although they may go unnoticed sometimes, they are what make life look different as a whole. For example, after finishing his military service, one may have developed a new habit, or another may have developed a new skill useful in daily life. Such small yet significant changes make one's lifestyle different than before.

"Before, at school, I used to think about where and who to eat with. I enjoyed spending time with friends and going to different restaurants to try various menus. But now I just look for a place that is near and cheap."

Kim Sung Min ('08, Japanese Language and Literature)

"In the military, I learned how to make senior soldiers comfortable and how to behave more properly toward them. Before, I used to be very shy when I talked with my seniors and tended to avoid them on campus. But now, the difficulties have disappeared because encountering and treating new people has become part of my daily routine."

Lee Jae Yong ('08, Sociology)



Actor Lee Jun Ki



Singer Lee Jung

So what can explain these changes students go through after their military service? Yes, time passed and obviously with the passing of time, people change. And yes, students had been part of a special organization, so it is only obvious that they had been influenced at least in some aspects. These ideas are all true, but there are other logical explanations that can clarify the changes.

Professor Hu Sung Ho from the Psychology Department of Chung-Ang University explains that it is not that students adopt different personalities during the service, but rather that they activate various knowledge already in their heads. "Before, students only learned abstractly the concept of how to become a successful member of this society," says Hu. "But in the military, students actually experience the concept of group life. They had only self identity before, but after the service, they develop social identity."

Furthermore, before, students tend to see only what they wanted to see. And they believed that they could achieve anything they set their minds to. However, this way of thinking changes after the experience in the military. "During their service, students soon realize that regardless of their reluctance, there are some things that must be done," says Hu. "As their social identities become clearer, the social expectations, boundaries, and responsibilities for them increase as well."

Students do not go through entire transformations of themselves after their military service. Instead, they change their way of thinking and their perception of the world. They gain new knowledge and skills necessary to survive in society. Thus, the experience in the military serves as a stepping stone to adulthood. The experience allows students to become more mature and to become real men. ■



Photograph by Lee Sihyoung

Cheong-chun, Youth

By Kim Minhee (minhee713@korea.ac.kr)

How many times have you recently heard the mass media using the word *Cheong-chun*, which denotes youth in Korean, typically those in their twenties? How often have you heard your friends talking about youth in the recent past? Probably a lot, and maybe because it is becoming the zeitgeist of our time.



Photograph by Lee Sihyoung

Cheong-chun is sweeping the country with incredible force and speed. Books, movies, music, lectures, festivals...These are only a few areas that are influenced by the recent trend of “youth” in Korean society. The “Youth Concert,” a lecture series led by Ahn Cheol-Soo and several other celebrities in the form of talk show, has gained widespread popularity and support, mainly from those in their twenties. The concert, which aimed to present the message of hope to the youngsters, attracted far larger audience than it could handle, such that a number of audience members had to sit in the hallway or on the floor.

The publishing world is also experiencing a similar atmosphere. According to online Kyobo Book Centre, 73 books that contain the word *Cheong-chun* in their title were published in 2011, and 63 books in 2010, while only 23 and 24 books were published in 2008 and 2009 respectively. *Ache for Youth* written by Kim Ran Do, *Never Give up, Twenties!* by Lee Ji Seong, and *I Am Far from Being an Adult* by Kang Se Yeong are all embodiments of the current social trend of “youth.”

Ache for Youth, an essay written by a university professor to convey courage and advice to the young, had been sold over three hundred thousand copies, as of June 2011. Moreover, it was the number-one bestseller in four major book stores for the first six months of this year, first being published on December 24, 2010. The phenomenal success of this essay has spawned a number of

nonfictions resembling it, causing the public to wonder: what is so special about *Cheong-chun* to those in their twenties in the current era?

Needless to say, “youth” and “young adults” have been an ongoing topic in any time period and in any country. The recent fever for youth in Korean culture, especially in the publishing circle, however, had never taken its form. Some may argue that it is a commercial trick of publishers to raise their profits that has given birth to a great number of books targeted toward those in their twenties, but without the welcoming attitude of

university has been relegated to a place where only GPA, not education, matters; students turn toward national qualification examinations or certificates preferred by conglomerates, not considering what their true talents and interests are. In the process, meaningless competition among students is overheated, leaving the weak behind.

The sky-rocketing tuition fees have also aggravated the situation. The average tuition fee at Korean universities has been on a constant rise, and now it is the second highest in the world, after the U.S. A great number of youth dedicate their time and effort toward

Professor Kim Hong-Jung (Seoul National University, School of Sociology) commented, “The reason for the popularity of books giving warm words to youth is that the young in Korean society are hungry for this kind of consolation. It is true the situation they are facing is very harsh, and there was also criticism by intellectuals toward those in their twenties, so this kind of warm comfort will appeal to their hearts.”

Books like *Ache for Youth*, however, do entail their limit. “*Ache for Youth* stresses the importance of reflection and effort by individuals,



Photograph by Lee Sihyoung



Photograph by Kim Hong-Jung

readers or a social atmosphere that craves for the discussion of “youth” by the writers, the publishers’ strategy would not have worked. Then, what exactly spawned this “youth” trend and what does it say about Korean society at present?

One answer can be found in youth unemployment. Since February of last year, the youth employment rate in Korea has continuously dropped, keeping the newly graduated away from the job market. Those who have given up searching for jobs in the first place due to the bad job market conditions are not even counted in unemployment statistics, and the number of them recently surpassed the historical peak of December 1999, the period when Korea was still recovering from the IMF crisis.

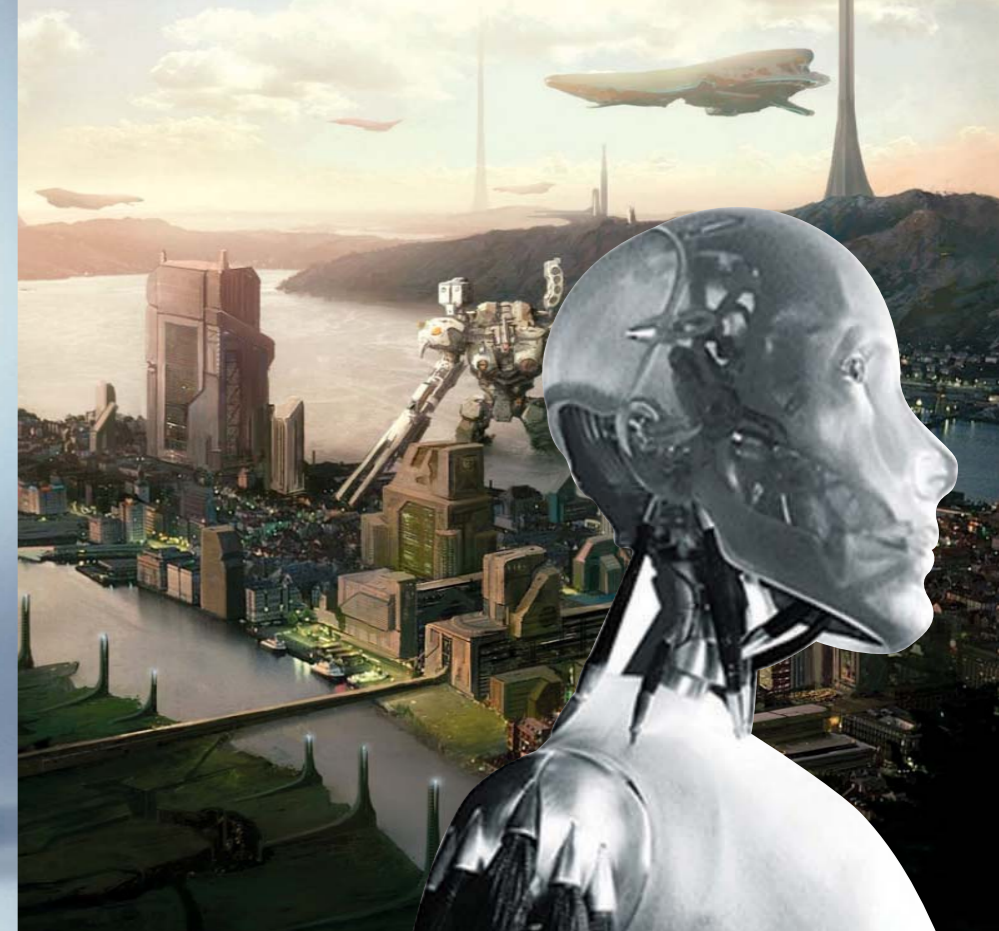
This stark reality has changed the atmosphere on campus. Instead of seeking the true knowledge of their university education, students are excessively obsessed with what will get them to a more stable and better workplace after graduation. In the end, the

part-time jobs, whether high paying or low paying, in order to pay for tuition. To remedy this problem, those in their twenties voiced their agony and rallied on campus and in the streets several times, calling out for “half-priced tuition,” but these efforts ultimately failed.

Feeling exhausted about the realities they face and confused about their future, those in their twenties are turning toward culture that embraces them with warm consolation and advice. Sim Ji Eun (’11, International Language & Literature), who read *Ache for Youth*, said, “It was comforting to realize from reading that what I now worry about is also a part of my youth. I could reflect on my life and reset my goals.” Shin Hye Song (’10, Business Administration), another reader of *Ache for Youth*, added, “I read it when I was feeling lost. I saw my friends running ahead of me, and I didn’t know what to do with my life. By reading the book, I came to understand that I do not need to hurry but take my own steps. It was a healing experience.”

rather than by society, but will it not be in vain if society cannot change?” asked Sim back. Professor Kim pointed this out as well: “I feel sorry that this phenomenon is not leading to policy enhancement with serious study, but remaining just as a passing trend in culture and publishing.”

As Samuel Ullman wrote in his poem “Youth,” youth is “courage over timidity” and “adventure over the love of ease.” Although you may cry with pain due to the harsh reality and unpredictable future, only you can experience and overcome it solely because you are blossoming youth. Remember the last advice from Professor Kim: “Look longer. Do not fluctuate because of the petty things at present, but please have macroscopic view of the way you look at your life, of your future, and of the future of society.” ■



The Future and Us

By Kang Uoo Seob (cmztk8585@korea.ac.kr),
Song GyuJin (ssong915@korea.ac.kr)

Smart and Green. These are two keywords that will hopefully describe our future society. With global warming being a priority for many governments and the explosive rate of technology development expected to make our lives even more prosperous, people are predicting the future based on the dynamics of these two concepts.

Smart

2045. This is the year that man possibly becomes immortal with the help of highly developed technology, according to Raymond Kurzweil, whom Bill Gates regards as “the best person at predicting the future of artificial intelligence.” He has been publishing his thoughts about the future of human and machine-kind for 20 years, most famously in *The Singularity is Near*, which was a best seller when it came out in 2005. In that book, he estimates that with the vast development of computing power, the quantity of artificial intelligence created will be “about a billion times the sum of all the human intelligence that exists today.”

As expectations for the deployment of robots and expansion of artificial intelligence in the future soar, many have theorized about the huge rise of robotics in our future society and the extent to which they are used by human beings. Maybe the artificial intelligences will help us conquer diseases and prolong our life spans indefinitely. Maybe we will merge with robotics to become super-intelligent cyborgs, using computers to extend both our mental and physical abilities. Maybe we will instill our consciousness into computers and live inside them as software, forever, just like the protagonists in the movie *Tron*,

in which the main character achieves an infinite life by entering computer software.

The one thing all these theories have in common is the transformation of our species and the upcoming advent of “post-human” era. What will it look like? This simple but most complicated question has stimulated curiosity for many years.

A number of scientists and futurists have shown great interests in “the Singularity,” which refers to “the hypothetical future emergence of greater-than human intelligence through technological means.” In short, they predict that as technological progress accelerates, smarter-than-humanity robots will eventually appear. When machines or robots become more intelligent than human beings, they will be able to create inventions that we cannot with our limited intelligence. In the future, the rate of intellectual development will increase indefinitely, according to the Singularity, a group of people who put their beliefs on “the singularity.”

With unimaginably intelligent robots in charge of inventing even smarter ones, a fascinating variety of robot types and machines will emerge. For one thing, quite a large number of

researchers are now developing a robot endowed with an ethical sense, one of the unique attributes of human beings. When equipped with a sense of morality and ethics, robots might be used in places or events in which human morals are continually tested, e.g., war. Robots are being prepared for more sophisticated roles on battlefields, and governments are developing models that may be able to decide when and at whom to fire on their own. Since robots are not affected by mercurial emotions, they might make better ethical decisions than humans in the maelstrom of battle.

