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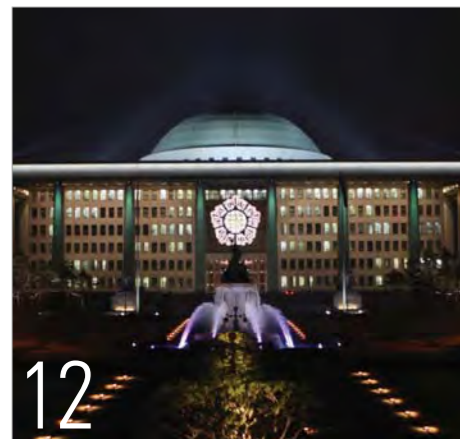


Good University?

Is it Right to Rank
Education?

PROACTIVE KU
I-20-20-20

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THE GRANITE TOWER

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LETTERS *The Granite Tower* welcomes letters from all readers. Submit opinions, essays, or general correspondence to thegranitetower@gmail.com. We will do our utmost to ensure that your contributions are reflected in the content and quality of our magazine.

JOINING GT If you are a Korea University freshman, you are eligible to apply for reporter status at *The Granite Tower*. All members of *The Granite Tower* must complete three semesters at the magazine before they can receive their certificate of service. International students and non-first year Korea University students interested in taking on a temporary guest reporter position are also welcome to join *The Granite Tower*. *The Granite Tower* recruits new reporters twice each spring and fall semester.



EDITOR'S LETTER

We, *The Granite Tower* (GT), have taken up the responsibility for 57 years as the only English magazine in Korea University (KU) to honor KU's founding spirit, promote better international understanding, and improve KU students' English ability.

57 years is a long time, a long time for all kinds of incidents, situations, and changes to occur in this mid-sized student activity room, A206A in the Communications Building. From the reissuing event back in 1968 to the 57th Anniversary Celebration last month, from an 80-year-old retired CEO to 18-year-old freshmen cub reporters, GT is a history, a history which connects KU and the global society, and leads on the path to the Global KU era.

As you can see, this issue's theme is the university ranking system. The cover story deals with the current university rankings conducted by various institutions including major media outlets. In Global University section, we suggest a home-grown list of noteworthy universities according to our own research. Finally, the Film section reviews two movies related to the current American university system.

Personally, I'm glad there is no official ranking system for campus English journals. But I know every single reader of our magazine is the key criteria for assessing the quality of GT. For 57 years, every GT editor has worked with this same attitude, including myself, and so will the future editors. We always will.

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



Korea University's E-MBA Ranks 23rd in *Financial Times*

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



The Korea University Business School (KUBS)'s Executive MBA (E-MBA) program was ranked 23rd in England's *Financial Times* (FT) world's 100 best E-MBA programs. Unlike MBA which is aimed at younger individuals from a wide range of academic disciplines, E-MBA is targeted at

senior managers who want to enhance their ability in the fundamentals of business and application of new learning.

According to the ranking announced on October 24, 2011, KU ranked nearly as high as the National University of Singapore, UC Berkeley, and other prominent universities. This news demonstrates that KUBS has made big strides to be ranked above prestigious universities such as Columbia University, Cornell University, and the University of Michigan. The FT uses a variety of criteria as a methodology for ranking the top 100 business school programs. For example, the FT measured factors such as the percentage of international students and faculty and the number of women students and faculty. It also includes the number of doctoral graduates from a school and professors' publication of dissertations. Program graduates are also surveyed. KU's E-MBA program received high scores in students' career progress such as "salary increase" and faculty research performance.

College of Health Science, in Pursuit of Equal Rights

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

On October 5, an Emergency Student Assembly was summoned at the College of Health Science (CHS) with three agendas: moving the campus in Jeongneung to Anam, change of affiliation from Korea University (KU) Medical Center to KU itself, and discarding the self-supporting system. In May this year, they took vote on relocation of the campus; 749 students voted out of 1313, with 716 in favor, 20 against, and 13 abstentions.

Originally a community college attached to KU, CHS was newly established in 2006, as one of the colleges in KU. However, CHS has suffered from discriminations compared to other colleges of KU, many of which were caused by the separated campus in Jeongneung. Since Jeongneung is located far away from Anam campus, students in CHS have difficulty taking major courses in Jeongneung and open-major ones in Anam.

Affiliation to the Medical Center and self-paying system—which means no financial support from KU—of CHS not only makes it harder to solve the campus problem, but also causes further trouble. "Of course, there are matters

of finance and building site," says Kim Myeong Su ('11, Public Health Administration). "However, what matters most is the will of KU and of the students."



The Granite Tower's 57th Anniversary Celebration

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



Photograph by Lee Shinyoung

As one of the most honored tradition, *The Granite Tower* (GT)'s 57th Anniversary Celebration invited all the GT alumni in our generation to share their good old memories of their campus days. Especially, this year's anniversary was held in the form of an athletic meeting for the alumni and students to build closer relations with less formality.

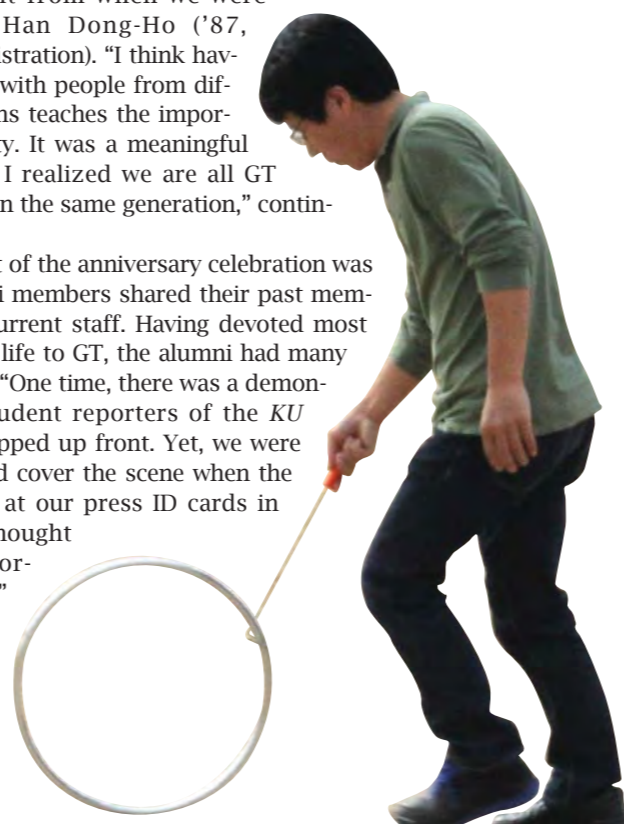
It was a sunny afternoon around 12 P.M. when people started to gather in a park near the Han River. They seemed to have little in common as they were of different ages, from different places, and worked in different fields. However, there was one thing they all had in common. They were graduates of Korea University (KU) and previous reporters at GT, Korea University's English magazine. GT alumni had gathered to celebrate the 57th anniversary of its founding.

As KU students, there are nothing more effective than a bowl of *makgeolli* and stories of the past to break the ice in the beginning. After having a short greeting session, everyone listened to Editor-in-Chief Kang You Kyung ('09, Psychology)'s opening speech. "Ever since GT was founded in 1954, a total of 435 volumes have been published, 80 editor-in-chiefs and executive editors have served, and 413 student reporters have become GT alumni," said Kang. "GT has emerged as the nation's first and best campus English magazine. In order to continue our progress and to be a pioneer in leading Global KU in the era of globalization, we ask for your attention and thoughtful advice," continued Kang.

The athletic meeting consisted of a series of events that recollect the childhood memories of the GT alumni. From rolling a hoop (*gulleongsoe* in Korean) and arrow-throwing (*tuho* in Korean) to dodge ball and jump rope,

the two teams of mixed alumni and current staffs enjoyed the competition. "Our bodies have aged, but our minds are not so different from when we were young," said Han Dong-Ho ('87, Business Administration). "I think having quality time with people from different generations teaches the importance of diversity. It was a meaningful time for me as I realized we are all GT reporters living in the same generation," continued Han.

The highlight of the anniversary celebration was when the alumni members shared their past memories with the current staff. Having devoted most of their campus life to GT, the alumni had many stories to share. "One time, there was a demonstration and student reporters of the *KU Weekly* were stopped up front. Yet, we were able to go in and cover the scene when the soldiers looked at our press ID cards in English. They thought that we were foreign press," chuckled Byeon Jae-Uk ('86, Business Administration), as he recalled his memory.



Photograph by Photo Division

Administration), as he recalled his memory.

Even with a 30-year gap between some of the GT alumni and the current GT staff, it was quite a surprise that the GT reporters, past and present, shared the exact same concerns: GT's identity and limited readership.

Regarding GT's identity in the past, Do Sang-Cheol ('74, Trade) shared his knowledge. During the 70s and 80s, when there was not much campus journalism in English, the founders of GT based GT's identity on *The Independent* (*Doglib Sinmun* in Korean). *The Independent* was written in both Korean and English since its publication served as a public outcry on domestic issues in the 19th century. Likewise, GT's role was to represent KU during the time of democratization. As a source of journalism printed in English, it not only aimed for domestic readers, but also foreign readers.

Regarding GT's lack of readership, this remains an unsolved question. Kim Yun-Jee ('09, Economics), 79th editor-in-chief, said, "A magazine that is not read loses its function and identity as part of the media." The GT alumni had shared the exact same concern when they were campus reporters.

Readers in the past took an interest in GT as it was one of the few methods to encounter English. Thus GT was used as a learning material for individuals who wished to enhance their English skills. Today, however, as English

has become more common, GT is no longer unique in that sense.

Although readership itself is hard to measure, the current readership itself is not insignificant, as the empty news racks in Central Plaza or Woodang Hall attest to at the end of every month. In addition, the English Reading and Discussion course taught by Professor Maeng Ji-Hyeon uses GT as class material.

The GT alumni, both satisfied with and surprised at how far GT had come - from a newspaper to a magazine and from an amateur publication to a professional one, expected much of GT in the future as well. Kim Si-Cheol ('97, Food and Resource Economics) said, "Like the *Korea Times*, why not publish GT in both Korean and English? The difference between the *KU Weekly*, then, would be how in-depth the articles are, since *KU Weekly* is published weekly and GT is published monthly." Han said, "I hope GT will possess a diverse cultural spectrum. It is much easier to write and edit when the people or the contents are all the same, but life is no fun when everything is so easy."

This year's GT Anniversary Celebration is over, but it was a stepping stone for continued tighter link between the alumni members and the GT staff. The current GT staff is thankful to all the GT alumni for their watchful eyes and care. ■



Photograph by Kim Ha Joong



Provided by Lee Sihyoung

Open Course Ware to Open KU

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

In the U.S., one who does not belong to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) can take lectures which are provided by MIT through the Open Course Ware (OCW) system. In other countries, the OCW system allows the citizens to enjoy the lectures of the erudite scholars. In 2009, MIT announced that its OCW system had been visited by more than 50 million people worldwide.

The readers may wonder what the OCW system is. The OCW system is an instructional system which opens the lectures of the university to the public so that they can study and take lectures about the fields where they are interested. Through the system, the public can accomplish the study in their houses. The way for using the OCW system is quite simple. Access the Internet, connect to the OCW sites, and then one may take the lectures without any restrictions.

Presently, MIT, one of the Ivy League universities, and Stanford University are producing the lectures on various fields such as Architecture and Planning, Engineering, Science, Management, and so on. Especially, MIT provides more than 2,000 lectures through its OCW system (<http://ocw.mit.edu/index.htm>). In Korea, there are also several universities sharing their lectures to the public

through the OCW system. For example, Sookmyung Women's University provides its own lectures of the university to the public through its OCW system (<http://ocw.sookmyung.ac.kr>) and the OCW system of Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU) offers the opportunity for taking the famous lectures of Yale University, MIT, and the TED conference as well as its own lectures with its OCW website (<http://bee.skku.ac.kr>).

As mentioned, SKKU already founded an OCW system which is called "SKKOLAR". With the SKKOLAR system, the students of the university can participate in translating the courses of other universities in foreign countries. Most of the OCW systems which are already activated in Korea, including Sookmyung Women's University and Hanyang University, aim to introduce the world's masterpieces to Korean students. However, Korea University (KU) is aiming

to introduce its own lectures and intellectual contents to the whole wide world. The motto of the plan is, "From Korea to the world."

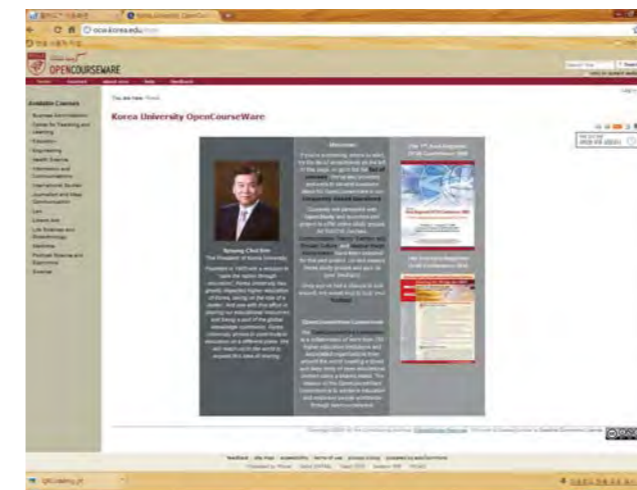
Unlike many other websites of the universities in Korea, KU intends to cover not only the courses, but the whole intellectual contents such as the records of the academic seminars, the knowledge of the KU students, and the mini lectures. The mini lectures are the video files whose runtimes are about ten minutes. They are about the academic topics which are contemporarily issued in Korea and produced by the eminent professors of KU. Moreover, the video files produced by the clubs of KU, such as Korea University Dance Team (KUDT), *Geureuteogi* (Korea University Acoustic Guitar club), and Real Investment Society of Korea University (RISK) are also going to be included in the contents for sharing the knowledge and the expertise of the clubs.

According to Kim Min Ja, a researcher for the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) of KU, KU is going to open a website called "Open KU" which is going to replace

their interest and enhance their competitiveness, and the high school students can refer to the lectures as a criterion for choosing their future schools. Moreover, the professors can receive direct feedback toward their lectures. Also, the OCW system could be used in the classroom as a method of educational technology. In other words, it can contribute to the sharing of knowledge.

When it comes to KU, the CTL is planning to make the "Open KU" website a way to manifest the potential of KU students to the world. Kim says, "There is a program called 'Creative Challenger Program (CCP) in the CTL. It helps the undergraduate students form a group and set up a problem model to solve it with the support of the CTL. One group of the CCP met a chance to enter the Challenge Based Learning (CBL) Program of Apple (<http://cbl.apple.com>) which is going to be launched on October 19, 2011. I think this could be a chance of promoting KU."

Each university has its particular field where the lectures are especially offered in OCW websites such as



the current OCW website. "We will collect the items together and make an intellectual platform of KU. After the whole works are finished, the contents will be translated into several languages in order to be supplied to the world," She says.

The purposes for offering the OCW system are various. For example, SKKU and Sookmyung Women's University are managing the sites in order to give their students opportunities to take the special lectures which cannot be produced by them. The University of Ulsan opened the OCW page as a means of talent donation to the local community and the residents. Many universities in the U.S. made an agreement with the African nations that they would offer the recorded files of their lectures through compact disc (CD) since the Internet infrastructure in Africa is not yet prepared. However, the main purpose of OCW is to provide an opportunity to receive higher education to everyone in the globe. Through this, the people who could not get a chance of higher education can feel

Architecture, Anthropology, and History. According to Kim, KU is focusing on the study of Korean culture, Korean language and literature, and the introduction of Korea. Since the CTL considers how the foreign people think of Korea, it concentrates the introducing of Korea and its culture.

The "Open KU" website will be founded in February, 2012. From then, the students may participate in making and uploading contents, joining the group for CCP, and taking the lectures of other colleges. ■



Although the current website will disappear 2012, Here is a QR code to the current OCW website of KU: QR CODE IMAGE



Across Borders and Over the Screen

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

As a lost foreigner approaches, many Koreans often disappear or pretend to be busy even before he opens his mouth to say "Excuse me." While these two words are valued as signs of formality and courtesy for the majority, they may be among the most dreaded words that Koreans want to avoid.

With our borders becoming more open than ever, exchanges between various countries are becoming a basis of our growing society. As a result, many different institutes today are encouraging global communication and the study of English which is often considered the global language today. As a prestigious global university in Korea, Korea University (KU) also has a joint program called Cross Cultural Distance Learning (CCDL) with many foreign universities. While some people are even willing to pay to make foreign friends and learn English, KU is providing a chance to have face to face conversations with people abroad on a regular basis.

The Beginning of CCDL

This program was introduced first in 1992 by a professor at KU in partnership with Michiko Nakano, a professor from Waseda University. With a successful semester of



Photograph by Kang Uoo Seob

real-time course-through-video system, Waseda provided KU with technical support, donating us the resources needed to build an Educational Media Center in the College of Liberal Arts at KU. Since 2002, KU has been running the Educational Media Center for operating CCDL program.

In this program, by applying the technology of Internet and media to classroom environment, students are able to experience various cultures more efficiently. Speaking English as a common language, students learn to 1) understand more in depth about their own studies, 2) understand international relationships between countries better, 3) actively participate in pointing out opinions and ideas, 4) and learn to see one's own country objectively. As such a communication system was very new throughout the country, KU is known to have set a new paradigm of communication with distant countries.

"I think it's a great program, especially for students like me who don't really have the chance to talk with foreign students. Yet, it would be better if we got the chance to meet these people, even if it's online, regularly so that we can make good friends," says Kim Yunji ('11, Geography Education). Likewise, many students who have taken part in the CCDL program comment that they were really excited to talk with many foreigners, especially because they could see who they were talking to.

Currently, many other universities other than Waseda are known to be participating in the programs. These universities include Essex University of England, Malaya University of Malaysia, Singapore University of Singapore and De La Salle University of the Philippines.

What Can We Seek From the CCDL Program?

With about 200 students from various majors and even post-graduates students taking part in the program every semester, they are given the opportunity to enhance their spoken English and also be updated with the newest information from ranges of studies. Moreover, these conversations are used for the research of identifying English communication errors often made by Koreans. Such implications have greatly contributed to the publishing of research analysis and degree papers.

Also, many programs are carried out outside of class time where many enthusiastic discussions take place between the professors and the students over video. In many cases, such discussions do not stop at the level of practicing English but even go further at which students understand each other's thoughts and receive valuable lessons. "I am hoping to learn more about different cultures through these global communications. By talking to people from different backgrounds, I believe that my views will broaden," commented Kim Tae Young ('11, Mass Media and Communication).

In addition, annual seminars are held for the participants domestically in order to promote international studies and also help individuals become better globalized people. There are also symposiums held almost every year where recommended students from each school are given the chance to participate. These symposiums are held in the participating universities and most of the expenses incurred by the program are taken care of by Waseda University, the hosting university.

What Goes on During the Program?

The current CCDL program is mainly divided into three different categories. Every Wednesday, students get together at a fixed time to discuss a given topic. They are allowed to express their thoughts freely and listen to others at the same time. Moreover, on Fridays, there is a program where KU and Waseda University operate a regular class together through video communication. The last program that students may participate in is the free discussions on wide ranges of topics that take place during individual free time. For the last program, students are able to sign up for a time that is convenient for them. Such interactions will surely help us understand better the discrepancies between cultures and individuals.

