

The Granite Tower

Where the Magazine Comes to Life

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THE GRANITE TOWER

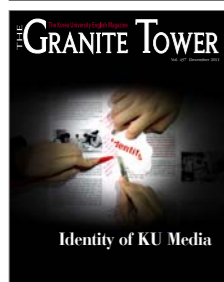
The Korea University English Magazine

Vol. 437 December 2011



Identity of KU Media

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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

Thank You and Good Bye

When we write an article, we always, for quite a long time, ponder on who will be its main readers, on whether they will be native Koreans who would not be that comfortable with English or foreigners who barely know about Korea and its culture.

These thoughts lead directly to the matter of identity. Unlike other publications, the identity of a Korean university's English publication has always been vicissitudinous, changing as the circumstances surrounding it change with time. You see, *The Granite Tower* (GT) has always had four conditions to consider and, thus, deal with: Korea, university affairs, English, and publishing.

The December issue covers the identity of media. To clearly show the situations where GT has been sitting for its 57 years, our cover story has been split into three parts: the media of Korea University (KU), English journals in non-English speaking countries, and the role of the media. In our film review, we investigate how journalists have been portrayed in movies, and discuss the admirable character most journalists would possess themselves. I hope this 58 page-long effort will resolve the GT's chronic identity problem as a KU publication, English journal, and campus magazine, and clarify readers' confusion about GT's role.

Sitting at the editor's desk with just one more issue to be published, I cannot get rid of the nagging question of whether I have done a good job or not—at both the editing work and caring for my second home, GT. Even though I have never forgotten the moment when I was first praised by my very first editor, I have never been the kind of editor who can emotionally reach reporters with just a single compliment. With this opportunity, perhaps the last chance for me to say anything to my reporters and readers, I would like to say, "Thank you for being wonderful, nay, just for being there for me."



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

The Ninth International Students' Festival

By **Park Jin Yung** (pjy1372@korea.ac.kr)

People's Square was swarming with thousands of students on November 9 where the International Students' Festival (ISF) was being held from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. ISF is an annual event that is hosted by Korea University Buddy Assistants (KUBA) and the university's Office of International Affairs. It is designed to "bring exchange students together, and all KU students together," according to Kim Young Hwan ('06, Korean History), the vice president of KUBA. He said exchange students and their Korean buddies "have started preparing for ISF since mid-terms ended."

Indeed, their efforts seemed to bear fruit. Thousands of KU students visited People's Square that day, attracted by traditional food, games, costumes and other events. Even the president of KU made an appearance at the event and visited several booths himself.

"My school has this kind of international festival as well, but it's not as big or fun as KU's!" exclaimed Juan Ma Molina Bedmar ('07, Media), who was busily cooking yellow Spanish rice at the Spain booth. "All the music, food, events make the festival very exciting," added Molina.

At the center of the plaza was a board where students could put a sticker for the booth they thought was the best. "The prize for the number one booth is funded by restaurants around Anam," disclosed Kim. The Peru booth

came out number one. Park Minji ('11, Foreign Language and Literature), the Korean leader of the Peru booth, remarked, "Exchange students were very actively involved in making ISF happen. We went around looking for Peruvian restaurants, not knowing the way around, and even ended up in Songtan-dong. We searched for places we could borrow Peruvian traditional costumes. All in all, the preparation was tiring but it was surely worth it."

The 9th ISF would be a memory to be cherished for many KU students.



Photograph by Park Jin Yung

The Eventful Inter-GSIS Forum Held at KU

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

The Inter-Graduate School of International Studies Forum (Inter-GSIS Forum) took place December 2, 2011 at Korea University (KU). The Inter-GSIS Forum is a student-organized, university supported, and KIEP funded event that assembles outstanding students from among the graduate schools of international studies in Korea to share their academic knowledge and perspectives on global issues. The forum, which is held each fall semester to offer graduate students at various graduate schools of international studies, provided an opportunity for students to share their scholarly research in the areas of international, regional, and Korean studies. This year, ten papers from 14 authors were presented on the following theme:

"Regional Integration in Asia: Political, Economic, and Cultural Perspectives". During the four-hour-long forum, students and faculty actively participated in Q&A sessions to make helpful suggestions that may contribute to improving the presenting student authors' papers. Once these papers are revised, they will be included in the Inter-GSIS Journal the following semester. According to Brandon Hensley, the chairman of the forum's organizing committee, "Students were able to enlarge their insight into regional integration and expand professional exposure by networking with fellow students from other graduate schools of international studies."

Correction

Kyoto University (p.35 on November Issue)

Living costs about 70,000 to 80,000 yen if you live in a dorm and about 100,000 to 120,000 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

Korea University A New Take-off Over the

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



As the oldest college of law in Korea, Korea University (KU) College of Law is the pride of KU with the renowned prestige and its century-old history. With the venerable history that traces back to the Law Department of Bosung College founded in 1905, the KU College of Law blazed a trail in legal education of Korea. Now, its experiences in legal education and its fame as a judicial pioneer are being passed on to the KU Law School which opened in 2009, earning the public's trust by fulfilling its role to the society and the country.

As a consequence of the new law school system of Korea in 2009, KU Law School (KULS) undertook the role of KU College of Law and played an important role in Korea's legal education. Those who would attend law school, KULS has been always on their top school list to consider. This preference could be explained not only by the Law School's fame, but also by its proven excellence in legal education.

For example, the *Korea University Law Review* (KULR) was registered with *Westlaw International* which offers online legal research services for lawyers and legal professionals worldwide. Information journals on Westlaw consist of more than 40,000 databases of case law, state and federal statutes, administrative codes, newspaper and magazine articles, public records, law journals, law reviews, treatises, legal forms and other information resources. Since 2007, KULR publishes law review twice a year and all its contents are included in Westlaw database.

Moreover, KULS and the Washington University Law School (WULS) launched an Executive LL.M. (Master of Laws) program. This program is designed for practicing attorneys, judges, and governmental officials with three or more years of experience. Graduates of this program are eligible to apply for the New York bar examination.

"KULS offers a variety of exchange student programs and internships. We connect students to several law firms, law institutions, and the Korea Legal Aid Corporation. We also support students about their career, and offer mentoring programs at the student guidance center for them to be inspired and motivated. I think these are reasons for our prominence in Korea legal education." says Bae Tae Woong, an officer of KUSL Student Affairs Dept.

KULS also earned awards from the *Chosun Ilbo*, the *JoongAng Ilbo*, and others for its excellence in legal education. The *Chosun Ilbo* named KULS as a brand most trusted by consumers in 2010. KULS was also chosen one of the 2010 National Brands by *The Economist* with the *JoongAng Ilbo* and the Ministry of Knowledge Economy. This is evidence for the nation's trust and a positive brand image of KULS in Korean society.

Of all the 25 law schools in Korea, KULS is the only one that specializes in international judicial affairs, including international commerce and international business. Graduates of KUSL, therefore, are acknowledged for their professionalism in these fields. This means that students of KULS can concentrate on their own specialized fields without studying indecisively.

"I chose KULS not just because KULS is in succession to the outstanding quality of legal education of KU College of Law, but because KUSL is very well organized for students who hope to build their career

Law School: Century-old History

in some specific fields. It is of use to manage my career," says Lee Dong Hun, the president of the KUSL Student Council.

Another branch of KULS is Clinical Legal Education Center (CLEC). CLEC is an association in KUSL that was established for law school students to foster job training, qualifications, and dedication to the community as a law student. CLEC, formed in February 2009, has been working for public interest. They have accepted 207 legal cases, and 145 cases are completed.

Starting on March 2012, KU Law School newly establishes a diploma course for law specialists. This one-year course is expected to enhance the quality of the legal service market by providing hands-on-experience education on advanced legal knowledge. This course is designed for jurists to compete in a rapidly changing environment of the domestic legal service market. Up to now, jurists have been dependent on law schools abroad for their degree course in LL.M. This situation is expected to improve with

the introduction of KU Law School's diploma course.