When an ethical robot that can make “human-like” moral decisions is eventually produced, the image of future war will be much different from that of present. Possibly, we may not cringe at news that a war results in a huge number of human casualties. Rather, economic losses from damaged robots in a war may become a new criterion of victory.

While a huge group of scientists and futurists come up with such fancy ideas and predictions, some others view such predictions as simply unreal and improbable. Dongil Choi, who has a Ph.D in Robotics from KAIST, explains, "The current robot industry is mainly composed of industrial robots that are able to perform only one specific task. Current robots cannot even perfectly complete simple works such as grabbing something or walking on a slope."

To create a human-like robot, it is first necessary to draw up generic robot technologies to perform simple works to near perfection and then to integrate each technology into a single form. Choi predicts, "It will take at least ten years to harmonize generic technologies to invent a robot equipped with human-like physical abilities." Just Choi presents a relatively gloomy forecast for future robot industry, it is undeniable that we still have a long way to go to bring a science-fiction-like technologies to reality. The current robot industry is still in its formative stage.

2045. Exactly 34 years more to go from now. Thirty-four years ago, in 1977 the level of technology was miserable, compared to



today. Smart phones, the internet, Facebook, and tablet PC, were only fanciful objects at that time. But now, they are inextricably linked to our everyday lives. Why cannot the same or even a much faster rate of technological development happen again? Things merely regarded as fantasy and daydreams at present can become reality, as they have throughout history. To be sure, it is more possible and nearer than you might imagine.

Green

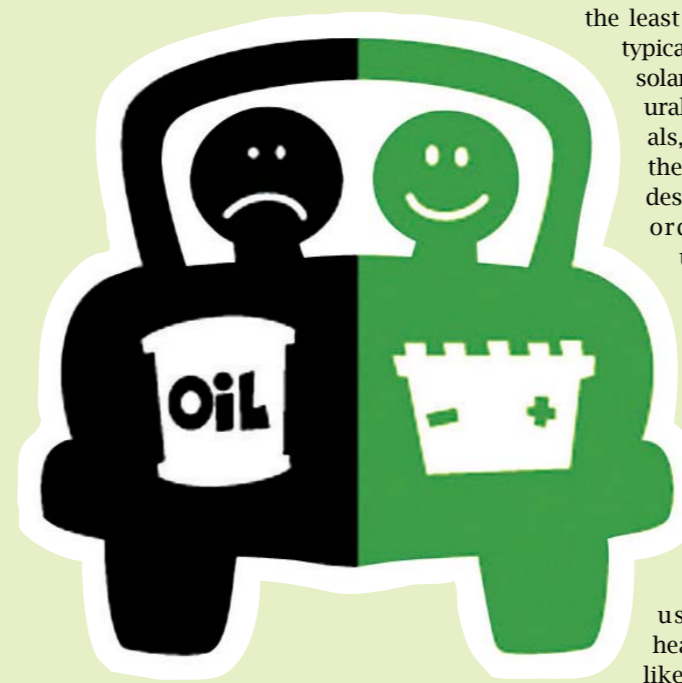
These days, drastic weather changes are one of the people's primary worries concerning the future of the Earth. As there are numerous hypotheses about the earth coming to an end in 2012, recent disastrous earthquakes and floods have become two of the biggest reasons to believe that something is wrong with the earth. As research indicating global warming as one of

the reasons for the recent unexpected extreme weather, it is crucial that people make the best of the situation and establish measures to solve this problem.

There are many factors known to be causing global warming but the strongest and well-known cause is the greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, which comprises 77 percent of greenhouse gasses. Unless the earth comes to an end, just like the predictions say, it is almost certain that the future earth will have changed greatly to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Zero-emission city is a concept that refers to city that literally emits no carbon dioxide. This kind of city might be the eventual and practical picture of our future society. Freiburg City in Germany, Beddington Zero-Fossil-Energy Development (BedZED) in England, and Masdar City in the UAE are some of the zero-emission cities already taking shape.

The biggest change in these cities will be the vehicles. That energy used for transportation is approximately 20 percent of all energy used suggests some measures should be taken. However, cars are too deeply involved in people's lives to imagine a life without them. Instead, countries are taking



a step forward to refashion the cars into eco-friendly cars.

Eco-friendly cars can be divided into three categories: Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV), Partial Zero Emission Vehicle (PZEV) and Alternative Fuel Vehicle. ZEVs are cars that do not emit any kind of engine exhaust. Electric Vehicles and Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles fall into this category. PZEV, which includes hybrid cars, emit less than 10 percent of the engine exhaust of standard cars. Just like cell phones, people might have to plug in their hybrid cars to recharge them. Alternative Fuel Vehicles use alternative fuels instead of fossil fuels. Roads filled with eco-friendly cars producing much less engine exhaust and leaving much cleaner air might be a scene people will be looking at in the future.

Another major change will be the houses. Believe it or not, every action people take and every minute people live is closely related to global warming because using electricity, plastic or paper is directly connected to the emission of carbon dioxide. As an alternative, the eco houses, new types of housing are on the way to reduce production of the carbon dioxide in daily life.

An eco house is a house that uses as little energy as possible and causes

the least damage to the earth. Some typical features of eco houses are: solar panels, natural airflow, natural or recycled building materials, and rainwater cisterns. All the features in eco houses are designed to help people sustain ordinary life without using unnecessary energy.

People living in eco houses will have a very different life style from the ones living in standard apartments. Natural illumination inside the house will be maximized. A natural ventilation system will also be maximized. Houses will be designed to minimize the use of air conditioners or heaters. The house itself most likely will act as a power plant,

with solar panels producing electricity and many other renewable energy sources. In Korea, Samsung C&T Corporation is also currently working on an eco house called Green Tomorrow. Under the concept of zero energy, zero emission and green IT, Samsung is continuing its efforts to approach an eco-friendly future. Kim Seong Jib, the manager of Green Tomorrow, emphasizes the importance of eco houses. "For our future and for posterity, reducing the emission of carbon dioxide is crucial. In this sense, eco houses are not an option but a necessity." He adds, "As of now, there are only a few eco houses but much progress will surely be made in the future."

Eco-friendly cars and eco houses are not the only features of the zero emission cities. New kinds of transportation might also appear. The use of renewable energy will greatly increase. No one can guess exactly how these cities will look but they are not just in the science fiction. They are very realistic and considerable progress has already been made in

this field.

It is never easy to guess the images of a future society. We are not even able to predict what will happen tomorrow. Humanlike robots and zero emission cities might never materialize and end up living only in science fiction stories. Or something unimaginable might be invented that make these seem like trivial changes. But looking at the achievements people have produced over the past century, nothing seems impossible. Why not free your imagination, stretch it as far as you can, and imagine your own future society. It might become a reality. You never know. ■



What They Told Us Shedding Light on the Lives of North Korean Defectors

By **Kweon Yun Jin** (alphabrain92@korea.ac.kr),
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Thump thump, thump. Hiding inside a narrow shed just big enough for one person, Lee's heart is pounding hard. With the sound of breaking windows, her family's peace was also broken as the Chinese police suddenly barged in on her family. Suddenly, there is a gunshot in the background. Lee's mind flashes back to her husband running away from the police, and she is worried to death with horrible images popping up in her mind to hear the footsteps approaching the shed. And just like that, she was arrested. It was on a winter day.

Although this sounds like a scene from a movie, it is a real story told by Lee (37, Seongnam), mother of a 12-year-old boy. After being dragged away by the Chinese police, she managed to be set free when her father-in-law paid off the officer. "If you fail to get out, you get dragged back to North Korea. You don't want to imagine what happens then," says Lee.

Why Risk your Life to Escape?

"Nothing!" when Asked to list good things about North Korea, Lee strongly asserts that living in North Korea was too back-breaking. She accounts that even though she worked at a factory, the wages were so low that they barely paid for the day's bread. Her family managed to survive on the ration tickets that distributed some rice.

Indeed, the main reason for the defectors leaving their homeland has long been because of the lack of food. North Korea went through a severe food shortage in the mid-1990s, when approximately 330,000 of its people died of starvation. According to World Food Program (W.F.P.), since 2009, North Korea has been suffering from an annual shortfall of nearly 2,000,000 tons of foodstuffs, leading to still more deaths from starvation and malnutrition. The situation has kept on getting worse to the point that it is projected that over 6,000,000 more people will face either severe malnutrition or starvation. Reasons behind such a harsh situation are as follows: deteriorated farming equipment and methods, adverse weather conditions, and North Korea's unstable political stance in the global community that can affect the country's level of imports, exports, and sometimes even humanitarian aid.

Shin Ho Nam (24, Konkuk University), another North Korean defector (N.K. defector) whom *The Granite Tower* (GT) managed to contact, speaks of the conditions in the North. "North Korea has been maintaining a public distribution system where people are given ration cards. However, suffering harshly from the food shortage in the mid-90s, the government permitted a free market with restrictions," says Shin. He informs that in the marketplace, the most common products were necessities, but sometimes there were TVs or refrigerators. Since the town he lived in was Hoeryeong of Hamgyeongbuk province, which was near the border with China, the market in his town had a lot of Chinese products. "After my dad passed away, it was hard for us to make a living," recounts Shin. "So Mom went to sell odd goods at the marketplace, but it didn't work out well." He says that when he left North Korea at the age of 15 in 2002, his family only had a couple of week's food left.

Health care, which is far inferior in North Korea, is another big factor for escaping the country. "I was diagnosed with tuberculosis," says Lee. She says that after watching her sister die helplessly of the same disease, she had to draw the final line to escape the country. The W.F.P. stated that one-third of children under age of five are currently suffering from serious malnutrition, and without prompt humanitarian aids, the number will rise within

weeks. However, even if humanitarian aid is sent, there is no guaranteeing that it will reach those in need. During the interview with the Ministry of National Defense, N.K. defector Kim Hye Suk says, "Rice sent from South Korea is mostly sent to the National Security Council members (bo-ui-bu-won), and the leftovers are sold in the open market."

In fact, it is very well known that the provisional aid that we send to the North does not reach the most needy individuals. Kim, a former high official in the North Korean army who refused to reveal his full name, recounts eating rice sent from South Korea.

However, it needs to be considered that not all have escaped because of malnutrition, illness or difficult social conditions. Although rare are those cases, Kim, a female interviewee who refused to reveal her full name for the sake of her family in the North, tells us that her escape was not intentional. She went to China at the age of 15 through a broker, planning on working there for two years to earn money to support her family. In China, she became friends with a girl from the same town as she was from. Her friend made up her mind to seek a new life elsewhere. "I decided to come with her, and in the next moment I found myself becoming a defector," says Kim. Also, there is the case of Kim Cheol Woong, the famous North Korean pianist, who decided to leave North because he wanted to play more various genres. Still, the prevalent reason for people escaping is the country's harsh conditions such as the severe shortage of food leading to starvation and the inability to treat the simplest illness.

From the Very Beginning

When N.K. defectors first set foot in South Korea, they are first transported to the National Intelligence Service (NIS), the chief intelligence agency of South Korea, where they undergo three months of interrogation. The interrogation is to filter out North Korean spies and ethnic Koreans living in China who come for commercial purposes. It is after this process that "true" N.K. defectors, a large percentage of who have come for reasons of survival, receive governmental and local support that would hopefully help their new lives unfold smoothly.

Learning What is What

For N.K. defectors who have just arrived in South Korea, everything is new and different. If left alone, they would face obvious difficulties trying to figure out what is what. To minimize these difficulties, in 1999, the South Korean government set up a center called Hanawon to support their resettlement in South Korea.

A three-month mandatory program at Hanawon precedes all other kinds of governmental and local support. Included in the program is a three day expedition with the Hanawon tutors. It is when they practice what they have learned in class. "I practiced how to use the transportation card in the subway," recalls Lee. "Not only is there no subway in North Korea, but also there is nothing even similar



to a transportation card.” It is also a time to actually experience what life in South Korea is like, not just learn about it. Kang Hee-Seok (44, Mapo), a mentor who has accompanied kids on such expeditions, explains that they do everything any South Korean kids would do. “There is a Korean cuisine at Hanawon, but no pizzas or hamburgers. So that’s what I treat them to during the three-day trip. We go to Baskin Robins 31 and I tell them how to order ice cream,” remembers Kang.