"We were given selected topics for every discussion session. Although we talked about these topics to begin with, we would often drift off to other personal topics. I often talked about the festivals here in KU and also travel-

ling. Having a foreign friend of my age was a great excitement for me. However, I thought that the sessions were too short for real deep conversations to take place. I wish there were more time," says Park Chang Hee ('10, English Language and Literature)

The majority of the students that first participate come seeking to improve their English skills. Yet, they often leave with more than just enhanced linguistic ability. They are left with friends that live abroad and a broader vision about the world that they live in. Many of these students often come back the next semester to participate again in the program.

How Can We Participate?

In order to increase awareness and participation in this program, CCDL is currently advertising during various classes and also going to professors for their help. Moreover, they are putting up posters around the school and also on popular community websites for KU students.

Therefore, this program is definitely not only for students studying English at KU nor is it limited to certain courses. Anyone from any year can take part as long as they are a student at KU. If you are willing to take part, you should keep your eyes open for posters around the school every beginning of the semester, or you can even contact the Educational Media Center in the College of Liberal Arts directly. ■

Location of Educational Media Center: College of Liberal Arts 222B

Contact Number: 02-3290-1316



Photograph by Kang Uoo Seob

Features

Linking the Living Antennas

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

You are in a famous restaurant. You “check in” and leave a short note of how you like the food there. Your friend “likes” your note and you two “tweet” about it. If any part of this routine sounds familiar, you are also a Social Networking Service (SNS) user, just like other people around you today.

Nowadays, relationships are actively formed not only in the real world but also online, often as prolonged ones from offline. These new networks are dramatically increasing with the reinforcement of SNS. SNS is an online service, site, or platform that works as a ground for social relations. SNS is basically an individual-based society; each person is represented online with one's own page, wall, or homepage, and is linked to others like in real society, but in a broader way, with some different aspects. By using their own profiles and interacting with others', users share thoughts, events, activities, and interests.

The best thing about using SNS is relative ease in creating and broadening relationships. It is hard to ignore that SNS such as Facebook and Kakao Talk make people chat more freely, lightheartedly, and frequently. It is also a fast way to distribute information to many people. What would have taken quite a while for friends of your friends to know is now delivered instantly to them as you post it. This immediate and varied experience is fun and recreational.

In addition to the formation of relationships, SNS has become a powerful means of advertising—not only for individuals but also for businesses, celebrities and artists. Promoting a certain product or a program without using SNS is regarded as missing out on the biggest potential market. A famous example of combining marketing with SNS is a site called Groupon; it presents certain products or services with huge discount and a limited number of people can consume in groups. The system of offering on a first-come-first-serve basis at a special price makes people impulsively jump into consumption. Facebook and other SNS are also well-known for their skillful promotion of products and events.

However, as many addictive users might have felt, SNS has side effects just as powerful as its positive impact. SNS

has a very low sense of privacy and security. Even when the postings are open only to “friends,” it is easy for other cyber acquaintances to approach, not to mention the fact that many online friends are not really “friends” offline. Plus, anyone can just simply capture or save postings on your page that, even after you erase them, there still is a possibility that someone else has them.

SNS is time-consuming. Many users find themselves writing trivial things or scanning through others' daily lives and making comments on them. Although the use of SNS starts off as one of the essential ways in contacting and sharing, it becomes more of a pastime. This is connected to the matter of broader but lighter relationships that prevail in SNS. Most of the time, SNS relationships are just on extension of offline relationships, and many focus on extending their contact online without any specific purpose. It might depend on individual, but in general, SNS relationships are not much in pursuit of valuable and long-lasting growth.

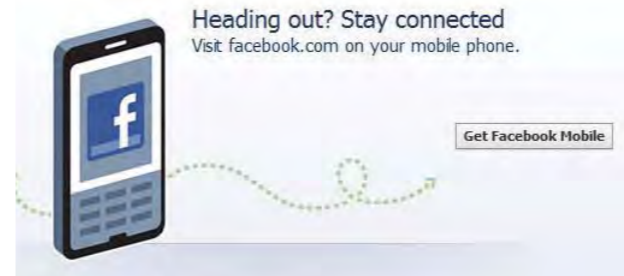
With the growing number of pages and walls that are pasted with more quantitative but less qualitative things, finding valuable and accurate information becomes much harder. Amplifying number of users—exceeding 700 million by 2010 and skyrocketing due to the increased supply of smart-phones—should consider these drawbacks of SNS and make the best use out of it.

Facebook

“Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.”

Founded in 2004 by Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook was first a social network only for Harvard students. Over time, it broadened its user bounds finally to anyone with an e-mail account in 2006. Starting from 13, the number of users exceeded 800 million in July 2011, spreading to over 180 countries. Now there are 1,600,000 Korean users.

facebook



People in their 20s to 30s are the main users; users from age 25 to 34 are 41 percent of all users.

Facebook provides a “wall” where you can update your status in letters or in pictures. Your Facebook friends can also write on your wall. Friends can click a “like” button on the postings they like and post replies. One can also click “share” and get others' postings onto your own wall. “Sharing” works for postings on other websites as well; Facebook is connected to more than 15,000 websites. There is also “tagging.” For example, when you post a picture of you and your friends on the wall, you “tag” your friends on their pictures, and your friends are notified of being “tagged.” Every little click—“liking,” “sharing,” “tagging,” and even “friending” someone—appears on the wall and is shared with friends. It is like everyone is seeing your every movement, so it might be better to be careful if you do not feel like sharing everything with a few hundred “friends” who might actually be strangers.

Facebook is also widely used for group pages for alumni or companies.

Twitter

“Follow your interests”

Instant updates from your friends, industry experts, favorite celebrities, and what's happening around the world.

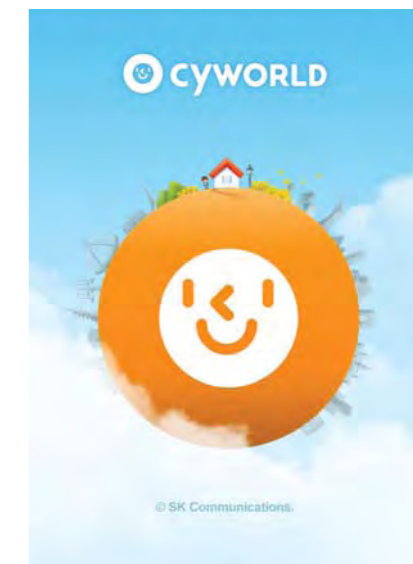
Just as its name indicates, Twitter is an online place for people to “tweet” in short messages less than 140 letters. Started in July 2006, Twitter enhanced its position as famous figures joined it. Now retaining more than a million Korean users, Twitter is especially popular to people



in their 30s. While Facebook links people as “friends” and Cyworld as “ilchon,” Twitter provides a “follower-following” relationship; so the following relationship can often be one-sided. Tweets of people you follow are delivered to you, but not the other way around.

You can “mention” someone when you are directing your message at that person. Then your message appears on the profile of “mentioned” person. There are several things you can do with others' tweets; “reply,” “retweet,” or click a “favorite” button. When you “retweet” others' tweets, they are pasted on your profile, notifying your followers as well. Marking tweets as “favorite” is like bookmarking, making them appear on your page. When you feel like delivering messages in a more private way, you can send “direct messages,” although it is only possible to someone who follows you.

Cyworld



Cyworld's biggest emphasis is on *sayi*—a Korean word for relationship, and *inmaek*—a word for personal connections. “Friending” in Cyworld is done in a way of forming *ilchon* relationships. *Ilchon* refers to a close, first-hand relationship. Cyworld provides *minihompy* (mini-homepage) for users; it is a separate window which feels more like a

private room, compared to the “wall” in Facebook. *Minihompy* consists of menus like profile, diary, photo, video, jukebox, board, and guest book. One can upload texts and pictures without limit on capacity. Convenience in scraping others' pictures to one's own *minihompy* is one of the advantages that users find in Cyworld.

As it puts importance on people and relationships, it provides an easy path for finding people—it gets easier as more people become a member of at least one cy-club, a Cyworld-based community. Once you become *ilchon* with someone, he or she and even his or her friend become just a click away.

Another characteristic of Cyworld is that it uses *dotori*—a Korean word for acorn—as cyber money. People can use *dotories*, which cost 100 won each, to buy virtual goods. Many use them to buy decorations for their *minihompies*, such as background pictures called “skin” or background music. ■

Does God Want Them to be Politicians?

By Kang Uoo Seob (cmzktk8585@korea.ac.kr)

Christians are now ready to be embroiled in chaotic politics. A group of Christians established a political party, a move that is generating a variety of controversies. Would it be able to change the political dynamics of spoiled, corrupt Korea? Or, is it a breach of "separation of church and state?"



Seven months are left until the next general election. As a political season is approaching, "Polistian," a group of pastors who involve themselves in politics, has been busy preparing for it just like any other politicians. The Christian Liberal Democratic Party (CLDP), which has been preparing its launching since March, celebrated its founding officially on September 20th.

Several influential far-right pastors, Kim Hong-do, Jeon Kwang Hoon, and Choi Byung Doo, proclaimed support for the party. Pastor Cho Yonggi, a founder of the largest church in the world, Yoido Full Gospel Church, had been also known to want to lead the party, but he severed his connections with it for unknown reasons. Even though it might have been a great help to the party if pastor Cho had supported it, it already got off to a smooth start. The party had been spotlighted by media even before the party's official launch. Pastor Jeon Kwang Hoon's remark that "Divorced couples should pay a fine of 100,000 dollars, and if a married couple does not give birth to five children, they should go to jail" was widely reported, resulting in an improvement of the public's awareness of the party.

Leaders of CLDP clarified the reason for its launch as their distrust of the Grand National Party (*Hannaradang* in Korea), which is known to best represent Korean conservatives. They judged that the Grand National Party is not trying hard enough to protect their rights, so they created this political party to make their own voice. CLDP aims to obtain 750,000 votes to gain 4 seats in the National Assembly in the next general election. Pastor Jeon Kwang Hoon, a leading figure of the party, said, "A Christian party gained 440,000 votes in the 2008 general election with only two month's preparation. With seven months to prepare, I am sure CLDP will draw many more number of votes this time."

The biggest goal and pledge of the party is the eradication of the pro-North Korea left wing. It claims that Christians should take the lead in awakening the public to the serious national security problem,

citing examples of recent military provocations from the North.

When Seoul held an election on the issue of free lunches in public schools, members of CLDP strongly criticized the policy of free lunch as "ruinous populism" and encouraged all Christians to vote to stop the left's plans. Not changing its conservative stand on public welfare, CLDP has pledged to expel "socialistic" welfareism. CLDP also stands firmly against the government's financial support for other religions, especially Buddhism and Islam.

Not surprisingly, many Christians have shown strong support at the launch of the Christian political party, expecting positive changes in Korean politics in which severe conflicts and immoral corruption are rampant. Um Tae-ung, a preacher of Myodong Church, welcomes the establishment of CLDP, saying "A far-right party like CLDP is definitely necessary in Korean politics. Corruptions and immorality have permeated every corner of Korean society and politics. CLDP members and leaders, who are ethical Christians, will be able to shed a new light on current chaotic politics." Jin Jang Won ('11 Business Administration), who is regularly attends church, supports the party's cause, saying "As long as CLDP members do not go astray and they stick to what they have arguing for, it would provide positive impacts on Korean politics, enhancing moral standards of politicians."

However, CLDP cannot help but face harsh criticism because of its overly biased pledges. Its far-right pledges, which promise

to purge the whole left-wing, arouse hostility from those who do not support CLDP. Its pledges do not seem to consider the diversity of political views in Korea and focus only on the establishment of far-right government, which hardly tolerates the left.

Moreover, Lee Man Yul, a professor of Sukmyung Women's University, pointed out the irony of the Christian party at a panel discussion about whether a Christian party is necessary in Korea: "Korean churches did not criticize autocratic governments in 1970s and 1980s, arguing for the separation of church and state, but after Korea achieved democratic reform throughout 1990s, they are raising their political voices and they try to interfere in politics. This is just ironical."

Critics also cast doubt on the morality of the leading members of CLDP, asserting that members of CLDP are not morally different from, or better than, other politicians. They point out that several pastors have violated laws and been sentenced to imprisonment. Pastor Jeon was sentenced to 10-month imprisonment for violation of election laws in 2008. Pastor Kim Hong Do was also sentenced to 30-month imprisonment for

embezzlement of



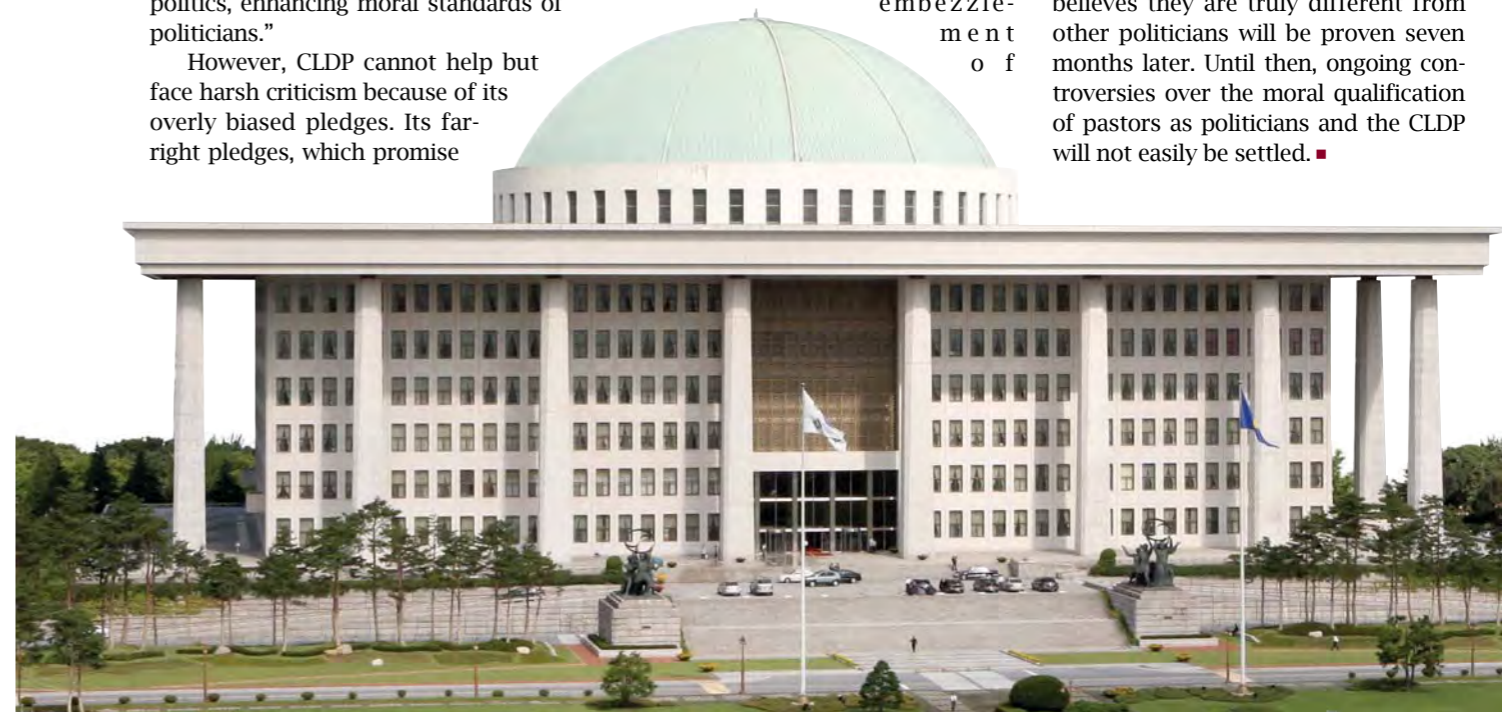
church's funds. They are the top two leading figures of CLDP.

Witnessing such legal suspicions, it is natural that the public mistrust their honesty, the most significant virtue of a politician. Im Soong Hyuk (26, Seoul) said, "Christianized Korea would be no different from present Korea. After Lee Myung Bak, an elder of one of the biggest churches, came into power, many Christians and even non-Christians expected a lot from him, hoping that his government would be more ethical than other governments. However, his government has disappointed us, proving that a Christian president is not necessarily ethical or honest."

Kim Chung Lip, the representative of CLDP, defends the pastors, saying "They are successful pastors who are leading mega churches. They are ethical, moral, honest. They are different from others." Whether the public truly believes they are truly different from other politicians will be proven seven months later. Until then, ongoing controversies over the moral qualification of pastors as politicians and the CLDP will not easily be settled. ■

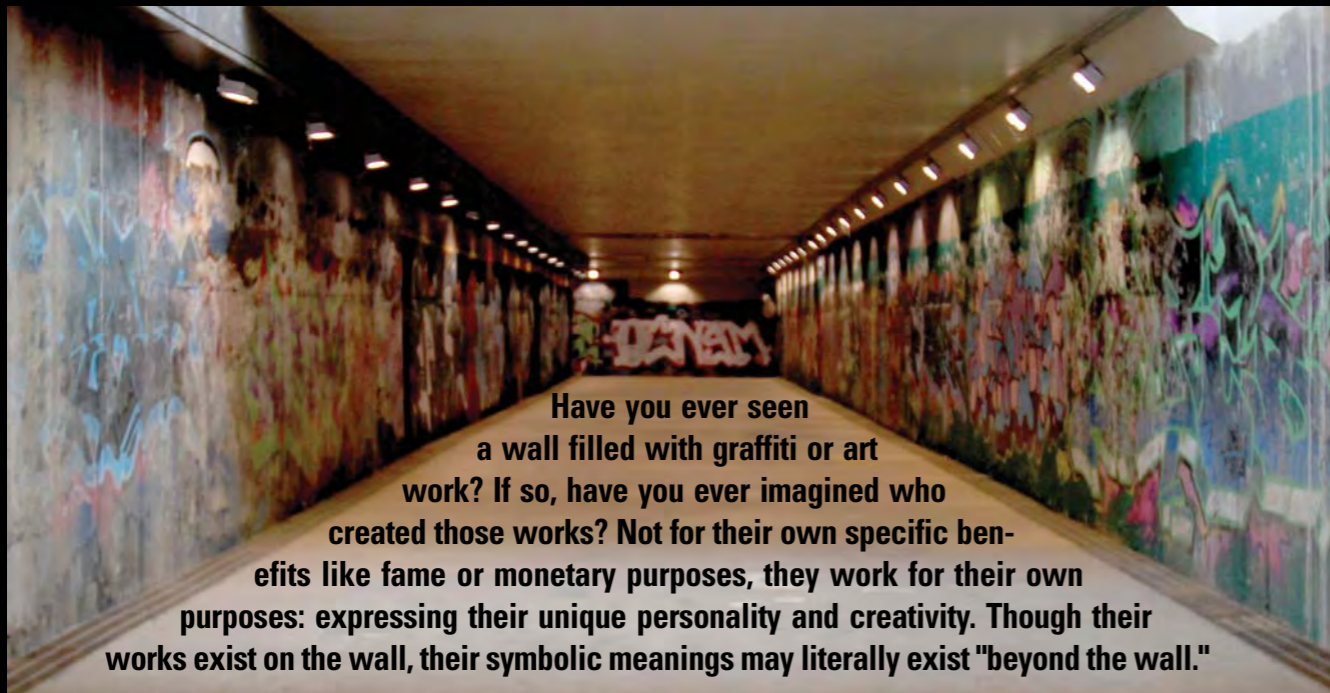


"For Korea to get through the hardship."



Street Art Beyond the Wall

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



Have you ever seen a wall filled with graffiti or art work? If so, have you ever imagined who created those works? Not for their own specific benefits like fame or monetary purposes, they work for their own purposes: expressing their unique personality and creativity. Though their works exist on the wall, their symbolic meanings may literally exist "beyond the wall."