Students say one merit of KULS is unity among the students. "Like KU's culture, for whatever reason, KULS students show their unity as well. There are frequent exchanges, both within the school and between law schools, especially with Yonsei University Law School (YULS). Some clubs like basketball or badminton have had several friendly matches during The Annual Ko-Yon Games. At present, KULS hosts 26 clubs working on positive lines within the boundary of KULS." says Lee. The students participate as much as they can and the clubs receive strong support from KU.

A sense of justice and a never-say-die spirit of students hoping to create a better world have been the driving forces of KULS. KULS and its century-old history with the KU College of Law, should proceed persistently into a new level of Korea's legal education as a pioneer with the endless efforts of students, professors, and KU. ■

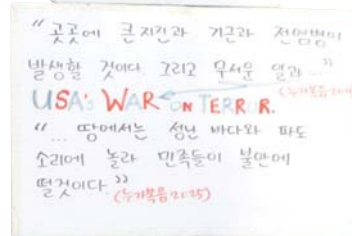


Photograph by Kim Ha-Joong

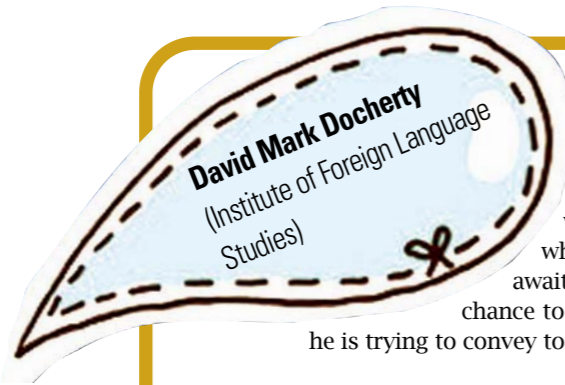
Friendly Faces at KU: Who are They, Really?

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

In Korea University (KU), not only are there hundreds of foreign students studying but also foreign professors who are devoted to teaching KU students. Although there are a lot of opportunities to approach professors by taking a class and talking to them, it is true that getting to know them is a whole different thing.



Photograph by Lee Shiyoung



David Mark Docherty
(Institute of Foreign Language Studies)

Every Wednesday, from 10:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. there is one man standing in front of the West Gate, playing a guitar, singing. A crowd of students, who mostly are on their way to the lunch, may wonder who he is, and what he is singing. However, as it is their long-awaited lunch time, many actually do not have a chance to stop by and pay attention to what messages he is trying to convey to KU people.

Q. When did you come to Korea?

A. I came to Korea in 1994 and started teaching at KU in 2009. I have a qualification in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) and also a distinction in teaching diploma. Back in the United Kingdom, once you get a teacher training qualification in TEFL, the country advises you to go abroad to work and that is the reason I started teaching abroad. So I came to Korea and here I am, teaching in KU.

Q. What are you singing at the West Gate and why?

A. Since December 2010, I am singing gospels at the West Gate. The main reason for this is I am a Christian and I thought people might want to have a chance to listen to the gospel and hear about Jesus. I just want to share this with other people.

Q. Were there any oppositions to your singing?

A. A few professors came to me and said that I shouldn't be doing this, but I still believe that students should have a chance to hear the gospel. Also, I think this is part of my right of free speech. I think those who oppose to my singing gospels were worried that I might take this into classes. I could sense that even my own students were worrying about that. However, I think it is wrong if I take this into my classes. I am definitely not going to. Now, as my students know that, they just wave to me whenever they see me singing at the West Gate.

Q. Anything you want to say to KU students

A. KU students are very perceptive. I was surprised that students, when given reading assignments, they not only read but also do the analysis of the story before class and give perceptive comments in class. It is pleasantly surprising and nice to see students doing their best in class. However, not only in KU but in most of Korean universities, I realized that students worry too much about their grades. Since it is tough to get a job, their worries are understandable but still it is sad. Campus life should be more than just about grades. It should be a chance to experience different things.

Funny, friendly, humorous, enthusiastic: these are some of the words students use to describe him. Some even say that he is a famous comedian from Canada, which he, himself, says it is a mere rumor. Some say that if you take his class, you will be able to enjoy every class filled with the bright atmosphere he produces.

Q. You have been teaching at KU for a long time. When did you come to KU and what is your impression about KU?

A. I came to KU in 1998. I came here last century so, yes I have been teaching in KU for a long time. Seeing KU change overtime, what I thought was that the whole campus is just great. There are beautiful buildings and there is so much passion from the professors and students. Students have a high education level and their motivations are strong. Also, there are a lot of attractive lectures in so many areas, and KU is a global campus. I think KU is only going to get better as time goes on. I am glad to serve to enrich the student body. My heart absolutely belongs to KU. KU is like a home to me.

Q. Besides teaching KU students, you have been helping reporters of The Granite Tower (GT) with proofreading. How did you like working with GT?

A. My years with GT should not be excluded, since I have been associated with GT off and on during my whole time in KU. I have greatly enjoyed working with the many reporters that have come and gone over the years. I have every issue kept in the box since the 1990s!

Q. Many students who had a chance to meet you inside and outside the class say that you are a very enthusiastic and optimistic person who makes others around you cheerful as well. This was the reason why GT wanted to know more about you. Do you hear that a lot? What do you think of that?

A. Thank you for saying that! Yes, I hear this sometimes. But I think there are many teachers here who hear similar things. I see so much enthusiasm and optimism in my colleagues as well. We have to be optimistic and enthusiastic in our lives. It is humanity. I believe we have a job to do while we are on the planet and that is to make this place cleaner and better before we leave. We are supposed to make this place happier because we are here. In order to do that, I think being cheerful and optimistic is very important.

Q. Can you tell us some unforgettable episodes you experienced while staying at KU?

A. 1> Of course, The Annual Ko-Yon Games, Ipselenti, and other extracurricular are the things I will never forget. What is more amazing is, as a professor, you see students improve and come out of their shells. You see students enter as freshmen and see them graduate. And you keep in touch with some of the students. I feel like a lifelong counselor and friend, and nothing compares with that feeling of seeing students enter, experience, graduate, and excel.

There was a student whom I met in his fresh-

man year. He went through some hard times back in those day so he used to be very depressed for the whole semester. Then, a few years later at the campus of UC Davis, I ran into him again by chance. He was a whole different person who was bright and happy. It was really great to see that he had come out of the darkness. It was an awesome experience as a professor, seeing my student improve and change. I will never forget this special feeling.

2> Students told me that I should tell a story about how I met my wife. My wife is a Korean and we met playing Starcraft! I was interested in music, games, hobbies of students, whatever that will help me relate to them more. I started to play Starcraft as there were so many students who played that game. I was just a beginner, and I met this "guy" online, who would always willingly help me play the game. As time went by, I fell in love with the manners he had during games. Then, one day, he said that he was a "girl" but I thought it was just a joke. Later, we had a chance to meet each other and that was how I met her and ended up marrying her. Also, this is how I overcame the cultural differences and learned Korean-meeting my wife. "Upgrade complete!"