Those under age 24 go to Hanadul School, a school in Hanawon, specialized in preparing them for South Korea’s regular school curriculum. Hanadul means one and two in Korean. “Back in North Korea, I dropped out of school when I was in the first grade,” divulges Shin. When he went to Handaul School, just like all other teenagers, he saw that everyone’s level of education varied greatly. “There was even someone who had already finished school in North Korea,” exclaims Shin. However, he is not sure if he and his peers had received any individualized or specialized education despite such a large gap in educational backgrounds.

At times, Hanawon invites successful N.K. defectors to talk to the anxious newcomers at Hanawon. According to Shin, the invited guests almost always talk about the rosy future that awaits them if they work hard.

Those who are under age 19 are not entitled to a free house. Nonetheless, because they cannot be abandoned or simply given away to orphanages, the government directs them to religious or community organizations that are willing to take the responsibility and take care of them. Usually, they are sent to churches, as was the case for Kim.

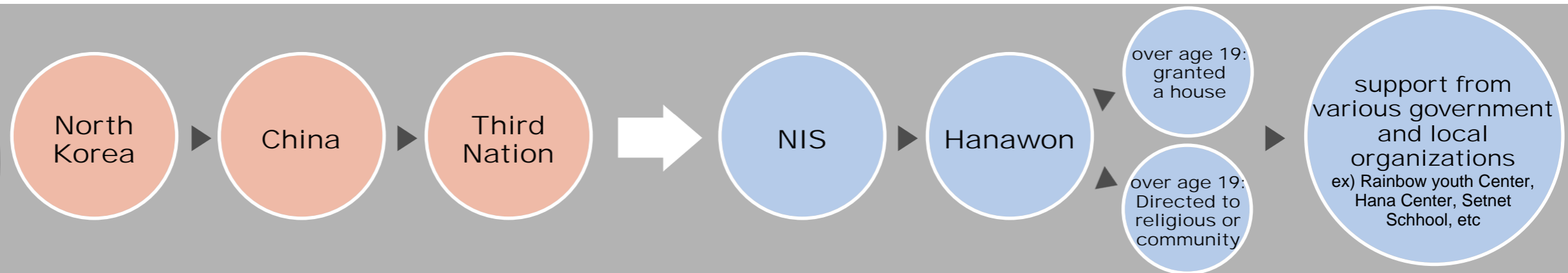
What Happens Afterwards

Kang works at the Rainbow Youth Center, which is a government-funded organization devoted to supporting youths with multicultural backgrounds or those who have defected from North Korea. It is through this organization that Kang was able to take N.K. defectors at Hanawon, youths in particular, on the three-day expedition. Kang met Shin in one of these expeditions and has been a counselor and friend ever since. Kang thinks very highly of Shin, who currently attends university and is more ardent in his studies than perhaps any average student.

Taking a Glimpse at the Lives of N.K. Defectors in South Korea

Despite the support for N.K. defectors, adapting to the South Korean way of living is not a simple matter at all. “It usually takes at least three years for us to feel at ease in the southern region,” says Shin. More than half a century has passed since the division of the peninsula, and countless things have become tremendously differentiated between the two Koreas. In order to overcome such a gap, he emphasizes the importance of gaining a wider range of experience to settle down.

Surprisingly, the major difficulty comes from language. Unlike in North Korea, where use of native words is enforced, in South Korea, the language has mingled greatly, with loanwords and foreign (especially, English) vocabulary. Consequently, it is hard for many N.K. defectors to understand what people are talking about. “When I first



“They make us believe that if we just work hard enough, we’ll achieve anything we want,” claims Shin. “But the reality is not like that, right? Sure, there are some things that can be achieved through hard work, but there are others that cannot be. But Hanawon, in a way, deceives us and makes us falsely believe that everything is possible.” In other words, because the power of hard work is exaggerated and overemphasized at Hanawon, N.K. defectors have to confront a harsh reality, a reality that was not instilled in them at Hanawon.

Moving on from the Mother Nest

Regardless of how helpful the three months were at Hanawon, N.K. defectors are led to take the next step in resettlement. Those over age 19 are granted a house. “I really appreciate that the government gives us a home,” recognizes Lee. Lee lives in a two-room house with her husband, mother-in-law, and son. It is very small for four people to live in, but Lee is thankful for having a place to start anew.

How she came to live in Seongnam, Gyeonggi province, she explains, “Before leaving Hanawon, everyone gets a sheet of paper to list their three preferred cities of residence. Most of the people have Seoul or Gyeonggi province as their first priority.” However, to encourage defectors to spread out to other provinces, in 2009, the government decided to give out incentives for those who choose to live in other provinces.

“Shin is a role model and my co-workers and I are very proud of him,” comments Kang. She believes that there should be more N.K. defectors that can act as role models both to other N.K. defectors and to South Korean society. “N.K. defectors will play the role of bridging the peoples of the two Koreas when Korea one day becomes reunified. Their ‘performance’ becomes a preview of what society will look like after reunification,” she explains. If there are more N.K. defectors who adapt well to South Korean society, reunification will look like less and less of a challenging task to the general public.

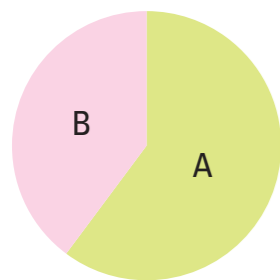
The Rainbow Youth Center is just one of the many organizations that help N.K. defectors adapt smoothly. The types of organizations vary from government funded to totally independent. Hana Center, established nationwide in 2010, is also an organization that supports N.K. defectors. It provides three weeks of intensive education and one year of “afterservice.” The Ministry of Unification, municipal governments, and independent organizations cooperated in its establishment. Independent organizations include Setnet School (“setnet” means three and four) and Hannuri (“hannuri” means one world), which aid N.K. defectors in their schoolwork.

came here, I just repeated ‘I beg your pardon?’ because I was not able to catch what others said. Then, people just went away, ignoring me,” confesses Kim, her cheeks blushing.

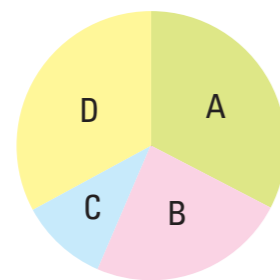
Dissimilarity in the social systems is one of the most significant factors that cause troubles as well. Although a limited free market was allowed after the food shortage began in 1995, its role was too restricted compared to that of South Korea. Due to this, those who have escaped to South Korea were surprised to see how variable options consumers have. Kang explains, “Banks in the capitalist nation are the most unfamiliar institution for young N.K. defectors. Taking this situation into account, instructions on how to use financial services in the banks should be made available for them.”

Notwithstanding these several hardships, South Korea is still a dreamland to them. “What I like the most is that I can do whatever I want. Studying, of course, is part of it,” says Kim. She testifies that there are many things that are not permitted for commoners in North Korea. When youths finish high school, the government basically decides what job each of them will take, randomly assigns (distributes) work each person regardless of his or her

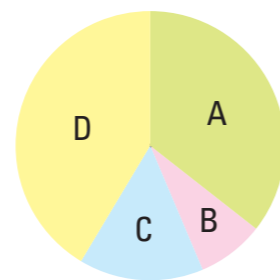
1. Have you ever met personally or do you have any information about North Korean Defectors?



A. Yes 65%
B. No 35%



IN PERSON
A. Voluntary work 31% B. School 27%
C. Friends 10% D. Etc 32%



THROUGH MEDIA
A. news 38% B. book 6%
C. Internet website 16% D. etc 41%

interests. On the other hand, the number of students qualified to obtain a college education is extremely small. “What class a person falls under counts for every social relationship in North Korea, like the caste system in India. That is why I prefer South Korea, where everyone is guaranteed equal chances, in principle,” accentuates Shin.

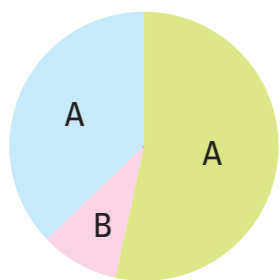
Another thing he points out is the freedom to travel. “Not only when crossing the borders, but also going to other cities, a certificate provided by authorities is necessary,” progresses Shin. Without having any obvious purpose for a visit, one rarely succeeds in obtaining a pass. Moreover, even on national holidays such as *Chu-seok* and *Seol-nal*, North Koreans should be issued written permission if they head for another province. Given all of these limitations in their hometown, it may well be that N.K. defectors come to think of South Korea as the land of liberty.

Our Attitudes in Accepting Newly Arrived Neighbors

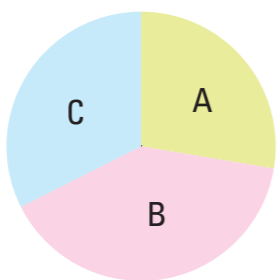
It is estimated that there are approximately 23,000 North Koreans in the South, the number highly expected to increase gradually in the foreseeable future. In line with this large influx, South Koreans also come by more opportunities to learn about these people.

So as to investigate what Korea University (KU) students have in mind about N.K. defectors, GT conducted a survey on the sample of roughly 500 people, asking their experience regarding N.K. defectors and their extent of embracing them as part of our society. According to this survey, up to 65 percent of students answered that they have knowledge about or have actually met N.K. defectors. Above all, 249 out of 320 people who answered yes said that they have indirectly heard of those defectors through media such as news, books, Internet websites, and so

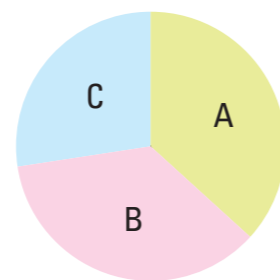
2. What do you think of North Korean Defectors living in South Korean with us?



A. Positive 55%
B. Negative 10%
C. Indifferent 35%



POSITIVE
A. facilitating unification 27%
B. restoring human basic rights 45%
C. Etc 28%



NEGATIVE
A. social disorder 37%
B. difficulties in adjusting to South Korean society 35%
C. etc 28%



forth.

As to the next question regarding tolerance in accepting people from the North, the largest number of students—nearly 55 percent—answered in an affirmative way, mainly for the reason of recovering the basic human rights of the N.K. defectors. Considering that only ten percent of students had a negative opinion on this matter, it shows that KU students tend to be positive toward those new neighbors. The second prevalent answer, which 79 people chose, was closely connected to unification. Kim Ha Eum ('11, College of Science) says, “If as many N.K. defectors as possible experienced South Korean society, information and advantages of our culture would become known to people in North Korea through those defectors. It will eventually help to unify the two Koreas.”

Nonetheless, the fact should not be overlooked that 35 percent of students expressed they look upon the issue with little interest. “I do not much care about them because I have few chances to approach them,” says Woo Misun ('11, Business Administration). With regard to the outcome of the survey, however, some people raised the same concern. “Bombarding questions may bother us, but it does not mean that indifference is welcomed,” says Shin. Almost all of those defectors took a risk to get out of North Korea with a great deal of trauma. Nevertheless, the lack of concern about them leads South Koreans to not sufficiently identify with how much of a hard time N.K. defectors have endured. Some of them are offended by comments that are not intentional but originate from ignorance about their circumstances. Shin, who graduated from regular high school in Seoul, confesses that he had troubles in maintaining friendly relationships with classmates at first. Whenever North Korea’s military provocations or political tension between two Korea’s broke out, people maliciously condemned him and his family. “These situations usually result from others apathy toward us. Without the support of South Koreans, there is no single place for us to go in this society,” adds Shin.

N.K. Defectors, the Future Generation of United Korea

So many times in a variety of media this very new group has been spotlighted as “the future that arrives in advance.” As N.K. defectors have dwelled on both Koreas, the democratic South seems to believe the defectors are going to play a critical role after, as well as on the way to, the unification of the peninsula. “We are actually simulating the unified state in the future. By living together, the entire nation has been able to study how to effectively manage the future society on a realistic basis,” explains Kang.

Even though some defectors feel great pressure because of the social expectations, there is another group of people trying to fulfill this role. Thanks to the support of the Christian Democratic Party (CDP), Shin visited Germany from August 21st to 29th, to see how the country achieved unification and changed afterwards. He took a look at how unification changed the country and discussed the issue with others. “There are two opposite opinions, one positive and one negative, regarding the unification of Germany. Between them, I agreed with the optimistic view that the country is just being stabilized. So it can be applied to the unification of Korea despite a few obstacles,” says Shin. Soon enough, he explains why he selected his major. Since the standard of real estate in the North is relatively inferior to that of the South, he wants to steadily improve the state of land development so that the cost of unification will ultimately be reduced.