Photograph by Park Jin Young

Zacpot, one of the anonymous street artists, says, "Based on the district of Hongik University, street arts and graffiti have existed everywhere in Seoul. On the street, full with traces of faceless artists, there is a rule of its own. They incessantly put out their works of creativity and individuality, though it seems hard for some of us to catch the hidden meanings behind their arts. Street arts, maintaining their own peculiarity, have existed until this time."

Motives of starting work on a street, which exists between vandalism and street art, are usually aimed at showing their works not on the exhibition space but on the street so that their works could be seen by more unspecified individuals. The desire of

displaying what they would like to say and their arts could be the main purpose of street art.

"Some artists love the thrill because doing street art is illegal in some places. The most basic reason, however, is that they can create their arts everywhere they want and that they have interests and desires in street art," says Zacpot.



Introduction of Street Art and Its History

The term Graffiti originated from the Italian word "*graffiato*", a form of art for scratched images. And with the introduction of aerosol spray cans, graffiti has come a long way and evolved into modern graffiti. Urban graffiti, usually seen throughout the country, was initiated by the resistant culture of teenagers in Harlem, New York. From then, entering into early eighties, it had become intertwined with hip hop culture. As of now, it settled down as an important element of hip-hop.

GRAFFITI

Graffiti consists of images, scratched letterings, and other uses of materials. So to speak, three leading components organize street graffiti as follows: tagging, bombing, and throw-up.

Tagging



Most of the graffiti works have their names written on it. It could be seen as a sign of taggers (another name of graffiti artists), and is called tagging. Tagging is usually hand-styled, personalized, and done by the use of stencil or sticker.

Bombing



Bombing is used to draw the artist's tag name bigger using more than three colors, commonly seen as images of colorful alphabets. It consumes long hours and is a very painstaking work. So, it is usually regarded as a pivotal part of graffiti.

Throw-up



Throw-up sits between a tag and a bombing within the framework of complexity and time spent. It exists in a form of easy-to-paint bubble shapes for quick execution.

STREET ART

Street art, in the form of avant-garde, is a kind of artwork that is done sporadically in public places. Some, due to its peculiarity, call it "Guerrilla Art" and it usually consists of drawing on the street and attaching works on roads. Besides the aforementioned, there are lots of diverse forms of street art.

Sticker art



Sticker art, also known as sticker tagging, makes use of stickers to display an image or message. This could be about a political issue or art campaign.

Street poster art / Paste-up



Categorized as one factor of street art, poster and paste-up are worked by the use of a hand-made poster or printed ones. It is usually considered as the arts opposed to the ones in a gallery or museum.

Painting and stencil



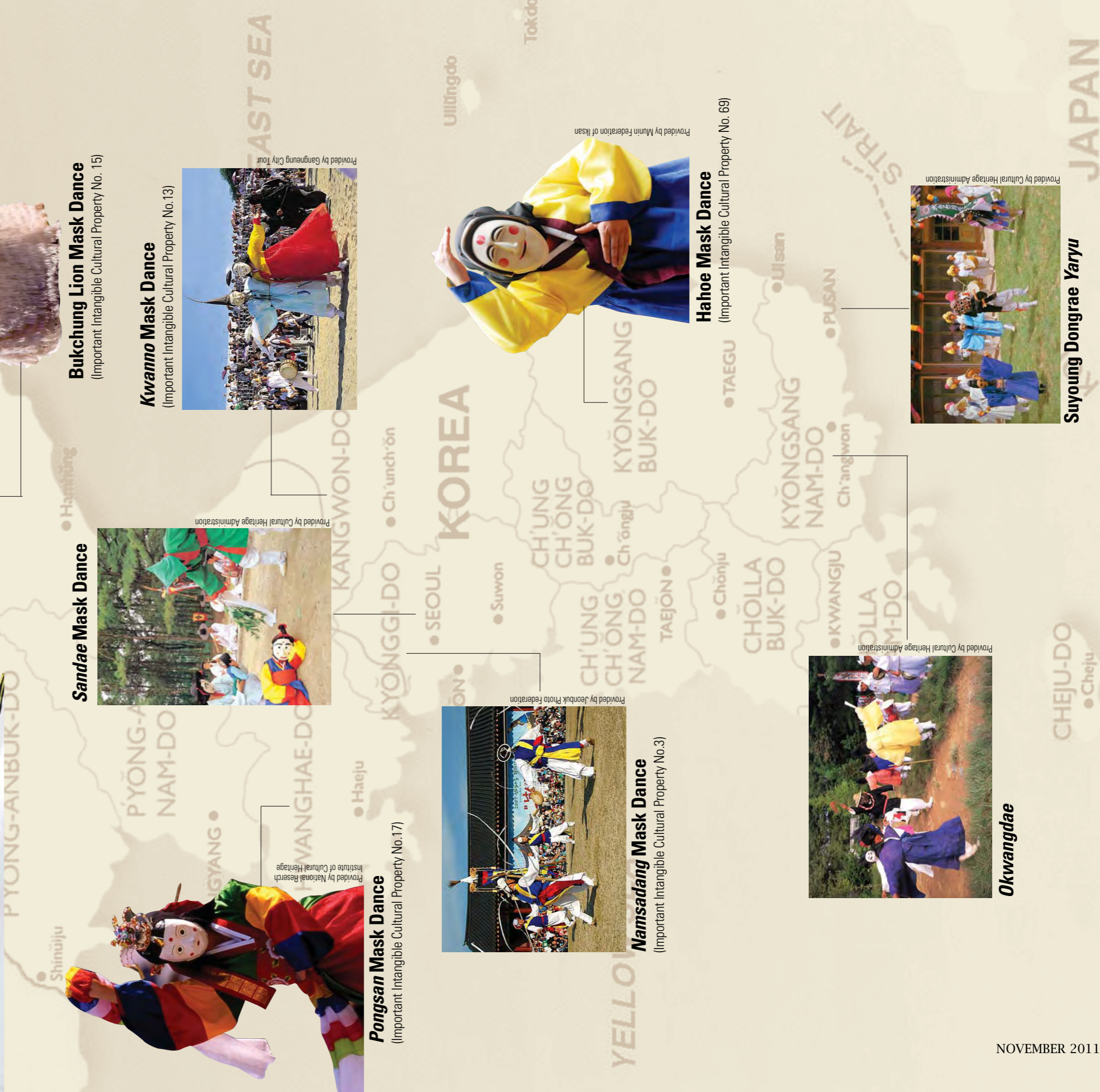
Painting is the same practice as other works in terms of using spray paint. It is usually worked by the use of paints.

Street artists on the street ask for nothing for their works of art. They just come out at the break of day and work on their own creations with paint, colors, or the like. They only try to communicate through their works, and sometimes its hidden meanings cast a shadow beyond the wall.

"By creating street art, actually I could not get some specific benefits from outside myself, but I could be satisfied with my inner self-contentment. I think that is why street art is more artistic than any other kinds of art." says Zacpot. ■

Korea, a Variety of Tal-chums Waiting for You

By Kweon Yun Jin (alphabrain92@korea.ac.kr),



Sandae Mask Dance



Provided by Cultural Heritage Administration

Bukchung Lion Mask Dance

(Important Intangible Cultural Property No. 15)



Kwannon Mask Dance

(Important Intangible Cultural Property No.13)



Provided by Gyeongju City Tour

Pongsan Mask Dance

(Important Intangible Cultural Property No.17)



Provided by National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage

Namsadang Mask Dance

(Important Intangible Cultural Property No.3)



Provided by Jeonbuk Photo Federation

Hahoe Mask Dance

(Important Intangible Cultural Property No. 69)



Provided by Munn Federation of Iksan

Okwangdae



Provided by Cultural Heritage Administration

CHEJU-DO

● Cheju

Suyoung Dongrae Yaryu



Provided by Cultural Heritage Administration

JAPAN

When watching opera, there are several rules. Arrive at the venue at least ten minutes before the performance starts. Turn off your cell phone so that others are not bothered. Taking pictures is not allowed, and children under age eight either cannot go into the theater or must be kept quiet. Sometimes, the audience is required to follow a certain dress code. Nevertheless, these instructions are not applied to the case of Korean mask dance. All you need to do is let yourself enjoy the performance.

Tal-chum, which means mask dance in Korean, is one of the folksiest traditional arts, but in a superficial way. There are few chances to watch *Tal-chum*, even so most people show little interest. “Although I had several opportunities to see *Tal-chum* before, I have never been to one for I am not into it,” says Yoo Seung-Ah (‘11, Foreign Languages and Literatures). Nonetheless, once you step into the world of *Tal-chum*, you will be enchanted.

Tal-chum consists of dialogue and dance with background music, and a story is composed of several chapters in omnibus style. Having been rooted as folk culture from the 17th century, although it had been handed down as the play for royal family far back, *Tal-chum* entails folksy values. The authority of the privileged class was being questioned in those days, so its contents are mostly related to sarcasm towards the hypocrisy of the upper class as well as the reality of commoners with difficult living conditions. Characters are based on various social classes—ruined noblemen, shamans, servants, apostate monks, merchants, and ordinary people, whose masks are humorously described to maximize sarcastic effect. For the same reason, the dialogue is full of witty expressions and vulgar language. Due to these features, *Tal-chum* was almost never played and enjoyed by noblemen.

The Korean mask dance is often called “living theater,” and it lies on the fact that there is no gap between the stage and the seat. Contrary to Western performances where the audience should be silent, dancers in *Tal-chum* actively try to communicate with viewers. They often directly talk to each audience as well as musicians who provide accompaniment. Sometimes, those actors point out to one specific person to come into the center so that one can be part of a play.

Another noticeable trait is that there is no particular formality. Actually, *Tal-chum* can be performed everywhere as long as there is a flat ground for the audience. No special set is necessary but a tiny temporary place to let performers change their costumes. Since the show can be viewed from every direction, the audience can fully identify the actors. In addition, a manuscript is not that important. Since its lines had been passed down orally until the 1930’s, the dialogue is changed every time. In other words, the script only suggests a whole outline, and the amount could be often adjusted.

Bukchung Lion Mask Dance (Important Intangible Cultural Property No. 15)

The lion has been regarded to scare away evil spirits. Supported by the belief, Bukchung Lion Mask Dance has been performed to pray for peace in a village in January. Although it was based on Hamgyeongnam province, North Korea, the mask dance is handed down centering in Seoul by some performers who moved to the South after the Korean War. On the original basis, its venues were individual houses where performers were invited. Wishing for long life, people made their children ride on the back of or stuck tiny colorful papers to the lion. Money that was collected during plays was used for public interest such as scholarships, aid for the needy or the elderly. The mask dance puts a higher priority on acrobatics and exciting movements rather than lines or sarcasm. Consequently, actions are far more energetic and skillful than lions’ dance in different regions. Similarly, it is an interesting fact that other characters except lions do not wear masks.

Hahoe Mask Dance (Important Intangible Cultural Property No. 69)

Every three, five, or ten years, our ancestors exorcised praying a good harvest and peace in their town, and Andong Hahoe village, recently designated as World Heritage, is the perfect example. For half a millennium, villagers had performed an exorcism when something special happened or once a decade on December 15. To please the guardian spirit, people had played Hahoe Mask Dance after a worship ceremony was over. The most distinctive trait is that unlike other mask dances, the used masks are not burned after the performance. This *Tal-chum* is considered to be highly priceless because it can be a good academic resource to figure out the very origin of Korean mask dance.

Kwanno Mask Dance (Important Intangible Cultural Property No.13)

If you go to Gangneung in the early May, you could luckily run into the *Kwanno* Mask Dance. During the town festival, performers used to dance in front of a shrine throughout the city, which shows it had ritualistic

attribute. As its players were slaves at governmental office called *Kwanno*, its contents do not contain criticism towards the upper class. Instead of the dialogue, much more various dance movements were developed than any other *Tal-chum*. Unfortunately, during the Japanese colonial era, the transmission of the mask dance was forcibly halted by the authorities. However, it could be preserved again because this one was designated as Important Intangible Cultural Property in 1967.

Namsadang Mask Dance (Important Intangible Cultural Property No.3)

Namsadang signifies travelling clowns without certain regional basis, who had entertained folks from the late Joseon dynasty to the 1920’s. As a part of the whole *Namsadang* play, the mask dance is the fifth turn out of six programs. The show, otherwise called *Namsadang-deotbogi*, presents even more keen sarcasm and parody than those of Yangju *Pyolsandae* and Pongsan Mask Dance. In contrast to *Kwanno* Mask Dance, its lines and actions were a lot more advanced than dance. Not sticking to fixed schedules, it could immediately satisfy people’s need for entertainment.

Okwangdae

Okwangdae was developed along the southern coast and western side of Nak-dong River in Gyeongsangnam province. Especially, Hapcheon is known to be a cradle of *Okwangdae*. Since the city was the trade hub, every summer, in order to vitalize the market, merchants paid for clowns so that they could come and play. As to contents, criticism toward the upper class is much harsher than any *Tal-chum* in the country. For example, appearances of characters representing the upper class are usually depicted in an abnormal way such as the disabled. Above all, lepers’ dance is what only *Okwangdae* contains. Today, *Okwangdae* in five areas—Jinju, Kasan(Important Intangible Cultural Property No.73), Goseong(Important Intangible Cultural Property No.7), Tongyeong(Important Intangible Cultural Property No. 6), Masan—has only been passed down.

Pongsan Mask Dance (Important Intangible Cultural Property No.17)

Pongsan is a city located in Hwanghae province, North Korea. For two centuries, it has been performed twice a year. Just as most *Tal-chums*, ahead of the performance, actors in masks and clothes march in procession to the venue, which is named *Gilnori*. Also, a worship ceremony is carried out in order to pray to a guardian spirit. In line with *Tal-chum* of Kangryung, it is the most representative mask play in the area. Compared to others, it is pretty unique that there are many sophisticated and intellectual expressions borrowed from classic poetry. Additionally, it has a wider range of dance movements that are splendid.

Sandae Mask Dance

Since *Tal-chum* as an official ceremony was banned in the 17th century, its performers had widely scattered throughout the suburbs of Seoul. In their residence, they gathered squads of the mask dancers, giving shows on tour in every inch of the country. These first companies were named *Bonsandae*, though they are not inherited nowadays. Instead, several offshoots, called *Pyolsandae*, were formed following original performances in other regions such as Yangju and Songpa (Important Intangible Cultural Property No. 49). Among them, Yangju *Pyolsandae* (Important Intangible Cultural Property No.2) is the only preserved mask dance in Gyeonggi province. The *Sandae* Mask Dance is neater and more equipped with formality than other sorts. Besides, its classification of dance moves are the most detailed in Korea.

Suyoung, Dongrae Yaryu

When the first full moon of the lunar year comes up, ancestors played these two mask dances. *Yaryu*, which indicates play on the field outside, firstly appeared as *Okwangdae* had been transmitted to Busan. It was performed by villagers, whereas its origin (*Okwandae*) was shown by professional dancers. It was Suyoung Yaryu (Important Intangible Cultural Property No.43) that was created earlier. A couple of centuries ago, one general invited clowns to the naval post called Suyoung in those days, and some of his soldiers learned it, which became its beginning. Unlike other kinds of *Yaryu*, it includes the lions’ dance instead of lepers’ dance. Suyoung *Yaryu* is a time-honored *Tal-chum* with highly artistic and social values. In case of Dongrae *Yaryu* (Important Intangible Cultural Property No.18), having been modeled on the Suyoung version, it had been played wishing for a good harvest. One of the most famous characteristics of this *Tal-chum* is that its masks look like faces of genuine humans since their jaws can move when actors speak.

Travelling around Korea, someday you may be given some opportunities to watch *Tal-chum* performance. Indeed, if you look for those chances, you could easily meet them since there are several events such as Andong International Mask Dance Festival, which is annually held from the late September to the early October. If so, what you just need to bring is an open-mind and some enthusiasm for it. Indeed, you do not have to worry about anything at all—even your noisy children. ■



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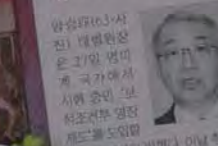
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“70兆 날릴 각오” 삼성, 애플과 끝까지 겨룬다

시위에 조가세

양승태 대법원장 “구속과 동시에 보석 허가 추진”



2011 대학평가 - 종합평가 (상) 대학 경쟁력 (중) 국제화·교수연구 (하) 교육혁신

투자의 힘 ... 성균관·중앙대 ‘교육혁신’ 모델로

성균관대·중앙대 ‘교육혁신’ 모델로

By Jeon Shi Hyun (roben@korea.ac.kr),
Park Jong Hun (polo3355@korea.ac.kr),
and Song Gyu Jin (ssong915@korea.ac.kr)

There are all kinds of rankings in the world. Bestsellers, Billboard hits, FIFA teams Rankings, and...universities? Is it possible to decide the ranking of university objectively? If so, is it right to rank education?

소통의 힘 ... 동국·서울시립·숙명여대 약진

순위 계속 상승한 대학들

이전 5위 서울시립대 종합평가 순위가 4위로 상승했다. 서울시립대가 종합평가에서 2009년 이후 5년간 3위, 4위, 5위, 4위, 3위, 2위, 1위, 1위, 1위를 차지했다. 이는 종합평가 순위 상승을 의미하며, 학교의 명성을 높여준다. 학교의 명성을 높여주는 것은 대학의 경쟁력을 높여준다. 대학의 명성을 높여주는 것은 대학의 경쟁력을 높여준다. 대학의 명성을 높여주는 것은 대학의 경쟁력을 높여준다.

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“단기적으로 자율적으로 ‘교육혁신’을 통해 ‘우수 교수 체제’를 구축할 계획입니다.”	“교육혁신을 통해 ‘우수 교수 체제’를 구축할 계획입니다.”	“교육혁신을 통해 ‘우수 교수 체제’를 구축할 계획입니다.”	“교육혁신을 통해 ‘우수 교수 체제’를 구축할 계획입니다.”	“교육혁신을 통해 ‘우수 교수 체제’를 구축할 계획입니다.”

전북대, 국립대 유일 연속 도약

국립대, 국제화로 혁신 일궈

“교육혁신을 통해 ‘우수 교수 체제’를 구축할 계획입니다.”

Just recently, *The JoongAng Ilbo* announced its “2011 University Rankings”. Korea University (KU) was ranked fifth with Sungkyunkwan University. You may have seen the poster hanging on our campus: Congratulation! KU Japanese Language and Literature Department was evaluated as the top arts and social science department. How did one KU department end up No. 1? That turns out to be a very complicated question. Newspapers, magazines, independent organizations, think tanks, and government ministries are all ranking universities, using their own sets of criteria. To discover if these rankings fulfill their goal of objectivity, informing students and parents in the process of choosing a university and of contributing to the improvement of institutions of higher education, GT took an in-depth look at four well-known rankings. Read on to find out if these influential rankings can be trusted and if the KU Japanese Language and Literature Department really has something to boast about.

JoongAng Ilbo University Ranking

Near the end of September, *The JoongAng Ilbo* annually runs a special feature on university evaluations. The evaluations are part of a commemoration project to celebrate the newspaper's founding on September 21. Since 1994, *The JoongAng Ilbo* has been releasing university rankings every year with two main purposes: to provide the public with accurate information about universities and to motivate universities' development through competition. Under the principle of fairness and objectivity, *The JoongAng Ilbo* intends to bring about positive changes to Korean higher education through this project.

This year, *The JoongAng Ilbo* ranked 100 universities in four areas—educational conditions, globalization, professors' research, and reputation—with 32 indexes. As assessment materials are the basis of the whole process, it is crucial that their sources are reliable. Except for the indexes regarding public opinions, all the data are from credible sources and

“Fairness and Objectivity”

an advisory panel, which consists of members with various specialties, is formed to decide whether the evaluation index and weighting are appropriate.