Q. What do you want to say to KU students?

A. I want to tell KU students three things. First, what you need to remember in this lifetime is that the world is a better place because you are here. Second, you deserve love, smiles, and occasional tasty snacks. Third, the best way to understand and achieve those two things is to be a kind and caring person. Once you become one, the world will be a better place because of you and then, you will deserve love and smiles. Also, remember, sometimes you need to sacrifice the first two things for somebody else, to make them happier. And when you are having a hard time, do not forget that your family, friends, and even teachers are around you to support you. One more thing, I want to teach KU students enthusiasm as I hope their dreams come true. ■

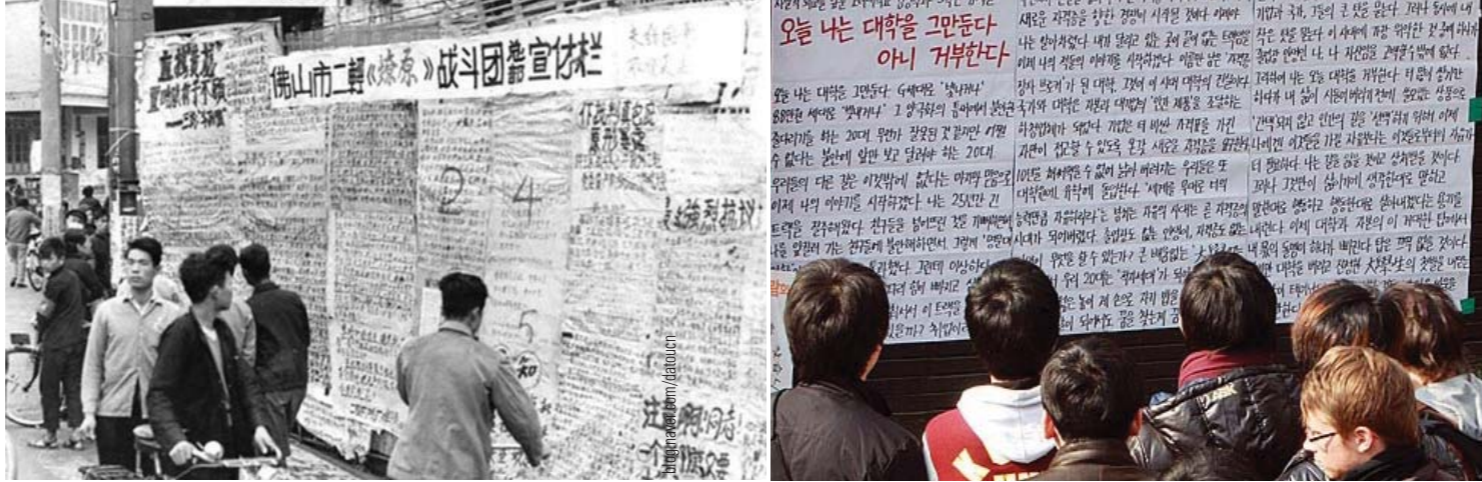


Provided by Michael Blackwood



Michael Blackwood
(Institute of Foreign Language Studies)

Dejabo, the Analogue but Powerful Voice on Campus



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

This year has been an eventful period for Korea University (KU). Since early May, KU students and faculty have confronted many commotions: sexual harassment in the College of Medicine, gatherings for lowering tuition fees, and the death of a student hit by a shuttle bus. Whatever the occasion might be, students can see *dejabo*—big and white papers with huge letters that convey opinions—posted on every bulletin within the school. Are they mere sheets to be discarded in a day by janitors or a crucial means of communication on campus?

Looking back in Korean modern history, *dejabo* played a great role in publicizing governmental corruptions and encouraging students to take measures. Although posting *dejabo* is considered as an old tradition on campus, its history at KU actually does not date too far back. "Except notice of tuition fees or club activity, students were reluctant to display *dejabo* due to fear of interrogation by the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA)," says Jang ('68, History). Instead, students in those days used to run around each lecture room to inform students of exact time and place demonstrations would be held.

It was the 1980's when *dejabo* prevailed throughout the whole campus. In those days students' anger towards the authori-

tarian regime maximized, so they began operating every available channel to resist the authorities. Under the circumstance, *dejabo* became one of the most influential media, for it was effective to catch people's eyes with its large sized sheet and blocky letters. Besides, as various ways of communication were not yet developed at that time, *dejabo* had the easiest access to students. "It clearly remains in my memory that tens of pieces of *dejabo* fluttered in the air every morning in front of the College of Liberal Arts," says Yun Seon Ja (College of Liberal Arts), recalling her KU life in 1987 when former president Chun Doo-Hwan's dictatorship marked an end through enormous civic movements in June. "*Dejabo* was truly the only passage of interac-

tion on campus in the past. The poster was tremendously dedicated to leading students' opinion and action ahead of grave social changes," adds Yoo Ji-Young ('06, Political Science and International Relations), the vice president of the 44th KU Students' Association (KUSA).

Despite diversified media such as Social Networking Service (SNS) or the Internet, *dejabo* still tightly links students. According to a survey conducted by *The Granite Tower* (GT), roughly 70 percent answered positively that they have noticed the existence of *dejabo*. With regard to this, they suggested several main reasons in the following item. Above all, the largest number of students, who account for over 40 percent, explained that they are interested in issues happening inside or outside of campus that *dejabo* discusses. Furthermore, nearly 33 percent of students take a look at *dejabo* simply because it is straightforward to recognize regardless of its location. Others testified that they usually come to read it, being affected by other students talking about the poster or mass media covering the same issue, as well.

Nonetheless, there is a raised doubt whether the power of *dejabo* is recently getting weaker, supported by the fact that approximately 30 percent of the whole sample responded that they do not even read *dejabo*. Not only does the phenomenon result from the advent of other resources from which students can gain information, but it is largely based on decreasing interest in social issues. According to the survey, 125 out of 485 students, who do not read *dejabo*, picked indifference towards community as their reason of not paying attention to it. Moreover, some students even replied that they do not have enough time to spend in

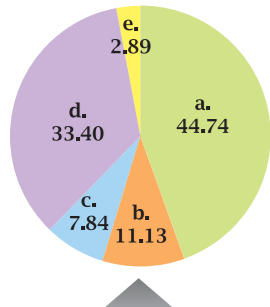
front of the sheet. "I am frequently running out of time for being chased after my own schedule. Even though I never intend to be careless of it, I just pass by most of the time," explains Ji Yeryn ('11, Foreign Languages and Literatures). In addition, several respondents gave unique reasons for why they do not prefer reading *dejabo*. For example, some claimed that the paper should also be written in English so that those who are not accustomed to Korean are able to understand what is going on at the school. Others said that it is quite uncomfortable to read lengthy *dejabo* while standing in one spot for an extended time.

Furthermore, it becomes obvious that *dejabo* is losing its power to lead students into taking action on a practical basis. In the survey, over 60 percent of students confessed that they have never taken part in a rally, signature-seeking campaign and vote even after reading *dejabo*. In the fourth question of how much influence *dejabo* brings on one's idea and action, only 12 percent of those who have taken action think of its influence dominant. Since students are preoccupied with many other things such as grades, employment, and relationships, their interests in controversies that *dejabo* contains seem to naturally lower. Kang Min Soo ('11, Materials Science and Engineering) says, "I am not that concerned about stopping for a moment to read through *dejabo* because they have little to do with my life." Also, Yoo admits that *dejabo* itself cannot change students' values and behaviors. She adds that the extent of a ripple effect of *dejabo* depends on the amount of attention that students already have on the topic. "Whether or not KUSA expresses its stance via

dejabo does not matter that much. It is students who make a particular poster influential," says Yoo. Similarly, Chung Kyeong Woon ('11, Foreign Languages and Literatures) says, "The paper just seems to heat up the controversy when some significant event occurs."