Despite some of the problems they encounter, N.K. defectors dream of living ordinarily and peacefully; having their wishes just like other citizens. Kim, who is currently preparing for admission to Ewha Womans University, tells her future plans. “After studying nursing hard for four years, I would like to go to Africa where I can provide medical services to the people there,” says Kim. Similarly, Lee expresses her dream as well. “Someday, I want to move to a bigger house and open my own restaurant.” Like other Korean mothers, she also hopes that her son will get into a prestigious college to become a productive member of society. ■

The Place So Close, But So Far

By Photo Division



One Ethnicity Two Names

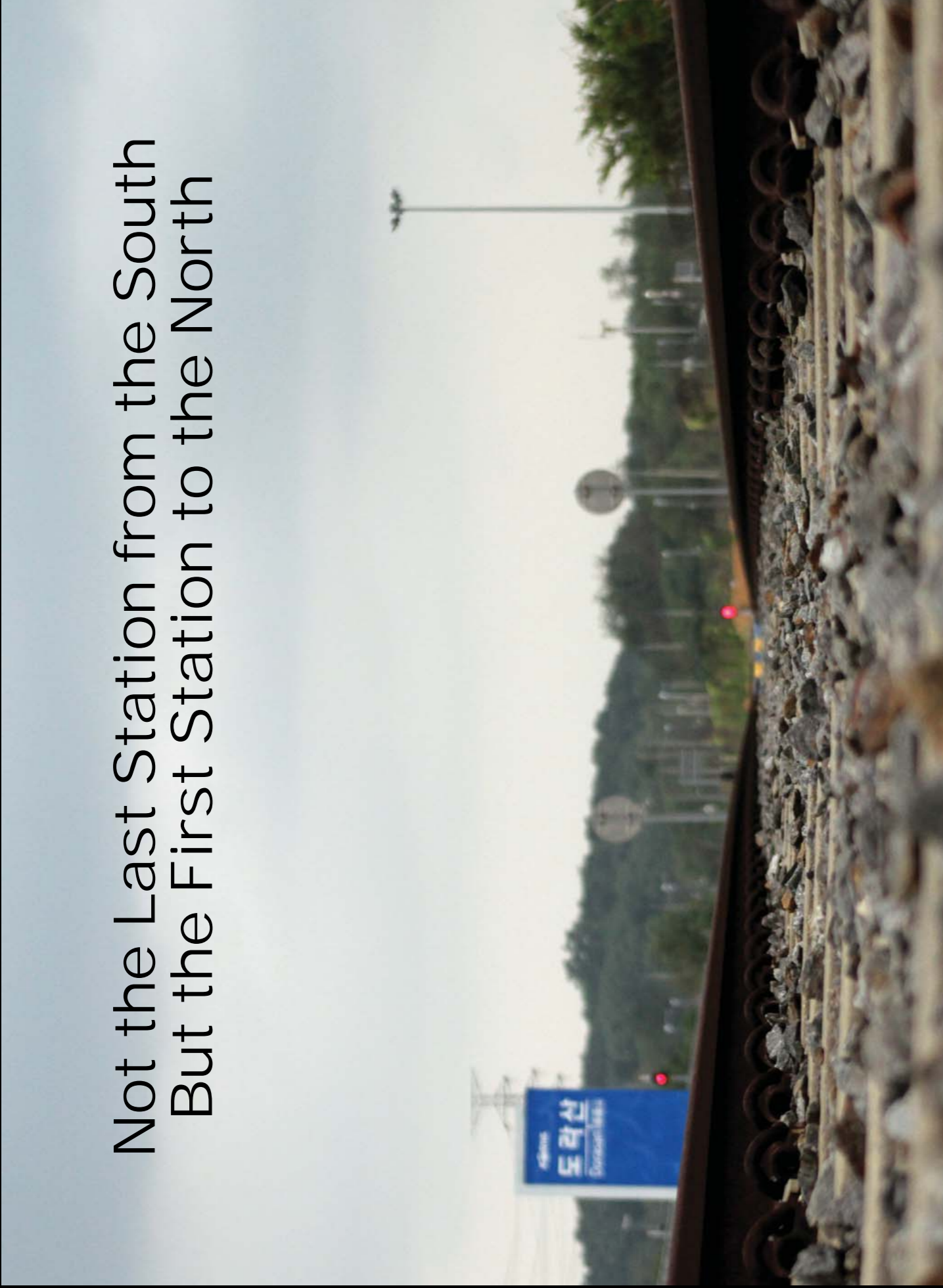
The Granite Tower (GT) visits the Paju area to get a glimpse of the land we cannot enter, North Korea.



Dora Observatory is located just below the 38th parallel, which divides the Korean peninsula. At the observatory, one can get a glimpse of Gaesung City of North Korea. At first sight, one may be surprised to witness how close North Korea can be.

Through the lens of the binoculars installed at the observatory is the only way one can gaze upon the horizon of the forbidden city. Two villages can be seen from the observatory: Gijeong-dong of the North and Daeseong-dong of the South. The distance apart from these two towns is merely 500 meters and yet no men can freely travel in-between.

Not the Last Station from the South But the First Station to the North



Dorasan Station is the last station in South Korea that is located in the far north of Paju. Since it is positioned in the Civilian Control Area, tourists can only enter after going through special formalities at Imjingang Station.

One remarkable trait of this station is the signpost that signals Pyeongyang as the train's next destination. According to the signpost, Dorasan Station is only 205 kilometers away from Pyeongyang and 56 kilometers away from Seoul. The distance between the two is so close, and yet so far.

When the Trans-Korea Railway (TKR), the Trans-Siberia Railway (TSR), and the Trans-China Railway (TCR) are connected in the future, the Dorasan station shall truly be the starting point of the transcontinental railroad that links Asia to Europe. One can only hope that this future is not so far away.





National University of Singapore

Towards a Global Knowledge Enterprise

By Park Jong Hun (polo3355@korea.ac.kr)

Founded in 1905, 2005 was a special centennial year for Korea University (KU). There were magnificent ceremonies and festivals. At the same time, one university in Singapore held grand ceremonies for its centennial celebration, too. Embracing various cultural backgrounds and emerging as one of the most prestigious universities, the National University of Singapore (NUS) was there.

Situated on the verge of the Malay Peninsula, Singapore is famous for its warm climate, its well-organized public place, and cleanliness. Though Singapore is a small, thinly populated country, thanks to its perfect location as a port city, it was able to achieve economic prosperity, being called the pearl of Asia and one of the four Asian dragons: Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Korea. Singapore has made remarkable development since its independence from the United Kingdom, and NUS is one that prompted Singapore's growth by producing promising leaders.

Founded in 1905, NUS is one of the matchless universities in Singapore, with Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Management University. It has three campuses nationwide.

The main campus and business school are located around the Kent Ridge, a medical college at Outram, and law school which had existed as Singapore's only law school for half a century, is situated in Bukit Timah.

NUS has a longest history among universities in Singapore, and in terms of student body and curriculum, NUS is the largest national university in Singapore. Thanks to its geographical advantage, lots of foreign exchange students from China, Southeast Asia, Africa, and from other parts of the world, also attend NUS.

With its top-notch education quality, NUS has been ranked amongst the best universities in Asia and the world. NUS ranked 28th in the world by the QS world university rankings in 2011, and also ranked third in the 2011 QS Asian university rankings following Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the University of Hong Kong.

Recently, the total enrollment figures for NUS consist of 25,000 undergraduate students and 9,000 post-graduate students. And it agreed on joint-degree with several Ivy League universities including Harvard, Yale, Johns Hopkins, and other world-class universities. Based on the aforementioned facts, NUS is true to be the top-class university in Asia.

Having celebrated its centennial in 2005, NUS chose salmon as their centennial symbol instead of their original lion one. It means that as salmon is born in fresh water and migrates to the ocean, spending its lifetime there and then returning to fresh water, its birthplace, NUS wants its students to return to NUS after working across the globe, and then contribute for the



development of NUS. That is to say, it means NUS desire for their students not to stay at one place but to be a competent leader anywhere in the world.

Korea University (KU) and NUS made an agreement regarding student exchange program in 2001, and have been exchanging about 30 students to and from NUS each year. Park Soomin ('09, Economics) and Kang Sangtaek ('07, Biotechnology), who attended NUS during the fall semester of 2010, look back on their experiences at NUS.

"I chose NUS because I thought I could widen my understanding on Southeast Asia. I considered that by having a good grasp there, so close yet so far, I can grasp opportunities given on Southeast Asia, than others. Also, in Singapore, I could meet many western friends on equal terms as a foreigner. Therefore, we could become better friends," says Park.

Besides western students, there are students from China, Indonesia, Malaysia, and other nearby countries. This could be an opportunity of racial diversity, but, at the same time, be causes of conflict. However, NUS deals with this kind of problems well. "Every weekend, there is a party at the dormitory. And there, I served Korean foods to other students from various countries and they also served foods of their own country. Tasting assorted

dishes together, we could understand each other better and have a large circle of friends," says Park.

Most of exchange students use dormitory called Prince George's Park Residence (PGPR). As lots of foreign students stay at PGPR, it has some merits in a personal exchange or studying a foreign language. Also, you can take a bus stop next to PGPR to go to downtown Singapore like Vivo City and Orchard Road.

"After studying hard during weekdays, we went out of the dormitory and took a trip downtown or to nearby countries. Thanks to its close location to other southeast countries, we could travel to every close nation at a small charge. Also, as I was a member of scuba diving club, I sometimes went on a trip to some small islands of Malaysia and Bali. There are lots of clubs and activities, so joining one of them and spending a weekend with them could be a valuable experience," says Kang.

They also recommended host family program in NUS. This program is specialized for exchange students. It assigns respective hosts to students who applied for this program. So to speak, it bears a close parallel to Korea University Buddy Assistance (KUBA) in KU. While KUBA's buddies include only students of KU; however, hosts of the host family program cover not only NUS students but also professor, teacher, and office worker. Therefore, once you join the program, you can interact with your host according to your host's own features.

"As for me, a high school teacher became my host. We met twice a month and got around Singapore from end to end. Especially, because the Youth Olympic Game was held in Singapore last year, we could watch the closing ceremony together thanks to the tickets my host got. It was really

one of the unforgettable highlights of school life at NUS," says Kang.

Attending at NUS as an exchange student could be without a doubt a chance for students who want to learn Chinese and English at the same time. Now that the official language of Singapore is English, all lectures are taught in English. Along with English, NUS offers systematic Chinese classes for your level. Because most of Singaporeans are Chinese, you can apply your knowledge on Chinese in your real life and have bigger chances of becoming friends with Chinese students. "Chinese is a very useful language in Singapore because almost all Singaporeans are bilingual. In addition, Korean students are more accustomed to Chinese characters than students from western countries. Therefore, lots of Korean exchange students take Chinese classes which are very well organized for foreign students and easy to start," says Kang.

Student life at NUS is surely both an exotic and a special experience. Kang still has unforgettable memories stacked in his mind, and still misses his friends from Singapore and good days at NUS. "I recommend you to think of NUS as your highest priority in choosing a university to attend. Whatever you imagine, you can have everything you need and more at NUS." ■





Slice the Wind Club Gung Do Hoe

By Jeon Shi Hyun (roben@korea.ac.kr)

Two men are aiming at each other with a bended bow on a plain. "Are you calculating the wind?" the enemy commander asks. Shooting an arrow, the hero answers. "The wind is not a calculated thing but a thing to overcome."-scene from *An Ultimate Weapon, Hwal (Bow)*

Moreover, the price of archery lessons is too high for ordinary students, so unlike soccer and basketball, archery is not the sport that people can simply take up as a hobby. Nevertheless, if you want to learn archery, there is Gung Do Hoe club in Korea University (KU) for those interested.

Gung Do Hoe is one of the major clubs in the Athletics Department belonging to the Club Union. Started in 1974 as an independent club in the College of Agriculture, Gung Do Hoe is a club for people who are interested in archery and want to know about archery altogether. Almost 40 years old, Gung Do Hoe has been around longer than most other clubs.