Choe Sun Uk, *The JoongAng Ilbo* reporter and author of the evaluation, said that they did their best to maintain fairness, objectivity and credibility. “We, *The JoongAng Ilbo*, did not arbitrarily set the assessment standards. Through public hearing with eight university deans of planning, we decided on which indexes are suitable for evaluation uses.” Choe added, “Some say that *The JoongAng Ilbo* favored certain universities in arranging the rankings, but that is not true. We also made sure that all the data were correct by double checking the statistics with all the universities.”

The highest possible ranking is 350 points, and each sector is given a different weight. Educational conditions, which total 110 points, consist of 13 indexes including educational spending and scholarships. To improve the quality and practicality of courses, they came up with new indexes which give more credit to universities which disclosed the course evaluation results to students and to those with a high percentage of students who are involved in work experiences. They expect these new assessment standards will encourage universities to be more devoted to student education.

The globalization sector requires schools to be more active in cultivating students who are ready to lead in a globalized world. For this area, *The JoongAng Ilbo* has been using the same standards since 2006. The number of foreign students, the percentage of major courses taught in English, and the number of foreign professors are also taken into consideration. The sector's weighting is 70

points.

Professors' research along with educational conditions accounts for 110 points. The number of professors' research papers and the amount of research funds provided by the university are the major determinants. These data were drawn from Korean Researcher Information (KRI) for accuracy. *The JoongAng Ilbo* also enhanced fairness and objectivity by evaluating not only the quantity but also the quality of the research papers.

The last sector is the schools' reputations. These 70 points inevitably involves subjectivity, as it considers people's thoughts. Professors' comments, companies' preferences, specialists' and public's opinions are reflected in the survey results that are used in this evaluation. Students' employment rates are also included.

Although *The JoongAng Ilbo* is making efforts to increase the fairness and objectivity of its rankings by improving their assessment standards, there is still some criticism that were less than completely fair and objective. Critics frequently point out the indexes from the globalization sector, which has a weighting of approximately 14 percent. Many raise questions about the necessity and suitability of two of the indexes: the percentage of major courses taught in English and the number of foreign students.

Lee Joon Koo (Economics, Seoul National University) clearly expresses his doubts about the index consider-

Rank	University	Total (350)
1	KAIST	293
2	POSTECH	275
3	Seoul National University	252
4	Yonsei University (Seoul)	251
5	Korea University (Anam)	245
5	Sungkyunkwan University	245

ing the courses taught in English. In one of his papers he writes, "Why should the fact that major courses are taught in English be considered as a source of pride? If the course was about English skills training, then it might be desirable. However, what good is it for students when philosophy, economics, and law are taught in English?" The index's intention is understandable as Korea considers English skills a necessity. However, many people find it unreasonable to be used as an indication of a university's quality. In the case of considering the number of foreign students, it seems that it failed to take all factors into consideration. A large number of foreign students might mean that the university is successfully on its way to globalization but it might just mean that the university has a less complicated admissions procedure for foreign students. Numbers cannot tell us everything.

Another criticism frequently mentioned was about the reputation of the university, which *The JoongAng Ilbo* puts particular importance on. Since the reputation is based on people's opinions, it is a subjective factor. There are certain universities that are always on the top of the list of "good universities," and this tendency is too influential. Past reputations are no guarantee of today's excellence.

The Chosun Ilbo and the Quacquarelli-Symonds (QS) Asian University Rankings

The Chosun Ilbo and QS have evaluated Asian universities since 2005, and this year ranked 437 universities of 14 nations. QS, as an organization that has the public's trust, assessed Asian universities by the use of international standards, excluding several Korean or Asian standards like regionalism and school relations. Therefore, it is considered as a more impartial organization than other Asian ones.

QS had carried out world university evaluation with *The Times*, an influential UK publication, since 2003, and it presented results in *the Sunday Times*.

QS evaluates universities on the

Rank	University	Asian ranking
1	Seoul National University	6
2	Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)	11
3	Pohang University of Science & Technology (POSTECH)	12
4	Yonsei University (Seoul)	18
5	Korea University (Seoul)	26

followings: research skills (60%), education level (20%), graduate reputation (10%), and globalization (10%).

Research skills, which account for more than half, consist of the number of papers per professor (15%), the quotations per paper (15%), and academic assessment (30%). To recognize how much investment universities have made for students, QS also measure the number of students per professor.

Apart from the aforementioned, by surveying human resources directors all over the world, they try to check graduate reputation. Globalization includes the ratio of foreign teachers, foreign students, and exchange students.

Some say, however, QS is just a company which merely uses easily compiled data or indexes and sells it to high school and college students across the world. QS's elements of evaluation have some major problems too.

As stated above, research skills count for as much as 60%, and this focuses more on research in the sciences. QS does not consider the differences in paper quotation aspects between the social and human sciences, and science and engineering. Therefore, universities specializing in social and human sciences have difficulty scoring well on research skills, and universities with a lower student enrollment are in the same situation.

In 2009, QS made a gross blunder on counting the number of papers for several universities. For example, the professors of a university located in Chungcheongbuk province wrote about 2,300 papers from 2003 to 2007. However, the number that QS uses for its evaluation was zero. So to speak, 2,317 papers and 10,543 times

of paper quotation were uncollected. The same mistake was made with several other universities in Korea and four foreign universities.

Academic assessment, which is half of research skills, has defects too. Some experts say that it is more subjective than objective.

Globalization, which takes up 10% of whole evaluation process, does not seem to measure the exact level of university globalization. Because the globalization index has become an important factor of university rankings, more and more universities have been competing to attract a large number of international students or foreign lecturers. In this process, some universities have invited foreign students whose academic ability may not be all that high. "Due to fierce competition, the average academic level of foreign students seems to be decreasing. Some of them do not even know basic Korean skills and do not have the will to study at all," said one professor.

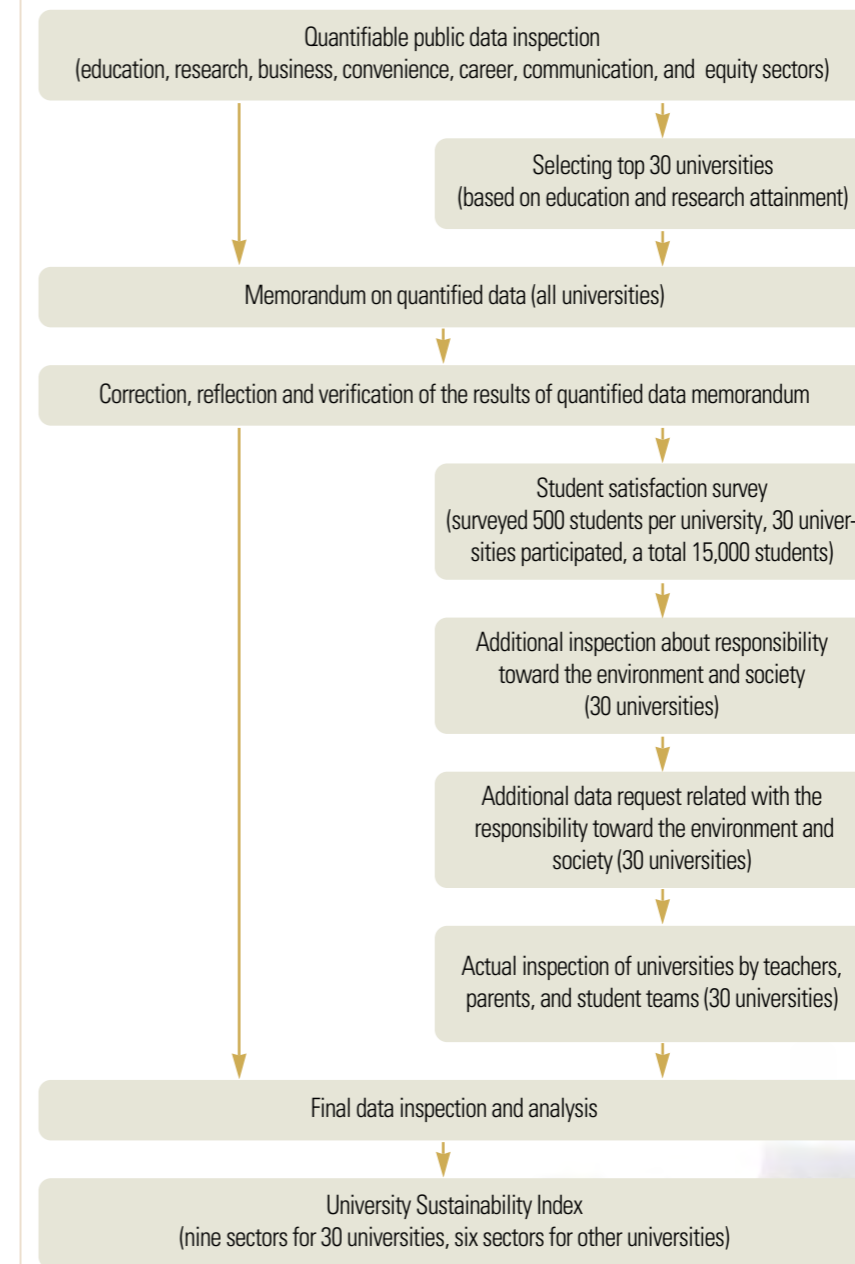
Furthermore, it is easy for graduate reputation to become subjective in evaluation. Prestigious universities have accumulated their reputations over centuries and sometimes overshadow the university's current position.

The Kyunghyang Shinmun & Economic Research Institute for Sustainable Society (ERISS) University Sustainability Index

ERISS evaluates universities somewhat differently from other institutions. ERISS's University Sustainability Index does not pay attention to the percentage of lectures given in English, the number of international students, or how many professors write papers. They focus on research performance and the contents of lectures; they also fix their sights on the communication between professors and students. To evaluate this, they research down how often professors meet with students and how many part-time lecturers the universities employ.

ERISS applies seven criteria to its evaluation, which are as follows: education/globalization (37.5%), research

2011 Evaluation Process Flow Chart



(25%), career/reputation (18.75%), and miscellaneous/communication/convenience (18.75%). Though it includes novel criteria, however, some bring several processes of the evaluation into question.

In some sections, ERISS uses a questionnaire to survey college students. This survey has been criticized

because it assumed a uniformity of college education, and did not consider each university's own characteristics. The questionnaire's incompleteness is also been pointed out.

For example, the price of food at university cafeterias, the use of local food, and the number of clubs related to the environment seem to have

nothing to do in assessing a university for high school or graduate students. There are many other subjective and abstract indicators. One of them, the communication in lectures, does not provide enough explanation so that people taking the survey cannot understand it. Other criteria also do not make the most of each university's characteristics.

Besides the aforementioned things, there is one more problem. One ERISS managers said they could not obtain basic data of green campus from universities due to their original noncooperation. One professor, however, said they never got any request about providing their data. ERISS, therefore, had to use public data which might not be up-to-date or reliable.

Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology University Evaluation

Not only private or media organizations but also a government organization conducts university evaluations. Last year, the Korean Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MEST) disclosed the result of its university competitiveness evaluation. The evaluation was conducted in eight fields: the recruitment rate of enrolled student, the number of full-time teachers, student employment rate, and the results of thesis registration.

Scoring 35 out of 40 points, KU and Sungkyunkwan University tied for first place. Kyung Hee University, which earned a 34, followed them. Seoul National University, Yonsei University and three other universities received 33 points. It was the first time that the government had scored universities.

In the same year, MEST also announced the evaluation results of the colleges of education in Korea. These evaluations were based on the number of full-time teachers, the teacher recruitment rate at the capacity of each colleges, and research performance.

As a result, eight universities were rated A: KU, Chung-Ang University, Ewha Womans University. Twenty-six universities, including Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Hanyang

Student Loans Limited	Daebul, Holy People, Kundong, Kyungdong, Luther, Mokwon, Myungshin, Wonkwang University and Chugye University for The Arts (9 universities)
Financial Support Limited	Chodang, Daebul, Daejeon, Far East, Gyeongju, Holy People, Hyupsung, Incheon Catholic, Joongbu, Korea Christian, Kosin, Kundong, Kwandong, Kyungdong, Kyungnam, Kyung Sung, Luther, Mokwon, Myungshin, Pyeongtaek, Sangmyung, Seonam, Seoul Christian, Seowon, Wonkwang, Youngdong University, Chugye University for The Arts and International University of Korea (28 universities)
Weak National Universities	Chungbuk, Gangneung-Wonju, Kangwon, Kunsan National University and Busan National University of Education

*only including four-year-course colleges

University, Pusan National University, and Seoul National University, received B grades. Eleven universities, including Sungkyunkwan University, got C grades.

In September 2011, based on the evaluations, MEST announced the universities to which the government would limit financial support or student loans from next year. It also disclosed the national universities which need structural reform.

Because the numbers of university students are decreasing and expensive registration fees are increasing the financial burden on students and parents, the government thinks that the closure of weak universities is urgent.

"The 2012 nonscheduled admission of universities is ongoing. So, we disclosed this information (the list of weak universities) for students who will choose a university," said Hong Seung Yong, University Structural Reform Committee president. "It is a strong warning; universities have to change," he added.

The weak universities are selected depending on eight indexes (nine indexes in case of technical colleges) including student employment rate, and the recruitment rate of enrolled student. According to these criteria, dozens of universities including Chungbuk National University, Chugye University for the Arts, Sangmyung University, and Wonkwang University

were listed as weak.

The university evaluation of MEST is distinguished from other private organizations' evaluations. The main aim of the government's university evaluation is to raise the quality of the higher educational institutions in Korea. Therefore, unlike other organizations, the government supports or imposes sanctions on universities according to the results of its evaluations. After its evaluation of the colleges of education in Korea, MEST gave benefits, like autonomy of quota adjustments, to A grade universities. On the other hands, quota reduction sanctions were imposed on universities which were rated C.

In addition, this year's MEST university evaluation includes more powerful action. A MEST source said that the universities on the list of student loan limit cannot exclude the possibility that they will be closed soon.

Because the government has enforcement power, its university evaluation criteria must be objective and reasonable in order that the public and society can trust them. However, some criticize the criteria of the government. They especially assert that the criteria of weak universities are irrational and resist their selection by MEST.

The universities listed as weak are up in arms over the MEST evaluation. Wonkwang University insists that it is

absurd to exclude its College of Medicine from the evaluation indexes estimate. "It is annoying that indexes of the College of Medicine are missing though our university gives a lot of weight to our College of Medicine," a Wonkwang University official said.

Among the criteria of weak university selection, the student employment rate is the most controversial index. The arts and physical-oriented universities and colleges, such as Sangmyung University and Chugye University for the Arts, claim that the estimation methods of the employment rate have some problems. The graduates of these universities mostly work as freelancers or instructors at private institutions. According to current estimation methods though, they are classified as unemployed.

What is the Problem?

Hong Jun-suk, the head of the Planning and Evaluation Department of KU, said that university rankings have their strong points. "It is true that university rankings are working as stimuli to encourage universities to make improvements. I also agree that their evaluation standards are objective. However, they also hold some problems, and one of them is the standardized assessment criteria."

One problem is that there are myriad kinds of universities, and they can be further subdivided into two major sections, four-year and two-year ones. In addition, many colleges specialize in a specific field and other colleges have a specific object such as Korean National Police University, Korea Aerospace University, or Korea Military Academy. Universities also can be divided according to their location; those located on near Seoul and those located in other parts of Korea.

However, though there are so many kinds of universities, some assessment criteria of ratings agencies have been surprisingly standardized, disregarding individual characteristics of universities. Such criteria prove that existing university rankings do not correspond with universities' actual education competence.

This year, universities located outside the metropolitan area petitioned



the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, arguing that one of its evaluation criteria, recruitment rate of enrolled students, was much unfavorable to universities located far from the capital area. They say this kind of one-criterion-fits-all assessment is illogical because it is calculated without regard for the number of students planning to attend a university in each region.

At Chung Buk National University, some professors announced their resignation to take responsibility for their university's being selected as one of weak universities. Kim Tae Su (Russian Language and Literature, Chung Buk National University) said "It has been hard for a university like us to attract students from outside the province we are located in. What is worse is that once we are designated a weak university, it will be a lot harder to recruit students, even in our district, just causing a vicious cycle."

Chugye University for the Arts is another victim of such criteria. Students of this university were very

embarrassed about it being selected a poor university. Lee Hyun Jeong (25, Chugye University for the Arts) argued that, "The criterion of employment rate is totally absurd. The purpose of studying Arts is not to get employed, but to make works that can make people feel the true value of art. If they have to digitize something to assess our university, they have to take all our work into consideration first."

These are not the only cases representing what some call the irrationality of evaluation standards. In some ways, this kind of criticism seems inevitable when organizations try to assess universities with the use of only uniform criteria. Therefore, for them, now is the time to consider each university's individual characteristics including geographical location, specialized fields, and the like, and start evaluating universities in a more helpful way.

The Press and the University Rankings

Many agree that university evalua-

tions have their merits in developing universities and higher education. However, not only the validity and subjectivity of the university evaluation and its indexes are being questioned, but also the matter of credibility is being questioned. In Korea, the university rankings run by the press are drawing the public's attention. Recently, professor associations from eight universities raised their voices against the press's university evaluations. They object to "the press" running this project. "The government should step up to make an institution that has nothing to do with profit run the university evaluation," they stated.

This is not the first time universities have showed their discontent regarding this issue. On June 24, 2010, the Korean Council for University Education (KCUE) held a summer seminar with university presidents and presented a resolution about the universities' stance on the press' university evaluations. "First, the press' evaluation of universities lacks expertise and validity. Second, it fosters stan-

standardization of the schools. Third, it focuses on the ranking. Fourth, it causes excessive competition, consequently leaving the possibility of commercial use of the results.”

Some blame the press for the flaws in the sectors and indexes of the evaluation since they are not institutions organized for educational purposes.

However, this criticism can be neutralized by the fact that many consultants from educational fields are involved in the press's projects. Hong commented, “I think that the press's university rankings are maybe too subjective in a way that they are standardized.” However, the bigger issue is that the press itself is too powerful opinion

makers.

As universities cannot overlook public opinion, they are naturally sensitive to the results of the rankings. A rise and fall in the rankings can critically influence a university's reputation so they inevitably have to pay attention to the factors the press consider essential for a “good university.”

Student Interviews

Q. What is your opinion about the university evaluations?

Seo Jae Kwon (Economics, Sogang University)

University evaluations by some press usually have disregarded universities' individual characteristics. According to the rate of assessment and evaluation system, lots of changes in ranking happen between the presses. This could be subjective and arbitrary. In addition, evaluation systems are in some parts very favorable to universities which have a college of medicine, dental college, or sizable college of engineering.

Lee Myung Joo (Social Welfare, University Of Seoul)

I am not sure that the criteria used in evaluating universities are reasonable. I think those evaluations are favorable to universities with hospitals, much capital or specialized science and engineering colleges. It is as if they assess universities without any rational reasons at all.

Jeon Hye Mi (Nursing, Chungang University)

I think what we need to pay attention to is the influence of the university evaluations. I am concerned about the press being the one hosting the evaluations. I am not saying that it is wrong. I just think that considering the press's influence, the university evaluations should be very precise and objective.

Song Ji Hyun (Medicine, Yonsei University)

It is true that the university evaluations cannot take everything into consideration. However, because the evaluations are done under certain standards, which probably were examined thoroughly for their appropriacy, I think they have their purpose and are pretty much reliable.