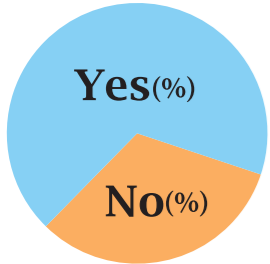
While the number of *dejabo* appears to keep reducing on campus, it is undeniable that the poster is still one of the most major ways of communication. "Notwithstanding that we have a variety of methods like Twitter to convey our message, *dejabo* is certainly the most reliable way to interact with students because at least we know that students come to school every day," says Yoo, explaining why KUSA enthusiastically posts *dejabo* until nowadays. Even though *dejabo* has a limitation as the analogue channel through which an immediate two-way communication is impossible, it is true that it aims to facilitate interaction on campus. "Rather than persuading students to unilaterally follow us, we sincerely hope that they can fully empathize with us when something comes up. That is exactly what we want," says Yoo. ■

2. Why do you read *dejabo*?



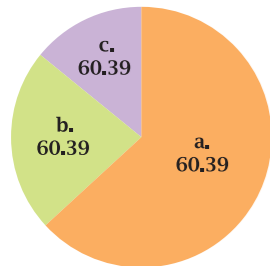
- a. Interested in social events that *dejabo* discusses
- b. Influenced by media reporting the same issue
- c. Affected by other students talking about *dejabo* and its topic
- d. Easy to recognize *dejabo* for its big sized sheet and paper
- e. Etc

1. Have you noticed the existence of *dejabo*, which is posted on walls within campus?



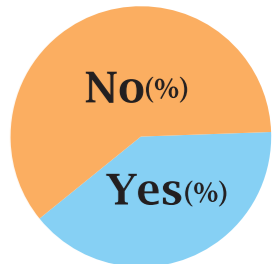
- a. Yes. (Go to the question No.2)
- b. No. (Go to the question No.5)

5. What is the reason that you do not care about *dejabo*?



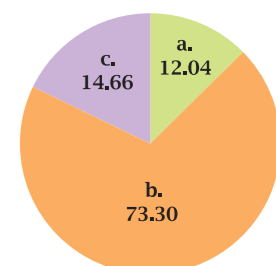
- a. Indifference (It is none of my business)
- b. Lack of time to read *dejabo* (Waste of time)
- c. Etc

3. Have you ever participated in a rally, signature-seeking drive, and vote after reading *dejabo*?



- a. Yes (Go to the question No.4)
- b. No. (Thank you for responding to items above)

4. How influential *dejabo* is on your ideas and actions?



- a. Dominant
- b. So-so
- c. Very little

Features

IN THEIR EYES— How Korea is Dealt With in Foreign Media

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

“Welcome to Seoul, South Korea. Capital city of one of the world’s fastest growing economies. There are many reasons to be impressed with this Asian tiger who rose from the ashes of the civil war.” This is an introduction to South Korea as it was broadcast on CNN. With rapid globalization and the rise of many Asian economies, Korea has often made to the headlines of many foreign news agencies. While we are always aware of the happenings around the world through Korean media, there are also many foreigners learning about us through their own media in their own ways.

In most kinds of media, there is bound to be a separate section dealing with all sorts of issues taking place around the globe. This is not only the case for Korea but also for other countries. Even globally recognized news sites such as CNN and BBC have separate news programs such as “Talk Asia” and “Asia Business” where they discuss solely about the happenings in Asian countries.

Yet, an interesting difference between these worldwide media is that what they chose to deliver to their readers and audiences differs depending upon their interests,

preferences, and characteristics. For example, when looking through foreign media, some issues about Korea will be dealt with more often than others. Usually, topics that are related to their own country or what they are going through are more likely to be dealt with. Some of the most common issues about Korea that are considered by the global media today are K-pop (Korean Pop), internationalization of Korean food, the relationship between North Korea and South Korea, and education in Korea.

Korean Music World Wide

“Après avoir conquis l’Asie, la machine de guerre K-pop s’attaque à l’Europe,” (*Le Figaro*, France). This is an extract from an article in *Le Figaro*, the famous French newspaper in France. This article talks about how K-pop is now attacking Europe after conquering Asia and its establishment of a bridgehead in Paris with new waves of songs from Korea. Thanks to great investments by the Korean entertainment industry to propagate their artists throughout the world, many people around the globe seem to be enjoying the glittery, catchy, and captivating sensation of *hallyu*. K-pop is one of the most increasingly heard terms mentioned in worldwide media today.

Not only in Europe but also in the lands of America, Brazil has been staggered by the rapid settling of Korean music in their land. “Onda Coreana”(“Korean wave” in Portuguese) is a title of an article from the *Correio Brasiliense*, a well known Brazilian news site. “It’s amazing how people from Asia other than Korea know so much about K-pop. What surprised me the most was that they



knew the lyrics of the songs in Korean. I was ashamed, in a way, as they knew so much more about the music of my country than I did,” says Kim Sang Ah ('10, English Language and Literature). Kim is currently studying in New Brunswick University, Canada, as an exchange student from Korea University (KU).

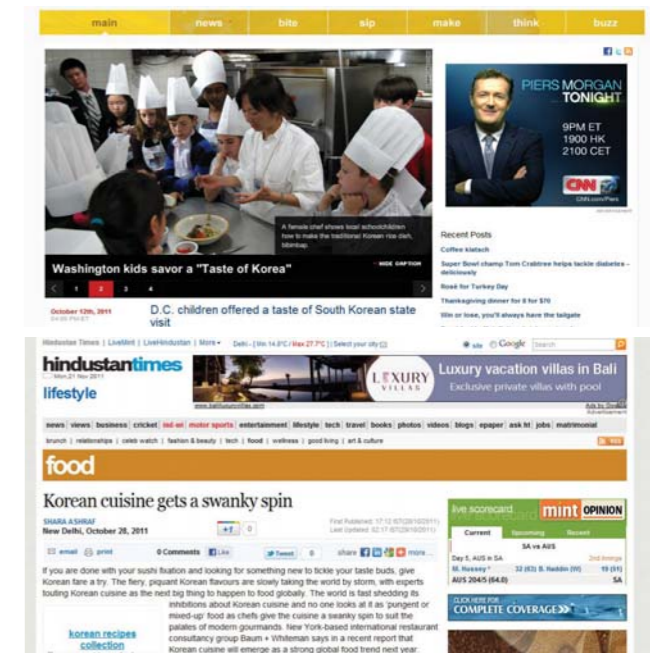
However, there are also many opinions that differ from what the media is telling us. “I don’t know why Korea is making all of this a big issue. They broadcast as if the whole world is crazy about K-pop and Korean singers but I think it’s a bit of an exaggeration. I lived in many different countries and barely do people know about Korea and K-pop” says Jay Ahn (21, England). The question of how immense Korean culture is in other countries is uncertain, yet it is definitely spreading. It seems to be on the Korea’s to-do list to make sure that right information is delivered through not only Korean media but also the global media.



Korean Cuisine and Its Identity

In effort to promote the beauties and attractions of Korea, the Korean government is investing a great sum of money in globalizing Korean food. Many events like the annual “Taste of Korea” in Washington D.C, U.S., are being organized by the Korean Embassy and the Korean Food Foundation to increase awareness. Moreover, not only do these national organizations host events in different countries but also, actually travel around the globe to promote and introduce Korean cuisine to the people throughout the world.

“Establishing goodwill and building on an already strong foundation. That was the motive behind the ‘Taste of Korea’ event in Washington,” commented CNN as they reported on the annual event in 2011. Moreover, BBC stated in one of their reports in 2008 that the number of Korean restaurants in the world will quadruple by 2017 and the current situation clearly is keeping up to its forecast. Currently, there are about 10,000 official Korean restaurants around the world.



Recently, in New Delhi, a reporter from the *Hindustan Times*, an English newspaper in India, also wrote an article about Korean cuisine. “The fiery, piquant Korean flavours are slowly taking the world by storm, with experts touting Korean cuisine as the next big thing to happen to food globally,” says Shara Ashraf under an article titled “Korean cuisine gets a swanky spin.” Throughout the article, Ashraf talks about the bright future of Korean food in India as many “Delhiites” are willing to experiment with new foods in their restaurants.