With its long history, many club members have been active in Gung Do Hoe. There are 72 student members, ranging from '06 to '11, participating in the club activities and the number of total activity members with the graduates mounts up to one hundred.

Commonly, people think that the gender ratio of athletic club is imbalanced. In other words, people used to anticipate that there are more male members than female members in ath-

letic club. However, Gung Do Hoe is different. Gung Do Hoe maintains a proper gender ratio, almost 50-50. "Generally, female students think that athletics club is fierce, so they avoid joining the club," says Park Jun Seong ('07, Sinology), the president of Gung Do Hoe for the second semester of 2011, "but archery is less fierce compared to other sports. I think this is the secret to maintaining a proper gender ratio."

Of course, proper gender ratio is not the only merit in this club. Gung Do Hoe's members also have remarkable skill. In October, 2010, one of the club members, Kim Seungwan ('10, Food and Nutrition) won the first place in the 11th Suwon-si Sport for All Ceremony Archery Competition. In the tournament play of the same competition, he also went onto the quarterfinal. The rest of the members of Gung Do Hoe have constantly participated in a series of Sport for All Competitions or the National Sports Festival, and they have got excellent results in those competitions.

"We always welcome students who are interested in archery provide a place to experience and learn for 365 days a year," Park says. There is an archery

field open all the time around the professor tennis court next to the International Studies Hall; thus, if you are a club member, you can practice archery anytime," adds Park.

There might be students who worry, "I have never touched a bow..." or, "What shall I do if I am not good at archery?" To those people, Park has an answer. "Although you do not have the experience in shooting an arrow or you are not confident about archery, don't worry. Our training staff members and general members will coach you kindly from the beginning," he says, "and we have various kinds of bows from entry-level to superior-level; therefore, tailored training is possible."

Whenever they have free time, the senior club members teach its juniors the archery skills. Also, a real archer, who joined Gung Do Hoe, offers archery classes to the club members. These systematic and effective club activities are the foundation for the archery ability of the club members.

Gung Do Hoe also holds many events; Foundation Ceremony is the event where graduates and students of Gung Do Hoe meet together to strengthen their solidarity. In addition, workshops for general students in KU take place. Above this, with the active members of the club, they participate in Membership Training (MT), volunteer activities for rural communities, hiking, the 4.18 Marathon, Ipselenti, and the Annual Ko-Yon Games. Through this, the club members can make more personal connections.

Their activities are not limited to school activities and club activities, but they are also very active outside. Gung Do Heo interacts with other university archery clubs like the Seoul National University Archery Club. Besides, they are members of the Seoul Archery Association. But what is most remarkable is that they interact with *Myeonggung*, which is the group of Olympic archery gold medalists.

Park says that the club members have special affection toward Gung Do Hoe. "First, we cherish our club, Gung Do Hoe because our club has a history of almost 40 years," Park says. "And, we are also proud of our club's uniqueness. In fact, a university archery club is rare. So,

how can we not have pride about that?"

The members of Gung Do Hoe not only shoot for fun but also for their health. The club members say in chorus that archery is the healthiest sport. "Archery is one of the combined exercises. Standing firm is leg exercise, drawing a bow is arm exercise, and balancing oneself helps you keep sense of balance," explains Chae You Kyung ('11, Chemical and Biological Engineering), a member of Gung Do Hoe.

In addition, archery is essential for the people who need self-discipline because in the process of aiming at the target, extreme concentration and composure of mind are required. And archery is not the sport which demands much physical strength. Therefore, generally women can also enjoy the sport with ease.

If you want to join Gung Do Hoe, the way is very simple. You only need to visit the club room in the Student Union Building or contact the president or vice president of the club. Gung Do Hoe is not a select club. Anyone can join Gung Do Hoe, regardless of student number, age, sex, and archery ability.

"We welcome you all the time! The sports club which receives applications at any time like our club is rare," Park says. The president says that they welcome foreigners in KU, too. Actually, they already have some foreign students, and of course, they participate in the club activities with Korean students.

Park asserts that in a sense, joining Gung Do Hoe is a privilege. He says that from old times, Korean archery is an essential refinement of *yangban* (Korean nobleman). It is his belief that succeeding the spirit is a unique, valuable, and significant experience although times have passed. Lastly, Park says, "Come and enjoy the privileges in Gung Do Hoe! In a comfortable atmosphere of our club, I wish you can build up a precious memory with us." ■



Photograph by Kim Ha Joong

Provided by GungDoHoe

Head up High in the Korean Political World

By Lee Sihyoung (lsh4464@korea.ac.kr)

Hong Joon Pyo ('72, Public Administration), the chairman of the Grand National Party (Hannaradang in Korean), recently visited North Korea, expanding his political journey beyond the frontier. It seems that his enthusiasm and passion are what describes his character as a leading politician. Hong, However, did not always live a successful life as he does now. The Granite Tower (GT) had an occasion to interview Hong in his office at the party headquarter building of the Grand National Party. Hong was surprised by the number of female reporters of GT, which was not even imagined in his campus days.



Photograph by Park Jin Yung

Although he is now the chairman of the leading ruling party of Korea and a successful statesman, this vocation is not what he initially wanted. At first, Hong wanted to become a doctor, but the poverty of his family forced him to choose Korea Military Academy. However, when he saw his father being falsely subjected and charged by the police, he changed his mind and decided to become a lawyer. Since his days at Korea University (KU) were amid the times of Korea's democratization, he also participated in the student movement during his first four semesters in KU. However, the Central Intelligence Agency of Korea suspected him for his calligraphic style in proganda leaflets and brought him to its office. After being tortured about eight hours in the office, he made an oath that he would never participate in the movement. Moreover, the last wish of his father, which told him not to join the student movement, brought him to his desk in the reading room in the Main Library.

However, it was not easy to study for the bar exam. Failing the exam three times, he went to serve in the army. And he passed the exam when he thought was his last chance for challenging it. He eventually realized his dream of being a lawyer in the end.

Though his decision was not by his will, his vocation as a prosecutor made him take his current chair. The most impressive case that he took was the "Slot Machine Affair," which was later produced as a famous drama called *Sandglass*. The affair was such a complicated one that it involved more than 15 people in the political world, including Park Chul Eon, the henchman of President Roh Tae-Woo. He says, "I launched the investigation with the determination for justice, but people blamed me for losing the prestige of the prosecutors. So, I had to sit at meals alone because other prosecutors avoided me. Finally, I resigned after two years." He continues, "The



Photograph by Lee Si Hyoung

ethics of the royal class of Korea is far from that of ordinary people. They think they are superior to the law, and I think I changed this tendency by the investigation." He also says that today's society is more transparent compared to his time.

He opened a law office after his resignation. However, the gangsters who were indicted by him frequently came to his office and threatened his family and himself, even attempting to kidnap his daughter. He made a decision to make an entrance into the political world in order to protect his

“Do not give up or neglect your duties even if the situation is unwanted”

family. Since he became quite popular through *Sandglass*, Kim Young Sam, the chairman of *Sinhangukdang* invited him to his party.

"The drama, *Sandglass*, was broadcasted a year before I quit my job as a prosecutor. Actually, I was popular at that time. The College of Law suggested that I be a model for a promotional poster of the college in 1994. The poster was even published in the *Dong-A Ilbo* and it was successful." says Hong.

He gave a special lecture to the students of the College of Law in March, 2011. He felt that KU changed a lot. "About twenty years ago, the school was very conservative and more like a high school than a univer-

sity. It was not socially permitted that male student and female student went walking holding hands. However, I saw many campus couples in the classroom where I gave a lecture. Although the scene of KU has changed a lot, the academic traditions such as, honesty faith and the sense of belonging, should still remain in KU students' hearts. Of course, individualism is important, however, it is inappropriate to be egoistic. We should succeed in the academic tradition of KU and leave a legacy to the later freshmen of KU."

There was a boy who learned *tae-kwon-do* for protecting himself in his school. According to Hong's expression, his middle school and the high school were

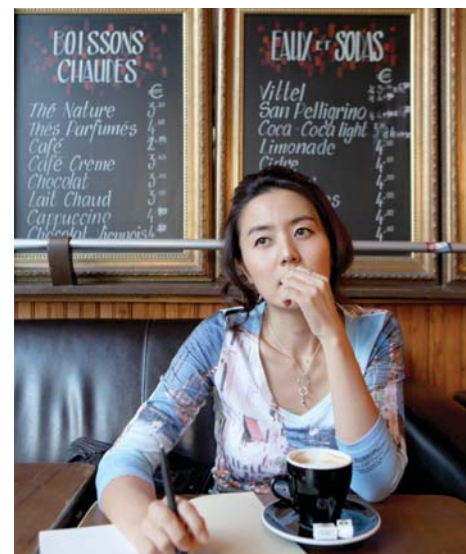
notorious for gang fighting. Not to be beaten, he enrolled in a gym and now became the president of the Korean Tae-kwon-do Institute. Throughout his life, there were so many obstacles which forced him to choose unwanted decisions. However, he made those decisions helpful to himself, in the end. His life has been an endless adaptation and turning around. Hong says, "Do not give up or neglect your duties even if the situation is unwanted."

"The time for studying in school is not so long. With the contents that one has studied for ten years, one has to apply them throughout one's lifetime," says Hong as advice toward his juniors at KU. ■

Writing Your Way around the World

A Travel Writer, Sohn Mina

By Kim Hak Young (jensophie7@korea.ac.kr)



Provided by Woongjin Jishik House

For those who love to travel and have a desire to express their experiences in writing, and for those who love to write and are searching for new topics, *The Granite Tower* (GT) interviewed Sohn Mina ('92, Spanish Language and Literature), a travel writer and former announcer of Korean Broadcasting System (KBS).

Traveling, and recording the memories in the form of writing or pictures are common desires. Doing both and getting paid for it sounds like a dream job. However, many who want to become travel writers do not know exactly what the job entails. Is it only about enjoying new adventures? Is the work rewarding, and in what ways? Sohn, the author of three collections of travel essays—*Spain, You are Freedom*, *Let the Heart Get Hot Again*, *Traveler of the Sun*—and a recent

novel, *Who Draw a Mimosa*, gave us some insight into the life of a travel writer.

For Sohn, working as a travel writer is totally natural, since traveling and writing are both her favorite things to do. After eight years of demanding work in broadcasting, Sohn wanted time to herself for studying, and went to Spain to earn a Master's degree in Journalism. From those experiences emerged her first book, *Spain, You are Freedom*, which was a huge success. With sales of more



than 200,000 copies, this book led to an offer to write a series of ten travel essays. She quit broadcasting for good and began a new life as a travel writer.

Sohn had not been planning on writing a book when she left for Spain. She went only to refresh her mind and spirit, and part of that was writing a story—sometimes on paper and sometimes in her mind.

Sohn says traveling with the aim of writing does not turn the travel into work. "Absolutely not," says Sohn. "It might depend on each person, but in my case, traveling has always been for some purpose; whether it is to get some good rest, to learn, to conquer, to enjoy scenery, or to meet people. If you really think about it, most people go away with some purpose in mind. No one just spends money and time without any reason."

"If my writing had to fit someone else's taste, it would be stressful. However, what I do is exactly the opposite. I weave stories only through the eyes of 'Sohn Mina' and that is the only condition—being myself—that I have to meet," says Sohn. "This makes me free and responsible at the same time, for my own growth and improvement. I hope that I can be the companion of many people who eagerly step forward in any kind of voyage, and this hope lets me happily go on with my work with all my heart."

Even though writing does not burden her travels, it does change how she travels.

A travel writer tends to focus more on a country's language, culture, and history. "I feel like it is my job to burrow deep into many aspects of traveling and tell them as best as I can," says Sohn.

Apart from the joy of doing a job they love, travel writers experience the fulfillment of encountering readers who say that they

found a new world through their books. Sohn acknowledges that getting a little "thank you," or seeing the happiness in readers make her feel she is linked to others by an invisible string.

One of Sohn's biggest concerns is related to what makes her happiest; keeping her promise to herself to grow and convey stories to the readers from that point of view. Every travel writer is always searching for better content. Apart from that, getting another job either at home or while traveling might be an economic burden.

As for improving their writing, the primary basis of travel writer's work, Sohn suggests reading. "Of course writing practice is important, but reading is even more important. We should read not just others' work but also our own over and over, and find parts that we want to improve," says Sohn. "A novelist I know said that he reads over 300 books for every one novel he writes. Reading the works of great writers and making notes about them is also recommended."