Kim Hongchan (Electrical and Computer Engineering, Seoul National University)

It is hard to evaluate the standards of a university or its degree of improvement since a university exists as an independent educational and research institu-

tion. But this can cause a difficulty of feedback on universities, and if things go wrong, improvement of universities will be stagnant. Judging by this, it is desirable that some reputable organizations do the university evaluations. However, it is also important not to have blind faith in the evaluations. Though reputable organizations--like a newspaper--conduct the evaluations, this cannot ensure trust in the evaluations. University evaluations should be used for just reference.

Jung Myung Ki (Computer Education, Sungkyunkwan University)

In many parts of the university evaluations, such as set-up criteria and data gathering, how much fairness and rationality the evaluations ensure is uncertain. Moreover, you know, it is an admitted fact that there is rank between universities. So I think there may be little point in university evaluations.

Seo Kwang Sic ('11, Healthcare Management)

The fact that newspapers like *The Chosun Ilbo* and *The JoongAng Ilbo* are doing university evaluations seems somewhat problematic for me because the relationship between universities and newspapers is veiled. If they keep assessing universities, it will not be long before universities become subject to newspapers. In addition, considering the nature of the newspapers, they are not fit for these kinds of evaluations.

Lee Hyun Kyung ('11, English Language and Literature)

I do not think these rankings mean much. People already have their own thoughts about which universities they consider prestigious. In my opinion, people's thoughts about schools are not going to be changed dramatically just because of these rankings. Also, I have some doubts about the press's university rankings. Because the press pursues profit, there always are possibilities of interferences of personal interests or lobbying if worse.

KU and 2011 University Rankings

KU this year placed fifth in the 2011 *JoongAng Ilbo* university ranking, along with Sungkyunkwan University. Some might feel a sense of uneasiness, thinking KU could have done better. In other university rankings, KU also put up good results, being chosen in the top five “good” universities in Korea. However, there seems to be room left for KU to make some improvements in these evaluations.

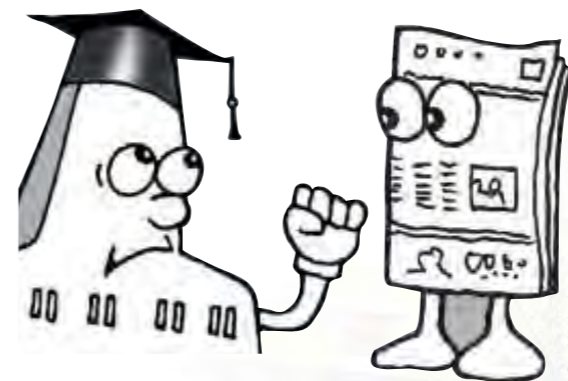
KU scored high in reputation as the second most reputable university in Korea. This sector includes companies' preferences and the appropriacy of a university's education, considering its role in helping the students get ready for future employment. However, KU fell behind in fulfilling standards regarding educational conditions. The number of professors com-

pared to that of students and the number of student dorm rooms are some of the indexes in which KU failed to get a high score. It could score better in the globalized sector as well.

Hong Jun-suk, the head of the Planning and Evaluation Department of KU said that the school is thoroughly analyzing these results and making improvements but that there are some limitations. “We analyze the results of university rankings and figure out which parts of the school need improvements. Not only this but internal assessments are made. However, there are some limitations. For instance, according to *The JoongAng Ilbo's* university rankings, among the globalization sector, there is an index evaluating the number of foreign students. As the qualifications we require for foreign students for entering KU are pretty high, it is more likely that there are

less foreign students in our school. We cannot just start accepting all the foreign students to fulfill one standard for evaluation.”

He added, “What is holding us back the most is probably the financial issue. To increase the number of dormitories, to give students more scholarships, and to give them more opportunities to study abroad as exchange students, which all are fields KU fell behind in relatively, the financial condition needs to be strengthened. One way might be to cooperate with large corporations. However, this is too big move to make hastily as we need to take people's opinions into consideration as well as the school's traditions. It is a very complicated issue.” He added that KU is doing what is best for the faculty and the students. “We take the results of university rankings as a stimulus to make improvements.”



Provided by dong.com

Hong said that the power of the press cannot be ignored. “It is true that the press is very influential. So are the rankings they release.” Each university trying to meet the expectations of the criteria for a “good university” can be part of developing the country's higher education. However, there are some problems. As mentioned before, this can cause the standardization of the universities. Also, it can interfere with the university's development as they might hesitate to make new changes in fear that their ranking will fall. There is also a possibility that university evaluations can become a mere

formality. The way to earn high rankings is to fulfill the numerical requirements of the sectors, and if the rivalries between schools are intensified, the competition can become a matter of quantity instead of quality.

While it is true that the press's current university evaluations are

based on strict standards, other media that are not involved in the evaluations raise concerns about the possible dark side of the assessments, mentioning the outside interests and profits the press cannot be completely free from. Some experts also worry that the press's authority could be misused. Hong, when asked about this issue, said “It is possible. Not that the kind of transactions are actually happening, but some might have doubts about the transparency.”

It might be a product of neo-liberalism, which lays stress on competi-

tion, to rank universities. Or the nation's excessive academic elitism might encourage such evaluation. However, university evaluation is not bad in itself, but because the purpose of the evaluation has missed the essence of university evaluation, they have been criticized. The final purpose of university evaluation is neither deciding on a ranking nor imposing sanctions. In France, the National Appraisal Board, which is in charge of the French university evaluations, does not use the evaluation results as a means of ranking universities or imposing sanctions against universities. Instead, they utilize the results as the data for universities' improvement. This is the desired result of university evaluations. With this, the effort to improve the validity of the evaluations also ought to be involved for the criteria lacking social validity damage on the evaluation's credibility.

As KCUE has announced, universities want university evaluations which contribute to reinforcing their overall competitiveness and enhance the quality of university education. ■

AN IMPORTANT NOTE TO YOUR FUTURE:

To Whom It May Concern

By Kim Hak Young (jensophie7@korea.ac.kr),
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Some Korea University (KU) students, preparing for exchange programs, grumble about how there are few, if any, prominent universities among KU's exchange universities. However, they might be surprised to hear what *The Granite Tower* (GT) has found out. Actually, there are a number of universities on exchanging terms with KU that have made it to the top rankings. We have sorted out the top three to five of them for each academic field. In the fields of arts & humanities, social sciences, life sciences & biomedicine, and natural sciences, we referred to Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), one of the most trusted sources for university rankings. In the case of journalism and business administration, whose rankings were not included in QS, we took into account other sources.

Rank	Institution	Country	QS Stars	What are QS Stars?	Undergrad	Postgrad	International Fee (\$)	Score
1	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom	5	5	14,000 - 16,000	6,000 - 20,000	18,000 - 22,000	100
2	Harvard University	United States	5	5	38,000 - 40,000	38,000 - 40,000	38,000 - 40,000	99.34
3	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	United States	5	5	38,000 - 40,000	42,000 - 40,000	38,000 - 40,000	99.21
4	Yale University	United States	5	5	38,000 - 40,000	42,000 - 40,000	38,000 - 40,000	99.14
5	University of Oxford	United Kingdom	5	5	4,000 - 6,000	14,000 - 16,000	20,000 - 22,000	98
6	Imperial College London	United Kingdom	4	4	4,000 - 6,000	14,000 - 16,000	20,000 - 22,000	97.84
7	UCL (University College London)	United Kingdom	4	4	4,000 - 6,000	14,000 - 16,000	20,000 - 22,000	97.84
8	University of Chicago	United States	4	4	12,000 - 14,000	6,000 - 8,000	32,000 - 34,000	97

Arts & Humanities

L'Université Paris-Sorbonne(Paris IV)



- 23,271 students
- 17 departments
- 1300 teachers and research professors

Academics

Established in the 12th century, La Sorbonne exhibits some old-fashioned characteristics. This applies to teaching style as well, which might seem outdated to those who are accustomed to the course styles in English-speaking countries. Courses are usually divided into lectures with a professor for one hour a week, seminar with an assistant teacher, and student's presentations for two hours a week. Very few teachers use video projectors or computers because classrooms are not well-equipped with them.

"I recommend students not to choose a class by the title but according to the professor," says Simon Nicolas (Applied French Linguistics, The Sorbonne University), an exchange student from La Sorbonne now studying at KU. "Among the courses I took, I highly recommend Professor André Thibault's Phonology class," adds Nicolas. He really appreciated the professor's in-depth and intellectually rich conveyance. "Rigorous!" is his word to describe the atmosphere of the course.

Campus

La Sorbonne is situated in the Latin Quarter, in the center of Paris. Because



of this position, there is no actual "campus." Rather, it is an enormous complex where the administrative offices, library, classrooms, and lecture halls are all located. There is a courtyard inside, but it is not the kind of place that students might easily picture as a "campus." The Latin Quarter is what one imagines France to be—if you are expecting the traditional image of "France," you would love it there, but if you are not, it is a place with too many tourists and high prices. "French and Korean people have a very different conception of what a university should be," says Nicolas. "For French students, university is where you study, and that is pretty much all about it. Korean students expect university also to be a place for living, socializing, and having fun; however, those usually happen outside the university in France." So Korean students should keep in mind that La Sorbonne is not a place to "live"

a student life, or they might become a little bit disappointed.

There are no dormitories belonging to the university. Students live in a studio if they can afford it—rent is outrageous in the center of Paris—or in public student dormitories, shared by students from other universities. However, it might be hard to get a room since priority goes to students whose parents have a low income. Foreign students can get a room in the Cité Internationale Universitaire, a foundation which provides several dozen residences for foreign students who study in that region. "It is a really nice place to live, but it is not very close to the center," says Nicolas. "Plus, French students do not live there so it might not be easy to make French friends there."

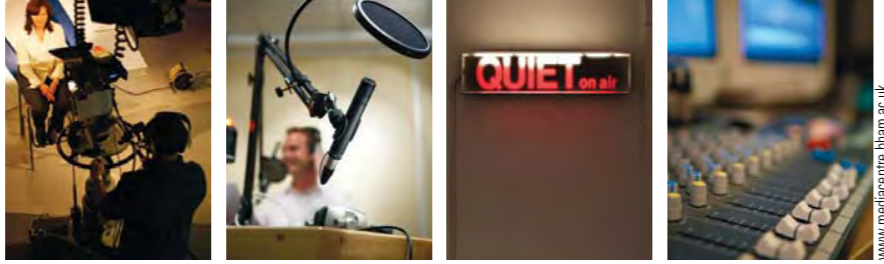
Student Life

La Sorbonne has about 80 student associations in which people can participate at a reasonable price of 35 euros for the whole school year. However, as La Sorbonne is a public university with low tuition—less than 500 euros a year, it has limited funds to provide rooms and equipment for club activities.



University of California - Berkeley

University of Toronto



Journalism University of Birmingham

- The first redbrick university to gain a charter
- Around 16,500 undergraduates

Media Centre

The University of Birmingham has a specialized center in journalism and mass communication called the Media Centre. Situated in the Aston Webb building, on the University of Birmingham (UB) Edgbaston campus, the Media Centre provides several training and teaching courses, with outstanding facilities. This centre is highly focused on audio-visual media.

Training program is categorized into three different types : Media Training, Podcast Training, and Press and Public Relations (PR). Media Training is about preparing for all types of broadcast interviews. In the realistic environment with cameras, lights, and everything, you can learn how to address questions, react, and give feedback in TV and Radio interviews. The centre offers Podcast Training, as podcasts and vodcasts are increasingly used in companies as a way to speak to customers and stakeholders. This training helps you convey your message effectively through podcasts and vodcasts by covering vocal delivery, refining message, using podcast software, and hosting and delivering a podcast.

Training on Press and PR is subcategorized into Press Releases, Crisis Management, and Press Conference Training. These trainings seem to focus more on relating other works with the media, and using the media as a means of promoting your work, than working in the media.

The Media Centre offers up-to-date facilities, such as a studio, editing suite, radio room, and training and production room, equipped with full range of television, radio, and digital services. While training programs are more about improving software skills, the Teaching Support program concentrates on the usage of hardware.

Academics

Notable characteristic about the courses at UB is that most are divided into two parts—primary lectures and seminars. After the primary lecture is given by professor, there come periods of debate—as a whole class or as small groups, of question and answer, and of expatiating on the primary lecture. “Seminars are carried out in the same rate as the primary lectures, and they encourage a more active class environment,” says Kim Gahyeon (’07, English Language and Literature). “During those seminars, I got the feeling that students and professors are very open to new ideas.”

Campus

A red-brick-university built in the Industrial Revolution period, UB is one of the biggest universities in the mid-west area of England with more than 25,000 undergraduate and graduate students. Its status in England is stable, keeping its rank in the top 10. UB has two main campuses : Edgbaston campus and Selly Oak campus. The two campuses are about 30-minutes away on foot, but shuttle buses run between them. Other than buildings for taking courses, several buildings such as the Guild of Students—similar to the Student Union Building at KU, Main Library, and Great Hall—where there is a division for exchange students and an information center, and where events like the Christmas Concert and job fair are held—are useful places for students.

On campus, there is a train station called “University.” The train takes you to the town area near New Street station in about 10 minutes.

As for accommodations, there are several dormitory buildings each in Selly Oak, Pritchatts Park, and Vale Village. Most exchange students and first year students live in dorms as dorms are

assigned preferentially to them. Others live in studios or do “flat share,” which refers to sharing rooms with friends.

Except for traveling and shopping costs, it takes about 200 pounds a month for living. As a way of saving living expenses, buying “buy one get one” products would help. “To save traveling costs, I recommend making plans about a month earlier and buying tickets for train or coach—carriage—in advance,” says Kim Ji Eun (’07, English Education).

Student Life

At the beginning of each semester, the Society Fair is held in the Guild of Students Building. “Society” means “club” in England. The concept of “Society,” however, is a little different from “club” at KU. British people tend to put importance on one’s own time more than Koreans, so being in “Societies”—except for the press and sports team—are not that time-consuming and demanding as at KU.

UB is one of the top three universities in England known for its sports field. There is the Munrow Sports Centre on campus, which provides a gym, swimming pool, squash courts, dance studio, martial arts room, therapy shops, and sportswear shops. Students can join in sports programs at lower prices. There are also outdoor facilities for kayaking, yachting, scuba diving and so on.

International Student Support

There are parties and events for exchange students. Through the English Test, UB sorts out foreign students with language difficulties and provides them with English-related courses. “I appreciate these kinds of considerations,” says Gahyeon. “However, having a one-on-one buddy system like that of Korea University Buddy Assistants (KUBA) at KU would help exchange students adapt even better.”

Philip Merrill College of Journalism

As a university prominent in journalism, University of Maryland (UMD) has a specialized College of Journalism. This college was named after Philip Merrill who donated 10 million dollars to Maryland University for the journalism school. This college focuses on journalism fundamentals in all media, rather than on areas of communication such as public relations or advertising.

Campus

The campus of Maryland University is in Prince George’s County, Maryland in the United States. As the campus is big, students often take the shuttle and

Journalism University of Maryland

- Ranked number 18 among the U.S. public universities
- More than 100 majors
- 73 Academic programs ranked in the Top 25
- More than 26,000 undergraduate students

It is noticeable that they are taking such a different path compared to KU, which has reduced its news writing classes to only three and amplified courses on advertising and pictorial images to “follow the trend.”

At Merrill College, there is a program called “Media, Self and Society Program.” The program consists of practical and in-depth activities; participants discuss media-related topics every week, engage in a video project, go on field trips to media outlets, and get professionals as guest lecturers. Also, some participate in on-campus student media outlets, such as Capital News Service, Terp Weekly, and UMTV.

With a faculty of prestigious journalists and scholars, including six Pulitzer Prize winners, and with small-

metro bus on campus. The shuttle bus also goes to the nearest subway station.

Foreign students can live in a dormitory named Dorchester Hall or get an apartment near school. Every Wednesday from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in a communal lounge, the dorm arranges International Coffee Hour, an event to promote friendship with foreign students. “Students in Global Communities are generally interested in foreign culture and are eager to get to know foreign students,” says Park Hye Won (’09, Business Administration). “After midterms, students in the dorm gathered around and played a game called ‘Assassins.’ It was fun.”

Living in apartments offers students more time of their own, and more chance to interact with natives.

Rooms are well-equipped. Although living in a dorm for foreign students might be lively and fun, getting an apartment nearby is also a good idea.

Student Life

If you want to enjoy a cultural life, there is a perfect place for you on

campus. The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center (CSPAC) is an open auditorium for performances, including those of many arts-related club students. Tickets are cheaper for UMD students and are even provided free once a week on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Other than enjoying musical performances and plays, students can easily work out at Recreational Center. It is an on-campus gym with facilities for basketball, swimming, ping-pong, and many other indoor exercises. Once a week, there is a Zumba class, an exercise similar to aerobics. “I recommend it especially for female students,” says Park Soo Ah (’09, English Language and Literature). There are lots of other classes such as Yoga, Street Jam, Step Combo, and Muscle Works. “Everything is free for UMD students,” adds Park, “so do not miss out on good chances like these.”

Tips

You better pack the following : basic medicines, because Health Center in the U.S. do not give out medicines easily; pads for females, since they are not of good quality there; batteries, as they are cheaper in Korea; adapters for 110 volt. “For smart-phone users, I highly recommend that you buy a ‘mobile abroad Subscriber Identification Module (SIM),’” advises Kim Min Sun (’09, Business Administration), “so that you can make the best use out of your existing phone, with better reception.”

There are lots of things you can do with your student card. Encoded in that card are “diner point,” with which you can eat at a student cafeteria, and “terpbucks,” with which you can buy snacks and daily necessities in the union shop or common shop.



www.umd.edu



University Of Syracuse



Moscow State University

Business

Copenhagen Business School

- 18,000 students & 2,400 foreign students



Bjerknes (International Business and Politics, CBS). "The school system demands much more independent work, and requires much more self-discipline as one exam normally counts 100 % toward the grade."

As Bjerknes points out, there are usually no midterm exams at CBS. There is no attendance either, which makes for a better class environment, according to Worm-Petersen, "since any students who are not motivated to go to class simply stay home."

Academics

What distinguishes Copenhagen Business School (CBS) from other business schools is that it offers a variety of interdisciplinary courses and combination degrees. CBS incorporates humanities into the more traditional business courses, which "gives the curriculum an edge and opens it up for a broader perspective," as Kasper Worm-Petersen (Philosophy and Business, CBS) says. There are courses that combine business with politics, psychology, sociology, philosophy, language, and many others.

Lectures at CBS are normally held in big auditoriums with 70-200 students. Attendance is not required, and student participation does not contribute to the final grade. "(Because of that,) most student-professor relationships are quite impersonal," says Cecilie

Campus

CBS is located in Frederiksberg, a quiet town mainly composed of residential areas, parks, cafés, and restaurants. It is close to downtown Copenhagen: an estimated 5-minute metro or 15-minute bike ride away. "Bicycle is the 'only' proper way of getting around in Copenhagen," says Bjerknes. "The preferred way of transportation is bike. There are many bike lanes and it's usually the fastest way to get around," further explains Worm-Petersen.

CBS is made up of three campuses that are within walking distance of each other, and are connected by metro. "The campus is much smaller than that of KU and is spread out around the area, with a few-minutes bike ride between the campuses," says Marc Oskar Rynning (Marketing Communications Management, CBS)

Student Life

"Student life is not as active as at KU. There are some sports clubs and sporting events, but not on the same scale as at KU," says Oskar. However, he gives an account of "an excellent buddy program" that welcomes exchange students and "takes good care of them."