However, despite the current success of Korean cuisine in many different countries, there are also sore eyes looking at this phenomenon. With many chefs looking for success with their Korean restaurants in foreign countries,

A Line Between One Land to Make Two Countries

This is probably the issue that is being dealt with the most by foreign news. While South Korea deals with these issues in a way that is usually favorable to its own country, a wide study of foreign news tells us their side of the story. Many media, despite the effort to stay as objective as possible, tend to bend the reports so that the readers will be interested. In this sense, reporters tend to tell the news in a way that is related to their own nation and hence, the focus of the news on the same topic may differ depending on which language it is written in.

Interestingly, in Germany, the media often emphasizes the change of presidency to Lee Myung-bak as being one of the main reasons for North Korea’s recent aggressive behaviors. “Ende Der Annäherung an den Süden Nordkorea weist aus” (“End of good relationship between South and North Korea”) is an article from the German newspaper *Taz* where the reporter states the worsening relationship between North and South Korea after President Lee’s election. *Die Ziet*, a German news site also once posted an article called “Warum Nordkorea wieder mit Raketen provoziert” (“Why is North Korea provoking South once again?”) which again underlines the change of attitude between the two Koreas after the presidential



they are bound to make changes that fit the tastes of the local people. However, a question arises about how much modification should be allowed until it becomes a “non-Korean” food. A recent editorial from the Yomiuri News titled “ビビンバは渾然一分だかちおいしい” (“The Combination of Flavors is the Beauty of Bibimbap in Japanese”) comments on how the writer was shocked by the different taste between bibimbap eaten in Japan and Korea. He adds that he had fallen in love with the menu after he had tried its original taste. As such, Korean Foodservice Industry Association is now keeping eye on Korean restaurants to make sure that they are propagating the true taste of Korea.



election in 2008.

On the other hand, the media of China, Korea’s neighboring country, seemed to keep their position as neutral as possible. China has been showing many different attitudes towards both North and South Korea throughout the years and especially recently when events such as the bombing of the ROKS Cheonan and the Yeonpyeong-province crisis. However, being closely related to both sides of Korea, Chinese news on the conflict seems rather unbiased. In “人民日报”, The People’s Newspaper, one of the articles stated that “China hopes all parties make further efforts to maintain and consolidate the momentum of dialogue and ease.” Another article from the Chinese newspaper titled “朝美會談：延展在哪里?” (“S. Korea - U.S. Conference, are there any progress?”) also commented that “with China actively mediating between the two Koreas, the future of the six-party talk seems bright.” As we can see, many of the articles about the two Koreas in China talk about the progress of the six-party talk and the

status of China within the conflict.

“I feel real bad for all the Koreans who have to suffer due to the conflict between the two Koreas. But I am also worried about the rest of the world because an explosion of a nuclear bomb from North Korea and a breakout of a war may result in World War Three! If this does happen, it

Education in Korea

Recently, education in Korea has been in the spotlight from many educational institutes in other countries. Being one of the fastest countries to recuperate and stabilize after a massive fall of the nation, many foreign news sources report education as being a great contribution to Korea’s success.

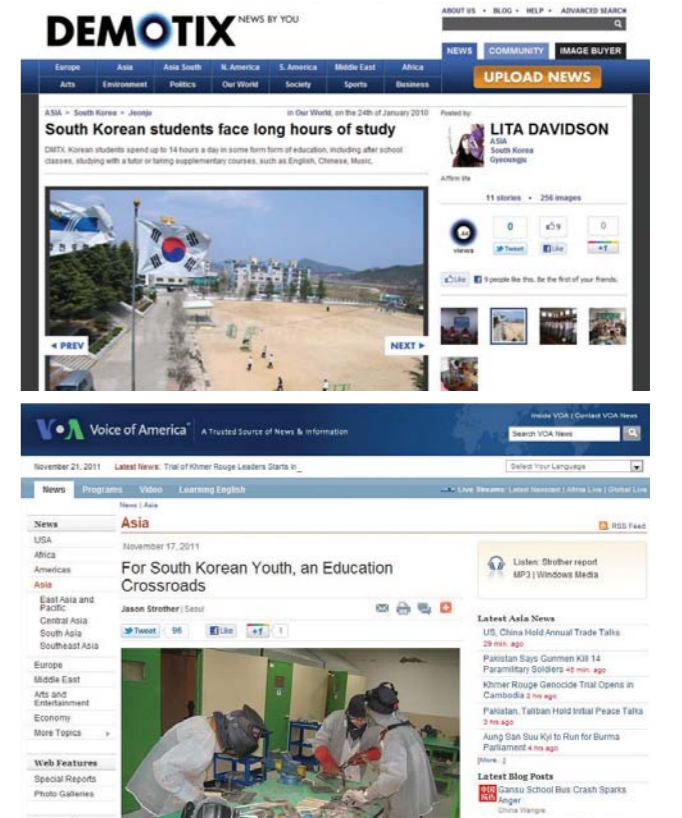
On 5th November, 2011, CNN broadcast a short news piece on education in Korea. In this extract, the reporter describes the education system of South Korea as being the “crown jewel” of the country. He also adds that “thanks to a militant drive for success, this nation’s students have outperformed the rest of the world for the better part a decade.” This news is followed by a speech made by President Obama himself where he asserts that “In South Korea, teachers are known as nation builders.” The president of the U.S has been one of the main influential characters that have shown continuous interest in the Korean education system and talks about them on a regular basis.

On the other hand, there are also articles that question the efficiency of the Korean education system. For example, Lucy Williamson, a reporter from the BBC, once wrote an article called “South Korea’s wasted youth” to pose doubts about the efficiency of Korea’s education system. Moreover, in 2010, an article called “South Korean students face long hours of study” was posted on an international news site called *Demotix* highlighting the tiresome and stressful life as a student in Korea. Here the reporter says that, “Throughout their years at school, a student’s life is dominated by the need to pass an exam to gain entry into a high school and getting a high score to gain admittance into a prestigious university.” As such, it is clear that while some refer to the Korean educational system when talking about good examples, there are others who are rather skeptical due to the stress and high pressure that students get from studying.

The four different topics that have been discussed in this article are merely a few of the many issues of Korea that are being dealt with by the foreign media today. While each of the topics has been discussed with critical views from many different aspects, the attempt was to stay as objective as possible. Many stories dealing with foreign issues are bound to be treated and perceived dif-

won’t be only the Koreans who will have to suffer,” says Joana Santos (21, England). As such, many people and media throughout the world are inclined to think how international events will affect them and this goes the same for the struggle between North and South Korea as well.

“I see not much difference between the college courses here in Canada and back in Korea. Although the courses are much the same, I can see that there are so many more available for students in the foreign universities. Unlike Korea, where everything is so limited and challenging, from entrance to graduation, the university here in Canada make things easier such as changing majors during your school years and having exams spread out in your calendar,” says Kim.



ferently depending on where on earth it is being told. Such phenomenon is clearly noticeable in the topics mentioned above as well.

Despite some gap in contents between Korean media and foreign media, every media source should make sure that they are delivering accurate news and double check to stay as neutral as possible. ■

An Ugly Truth Uncovered

The Report on the Definition of “Good” English

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

A student comes up to the front of the classroom. It is her turn to give a presentation, but students are falling asleep in their seat after having heard so many others. She begins, “Hello ladies and gentlemen. My name is...” Students from here and there lift their head, impressed; her pronunciation is native-like. The thought that instantly goes through their mind is, “She is good at English.” They begin to pay more respect to the speaker, regardless of how sloppy the content might turn out to be. This is a typical scene that goes on in today’s classrooms in Korea. The question to ask is: what does it really mean to be “good at English,” and why does pronunciation have anything to do with it?

Five Koreans and five foreigners are seated together in front of a TV screen that shows a picture of a middle-aged Korean man at the podium. They listen to the audio of an English speech. The English is sophisticated, yet the pronunciation is far from native-like. It is the typical pronunciation that Koreans who have not been overseas have. Afterwards, ten people are asked what they thought about the English they just heard.