Written work based on travel can be a travel essay or a novel. After writing three books of essays, Sohn tried a novel this year. "A few years ago, in France, I suddenly realized that if a writer does not grow, he or she will see the same thing and write the same story wherever, even on the moon," says Sohn. "I just felt then that it was my time for a change and growth as a writer and as a person. That exploration led to a novel, which I think is because novel itself is an exploration of oneself." According to her, a novel is a journey toward a universe inside oneself, and it is a solitary and hard path. Writing a novel furnished Sohn with a different view of the world, and with a different way of expressing her experiences and thoughts.

Whether you travel all by yourself, with a partner or in a group, Sohn tells you to try and absorb the most from your travel and express it to the best of your ability. ■



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Reminiscence of a First Love

You Sometimes Think of Me, I Sometimes Daydream

By Song Gyu Jin (ssong915@korea.ac.kr)

If you are destined to meet someone, you will someday meet that person, even if he or she just walks past you for a split second.

Do you remember your first love? What would you do if your first love were standing in front of you ten years later? *You Sometimes Think of Me, I Sometimes Daydream* is a "poemal" that will take you back to when you were first in love.

Synopsis
Lee Young Hui is a 34-year-old woman working for a publishing company. One day, she visits a successful young CEO, Kim Cheol Su, to publish his book, and they both realize that they have just run into their first love. They pretend as if they do not recognize each other at first, but as time passes, they find themselves indulged in reminiscences about when they were in love with each other. Soon enough, they resolve ten years of misunderstanding and fall back in love.

Culture Space NU
(Daehak-Ro)
2011.08.15~2011.11.13



Attractions

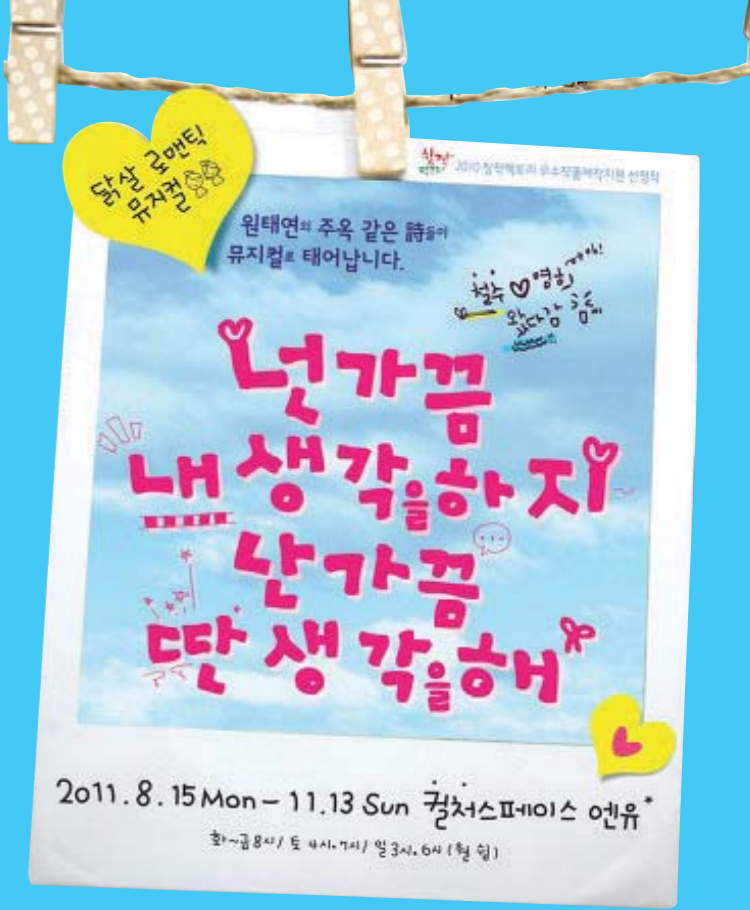
■ *You Sometimes Think of Me, I Sometimes Daydream* was originally a collection of poems written by Won Tae Yeon, published in 1992. His touching poems are embodied in the musical—Korea's first poemal. Half of the songs are based on the poems and they, like poems, arouse the audience's sympathy and touch their hearts. The actors' realistic voices and expressions draw the audience into the musical, and allow them to identify with the characters' feelings.

■ At the beginning of the performance, an announcement is made to take the audience back to the 1990s. This is just the start. A beeper, a famous magazine from the 1990s, a portable cassette player, and many other objects help the audience recall the past decade.

■ This musical is not an obvious love story. It is not only about the love story of two main characters but also about how these characters grow up. Kim and Lee find themselves facing an obstacle that stands in their way of love, just like ten years ago. In the past, they failed to overcome the obstacle and split up. However, after ten years have passed, they changed. They find a way to help each other out and succeed in starting a love again.

■ The juicy romance is not the story's attraction. Wit is also a key point of the musical characters. Silly actions make the audiences giggle. When Kim and Lee find out that they have just ran into their first love, they take silly actions. Kim hides his embarrassment behind his brand-name clothes and car. Lee appears wearing fussy clothes. This scene is in humorous ways but quite understandable, all the more reason for audiences to let out a nice laugh.

■ It is amazing how a 110-minute musical can feel so



short. As audiences transcend past and present through the musical, they are busy figuring out and being amazed by what was and is going on between the two main characters. The play uses only four actors but their talents fill the stage.

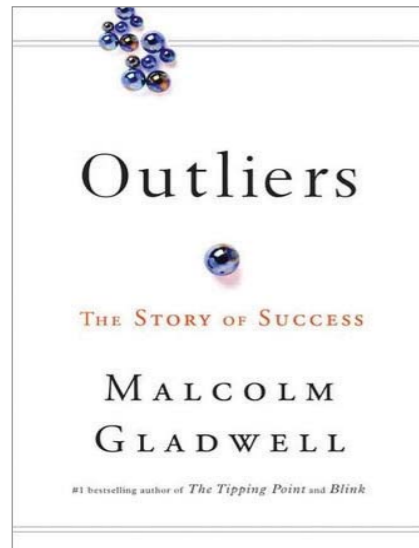
■ Audience interaction is probably one of the most charming factors of the musical. In the middle of the musical, Kim asks for help from the audiences. If lucky, audience member will have a chance to go up on stage and take part in the action for a short time. If you want a chance to go up on stage and have a special experience, get a seat in the front row. Everyone is also able to take part in the musical. ■

The Hidden Secret Behind Success

Outliers: The Story of Success

By Kim Minhee (minhee713@korea.ac.kr)

Genius is one percent inspiration, ninety-nine percent perspiration. A famous quote by Edison, which stresses the significance of effort in terms of success, is long held to be the principle of success. Malcolm Gladwell in his book *Outliers* boldly confronts this traditional belief by asking readers "is that really so?"



By Malcolm Gladwell
Hachette
320 page

First published on November 18, 2008, by Malcolm Gladwell, a writer for the *New Yorker*, *Outliers: The Story of Success* has enjoyed widespread popularity that rendered it the #1 *New York Times Best Seller* in non-fiction from December 7, 2008 to February 21, 2009. In fact, the craze for *Outliers* has not yet met its end as demonstrated by its reprinted edition of July 19, 2011.

"Outlier," by definition, is a phenomenon that lies outside the everyday experience. In *Outliers*, Gladwell describes the term as someone who achieves beyond an extraordinary level, and he delves into the secret of

what separates those "outliers" from the ordinary. Unlike typical self-help books, this non-fiction focuses on community responsibility, rather than individual responsibility, over personal achievement.

Outliers is divided into two parts, one being opportunity and the other being legacy. This clear structure points to the two factors that the author suggests as the attributes for success. Throughout the book, Gladwell draws on diverse real-world examples to illustrate how small opportunities given in the first place may result in great advantage later in life and how society and culture define one's success.

An eye-catching example may be the phenomenon in which Asians are typically better at math than other races. For Asians possess culture that stresses the importance of perseverance and diligence due to their long-lasting rice cultivation culture, and also because they possess a better numbering system that allows faster arithmetic calculation, they are much better at math in the end.

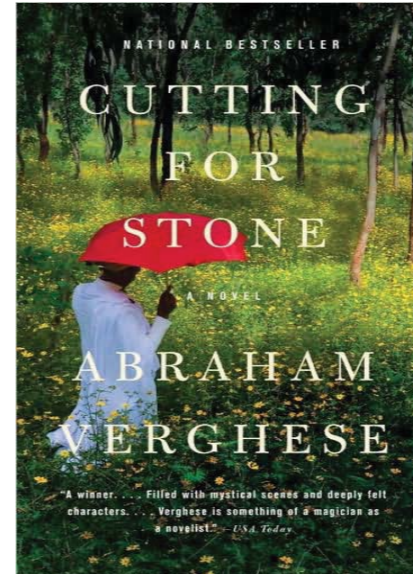
Gladwell never stops at stating that the culture and environment that surround people do determine how successful they are, but continues on, elaborating on the importance of practice and effort. The "10,000-Hour Rule" presents readers the hope that despite those factors that are already determined from our birth, we can also achieve success through ten thou-

sand hours of practice.

What distinguishes this book from other self-help books is that this is a "community-help book," as Gladwell stated in one of his interviews with CNN. By writing this book, he intended to suggest how we as a society are capable of building institutions that provide equal opportunities for all people to work hard. Instead of limiting the meaning of success at the individual level, *Outliers* provides insight into collective success and the way we can better our society as a whole.

One drawback of the book is that the statistics and the examples the author employs to substantiate his view seem a little insufficient. One cannot help but feel that the author worked very diligently to search for pieces that would fit in his perspective, rather than letting the evidence stand on its own. Other than this small shortcoming, the writing style of the author is simplistic and clear to the point that he is sometimes criticized for oversimplifying the complicated social phenomenon.

Outliers is a book that truly reveals the secret of success by refuting our traditional notion that success is the outcome of sole effort. Indeed, our society and culture play an inseparable part, and by utilizing that profound knowledge, our society will be able to succeed as a whole. ■



By Abraham Verghese
Random House
667 page

Abraham Verghese's first novel, *Cutting for Stone*, has gained popularity in the year after its first publication and is now a national bestseller in the United States. Even President Barack Obama included this compelling novel in his summer vacation reading list. Abraham Verghese, a doctor and a professor of medicine, decided to write this novel after witnessing the suffering of terminal AIDS patients. While caring for numerous patients, he built deep relationships with them, and wished to bring young person to medicine through his novel.

Ethiopia, 1954. The story derives from the days when fixing holes in a body seemed impossible. What is now curable was incurable then, the finality of great suffering caused by bad water or insanitary conditions. Although the operation was initially performed successful to patients, they died of infection from contagious surgical aprons and tools the next day.

Twin boys are born joined at the head. The moment they encounter the world, they experience the adversity of life. Though they survive a C-section delivery and surgical separation, their mother, Sister Mary Joseph Praise, does not. The Carmelite nun, who came to Ethiopia all the way from India, dies in the same place where she worked as a nurse—the operating room of a small hospital.

Thomas Stone, a British surgeon, is the twins' father. When his beloved dies

Medicine: Human Transaction

Cutting for Stone

By Kwak Yeon Soo (rudolf_ys@korea.ac.kr)

Life is in the end about fixing holes. Fixing holes literally means medicine and surgery. But there's another kind of hole, and that is the wound that divides family. Sometimes this wound occurs at the moment of birth, sometimes it happens later.

during childbirth, he cannot bear the loss. He declines to raise the twins and flees. The twins are instead raised by two physicians—Ghosh and Hema, who had worked with Stone and Sister Mary at Missing Hospital. Meanwhile, Stone is working at a medical center in Boston where he specializes in hepatic surgery and liver transplantation.

The twins, Shiva and Marion, are intelligent and unusually attached. Shiva is eccentric in his manners and thoughts. Marion is a caring brother who always sides with Shiva. Shiva, with the aid of Ghosh and Hema, studies medicine and becomes an authority on treating vaginal fistulas. Marion, who is the novel's narrator, has an inferiority complex from losing his heart to Genet, who slept with Shiva. Genet, an independent former playmate, hijacks airplanes and rebels against the Ethiopian government. When Marion comes under suspicion, he escapes to America. Marion locates his biological father, but reconciliation between the two is not easy.