A notable student activity at CBS is a Thursday-Bar called Nexus. Every Thursday evening, the campus cafeteria turns into a student bar. "[Nexus] offers cheap, student-friendly prices on Thursday when it turns itself into a small 'club' with DJs and with a big dance floor," illustrates Bjerknes. There is another bar on campus that opens every Friday, providing cheap bar prices and a good atmosphere. "The night life in Copenhagen has something for everyone and from Thursday to Sunday you will find the streets full of young people," says Worm-Petersen.

Uni-Talk!


"Copenhagen is located at the sea, so there are also plenty of opportunities to go to the beach or have a swim in one of the harbor bath. And then we have some of the most beautiful girls in the world..."

-Kasper Worm-Petersen

"For me personally, it's Copenhagen itself that offers the best activities besides school, there are several cool city areas with nice shops, cafés, bars and clubs (like Vesterbro and Nørrebro). Copenhagen is like the Berlin of Scandinavia so it has a relaxed, cool vibe to it which makes it an ideal city to live in."

-Marc Oskar Rynning

 ISC Paris School of Management

 IESE Business School University of Navarra



Social Sciences

University of California, Berkeley



Academics

University of California Berkeley (UC Berkeley) prides itself on its extensive number of majors available to students. Students can also take many courses that are related to their major but not necessarily in their department. "There is usually a set of mandatory classes, but you are really given a lot of flexibility in class selection otherwise," explains Christine Yun (Business and Media Studies, UC Berkeley).

Campus

UC Berkeley is located in downtown Berkeley, which is about 20 minutes away from San Francisco. The atmosphere is very urban, and everything one needs is walking distance from the campus. All the buildings at UC Berkeley have a lot of history to it, and each building looks very different too. "For example, the engineering buildings look very modern whereas the history building looks gothic and vintage," says

Yun. "The dormitories are really nice too. You have the option of living in a double, triple, suite, minisuite, etc. There's something to fit everyone's needs."

Student Life

UC Berkeley is one of the oldest universities in the west coast, and is therefore rich in traditions. There is a huge rivalry against Stanford University, similar to that between KU and Yonsei University (YU). The "Big Game", the football game between the two, is as big of an event as the Annual Ko-Yeon Games. Numerous activities take place on the week following up to the game. "I went to the annual Korean-American soccer match against Stanford, and I'm sure that there are many similar traditions," adds Yun.

Also, during the homecoming weekend, the whole campus is decorated in blue and gold. "Doe Library (the main library) and the Campanile (clock-tower) are even lighted in blue and gold!" exclaims Yun.



Uni-Talk!

"UC Berkeley is a very large and competitive school. Resources are definitely available, but they aren't necessarily catered to you. You have to search for them, but the opportunities are definitely there."

"You definitely have to make an effort to reach out and get involved. Once you get plugged into communities at Berkeley, I guarantee your life as a student will be significantly enhanced: whether it's joining an intramural sport team, rushing a sorority or frat, trying out for a dance team, auditioning for a singing team, joining a fellowship, etc. Get out there and get involved!"

-Christine Yun

 NUS National University of Singapore

 Penn University of Pennsylvania

 UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO University of Toronto

 PEKING UNIVERSITY Peking University

Life Sciences & Biomedicine University of Toronto



- birthplace of insulin and stem cell research, site of the first practical electron microscope
- produced ten Nobel laureates
- 75,000 students
- Canada's largest university



www.utoronto.ca

George Campus, which is located in downtown Toronto, has the highest number of students. It is twice the size of the KU campus, taking up 13% of the city of Toronto. "This might sound impressive, but it is an annoying feature for both students and faculty when you consider that you only have ten minutes to travel to your next lecture," comments Park. "Some

bike to class, some use roller blades, but most of us run to class."

"The Saint George Campus is a mix of 1960s architecture and Gothic architecture, which gives the campus a very distinct blend," says Park. An eye-catching example is the Robarts Library, a monstrous 14-story leviathan that is built in the shape of a peacock. Also, there are dozens of libraries in the campus, and "it never runs out of resources for research, nor does it run out of study space for students," as Park reflects. Fitness and athletic training facilities are well-equipped and open to students.

Student Life

The Saint George Campus is surrounded by various cultural and traditional communities such as Korea Town, China Town, Little Italy, Greektown, and The Annex. "The rich cultural variety surrounding the campus is a great representation of the city of Toronto, and provides students a variety of exotic lunch and dinner options during their stay in campus," says Park. He adds, "Pita-Q, a Lebanese-ran pita shop at Spadina and Bloor in The Annex makes the best shawarma ever." Students like Park can enjoy

foods from around the globe at their leisure, and can also "meet people from the furthest spectrum of the global community," as Park words it.

At the beginning of each school year, there is the "Frosh week", an orientation week for newcoming students. "They are jovially dubbed as 'froshies' in hospitality and in genuine pity for the baptism of fire that is their first U of T midterm," explains Park.

There is also a bazaar-like "Clubs Fair" that promotes student-run clubs and non-academic student activity. The Frosh Week ends with a grand parade of froshies chanting traditional songs in Bloor Street. "For example, Trinity froshies would march down the parade chanting 'We Wait For No One', much faster than other colleges," adds Park, who belongs to Trinity College.

A unique aspect of student life at U of T is star sighting. "U of T is frequently used as a set for film shootings," says Park. "Good Will Hunting" and "The Incredible Hulk" are one of the most well-known films that were shot at U of T. Also, the Toronto International Film Festival is held very close to U of T, and many stars stay at the Continental Hotel adjacent to U of T. "It is not difficult to see movie stars and celebrities roaming down the street and campus during fall," claims Park.

Uni-Talk!

"Nothing beats to the Annual Ko-Yon Games to be frank. If you expect wild student activities in U of T, it might not be the right place to look. I've heard from my native Korean friends, atmosphere at the U of T is similar, if not identical to Seoul National University (SNU). So that might be a good indicator of how dry the school might be?"

Jae Hyun Park

Natural Sciences Kyoto University



- The highest number of Nobel laureates in Japan
- Famous graduate Hideki Yukawa, the first Japanese to win the Nobel prize (in Physics in 1949)

Academics

Under the traditional motto "liberty," Kyoto University has a distinctive system that other universities normally do not have; students' majors are decided in their third year. In the first and second years, they freely take courses in various fields. After exploring different fields for two years, students finally choose their majors and begin their professional training in earnest.

"The Science Faculty especially, is systematically organized," says Cho Jun Kwon ('08, Biotechnology), a KU exchange student in Kyoto University. After choosing majors, students become affiliated to one of the professors in laboratories. There, students establish footholds for graduation and life after that.

Courses in Kyoto University show some major differences from those in Korean universities. "The biggest difference is that most professors here make their own résumés—a self-made combination of information from different sources—as class material," says Cho. This is very different from KU courses, where professors choose published textbooks and stick to them. Also as a way to provide valuable courses rather than just lectures, some professors hand out questions about the day's course subject at the beginning of the class, and make students find the answers themselves. He expressed his gratefulness and content about the courses that "truly become theirs."

Campus

Like KU, Kyoto University has a relatively European-looking campus. The buildings are mostly old and some of them are designated as cultural properties.

Transportation is inconvenient.

There are only train stations—not even subway stations—about 10 to 15 minutes away, and there are only two to three bus lines around the campus. Bad transportation being one of the reasons, about 70% of students use bicycles as their transportation and there are more place for parking bikes than cars on campus.

The surroundings of the campus are quite different from KU. "Around the campus, we do not have main streets for students like *Chamsari-gil*," says Ayami Kotera ('09, Psychology), a Kyoto University student who is now studying at KU as an exchange student. "Instead, we have scattered restaurants, cafés, and other stores, making the environment seem like a town in the suburb," Kotera says.

As for accommodations, most students rent a room. College dormitories are too old and accommodate a very limited number of people. Kotera recommends renting a room, emphasizing the low price and a nice environment. "Renting rooms is common," says Cho, "but for foreign students, I think living in a dorm for foreigners is better, as it provides a much larger room at an exceptional price compared to other rooms of its size."

Living costs about seven to eight yen if you live in a dorm and about ten to 12 yen if you live in a room outside of school. As the yen has a high exchange rate, living costs amount to at least 1,200,000 won.

Student Life

Kyoto University has some events and places for preserving and promoting Japanese tradition. There is a lounge on campus named *Kizuna*, a place for foreign students to experience Japanese traditional culture such as tea ceremonies or flower arrangement. A club called International

Afternoon Tea (IAT) holds events in *Kizuna*. If you are interested in Japanese traditional martial arts, you can go to a gym or join a club.

Among club activities, there is also one for foreign students, like KUBA at KU. It is called Kyoto University International Exchange Society (KIXS).

International Student Support

The Department of International Affairs provides many events for foreign students, such as arranging tour days, giving students the chance to wear traditional Japanese clothes, and throwing parties for foreigners. Cho expresses overall content. Cho adds, however, "Policies for foreign students have some defects. For example, courses like Practical Training or Graduation Research, which are essential for students in the Science Department, are officially forbidden to foreign students. I was an exception; I got the aid of a professor to attend the courses as a member of his laboratory."

Tips

While 40 percent of courses at KU are given in English, courses in Kyoto University are mostly given in Japanese, with English-mediated courses taking up less than five percent. Living and studying there requires your Japanese to be "passably fluent." ■

A Learning Community in Science and Engineering

Cube

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

Technology and Humanities. The eccentric combination of these two seemingly incompatible topics have started to conquer the world as seen in the popular cutting-edge electronic gadgets sold by Apple, which stresses the integration of the two. The world now disregards "technology without heart," and our society is no exception. Cube, a learning community in the Science and Engineering field at Korea University (KU), is the pioneer in cultivating this integration at the university level.

History has always been influenced by a handful of figures, and so it was with Cube. It all started with a few students on Science Campus, who just wanted more than what they learn in university classes. Starting with eight students, including the incumbent president of the Korea University Students' Association (KUSA) Jo Woo-Ri, a small gathering that aimed to read books covering humanities felt the need to share what they discussed with more students. Accordingly, they held a forum in January 2010.

Beyond expectations, this forum attracted more than 500 students, as if to reflect many students' thirst for a place to discuss technology in the light of humanities and social science. Encouraged by the response to their idea, the reading group established Cube in March, setting up eight branches in Seoul, with 20 universities participating. At present, students of KU and Ewha Womans University are the ones who are most involved. Cube KU branch consists of 20 students from science and engineering, and this year freshmen make up the majority of the club.

The learning community aims to approach its scientific knowledge from humanities and social sciences' point of view and to enable every member to become an integrated and conscientious scientist. Yun Kisung ('09, Chemical and Biological Engineering), the current Cube president says, "In high school, students are separated into liberal arts and sciences categories, and there is little communication between them or effort to learn about the other field at all. When we come to college, we only focus on our majors, so it is very hard for students in science and engineering to gain knowledge on liberal arts." This is apparent as seen in the fact that there are fewer than five clubs that discuss humanities or social issues on Science Campus.

The special atmosphere on Science Campus has spurred the move to estab-

lish Cube as well. "In science colleges, lectures are often delivered in only one way: from professors to students. So students tend to study passively. And the frequent exams made them relish consumptive entertainment, like playing games in PC bangs," explains Yun. Ahn Byeong Ho ('11, Materials Science and Engineering), a newcomer in Cube since this September, also talks of a similar reason for joining the club, "I regret having wasted my time drinking or playing billiards with friends in the first semester. In the second semester I wanted to find my life values through deep discussions, and joining Cube was my answer."

Cube members have regular seminar sessions once a week and organize various events that fit their interests. Yun adds, "In the first semester of this year, through seminars we learned



Provided by Cube

about and discussed Korea's economics and history after its liberation from Japan. In the second semester, we are putting emphasis on Science, Technology and Society (STS), a study of how science and technology affect society, and vice versa. We discuss what is ethical and neutral as scientists, and we are also planning to study the history of science, labor, and the problem of economic polarization in society." Besides deepening their knowledge and insight into the world, they attempt to apply what they learn to real life. The members of Cube are planning to deliver special presents and throw surprise parties for less-privileged children and foreign workers on Christmas.

Through a special open forum called "Three-Dimensional Forum," Cube invites any student majoring in science to share what its members have discussed and to expand their own scope. This forum takes place for three to five days during vacation, often at KU, and over one thousand students have participated in the previous forums. Small lectures delivered by famous science professors or scientists, such as Jeong Jae Seong and Choi Jae Chun, composed the greatest part of the forum.

The forum also includes discussion sessions on current issues concerning science and technology. "This summer we held a discussion session on the use of nuclear power in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear accident that hap-



pened in March," says Yun. The whole process of the forum is all organized and carried out by students alone. Yun explains, "We set up a planning committee for one or two months to organize the forum. From inviting the lecturers to preparing for discussion sessions, all

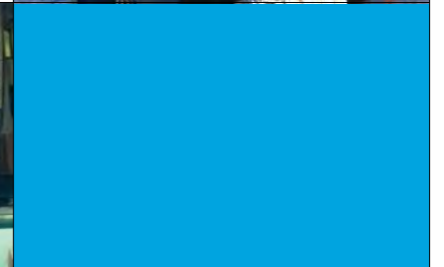


details are worked out by our own hands."

Although the purpose of Cube is to discuss and learn, it never neglects fun and friendship among the members. Every regular session is accompanied by an after party, and members go on Membership Training (MT) twice a semester. They also go on a picnic and travel together for pure joy or as a part of learning. "Because every member is a science major and lacks knowledge in liberal arts, we feel a sense of kinship as we teach ourselves the topic from scratch," boasts Yun.

The value of Cube lies in its unique attempt to address social issues as a group of young scientists, something that has hardly been practiced in the Korean university culture. When being asked what Cube means to him, Ahn answers, "Today's university students prioritize finding jobs instead of what they truly want to accomplish. I think Cube is a gathering of people whose purpose of life is not to live for money, but to live with passion for dreams."

Although Cube currently has a limited number of members, the president, Yun, is confident of its future development: "The current stage of Cube is comparable to the experiment stage, in which we experiment with events and curriculum that runs throughout seminar sessions and then observe how members and people participate. I hope that Cube expands to a greater scale and exerts greater influence on the science and engineering field. Eventually I



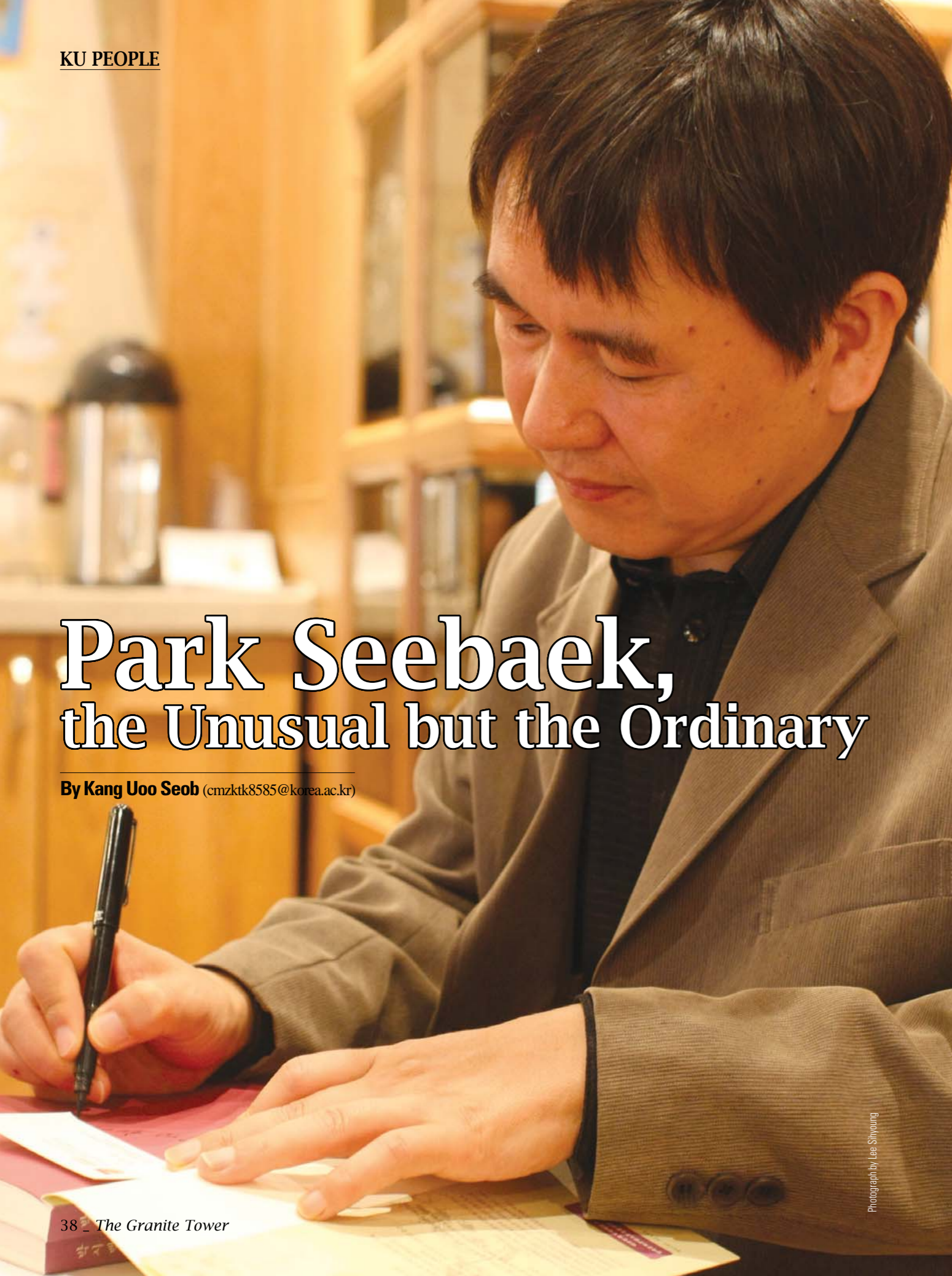
Provided by Cube

want to see many learning communities, like Cube, spring up in each class and college."

Cube is not far from reaching this state. At the end of October, it is opening yet another forum called "Aegineung Daeam Forum" mainly targeting KU students on Science Campus. In winter, it is planning to hold a series of lectures and camps for the incoming freshmen. The learning community recruits new members in March and September through applications and brief interviews, so those interested in both humanities and science may consider joining. This fledgling but ambitious club will more than welcome whomever to share their thoughts. ■

Park Seebaek, the Unusual but the Ordinary

By Kang Uoo Seob (cmzktk8585@korea.ac.kr)



Photograph by Lee Shiyoung

Looking back his life, Park Seebaek ('84, Economics), the cartoonist, says he is enjoying an opulent lifestyle compared to his 20s and 30s. In some ways, now is the golden day of his life. Throughout his 20s and 30s, it seems he lived a life a little different from others'. While others studied hard to get a job, he fervently took a lead of the student movement. While others were enjoying a "happy" life, his life seemed to be miserable and despairing by the world's view. Yet, he confesses that his life was just "ordinary." *The Granite Tower* (GT) had an opportunity to dig out his life in details.

"Tumultuous." This one big word is best to describe the cartoonist Park Seebaek's life. Even though his smiling face and friendly looking appearance do not tell his tumultuous life, he has had many ups and downs throughout his life more than any average Korean person. "I lived a life of extreme ups and downs in 20s and 30s," says Park. After he made this first interview answer, he seemed to be deep in thoughts for some reasons. Then, he started to unfold his "tumultuous" life story.