Interestingly, all five Koreans view the speaker’s English in a poor light, whereas all five foreigners speak very highly of it. Koreans comment that the “lousy” pronunciation made English hard to understand, and some add that they hope their children would “speak far better English.” On the other hand, the foreigners think that the speaker’s vocabulary is rich and polished, and that the speech is overall of high quality.

This is an experiment recently done by the crew of “Docuprime”, a documentary program from Educational Broadcasting System (EBS). The highlight of the experiment comes at the

end. After listening to each individual response, the crew asks them to return to their seat. Then the crew puts on a video clip that would surprise both Koreans and foreigners but for a very different reason. It is the clip of a speech by Ban Ki-moon, the current Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) and highly revered figure of Korea. The speech he gives in the video clip is the exact same speech the ten people have heard just moments ago by audio.

The foreigners are pleasantly surprised. However, Koreans sit in disbelief, gaping at the screen. Some blush with embarrassment. “I didn’t imagine it was Ban Ki-moon. I feel really bad for what I said,” remarks one of them. “I don’t understand English very well, so I judged his English by his pronunciation, which was not so good,” says another.

This stark contrast between Koreans’ and foreigners’ responses hints at the Korean society’s tendency to overvalue the importance of English pronunciation. The tendency can also be detected here at Korea University (KU). *The Granite Tower* (GT) has conducted a survey with 500 KU students.

In picking the top three traits that make somebody “good at English,” student opinion was fairly divided, as can be seen in the pie chart. It suggests that students do not think there is one prominent factor that decides whether someone is “good at English.”

However, when directly asked how important they think pronunciation is, student opinion was much less divided and was generally tilted toward “important.” On a scale from one to ten, with one being insignificant and ten being highly important, the average was 7.1. Only 36 out of 500 KU students (7.2%) marked below five, among whom only five students had such a strong conviction as to give a one or a two.

The “Docuprime” experiment and the GT survey have something in common; that is, they both point to an unspoken and inconvenient truth about the Korean society.

An Ugly, Ugly Truth

Mark Eade (Institute of Foreign Language Studies (IFLS)) had a peculiar experience during the employment process at a university in Korea when

the principal met with him for a one-on-one interview. During what was turning out to be a pleasant talk, the principal, who Eade remembers to have spoken fluent English, made a passing remark

about his accent. She said she was “glad” he did not have a New Zealand accent but an American one (Eade is a New Zealander). “She talked as if a New Zealand accent were a bad influence on the students’ education,” Eade recalls.

English is unquestionably the international language of the era, and non-native English speakers have long outnumbered native speakers: about 12.5 hundred million to four hundred million. As people with various mother tongues pick up the language, English can be heard with diverse accents and pronunciation. However, if there is one country where such diversity is not adequately respected, it is Korea. “Native” pronunciation draws admiration while English spoken with the unique Korean pronunciation is commonly sloughed over.

Just before the Lee Myung-bak administration took office, the presidential transition committee chairwoman Lee Kyung-sook gave an infamous speech insisting on the American pronunciation of English loanwords such as “orange.” Though this strange and rather farcical emphasis on pronunciation would be denounced and ridiculed by the public for the years to come, it goes to hint at Korea’s fascination for and slight obsession with American pronunciation.

The Less Ugly Way To Go

Nam Yoo Rhee (’07, International Studies) is the winner of a recent nationwide English speech contest. She attributes her recent win to two factors: delivery and originality of manuscript. She speaks up about pronunciation as follows: “There are a lot of contestants who have lived abroad and have very good pronunciation. But



many of them just speak too fast, which makes their speech lose its appeal. Much more important than pronunciation is delivery.” Her definition of good delivery includes good intonation, appropriate facial expression, loud and appealing voice, and good eye contact.

After passing the preliminary round, she went up to the judges to ask for advice on the upcoming final round. The content of her speech was focusing on refuting Thomas Edison’s famous quote, “Genius is one percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration,” and underscoring the importance of inspiration in solving problems. She mentioned that inspiration should be the new key to resolve the longstanding Dokdo issue—one of the original approaches her manuscript boasts, according to the speaker herself. To Nam’s surprise, the comments of foreign judges all pertained to the content. One remarked that she failed to propose a specific solution to the Dokdo issue, and another said, “I’m American; I don’t care much about the Dokdo issue, hence your last point did not appeal.”

In the final round, Nam replaced the Dokdo issue, which is simply a power struggle in the eyes of foreigners, with the “comfort women” issue, a human rights issue that appeals to far more people. (Nam believes this is a contributing factor to her win.)

On the other hand, she got the impression that Korean judges cared more about other matters. For example, if a contestant seems to have lived abroad, they set the bar high. Some frowned at the frequent use of difficult vocabulary, thinking it was an act of arrogance.

It is not so easy to dismiss Nam’s account as mere impression. When

judging someone’s English level, Koreans often seem to disregard content. The GT survey also asked what (maximum three) factors made an English presentation impressive.

Among the options, gestures marked last with 102 votes, and content marked second last with 107.

English, like all other languages, is a tool to communicate ideas. This holds true even in Korea, where English has become one of the goals of education and one of the surest ways to succeed. Therefore, in judging someone’s English, one should consider how well-organized and rich the content is, among other things.

James Connolly (IFLS) has led many discussion classes at KU. He gives weight to the ability to incorporate what was said and to further develop on it so that there is progress in discourse; not how fancy your pronunciation is, but what you are saying and how it contributes to a mature discussion. As for pronunciation, he notes, “Pronunciation helps a little bit, but it is more important to be able to express opinions with enough accuracy so that others do not get lost.”

In the end it is really about what you are saying. How you say it—namely, how you word your thoughts, how loudly you speak, how much eye contact you make—may change the impact of what you are saying. However, pronunciation—or how fancily you speak—does not play such a decisive role. Rather, it works like a first impression. Native-like pronunciation of a speaker in front of a class surely grabs attention and interest from the audience. What should really matter in the end, though, is what the speaker goes on to say with his or her fancy weapon—just like attractive looks form a good first impression but personality, or the “inside”, is what would really count in the end. ■

Conspiracy Theories: Can the Truth be Hidden?



By Lee Han Byul (fome9@korea.ac.kr), Park Jong Hun (polo3355@korea.ac.kr)

Some of you might show a special interest after hearing about conspiracy theory. Nowadays, lots of people throw doubt on several unsolved incidents or not clearly proven accidents. Believing there are no coincidences, they, conspiracy theorists, persistently question the possibility of some accident being manipulated or hidden.

A conspiracy theory is a way of explaining several events as the result of secret plots or fabrication by an organization or a group of people. Figuring out what is a plot would be hard for ordinary people because it is usually hidden. Actually things we take for as granted could be the results of

secret plots. Conspiracy theorists open up these hidden plots to the public. Recently, due to developments in IT, there are various ways of expressing these own theories globally. Korea is no exception. Countless conspiracy theories are beginning to surface.