Meanwhile, Genet also comes to America where they have sexual intercourse. Genet exposes Marion to tuberculosis and Hepatitis B, so he develops liver failure. He is about to die, but Shiva proposes donating his liver transplant. Their biological father, Thomas Stone performs the operation, and is successful. But a cruel fate intervenes. Shiva dies from a cerebral hemorrhage, and things fall apart. Ultimately, Marion returns to Ethiopia, alone except for

Shiva's liver.

The novel takes place in foreign lands, not India and England, but Ethiopia and America. Destiny has brought the family together, but soon sets them apart. The characters live through troubles, but their last destination is their birthplace. In these settings, the author questions the meaning of home. Perhaps, home does not refer to a place of origin. Instead, where a person is most wanted and feels most at ease.

The Stones are compassionate doctors who appear to be heroes to their patients. The technical terms in medical fields may disturb or lessen the readers' interests. Initially, the author states that medical theme takes up very small portion of this novel. Nonetheless, the novel elaborates the insights about being a doctor and portrays the epiphany of medicine until the last moment.

Although Shiva and Marion grew up without their parents, the story focuses on the process of healing, not hatred or resentment. Even the ones we love can hurt us and it is painful. The story conveys a message that the word "heal" is not only for patients, but also for family, self, and society. Additionally, the author depicts the richness of Ethiopia and describes it an extraordinary place to erase the metaphor of poverty and famine.

"We are all fixing what is broken. It is the task of a lifetime. We'll leave much unfinished for the next generation." ■

The Everlasting Stigma

The Journal of Musan

By Lee Da Hyeon (daniellalee@korea.ac.kr)



Director: Park Jung-bum
Cast: Park Jung-bum, Jin Yong-ok, Kang Eun-jin, Park Young-du
Genre: Drama
Duration: 127 min

The number of North Korean defectors has been steadily increasing in South Korea. While the number of men entering into the South had been higher than that of females in the past, the situation has reversed today. South Korea currently has some facilities and services available for these North

Do you know this man? He left his country in search of a new hope. Yet, he has no friends and just not enough money to keep him warm. He sticks posters around the city during the day and works at a *noraebang* during the night. He has no one to talk to but only a dog that eventually leaves him too. He is stranded, helpless, and a North Korean defector.

Korean defectors, yet not enough to take care of all of them.

The director of the film manages to bring out the dark world of many defectors who are struggling to make their living in South Korea, which they thought would be a paradise. The most fascinating aspect about this film is that the director Park Jung-bum himself appears as the main character. The story is based on a true story of a director's friend and a defector, Jeon Seung Chul. Park set out to film this story, already having in mind that he would star as the main character. However, the death of his friend Jeon resulted in a halt of all his work. Park did not know what to do. He was not sure whether it would be disrespectful or irrational to go on with his project. Nevertheless, with the support of Lee Chang Dong, a film director and a novelist as well, Park was able to get back up on his feet. He then got back to his

work and came up with his first masterpiece *The Journal of Musan*.

The film *The Journal of Musan* is about the harsh reality of North Korean defectors living in South Korea. Seung-Chul (Park Jung-bum) is a Korean citizen like any other who speaks the same language and looks the same. Yet the stigma of being a defector deters him from getting jobs and even blending into society. He works night and day and makes just enough money to feed himself and his only friend, Baekgu the dog. His home is not much of a resting area for him either, as his roommate, another defector, is muddled up in a fraudulent monetary business. He finds his hope in a woman that he falls for who changes his life by the end. Although a gloomy atmosphere persists throughout the whole film, due to the decency of the director towards it, the story itself is very credible and emotional.

The cinematography of this film plays a big part in making the story seem so real and dark. With the use of close-ups and variety of camera angles, the director manages to portray Seung-Chul as being isolated and alienated from society. He is often displayed as being alone, distant from people, and many scenes where his back is facing the camera add to the sense of loneliness and seclusion. In addition, the lack of conversations between characters in the film, especially between the citizens and defectors, intensifies the desolation of these people.

An interesting characteristic of the film is that there is no portrayal of lives of the defectors that are happy and bright. All is dark and dangerous. The main focus of the story is based on the lack of and the obsession with money. Such a materialistic aspect of the film brings out the dark side of life, where money leads to destruction of friendships, betrayal, and even death. Moreover, the concept of America is often mentioned in the film. "I need to go to America," or "I want to go to America," are quotes often said by the defectors in the film. Here, America is depicted as being the ultimate heaven and a sanctuary. Defectors desire to go there yet lack the money and conditions to take off. This feature of the film is interesting as America is represented as such to many defectors in reality as well.

While the film illustrates many accurate observation of life as a defector, there are also some aspects of the film that seem vulnerable to criticism. While the story itself seems so real, some of the acting fails to meet the realistic aspect of the film. Most of the actors in the film are rather new, including the director

himself and although we must admit that their talent in acting is of high quality, some have shown their limits. Also, some scene changes in the film give a sense of cutting the flow. For example, in one scene Seung-Chul is praying in the church and the next serving alcohol in the *noraebang*. While such transfer of time and space occurs often in films, the change itself could have been smoother.

Another aspect that made the film seem rather insufficient was the way in which the director overlooked the lives of many other defectors in South Korea. It is without doubt that many defectors are struggling even today on streets to find a job or to make a living. However, there are also those who are provided with safe homes with plenty to eat and chances to study. I am currently doing volunteer work for North Korean defectors who are preparing for university entrance exams. As I know such a side of lives of the defectors, it was hard in a way for me to agree completely with the lives portrayed in the film. Hence, while being aware of defectors living so near us in misery is important, it is also crucial that we do not generalize the situation only based upon the story told by the film.

The film *The Journal of Musan* has won many international awards including the Silver

Apricot Award and awards from the Pusan International Film Festival (PIFF). Although the English subtitles from the film are not available yet on the Internet, the film itself is easily found as it is an international award-winning film. Despite its one-sided view of the lives of North Korean defectors, as a citizen living in the lands of South Korea, we should be aware that these people in the film are actually very near us in our everyday lives. ■



Retracing the History of Korean Pro Baseball League

By Lee Jeong Min (jml27@korea.ac.kr)

It is hard to remember when I first visited a baseball stadium. However, the excitement I felt during my first baseball game in Korea was unforgettable. Despite the fact that some evaluate the level of the Korean baseball league as a cut below Major League Baseball (MLB) or Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB), there is no doubt that the passion of Korean baseball fans, coaching staff, and players are second to none. With that passion, the Korean Baseball Organization (KBO) season marked its 30th anniversary this year.

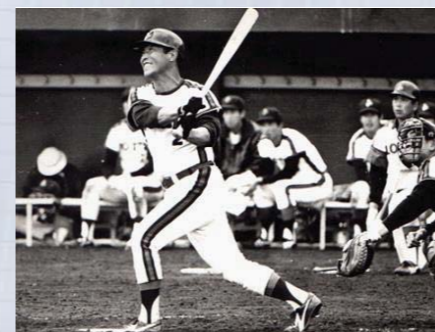
Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Korean pro baseball league, diverse events were held. A commemorative photo exhibition took place at the beginning of this season. During the all-star game period in July, cheerleaders from the eight KBO clubs gave performances. Players held a signing event and fans experienced some interesting booths at Jamsil Baseball Stadium. Men and women of all ages enjoyed this big and meaningful festival.

Among these celebratory events, to me, the most meaningful one was the fans voting for the legendary all-stars. The all-stars are the remaining witnesses and driving forces of KBO's 30 year history. This year looks like the right time to retrace the history of the Korean pro baseball league to better prepare for a brighter future.

1980s, The Start of The Korean Pro Baseball League

The Korean pro baseball league has walked up a short but steep slope. The first Korean pro baseball game took place on March 27, 1982 at Dongdaemun Baseball Stadium in Seoul. At that time, President Chun Doo-hwan seized power by illegal methods like the Coup d'état of December Twelfth and directly faced citizens' anger through the Gwangju Democratization Movement. To avoid this, President Chun announced the 3S (screen, sex, and sports) policy, turning the public's interest to somewhere else rather than politics.

This is a fact well-known to the public. However, there is an interesting story behind it. Actually, the hidden person of merit for establishing the pro baseball league in Korea was Lee



Baek In-Cheon of MBC Chungyong



Choi Dong-Won of Lotte Giants



Sun Dong-Yeol of Haitai Tigers

Jin Hui, the former president of Munhwa Broadcasting System (MBC). He made a task force team inside the company to make a pro baseball league in Korea with four clubs. Some people guess that Lee wanted to beat his rival Lee Won Hong, the former president of Korean Broadcasting System (KBS), through the establishment of a baseball league. After the plan was made, Lee went to President Chun and reported, "Sir, I would like to make a pro sport organization in Korea." After some time when President Chun received a report about establishing KBO, he surprisingly said, "What? Was it baseball? I thought it was football!" Believe it or not, all President Chun did was just sign on the project that Lee had made.

Finally, KBO was established in December 11, 1981 with six clubs: Samsung Lions based in Daegu, Lotte Giants in Busan, MBC Chungyong in Seoul, OB Bears in Daejeon, Haitai Tigers in Gwangju, and Sammi Superstars in Incheon. As listed, since players were assigned to clubs regarding their home towns, potentials and strengths between clubs showed a great gap. For instance, Haitai had fewer players than other clubs. At the beginning of KBO, it only had 17 players and was unable to run for the pennant race. Consequently, KBO made exceptions for the club and Haitai could barely join the race.

However, I consider Haitai's initial difficulty as a blessing in disguise. Haitai won the Korean Series in 1983, 1986, 1987, 1988, and 1989. Five times in a decade! Haitai's victories are still unbelievable even today. Most of the KBO fans including me believed that pitcher Sun Dong-Yeol made this amazing miracle possible. Especially in 1986, when he was spending his second year as a pro in KBO, he left amazing records; he took the mound 39 times, threw balls for 262^{2/3} innings, recorded average earned runs of 0.99, 24 wins, six losses, six saves, and 214 strike outs. He also recorded 19 complete games, including eight shutouts and three shutouts in a row. I believe Haitai and its players represented a revolt and a living hope for Gwangju citizens, who were suppressed under the military regime.

Another miracle happened with the Lotte Giants. Lotte won the Korean Series in 1984. Here, another hero was born; Lotte Giants pitcher Choi Dong-Won became the winning pitcher four times alone in the Korean Series. He was the one who led the weak Lotte Giants to be the winner of that year's Korean Series. Choi is personally my favorite pitcher in KBO. As a passionate fan of Lotte Giants, he was the one who made one of the two victories in Lotte Giants' history. No one could, or ever will, devote his life throwing balls just for the team's victory. I deeply pray for the repose of Choi's soul, who passed away on September 14, 2011. Still he is, and will forever be, commemorated by Lotte Giants fans.



Jang Myeong Bu of Sammi Superstars



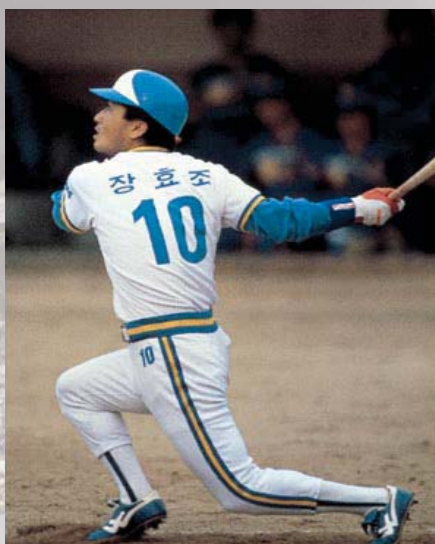
Park Cheol-soon of OB Bears

Interesting Records

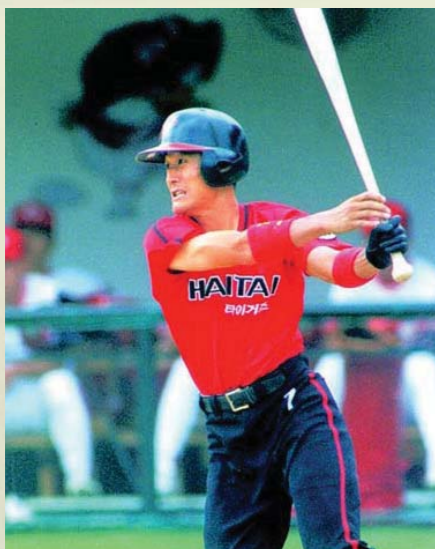
- 1982** – Baek In-Cheon of MBC Chungyong, batting average of 0.412, 103 hits in 250 times at bat
- 1982** – Park Cheol-soon of OB Bears, 22 consecutive victories, season MVP
- 1983** – Jang Myeong Bu of Sammi Superstars, 30 victories in one season
- 1984** – Choi Dong-Won of Lotte Giants, 4 victories in the Korean Series, 31 victories in one season (including the pennant race and Korean Series)
- 1985** – Sammi Superstars, losing 18 game, in a row from March 31 to April 29
- 1986** - Sun Dong-Yeol of Haitai Tigers, 0.99 average earned runs
- 1987** - Sun Dong-Yeol of Haitai Tigers, 232 pitches in one game



Park Chan-Ho of L.A. Dodgers



Jang Hyo-Jo of Samsung Lions



Lee Jong-Beom of Haitai Tigers

1990s, Chaos

At first, the 1990s seem to be bright. The league became larger and clubs started to get in shape. Binggrae Eagles (later Hanwha Eagles) and Ssangbangwool Raiders joined KBO. Sammi Superstars and MBC Chungyong were sold and each changed its name to Hyundai Unicorns and LG Twins. These two clubs gave energy to KBO. A successful shift in generation was another factor that excited KBO fans. As a result, in 1993, the total spectator number went over four million and in 1995, it went over five million.