When he was a teenage boy, Park was no different from other ordinary Korean students. Under the harsh education system of Korea, he studied hard to enter a prestigious college. He was also a good son, who obeyed his parents without question. Yet, what differentiated him from others was her blossoming talent for drawing cartoons. "From a very young age, I started to draw cartoons at school. Teachers handed out papers on which I was supposed to solve math problems. On that paper, I drew a variety of cartoon characters. However, I could not draw cartoons anymore during high school years, because I had to study," says Park.

After Park, who had had a relatively normal teenage life, entered Korea University (KU), he started to be deeply engaged in student movements. "It is not too much to say that I devoted my whole college life and my youth to the student movement," confesses Park. Since student movements were strongly banned by the government at that time during which the freedom of expression was not allowed, he was even sentenced to jail. Park says, "Even though I spent much of my youth at jail, I have not ever regretted that I actively participated in student movements. I could make lifelong friends who joined student movements with me, and happy memories with them throughout college life are very precious to me."

What made Park to start drawing cartoon again was also the student movement. "I once posted a cartoon, which was about the Gwangju Democracy Movement, on a bulletin near the College of Political Science and Economics. Many positive feedbacks on the cartoon from others reignited my

passion for drawing cartoon," says Park. While he was struggling throughout his 20s during which he could not get a job and his life seemed hopeless, his passion for drawing cartoons could only make him



rise up again and endure the despair. He kept drawing cartoons to forget and escape from the miserable reality tightening him.

Park applied for the cartoon contest of *The Hankyerae*, one of the most popular media of the liberals, by chance and won the contest, an opportunity that totally changed his life. "I once thought of taking a national examination, but winning the contest led me to become a professional cartoonist," says Park. He worked as a cartoonist of an editorial cartoon for several years. Park says, "I liked the job at first. I thought I found a right place. However, as I got too much pressure to come up with new ideas every week, I could not bear it and decided to quit."

After he quitted the job, Park turned into a full-time cartoonist who draws a cartoon without any deadline and with his own pace. "I decided to make 'The Annals of the Joseon Dynasty' into a cartoon. I personally think it is the best historical records in existence in the world, because the writers of the annals were not interrupted by any government authority or kings. So, it is most accurate and objective," says Park. He started to work on the cartoon from 1998, and he has published 17 books of cartoon. Park aims to publish three more books of 'The Annals of the Joseon Dynasty' by next year.

When asked to give any comments or advice to his juniors at KU, Park seemed embarrassed and shy, saying "I am not good at giving advice to somebody, but I just want to say one thing. KU students are among the group of best college students in Korea. They are more likely to achieve success than other students. Just because they are attending more prestigious college, KU students tend to be steeped in an excessive academic elitism. I hope that KU juniors get rid of such elitism and be always thankful to what is given to them." ■

Reminiscing Our Childhood: The Best Period of Our Lives

By Photo Division



Elementary School

As we grow up, one significant fact we come to realize is how fast time flies. Time did not seem to move this fast when we were younger. Perhaps, you remember the sleepless nights anticipating your first fall field day, imagining tomorrow's big events.

"Go reds! Go blues!" yells the crowd. At the track and field meet, everyone cheers for their team. Whichever runner reaches the finish line first becomes the hero of the day. Seeking such glory, the boy in red runs as fast as he can.



Middle School

It is the period of adolescence. We feel as if we are all grown up and defiance is sometimes the order of the day. Changes occur in our bodies. We grow taller and bigger with hair sprouting here and there. For some, these changes are scary and for others, they excite them as signs of growth and maturity.

The future does not seem to matter much, but our parents keep urging us to study. Our leisure time shrinks, and the time we spend at our desks grows. It is somewhat hard to adapt to at first, but soon it becomes the daily routine.



High School

Getting accepted to our dream university is our top priority. Our time is fixed in a grinding routine of home-school-academy-home. Leisure time is a luxury. Nevertheless, breaking away and going to a *noraebang* with friends once every few months is something we cannot miss.

In the study hall, almost all students remain until 10 P.M., focused on their individual studies. One student is daydreaming about her university life, believing that once she enters university, life will flow naturally. The final day is near. November 10, 2011, will be the day that decides everything.

As university students, we now know that up until now we have been setting firm foundations upon which to build our lives. The time to this point has truly been the best period in our lives. The real game starts now.

*The photographs for this month's photo essay were taken at KU Anam Hospital Daycare Center, Eonju Elementary School, Cheomil Middle School, and Hanyoung Foreign Language High School.



What to Make of the Catalan Ban

By Park Jin Yung (pji1372@korea.ac.kr)

On September 25, La Monumental, the last bullring left in Catalonia, was teeming with people. The entire 20,000 seats had long been sold out for the bullfight that would be the last ever in Catalonia. Like it or not, in July 2010, the Catalan Parliament passed a law banning the centuries-old practice.

Although the ban on bullfighting does not take effect until January 2012, September 25 was officially the last day for the season and an indefinite period in the north-eastern region of Spain. Animal activists were the first to welcome the ban. They were the ones who initiated and ardently fought for its implementation. After setting up an organization called Prou (which means “enough” in Catalan), they petitioned the parliament after having collected more than 180,000 signatures against bullfighting. Motivation was enough for them to celebrate the new law, which they did with sparkling wine on the historic last day outside La Monumental.

When the last bull collapsed and everything became a history, some spectators charged into the ring and scooped up handfuls of sand to possess as souvenirs. Some crowded the streets, with the three bullfighters of the day mounted on their shoulders, hailing bullfighting and criticizing the ban on it. It was an intense night with one side in cheerful celebration, and the other in unbridled fury.

It is not difficult to see why animal rights activists are against bullfighting, as bulls are obviously mistreated. The question, though, is whether the mistreatment is so egregious as to ban it.

It is society that judges what levels of violence are tolerable and what are

not. Each society has different tolerance levels based on its underlying culture and changing social circumstances. Spain has had bullfighting for centuries. The practice, with the bulls dying in the same cruel manner for hundreds of years, had been tacitly tolerated by Spanish society. It is a mystery why a nationwide debate over it was sparked just now.

Reflecting on History

The Roman gladiatorial games, where two people fight until one dies or is on the brink of death, were highly popular in the early Roman times. Thousands of spectators would cheer over the killing—similar to what happens in bullfighting—and no one questioned the moral issue of human killing. Violence of this kind was a subject of tolerance in Roman society—it was their culture.

While the decline of gladiatorial games can be attributed to many factors, the decisive one came along when Christianity stepped in. During the third century AD, Christian immigrants poured into the Roman Empire, and Christianity spread like wildfire. Christianity, which became the religion of the majority and soon the state religion, considered gladiatorial games to be barbaric and cruel. Christian converts took to this belief; thereby the popularity of gladiatorial games plummeted.

It is in the context of Christianity that public awareness arose. The ban

on human-killing Roman practices surely did not stem from any consistent societal effort to stop violence. Rather, it was the power of religion that turned the culture upside down

and reversed the age-old tradition. It was an external force imposing change in a long-running tradition.

Coming back to bullfighting, the question is whether Spanish society, or at least Catalan society, has changed in a manner that can explain why the issue of animal cruelty has suddenly received the spotlight: why public awareness turned to animal

rights after all those years of practice.

For one thing, the Franco dictatorship of the 1940-1970s was over. Franco called bullfighting a “national fiesta” and associated it with his dictatorship. Many people had thought that with the end of the Franco dictatorship, bullfighting would end as well. It did not, but the coming decades saw a waning public interest in bullfighting—a 2002 Gallup poll found 68.8%



of Spaniards showing “no interest.”

However, more importantly, there was direct influence from non-Spaniards; northern Europeans, to be specific. “It’s actually animal rights activists from England, Germany, and other northern European countries that made a big issue about animal rights in the first place,” says Cho Kyoung Jin (Cultural Anthropology, Korea Cyber University). In other words, voices urging the protection of animal rights in bullfighting came from places where bullfighting was not part of the culture.



A Political Agenda Involved?

Catalonia is not the first region in Spain to outlaw bullfighting. In 1991, the Canary Islands passed a ban on bullfighting, but it was passed so quietly that some people did not even realize it happened. Those that did know about the ban made no big deal of it. The Catalan ban is so polemical because it is Catalonia. What speaks volumes is the fact that Catalonia, the autonomous community of Spain that has an active separatist movement going back decades, banned it.

After all, the fact that animal rights activists petitioned for the ban does not necessarily mean that the parliament’s decision was based on those grounds. A political agenda could be behind it. In July 2010, Catalans might have been strong believers in animal rights when they outlawed bullfighting, if it were not for the hypocrisy three months later. In December 2010, the same parliament that voted against bullfighting only a few months before voted overwhelmingly for the protection of correbous. Correbous is a Catalan tradition that involves attaching flaming balls of wax to the bull’s horns. Bulls are not usually killed, but they are mistreated almost as much as they are in bullfights.

In the case of bullfighting, the national tradition, the Catalan Parliament banned it by a vote of 68 to 55. In the case of correbous, the unique Catalan tradition, the same

parliament protected it by a vote of 114 to 14. Animal rights are obviously not the issue.

Dealing With Tradition

Tradition is something highly subjective. An act tolerated at one place may be detested by others. A similar tradition also exists in Korea University (KU). At KU, a traditional ceremony called *sabalsik* is held at the beginning of each school year. Freshmen gulp down a bowlful of *makgeolli* nonstop, which, according to tradition, means they have truly become a KU student. It is commonly said that participation in the ceremony is totally voluntary and that freshmen unwilling to empty a bowlful of alcohol may choose not to. But in the name of tradition, a number of freshmen “choose” to participate. There is something clearly wrong with forced consumption of alcohol, just as bulls are clearly mistreated in bullfighting. However, should the KU tradition be banned because of this drawback?

One thing is for sure: it should be the KU community that debates and comes up with its very own answer that fits into the context of KU. In the same manner, the ban on bullfighting and the ensuing controversy should concern Spaniards and Spaniards alone—no country foreign to the bullfighting tradition should intervene. ■

The Abolition of the Chinese Character Proficiency Score Qualification

With about 70 percent of Korean words relying on Chinese characters, teachers and parents since elementary school have been emphasizing their importance. As a leading national university, Korea University (KU) is also trying its best to cherish many of its country's values and traditions. Chinese characters are one of them. Yet, despite the long tradition of KU to make its students pass the Test for Certification in Chinese Character Proficiency before graduating, its significance is being questioned today by many students.

On April 4, 2011, KU authorities announced that, from now on, colleges and undergraduate classes have their autonomous right to abolish the Chinese character proficiency score qualification. Until then, students had to take the test and get over a certain level since it was one of the requirements for graduation since 2004. Following the first abolition made by the College of Law on April 18, 2011, several

other colleges such as the College of Science and the College of Political Science and Economics have also removed it from their graduation qualification. However, there are some colleges who decided to maintain the current qualifications like the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Engineering, Business Administration, and the College of Interdisciplinary Studies. Now, the abolition is the center of dispute at KU.

By Lee Jeong Min (jml27@korea.ac.kr), Lee Da Hyeon (daniellalee@korea.ac.kr)

For the Abolition of the Test

Many people emphasize the fact that there is more value to learning Chinese characters than just knowing how to read and write them. However, the results of the exams prove them wrong. According to a survey carried out by the school last year, it is known that just below 30 percent of the students who have passed the exam can spell out the words "Korea University" in Chinese characters. This result is devastating as it proves the inefficiency of the exam itself and how students study the characters solely for the reason of passing the exam. There is no sign for the majority of students in putting more value in their study than simply the graduation requirement.

By employing the exam, the school attempts to help students understand the importance of Chinese characters in Korean language. Yet, with the lack of value that students place on learning the characters, it may instead bring a counter result. As students perceive the purpose of studying these characters as passing the exam and graduating, the true value of the characters will fade away with such attitudes. This outcome is definitely not what the school intended.

People may think that stu-

dents not being able to write and use Chinese characters after graduation, despite the exam, may be the reason why we should keep the exams. However, it is hard to find the significance of keeping it if the results are to remain the same. Hence, instead of these exams, the school should find other more practical and efficient methods to help students learn Chinese characters. For example, courses with different levels of Chinese characters may be provided during the semester so that students can study without too much pressure. Although there are some classes on Chinese characters in school already, many fear to take it as the level of the course is quite high. By providing these courses in various levels, everyone will be able to apply for classes that they are comfortable with.

Moreover, despite the one-time use of one's knowledge about Chinese characters for most, studying them is still a pain for many students, especially those in their graduate year. With enough studies and job seeking to do, the majority of students find it hard to make time to study for the Chinese character exam. If the school were to abolish this exam as a graduation requirement, it will surely diminish their burden, of which they probably already have enough of. Also, who knows? Maybe, such a decision may result in a higher employment rate of our Korea University's graduating students as they would have more time to focus on jobs and can graduate more easily and earlier.

The fact that Chinese characters play a big part in our Korean language is undeniable. However, with continuous globalization, it would be no exaggeration to say that English is becoming ever more important. Moreover, the use of Chinese characters is declining as many Korean linguists are coming up with pure Korean words to replace those derived from Chinese. In this sense, why should our school hold onto something that our society is turning its back towards? Although the usage of Chinese Characters in the Korean language goes back many centuries, it is time for us to now concentrate more on the practicality rather than on our historical values.

Against the Abolition of the Test

It was in the Principles of Accounting class, in which lectures were given in English. The professor asked the students whether English is harder than Korean for studying accounting. Suddenly, one student spoke out, "English is better for studying accounting. Korean concepts are all in Chinese letters. It is hard to understand." More surprisingly, many students agreed with his opinion. I am not trying to say these students are right or wrong. However, I would like to show a deep regret to such responses.

It is hard to remember when, but from some time ago, the ratio of Chinese characters in the headlines of articles in Korea's major newspapers like *The Chosun Ilbo* or *The Dong-A Ilbo* started to decrease drastically. This represents the present situation in which many Koreans are not familiar with Chinese characters. However, many people do not realize the magnitude of this problem.

Even though we use fewer Chinese characters today, still 70 percent of Korean originates from Chinese characters. In order to fully understand Korean, studying Chinese characters is inevitable. Additionally, Chinese characters are not only used in Korean but also in other countries like China or Japan. Knowing these characters will be an advantage at least living in an East Asian country.

Not only to efficiently understand and use Korean, Chinese characters are necessary to understand Eastern philosophy. There are many idiomatic phrases in Chinese characters that connote Eastern philosophies. Currently, even out in the business world, Eastern philosophy is highlighted by many CEOs and conglomerates. For instance, they are interested in Sun Tzu's *Art of War* and study Eastern philosophy in it in order to act wisely in the harsh business environment. For KU students, some majors have textbooks full of Chinese characters. It is true that KU is tending to increase the ratio of English lectures. However, many books still in KU libraries, especially those that were written before the millennium, require students to know Chinese characters in order to read them.

Despite this importance, some people strongly agree with the abolition of Chinese character proficiency score qualification. They think spending the time to study their

major or other languages will be better than spending meaningless time to just get the scores for graduation. They believe the test, especially KU's own Chinese character test, is useless. Some students who are more fluent in English than Korean think the qualification is only an obstacle to graduation.

However, it does not take much time to pass KU's own test. Of course, there can be individual difference, especially for students who spent a long time abroad, but it is no different with some students who feel it difficult to satisfy the English score qualification. Also, being familiar and knowing a little is better than knowing nothing. On October 11, 2010, *The Korea University Weekly* gave a statistic that only 26.5 percent of the students who participated in the survey could write KU in Chinese characters. Even though there are few students who can read and write Chinese letters, if the qualification is abolished, there will be none.

It is true that there is a big problem in KU's Chinese character education system. The biggest problem with the current system is that it cannot make students feel the importance and the will to study Chinese characters. Students are passive in Chinese character learning. To make an improvement, KU must enhance the link between the qualification and university education. With this improvement, the Chinese character proficiency score qualification must be maintained. ■



Drinking the Korean Taste Makgeolli Expo 2011

By Kweon Yun Jin (alphabrain92@korea.ac.kr)

When Makgeolli Expo was held in Seoul a couple of years ago, there was barely room to breathe in the exhibition hall. Full of visitors interested in the beverage, reporters were also preoccupied with pressing shutters without a moment's rest. In fact, it was the first ever fair worldwide on *makgeolli*, the raw Korean traditional rice wine. However, because it succeeded in catching a number of people's eyes and interests, the expo was recorded as one of the most successful exhibitions of 2009.

Hoping to reproduce the flourishing outcome, the expo is going to be open again soon. From November 9th to 12th, the fair will be held at COEX in Samsung-dong for the third time. Even though Makgeolli Expo is only a part of Korea Food Expo (KFE) and Food Week, the scale of the expo itself will be quite large since it is co-hosted by three organizations—B2EXPO, aT Center, and COEX—with support from the Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MFFAF). This year, approximately 60 companies, being ready to introduce 150 different kinds of *makgeolli*, are willing to set up their own booths.

The very beginning of the expo is closely connected to the latest popularity of *makgeolli*. Originally, it had been widely favored by many Koreans until the mid-1960s. In 1965, however, the government

"If one has a penny, students of Seoul National University (SNU) buy a book, and those of Korea University (KU) go drink *makgeolli*, whereas those of Yonsei University (YU) pay to polish their shoes," stated a famous novelist Jeong Bi-seok in 1960. As shown in this short saying, *makgeolli* has been greatly beloved by numerous KU students. Even *sabal-sik*, in which freshmen drink up bowls of the beverage in front of many other peers, has been handed down since the early stage of the school establishment as one of the most meaningful traditions. For those big fans of *makgeolli*, there is good news: Makgeolli Expo 2011.



dosage, and cheap price. Taking advantage of the current craze, the expo ultimately aims to extend customer demand. By providing them with various chances to enjoy *makgeolli* in the exhibition, people will have much easier access while related businesses will yield far more economic benefits in the long run. Plus, it is highly anticipated that the problem of rice overproduction, which is challenging every year, will be solved through this opportunity.

Not only does it vitalize the market of *makgeolli*, but it is also expected to increase Korean food exports. Regarding the fact that corporations from 18 nations participated in the entire KFE and Food Week last year, it is assumed that countless foreigners will make a visit to Makgeolli Expo this year, as well. Taking this into account, the expo is actually an excellent opportunity to show foreigners how high-qualified *makgeolli* is, even when compared to globally eminent brands of wine and whisky. Further, the occasion encourages Koreans to inherit their traditional food culture and spread it to foreign nations.

Looking around the expo, visitors will easily find out that the expo chiefly displays three things: Korean traditional beverages including *makgeolli*, traditional cuisines that go well with it, and facilities used to brew and retain it. The exhibition hall is divided into five sectors, and each of them is for different purposes. In one area, companies are going to promote their brand-new products. In another area, people can see unique types of *makgeolli* in each local regions and other kinds of traditional beverages in Korea. In addition, Korean foods which harmonize well with it are shown. Last of all, in the franchise sector, advertisement for various *makgeolli* pubs will be continually promoted.

To add on those sectors with distinctive contents, there will be a variety of characteristic events that visitors are able to enjoy. Not only are several kinds of *makgeolli* sampled, but performances such as a *makgeolli*-cocktail show will be ready for visitors. Moreover, foreigners, who are not familiar with the Korean rice wine, will be provided *makgeolli* on draft free of charge.

Although it is not sure whether this exhibition will be a success again this year, it sounds quite plausible that the expo will satiate guests and participants again. According to a survey on participating businesses and visitors in 2010, 63 percent of responders showed satisfaction, whereas only six percent of them gave negative opinions. Particularly, 69 percent of visitors answered that they were content with the expo. In the case of companies, they picked promoting newly released products, improving brand image, tapping into new markets, and having potential buyers as aspects that were mainly helpful to them.