Here are three of them: the disappearance of "Frog boys", and

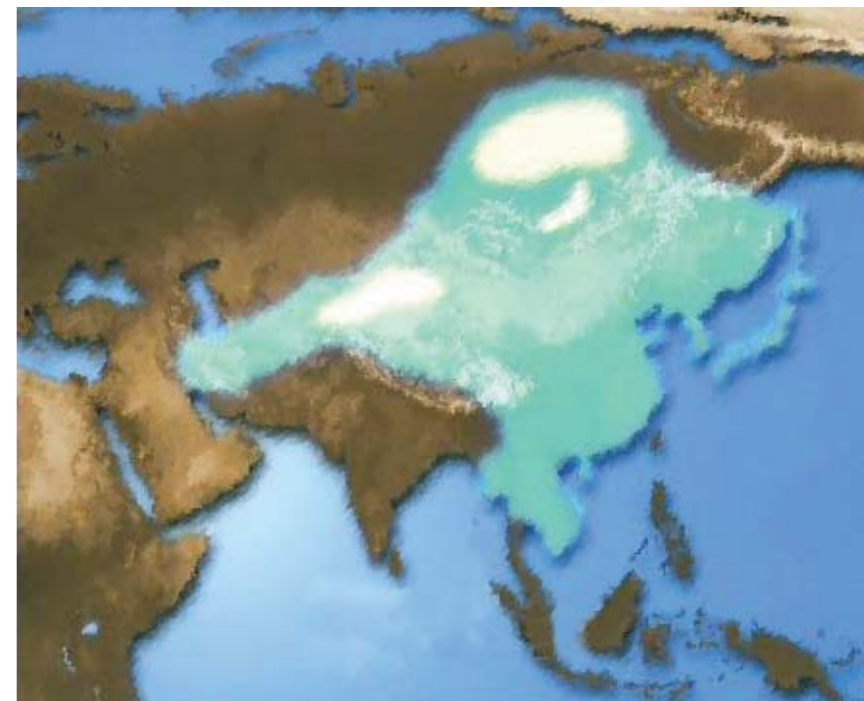
Hwandangogi. These all in part have something to do with Korea's neighboring countries China, Japan, or North Korea, and ones which have been left unsolved and have been ceaselessly raising questions among conspiracy theorists.



Hwandangogi

Hwandangogi, also called *Handangogi*, is a book related to the ancient history of Korea released fairly recently. According to the book's introduction, *Hwandangogi* was compiled by Gye Yeon Soo. *Hwandangogi*, including *Samseongki* ("three stars"), *Dangunsegi* (chronicle of Dangun Joseon), and *Bukbuyeogi* (records of North Buyeo) in a single package, deals with ancient history, religion, customs, politics, economy, arts, and philosophy of Korea.

The book says there were two more nations before the establishment of Dangun Joseon. The first nation, in accordance with the *Hwandangogi*, was Hwanguk, 5,000 years before Dangun Joseon. It insists that the history of Korea, so to speak, is as old as ten thousand years. It also says Hwanguk was governed by seven leaders for 3,301 years, and according to *Samseongki*, Hwanguk's territory was bigger than contemporary Korea, and included present territory of China



Territory of Hwanguk

and other nations. It also insists that Hwanguk consisted of 12 small states. Among them, Sumiliguk, it says, was the Sumerian who settled Mesopotamia.

Hwandangogi, as mentioned above, is a book compiled by Gye Yeon Soo and published in 1911. Who was Gye Yeon Soo? Should we believe the book? Several conspiracy theories surfaced because of the identity of Gye Yeon Soo and of the reliability of this book. Gye Yeon Soo was a fighter for national independence; however, his exact identity has not yet come out into the open.

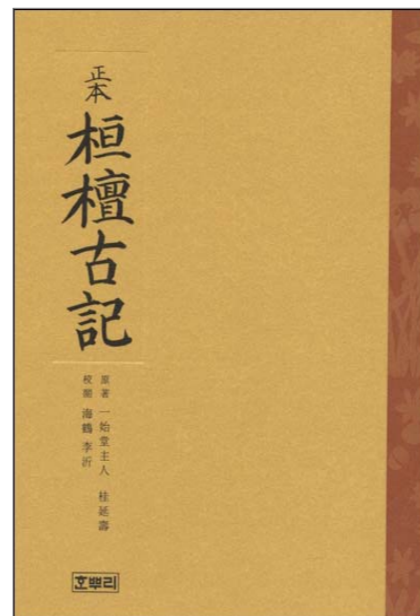
Readers of this book, though they think the description is patriotic, have had difficulty believing this book. At first, *Hwandangogi*, though it was compiled by Gye Yeon Soo in 1911, was published by Lee Yu Lib in 1979. Some people asked why Gye Yeon Soo had withheld publishing it for almost 70 years, saying, and "Was it because of the suppression of the Japanese Empire? Were there any other reasons or intentions?" Actually, the original of the book has disappeared, so the copy by Lee Yu Lib was the only remaining manuscript of *Hwandangogi*.

It is hard, however, to have a complete disregard for it. The astronomi-

cal phenomena recorded in *Hwandangogi* were comparatively detailed, and it does not make big errors in comparison to present astronomical simulations. In addition, it correctly described the territory of Gojoseon, which was discovered later after finding relics there. *The Annals of the Joseon Dynasty* also mentioned the name *Samseongki*, one of the books composing *Hwandangogi*.

Conspiracy theorists, though there are some trustworthy facts, indicate several problems. They think even the facts were a tool used to make people believe the forged book, *Hwandangogi*. Their evidence is that several words used in *Dangunsegi* written in the Koryo Dynasty did actually not exist at that time, and that there are some sentences which seem to be copied from other books.

Viewing its contents objectively, it is hard to accept from a common-sense point of view that the population of Dangun Joseon was 900 million people. It is also too nationalistic to believe and too tinged by religion. It is, therefore, a controversial issue whether to believe it or not.



Hwandangogi

Korea Air Fight 858 Explosion

On November 29, 1987, Korean Airline Flight 858 (KAL 858), an international passenger flight headed for Baghdad, lost contact around 2 p.m. over the Andaman Sea near Burma after the pilot's message that the flight was expected to arrive in Bangkok on time. Fifteen days after the incident, seven parts of the plane, including air pumps, were discovered on a shore in Thailand, confirming that the flight exploded in mid-air. All 104 passengers, consisting mostly of young Koreans returning home from working at construction sites in the Middle East, and 11 crew members failed to survive the attack. A Korean diplomat was also on board, though whether he was the main target is unclear.

A few days after the investigation began, authorities became suspicious about two people—Kim Hyun Hui and Kim Sungil—who were carrying passports under the name of Mayumi Hachiya and Shinichi Hachiya, and were disguised as a father and a daughter. These two terrorists had planted explosives in their overhead luggage compartments and got off on the stop-over in Abu Dhabi. The bomb exploded nine hours later, around 2:05 p.m. After successfully planting the bomb and getting off the flight, they tried to go to Amman. However, they were forced to fly to Bahrain due to

problems with their visas, where their forged passports were detected. Being discovered, both immediately smoked a cyanide-laced cigarette; the male, Kim Sungil, died but the female, Kim Hyun Hui, survived because the police took away her cigarette quickly.

The Korean government ended the investigation on the 9th (the twelfth day of the investigation) and concluded that it was a North Korean attempt to ruin the 1988 Seoul Olympics. The rest of the remains of KAL 858 were never found. One year after, on January 15, 1988, Kim Hyun Hui held a TV press conference in which she admitted being the bomber and revealed that Kim Jung-il personally planned and ordered the bombing to hinder the '88 Olympics, cause chaos in the upcoming presidential elections, and incite class strife among South Koreans. In 1988, on March 27, she was sentenced to death for murder, terrorism, and violating the national security law. Later, she was given a special pardon by President Roh Tae-woo, who reportedly said, "The persons who ought to be on trial here are the leaders of North Korea. This child is as much a victim of this evil regime as the passengers aboard KAL 858." Following the attack, the United States State Department designated North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism in January 1988, which lasted until 2008.

Regardless of the explanation given by the government, there are still questions raised in doubt as to the investigation and testimonials of Kim Hyun Hui, and the families of KAL858 victims are insisting on a complete reinvestigation.