However, KBO started to face several hardships. Making numerous stars and uncountable records in a decade, KBO was full of confidence. With that confidence, in 1991, KBO had their first international match with NPB; but the result was disappointing. KBO could not make a match with NPB in every aspect.

Even though the average skills were far less than that of NPB, still, some players had possibilities to get over the huddles of the international stage. Sun Dong-Yeol left for a broader stage in Japan to Chunichi Dragons in 1996. Another player left Korea for MLB. Park Chan-Ho went to the L.A. Dodgers with a contract payment of one million dollar. These two players' transfers to NPB or MLB had two sides; first, they gave hopes and dreams to the rising stars. Another aspect was that fans started to expect better games from KBO. However, KBO was not yet enough to satisfy the fans who were excited by MLB and NPB games with higher standards. Even worse, the Korea International Monetary Fund (IMF) crisis hit the nation, and baseball fans turned away from the stadiums. To show by statistics, the total spectator number decreased sharply; 3.9 million in 1997 and 2.5 million in 1998.

I would like to say that the 1990s was the most important period for KBO. Possibilities were found. Financially stable conglomerates became owners of the clubs; supporting the coaching staff and players both financially and in spirit. Especially, owners started to have more cash to buy better players. A good example would be the Hyundai Unicorns. The team started to buy the best players with astronomical amounts of money, leading the team to win the Korean Series in 2000. Before distinguishing the right or wrong of this action, players were stimulated and other clubs started to pay players who showed efforts and good results. Also, even though the average standard was lower than other leagues, KBO started to produce players with competitiveness in the international leagues.

The difficulties that KBO faced during this decade became the most important driving force for the clubs and KBO officials to improve the standard. Additionally, from this time, they started to notice the importance of fans. Now, a triangle between the club, KBO officials, and fans started to be defined. No clubs or even KBO would survive without the support of fans, and to a certain extent, play for fans must be considered. This was, is, and will be a task for KBO.

Interesting Records

- 1983~1992 – Jang Hyo-Jo of Samsung Lions, aggregate batting average of 0.331
- 1994 – Lee Jong-Beom of Haitai Tigers, 196 hits and 84 stolen bases in one season
- 1997 – May 4, Samsung Lions wins over LG Twins by 27 – 5, highest score and score difference in one game



Choo Shin-Soo of Cleveland Indians



Lee Dae-Ho of Lotte Giants



Kim Tae-Kyun of Chiba Lotte Marines



Lim Chang-Yong of Tokyo Yakult Swallows

2000s, Finally The Flower Blooms

A shift in generation occurred once again with another change of club owners. Haitai Tigers became KIA Tigers and Ssangbangwool Raiders became SK Wyverns. Through steady rebuilding, KIA Tigers won the Korean Series in 2009 and SK Wyverns became the new “strong” club, winning the Korean Series in 2007, 2008, and 2010. Players who ruled the 1990s like Yang Joon-Hyuk and Lee Seung-Yeop retired or went to NPB. From this decade, players dubbed the “pro baseball kids” started to show their abilities in KBO. The “pro baseball kids” are those who were born in 1982, like Choo Shin-Soo, Lee Dae-Ho, Kim Tae-Kyun, and Jeong Keun-Woo. The key players in the 1980s started to play an active part as managers.

With rookies, current star players, and the top managers who had experience in KBO, finally, Korean pro baseball won the first World Baseball Classic (WBC) in 2006. Again in the second WBC in 2009, Korea took second place. In 2008, gold medal of baseball at the 2008 Summer Olympics went to Korea also. Finally, the world started to acknowledge KBO. More players were recruited to MLB and NPB; typical examples are Cleveland Indians' Choo Shin-Soo, Chiba Lotte Marines' Kim Tae-Kyun, and Tokyo Yakult Swallows' Lim Chang-Yong. Fans started to visit the stadiums again. In 2009, the total spectator number again increased to five million and in 2011, it went over six million even before the pennant race was over.

Interesting Records

- 2003 – Lee Seung-Yeop of Samsung Lions, 56 homeruns in one season
- 2003~2004 – Park Jong-ho of Samsung Lions, consecutive hits for 39 games
- 2006 – Oh Seung-Hwan of Samsung Lions, 47 saves in one season
- 1992~2010 – Yang Joon-Hyuk of Samsung Lions, 2318 total hits
- 2010 – Lee Dae-Ho of Lotte Giants, homeruns in 9 consecutive games



Yang Joon-Hyuk of Samsung Lions



Lee Seung-Yeop of Yomiuri Giants



2008 Summer Olympics

KBO is now in the middle of its second heyday. Especially this year, several teams faced changes in managers in the beginning or middle of the season. Teams once in the bottom rank are now making their way up to the top and clubs with the most number of fans like Lotte Giants, LG Twins, and KIA Tigers are making remarkable results. As a result, keen competition in the pennant race is at its peak and is thrilling KBO fans. Even though there were unfortunate events and the legendary all-stars have passed away, there is no doubt that the fans are enjoying this season. Reviewing the 30 years, I can now assure you of one thing. Every single day from the beginning was a step to the present. If we can enjoy and spend the season without regret, it will be another memorable and momentous year for us. Now, let's enjoy the last month of baseball! PLAY BALL! ■



Marriage Strike?

By Kim Yoonah (youknokim@korea.ac.kr)

I don't need a man to make it happen/ I get off being free/ I don't need a man to make me feel good/ I get off doing my thing/ I don't need a ring around my finger/ To make me feel complete

– "I Don't Need a Man" by the Pussycat Dolls.

To some, the Pussycat Dolls might not be the ideal image of the 21st century independent women, given that they perform without half of their clothes on. Nonetheless, the message is clear: they don't need a man. Similarly, a growing portion of Asian women are making a statement of their own by marrying late.

The cover of the August 20th issue of *The Economist* is eye catching. On a robin blue background, an Asian man stands deserted after being rejected by an Asian woman who never looks back. The cover alone captures the meaning of that week's title, "Asia's Lonely Hearts." According to the weekly international magazine, the mean age of wedlock is now 29-30 for the women in South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. For Korea, this statistic might alarm our parent's generation since the average age of marriage in 1981 was 23. *The Economist* mentioned an increasing number of Asian women is "fleeing" from marriage whereas their Western counterparts are still getting married at about 26. It is not just *The Economist* that seems concerned for the welfare of Asian women, but other columnists and Media as well. They all discuss the increasing concern regarding low birthrates, which result from this trend. However, should a late marriage be frowned upon?

For whatever reason, the fact that women are getting married at a later age is irrefutable. Personally, the thought of getting married and living happily ever after sounds like sheer bliss. What girl has never thought of her wedding? However, let us be frank. How long does the honeymoon period last? Sure, invariably, every couple starts off happily and over the moon, but will the same feeling of love last for 60 to 80 years? For the lucky ones, it does. Yet, for the majority, the love will dissipate and lead to living together out of convenience for themselves and their offspring. To others, those complications might entail divorce. After all, 116,858 couples decided to split up last year in Korea. Keep in mind that we are now living in what is dubbed as the "Hundred Year Old Age," mean-

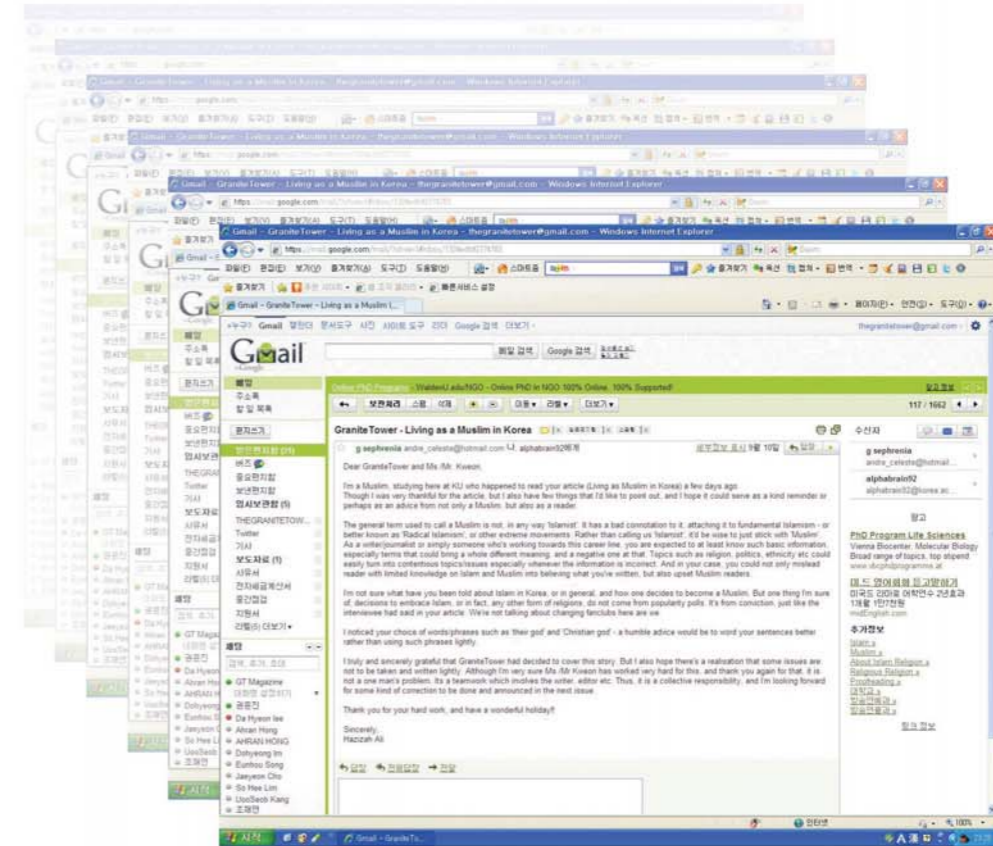
ing it is more than possible for people to live until they are a hundred or more. In other words, if I were to get married in the next couple of years and on the premise that I was dutifully married to one person, I would be "stuck" with him for 70 years.

Marriage is a whole different agenda than cohabitation or dating. In a recent episode of the Korean television program *Jjack*, all the participants were divorcees. One woman who had married her boyfriend of six years, divorced after just three months of marriage. She found maintaining a marriage to be a formidable undertaking. Other participants also expressed their regrets about marrying at a younger age. That is understandable since a lasting marriage requires a certain level of maturity and perseverance, and one usually develop such qualities the more one ages. Maybe making the choice of marriage when one is older (and thus more level headed and self autonomous) will allow greater clarity making such monumental decisions.

Moreover, marrying late is becoming common for men as well. The average age of marriage for them has increased from 31 to 33. As the economy takes a turn for the worse, many people choose to marry later, when they are more financially capable and stable. Thus, by choosing to delay, they are extending the time for preparation time of securing economic means and smoothing the path for a more successful marriage. In fact, it has become common behavior for Koreans to wait until they have the necessary funding to sustain a married life before taking the plunge.

Age should not be the determining factor in gauging one's capability of marriage. Ideally, one should seek happiness in a life-long companion after having fulfilled a sense of self-accomplishment. If that means women organize their priorities so that they pursue a career before marriage, then so be it. ■

WE LISTEN



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