Greatly spotlighted to be one of the most representative promotions in the food industry of Asia, the expo is even looking for the possibilities of being a world-famous festival in the foreseeable future. "We are expecting that Makgeolli Expo will grade up with Oktoberfest, the annual beer festival in Munich, Germany which is considered as one of the three top festivals globally," says one of the staff from aT Center. ■

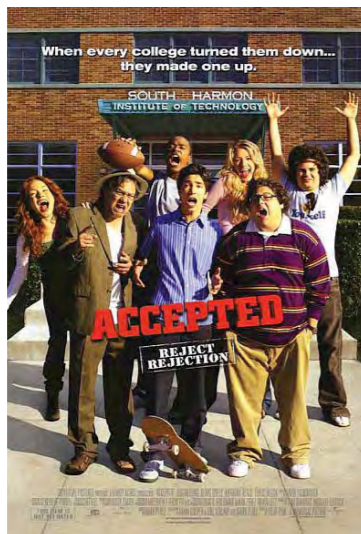
forcibly discouraged the consumption of it because the country chronically suffered from a shortage of rice, which is its key ingredient. Instead, *soju* and beer have replaced it for decades. Nevertheless, it has once again captivated customers with its clean taste, sufficient nutrition, low alcohol

Accepted or not accepted. The question of acceptance looms over students and hovers around the country in November, a season when Korean high school students take the College Scholastic Ability Test. The test intended to measure the students' preparedness for entering universities often determines their entire fate in the future. Two films, *Accepted* and *Waiting for Superman*, aptly portray what education nowadays means for students and question us whether it is the best we can do for ourselves.

What Today's Education Means for Students *Accepted* & *Waiting for Superman*

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

Waiting for Superman, a documentary film directed by Davis Guggenheim and released in September 2010 drew overheated attention from critics and a varied audience, ranging from educators to parents. As its title suggests, the film depicts the current American public education system as imperiled, and one that needs a long-awaited hero like "Superman" to save students from the crisis.



Indeed, a vast number of citizens in the U.S. are calling for change in the public education system, and the sentiment among educators and politicians for reform in both the primary and secondary education systems is fairly strong. Those who are not satisfied with how children are taught in the classroom nowadays point to the low reading and math scores of average American students compared with the high average academic performance of students in developing nations, such as China. In order to address this problem, nearly every president of the U.S. has labeled himself as the education president and increased education spending since 1971, but nothing seems to have improved much.

The film delves into the grim reality of the public educa-

tion system by closely following several students from various states attending public schools who desire to obtain acceptance from charter schools through the lottery. Either because they are from not-so-affluent families and cannot pay for the high tuition of private schools, or because they reside in poor neighborhoods, interviewed students have no other option but to attend under-performing public schools, some of which have considerably high drop-out rates. Accordingly, the only hope for them is to attend charter schools that run independently from the district. The problem is that there are so few of them that only a scarce number of students gain the chance to attend, thus earning the chance to succeed.

The story is no different when it comes to higher education. *Accepted*, a comedy film directed by Steve Pink and released in 2006, is a story of a young high school graduate who is rejected by all colleges he applies to and ends up establishing a fake college of his own to please his parents. In the film, the protagonist Bartleby Gaines and his friends attempt to find out how universities actually work in order to improve their own college—South Harmon Institute of



A scene from *Waiting for Superman*



Technology—so that it seems like a real one. The reality they face, however, are boring classes and students only caring about grades instead of their real interests. Monica, a friend of Bartleby, for example, cannot take photography class because it is not her major. As Bartleby laments, universities have become a place that robs people of "passion and creativity."

While watching, one might be surprised at what is vividly portrayed in those movies. Astonishingly, the reality of the American education system corresponds well to that of Korea. Similar to American public schools, public schools in Korea that most children and teenagers attend have lost their values and are replaced by private "cramming" institutions. Even universities are relegated to places in which the focus of attention is on what would be useful in the job market rather than on the intellectual growth and development of the talents of students.

Though the current education system is failing, both movies suggest some form of solutions to the problem. *Waiting for Superman* puts its emphasis on educators. In 1999 the director of the film had produced a documentary on public school teachers after observing both the well-performing teachers who are often frus-

trated by the education system and low-performing teachers sent to the reassignment sector, where the troublesome teachers are re-trained. With this experience, the director boldly attributes the failure of the current education system to the teachers' unions. Because the unions unconditionally guarantee teachers' tenure and refuse a new payment system that rewards high-performing teachers, educators are not motivated to instruct students.

Accepted presents the hope for the education system through the success of "South Harmon Institute of Technology." In the new college they create, Bartleby and his friends refuse to be passive learners but take initiative to teach themselves about what they are truly intrigued by. Hands, a student of the college, for instance, set up a sculpture class to follow his childhood dream.

The running time of *Accepted* is rather short—92 minutes, but the plot is fully developed by diverse and distinct characters who never grant the audience a chance to take their eyes off the screen. Even though the storyline of a teenager establishing a college seems unrealistic, it may be the only option available for the current education system.

Waiting for Superman, on the other

hand, stands firmly on accurate statistics and information. When claiming the fundamental cause for failures in public schools, the director draws on a vast amount of data and statistics. Also, he heavily relies on animation to convey his points more easily, which may be slightly irksome for some audience members. Compared with *Accepted*, the documentary film is perfectly realistic in the sense that all interviewees and characters discuss their real experiences and concerns.

Today's education system is far from perfect, or even abject in some people's eyes. Students are judged by whether they are "accepted," and because of their parents' wealth or their neighborhood, they may not even receive the chance to learn. The more serious problem, however, is that we are robbing them of possibility, or their passion and creativity. As *Accepted* and *Waiting for Superman* reveal, it is apparent that only we ourselves can be the "Superman," who rightens the wrong and transforms our planet into a better place to live. ■



A scene from *Accepted*



Rediscovering the Romantic Comedies of the 21st Century

It is that time of the year again, when the world is colored in red and yellow, and winter is just around the corner. And it is around this time when you probably feel more sentimental than usual. What you need here is a warm blanket, a cup of hot chocolate, a bowl of popcorn, and a fun romantic comedy (romcom) film to cheer you up. So whether you are a fan or a newbie, here are some selected romcoms that will teach you about love, pain, friendship, and life.

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

There are times when I prefer to stay home and enjoy the time alone. In these times, I discover the lost laughter and happiness in fantasized worlds depicted in films. By turning on a delightful movie, I take a break from the pressures, burdens, and responsibilities from daily life and just enjoy the couple of hours.

This leads to the first great aspect about romcoms: you can watch them lightheartedly without too much thought. You watch movies because you want to have fun, not to study them, which turns out to be the case for some movies with complex storylines. You want to relax and forget mundane matters for a couple of hours and just enjoy the surreal world. And romcoms give you just that.

What makes romcoms even greater is that they can lead you to awakenings about life; they create moments when the light bulb goes on “ping!” over your head. Since

they deal with real characters and daily life situations—although a little bit of exaggeration and humor is added in for entertainment—you can relate to the stories and say, “Oh, I know exactly how it feels when that happens,” or “I remember when I argued over little things like that.”

I cannot entirely ignore the stereotypical thought that, since I am a woman and theoretically more sentimental than men, I am more likely to enjoy romcoms. But this would be a very sorry explanation because it ignores all the great characteristics that have made me fall in love with them. In fact, whether you are a boy or a girl, man or woman, falling in love or out of love, newly-wed or long married, you will enjoy them if you find the right one to watch. You will realize that they are more than just sweet love stories with happy endings.

Boy Meets Girl



A Memorable Line:

“I kept the book because it was the only thing I had left of you.”

Other Suggested Films:

- *Sweet Home Alabama*
- *A Lot Like Love*

Whether you are a delicate girl or a macho man, you encounter love in your life. No matter what kind of exterior self you put on, in your heart hides that sensitive little girl who is vulnerable to painful heartbreaks, but touched at the littlest loving minds and tear up at the fewest beautiful words. As a result, you can relate to the different forms of love depicted in romcoms.

If you have at least once asked yourself, “Is he or she the right one?” then the film *Definitely, Maybe* is perfect for you. This film is about coming across love a few times in life, but not realizing the right one when he or she finally arrives. The film challenges the common belief you hold about love that “it’s not who, but it’s when,” and proves it is otherwise by showing that you eventually long for that right person in the end.

What makes this movie special is its freshly framed narrative. Ryan Reynolds plays the character Hayes, who lives an unhappy life, with his dreams unfulfilled and his marriage ending up in a divorce. One day, his eleven-year-old daughter asks him how he had met her mother and insists on telling her about his past love life. The great part comes here: you do not know who the mother is because Hayes decides to make the three girlfriends in his tale anonymous. As a result, throughout the movie, you, along with the daughter, are left dying to know which one is his true love, and whether it will end happily or not.

Another reason why I list this film as one of my favorite romcoms, is Isla Fisher’s character, April; you will fall in love with her immediately. April is a fun, carefree, and somewhat rebellious character who floats through life without too much worry. But you also find the cute and soft-hearted girl in her, hidden underneath her tough and independent image. Isla Fisher does a perfect job in making April come alive, and after watching the movie, I felt as if April was a real girl whom I might run into at anytime. Just as I did, you will fall in love right away with both April and Isla.

Standing Up Tall



A Memorable Line:

“Act your age, not your shoe size.”

Other Suggested Films:

- *Little Black Book*
- *Bridget Jones's Diary*

Not all romcoms are centered on love relationships. Some films focus more on one's development into a more mature and successful person, learning valuable lessons and coming to realizations through experiences. Such changes in one's life are depicted in the humorous yet touching film, *Uptown Girls* starring Brittany Murphy and Dakota Fanning.

Murphy plays Molly, who is a carefree and child-like character whose life is in a mess without any goals or purpose. Then she meets Ray, played by the young Dakota Fanning, who is only eight years old, but very uptight and indifferent to emotion. These two opposite characters find that they are very similar in many ways, and discover their other selves through the other.

This film is one of those movies that are memorable

not for its fancy storyline, but more for the characters and their gradual development. At first, Molly may seem like a pathetic failure in life and Ray a heartless little devil, but soon you will realize that there is much more to them behind their exterior selves.

Molly refuses to grow up and lives her life in a bubble because she is scared of feeling alone and abandoned. On the other hand, Ray rids of all her childish thoughts and characteristics and is always on her guard so that she does not become vulnerable to emotion. In such ways, the two characters, although very contradictory, adopt their own ways of life in order to avoid facing the truth, because truth hurts.

As you watch the film, you cannot help but tear up at the special friendship formed between Molly and Ray, despite their big age difference. You will be touched at how the two help each other let go of the grudges each has held onto for long, and encourage each other to move on from past pains.

Such depictions of the characters are made possible by the beautiful acting done by Murphy and Fanning. Murphy believably creates the fun and careless, yet insecure and lonely character of Molly, and manages to make her lovable although she is not the most sensible or respectable character in the film. Fanning also fits right into her character Ray, and demonstrates great acting despite her young age. After watching this film, you will become a fan of both Murphy and Fanning. You will especially lament that you cannot see Murphy in movies anymore.

Ready, Set, Action!



A little spice of action and suspense can make romcoms even more interesting. Especially if you are an action fan, action romcoms will satisfy your tastes. Not only do they have exciting chase scenes and mysterious secrets, but they also give you humor and a spark of romance.

Embodiment of such characteristics is the film

The Bounty Hunter, starring Gerard Butler and Jennifer Aniston. The former Spartan warrior proves himself capable of pulling off a charming character, and the *Friends* star lights up the atmosphere with her natural easygoing and humorous personality.

Butler plays the tough yet comic character of Milo, who was once a NYPD detective and now is a bounty hunter. Butler's brawny figure and his past roles in action movies make him a perfect fit for Milo. Likewise, Aniston believably portrays her character Nicole, a beautiful and attractive investigating reporter who has a playful and humorous personality. In a twisted turn of destiny, these two past lovers come across each other once again, this time

A Memorable Line:

“Life is about making mistakes and death is wishing you had made more”

Other Suggested Films:

- *Killers*
- *Knight and Day*

not as lovers, but as the chaser and the chased.

The film contains exciting action elements such as pursuing the suspect, solving mysteries, and fighting enemies, but what really makes the film great is the chemistry between the old

lovers. They are now in the chaser-chased terms with each other, but at times, you can glimpse at their old husband-wife relationship. Behind the accusing words directed at each other hide their true feelings. It is interesting to watch the chase eventually turn into a pursuit for love in the end.

Fun, Fun, and More Fun



A Memorable Line:

“Do you prefer Margaret, or ‘Satan’s Mistress’? We’ve heard both.”

Other Suggested Films:

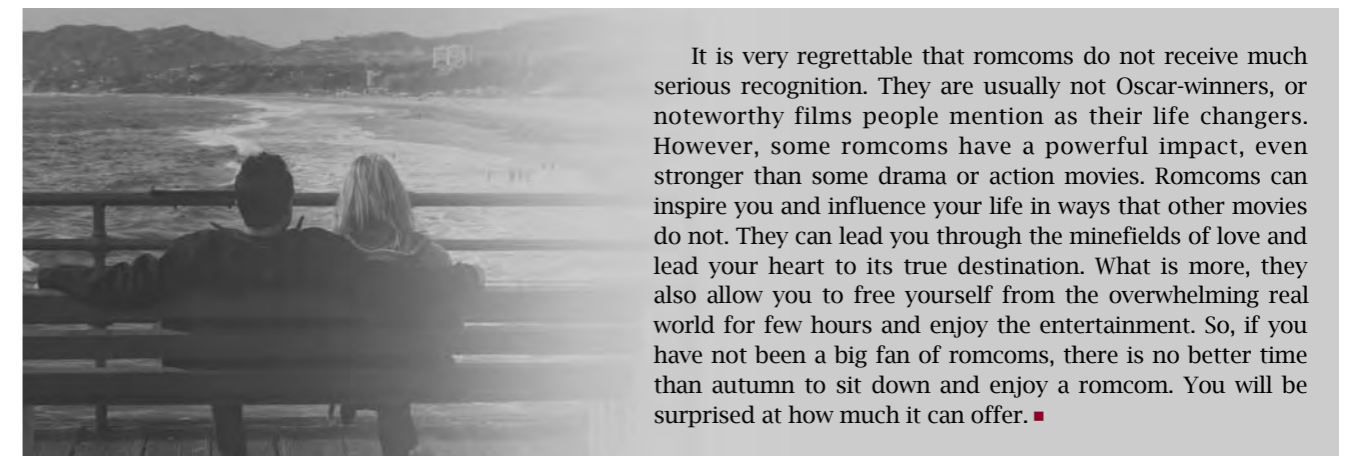
- *50 First Dates*
- *Along Came Polly*

Other romcoms tend to lean more toward comedy than romance. They do contain a love relationship as the central conflict, but the love situation in such films is not necessarily realistic. However, these unrealistic elements are what make the amusing stories possible, by taking the unthinkable and outrageous situations to create the humor.

A recent romcom film that received a huge love from fans not only for the romance but also for the witty way the two actors bring the story, is *The Proposal*. In this film, Sandra Bullock plays Margaret, who is a commanding boss at a publish-

ing company, and Ryan Reynolds plays Andrew, her assistant. This relationship of “the superior and charismatic female bossing around the powerless male assistant” is already a captivating context, but to make it even more intriguing, this relationship is flipped in the sudden turn of events, making it entertaining to watch the irony in the situation.

The film's humorous storyline is made possible by the two actors, Bullock and Reynolds. The America's sweetheart especially makes you fall in love with her and her character, charming you with her natural humorous and lovable personality. She portrays the strict and confident characteristics of Margaret very well, but also at the same time depicts her humorous and soft sides effectively. In the film, Bullock will remind you how she has made the whole world fall in love with her for the past 20 years.



It is very regrettable that romcoms do not receive much serious recognition. They are usually not Oscar-winners, or noteworthy films people mention as their life changers. However, some romcoms have a powerful impact, even stronger than some drama or action movies. Romcoms can inspire you and influence your life in ways that other movies do not. They can lead you through the minefields of love and lead your heart to its true destination. What is more, they also allow you to free yourself from the overwhelming real world for few hours and enjoy the entertainment. So, if you have not been a big fan of romcoms, there is no better time than autumn to sit down and enjoy a romcom. You will be surprised at how much it can offer. ■



Sweet, So Sweet Sung Si Kyung

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

There is this one person that comes to our mind in the season of falling leaves. His sweet, mellow voice rings in our head with a melodious tune. His absence for the last two years has left his nostalgic fans of what a "good" song is in today's K-Pop trend of idol domination. This person is our very own Sung Si Kyung ('00, Sociology) and he is back with *Cheoum*.

There was a high school student who rode a motorcycle without his parents knowing. The fact that all of his families are graduates of a prestigious university motivated the student to study hard, but he also felt ashamed when he was trying for the second and third time on the College Scholastic Ability Test.

The student is Sung Si Kyung. It is a known fact that Sung took three entrance examinations of the university and all three times, he was accepted into Korea University (KU). After he entered KU, Sung did not adjust to school life, yet he was not disappointed about that. Instead, he decided to follow a career in music which was his interest and specialty.

In the autumn of 2000, Sung made his debut in the cyber song festival, *Ddeuak Festival*, winning the Grand Prize. His first single, "The Way to Me" was released in the same year, and in the next year, *Like the Beginning* which is Sung's first full album, hit the stands. He has released seven full albums, three remake and special albums, and a best album of all.

Since his debut, Sung has been loved by many people for his emotional ballads. Whenever he introduces his new songs, the songs hold high rank on various charts. He also has received many outstanding awards: two Golden Disks, three Seoul Broadcasting System (SBS) Song Ceremony, two Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) the Best 10 Singer, Korean Music Award the Most Popular Singer, and Korean Broadcasting System (KBS)

the Best Singer of the Year awards.

Since Sung graduated from KU and KU's Graduate School of Journalism & Mass Communication, KU students feel closer to him. Sung Si Kyung is the greatest singer KU has ever produced and the pride of KU.

The Long Wait... And *Cheoum*

Sung Si Kyung came back with his seventh album: *Cheoum* (first in Korean) released this September. Known as "the crown prince of ballad", Sung's album has aroused intense interest before its release. Moreover, because this album is the first album after a three-year hiatus since Sung's discharge from the army, the expectation of the fans for the album cannot help being high.

The songs, "Cheoum" and "Ah My Goddess", in Sung's seventh album, which came out before formal album release, occupied online music charts. Along with this, the reservation rate of his nationwide concert set last October was ranked number one. Most surprisingly, all of the songs in Sung's seventh album ranked high in music charts less than 12 hours after the album's release.

The title song of this seventh album, comprised of 12 tracks, is "I Like". The concept of the songs in the album is "like Sung Si Kyung". In other words, this album epitomizes the sweet and tender ballad songs. So someone may get a bit bored from this album, but it seems that even the boredom harmonizes with the feeling of autumn.

There are some noticeable songs in

this album besides the title song. One of them is "Ah My Goddess". The song which reminds us of the movie with the same title, is impressive because of its rhythmical melody and cheerful lyrics. The background music, like the sound of bell, adds liltiness to this song and the lyrics stands out from the sad lyrics of other tracks.

Also, it may be interesting to compare "We Were Very Happy" with "It's You". In both songs, female singers with outstanding singing ability are featured. We can appreciate the perfect harmony of the two deep voices that are suitable for ballad in "We Were Very Happy" featuring Park Jeong Hyun. "It's You" is a duet with IU.

Today when dance music is in the mainstream, Sung's album can satisfy the fans who crave for authentic ballads. But be careful. If you listen to the sweet voice of Sung repeatedly, one will become too relaxed to do anything else. ■



WE LISTEN



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more information.