Some suspicions have been raised that there was a conspiracy behind it other than that involving North Korea, the reasons for which are as follows: The black box was not found (the Agency for National Security Planning being accused of discarding it), the dead bodies of the victims and their belongings were not found, and the fact that there was an absurdly short investigation. Many accuse the South Korean government for scheming to fake the terrorist attack for the upcoming elections that were to be held on December 16th, 20 days after the incident. Regarding this, Kim Hyun Hui stated during a meeting with a Japanese abductee's family that, "The KAL explosion was an act of terror committed by North Korea," and that she was the real bomber, not a fabricated person. Nevertheless, the culprit Kim arrived in Seoul on December 16th, 1987, a day before the 14th presidential election, acting as the biggest variable. In 2006, the panel of the National Intelligence Service declared that the bombing was indeed carried out by the North, but was exploited to secure Roh Tae-woo's presidency.

Despite suggestive conspiracy theories, the official conclusion is that it was the North's ill-intended scheme.

Conspiracy Theory on the Disappearance of Frog Boys

"The statute of limitations on the case has expired, and as of now there is nothing we can do. We just want to know who did it and why."

Five naive boys sneaked out of the house to get the eggs of salamanders on March 26, 1991, and it was the last time their parents saw their smiling faces. They disappeared without any trace, and this incident became known to the general public. The police made a concerted effort to find the boys, but they failed though around 400,000 police officers were employed, and over 10,000,000 flyers were distributed nationally.

Along the way, several conspiracy theories surfaced. Some said the boys had been abducted and taken to the North by North Korean agents to agitate Koreans. This theory emerged because there were similar incidents at that time. Some said, however, it was not North Korean agents but some leprous patients who kidnapped the children due to the misbelief that by eating a child's liver they could be cured.

Try as they may, conspiracy theorists could not give a believable reason for the children's disappearance. Some people, therefore, absurdly insisted

that they were kidnapped by a UFO. Even on January 12, 1996, Kim Ga Won, an ex-professor of Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, dug under the house of Kim Jong Sik, one disappeared child, from end to end, insisting that Kim's father may have murdered the children and secretly buried the bodies. There was, however, nothing beneath the house.

Years later, surprisingly, their cold corpses were found at a nearby mountain on September 26, 2002. The police announced that they were killed by someone, but they had no evidence of who it was. Due to the ambiguity of the police's statement, more strong doubts have been raised since then.

Two months after the children's disappearance, one of them called his parent. There was no voice of the criminal; only the child's voice could be heard. Second, the mother who took the call did not push the position-tracking button although if she had pushed it, she could have located where the criminal was. The mother did not even send the original recording to the National Institute of Scientific Investigation.

The place, in addition, had been gone over with a fine-tooth comb by 300,000 people a year, however, after 11 years, the dead bodies were discovered. Why were they not able to find them even after they pumped all the



Picketing children

water out of the reservoir? Another doubt is that one day before the corpses were found a man specified the exact location where the bodies were buried. Who is he? Last, the professor who identified the remains was accused by the prosecution of leaking secret information, and it was an ex-cop who reported him. Why did he report him?

Due to those remaining questions, more conspiracy theories have been expressed, but it remains as an unsolved mystery.

Conspiracy theories exist in Korea, though not all may be widely known. However, conspiracy theory can mean a various range of things, not only the creepy accusations as demonstrated above. It can be as trivial as your sibling conspiring to take your share of the allowance to big-scale government malfeasance, or a powerful corporate figure trying to monopolize the market. As we are constantly flooded with information in this Internet era, we often find ourselves at a loss about what to believe; every now and then there may be some random piece of writing that makes you wonder. The important thing here is not to just blindly accept word-to-word what people tell you. Critical thinking is the key, as Korea University Professor Ivy emphasizes, "We're living in a period of time where manipulation of information is at an all-time high."

As individuals, we need to be open to possibilities and have a flexible, open-ended world view on how things work. With consistent efforts to verify the reality behind the given explanation, perhaps some of those conspiracy theories will later on be proved true. ■



Kim Hyun Hui being captured.



Remains of KAL 858



Newspaper article on KAL 858 explosion.



Come back! Frog boys

THE TODAY OF KU MEDIA

By Lee Sihyoung (lsh4464@korea.ac.kr),
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Under the rule of several military regimes when active student demonstrations were justified in the name of liberty and justice, the role of university media was crucial. Nowadays, the common concern for Korea University (KU) press and broadcasting stations is that many students are negligent. Indeed, university press is a medium through which the students can create an agora of free discussion. It is tragic that they are losing ground and their reputation. For the students' voices to be heard and their rights to be protected, it is imperative that both the media and the students engage in lively communication. For that reason, *The Granite Tower* (GT) interviewed some of KU's most significant printed media outlets and broadcasting stations.

The Granite Tower

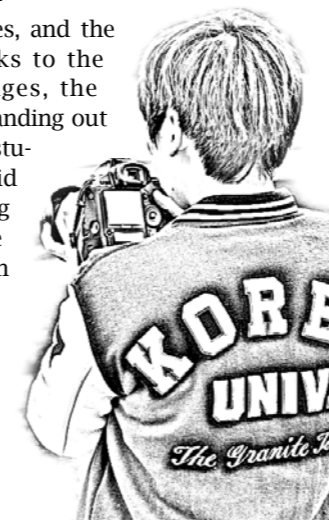


Established in 1954, *The Granite Tower* (GT) is the nation's oldest monthly university magazine written in English. As the one and only English press at KU, GT is a major source of news for all segments of the KU community, including both domestic and foreign students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

The fact that GT is an English magazine is what makes it stand out from other KU media. As the school is headed for Global KU with its frontier spirit, GT has undertaken the responsibility of introducing KU to foreigners. The former presidents Euh Yoon Dae and Lee Ki-Su had also emphasized the role of GT in the era of globalization and thus supported GT in all ways possible.

Kang You Kyung ('09, Psychology), the current editor-in-chief of GT, says "Nowadays, the English magazines of each college have become a means of promoting the university. Because our magazine is written in English, the readership of Korean students might be a little limited compared to other campus journalism written in Korean. However, while working harder to attract more domestic readers, our real duty lies in becoming a source of communication between KU and universities worldwide."

Until the fall semester of 2010, GT aimed for a professional look with heavy topics and simple design. Under the editorship of Kim Yun-Jee ('09, Economics), in the beginning of this year, was the time for tight reformations. "For readers, the top priority for journalists to consider in writing an article is visuality. In that, we focused more on the cover design, the topics of the articles, and the layouts." Thanks to the sweeping changes, the present GT is standing out to get closer to students and get rid of the prevailing stereotype among Korean students that English journals are boring and uneasy to read.



The Korea University Weekly

As one of the representative media of KU, *The Korea University Weekly's* (*The KU Weekly*) top priority is delivering exact and objective news and providing a medium through which KU students can communicate. "We acknowledge that when we harshly criticize KU, the university reputation will undoubtedly be hurt. But, it is necessary, and we hope that clear evaluation will add to self-purification," replies Wi Dae-yong ('09, North Korea Studies), the chief editor of *The KU Weekly*. Currently, *The KU Weekly* prints weekly and also issues a number of special editions: *The KU Weekly's* commemorative issue, The Annual Ko-Yon Games issue, and Anniversary of the Founding of KU issue.

When asked what advantage *The KU Weekly* has over other KU media, *The KU Weekly* reporter Kim Seul Gi ('10, North Korea Studies) answers "timeliness." Compared with other monthly media, *The KU Weekly* has the upper hand in providing news on time.

Many KU students would have been awed at the sight of signboard above the door of *The KU Weekly* office and wondered what it looked like inside. Because the widely-held perception of *The KU Weekly* reporters is that they work too hard, without much sleep, many believe that they must be well compensated in other ways. Indeed, Wi informed that the school funds cameras, computers, lockers, and other reporting expenses including transportation costs for the reporters at Sejong campus. The personal compensation for the reporters includes scholarships that are given out every semester and monthly stipend.

The overall mood at the office is very strict. "It has become softer compared with the old days, but due to the nature of the press where there is official work that needs to be done on time, we cannot have too much fun while doing our work," says Wi. There had been a harsh hierarchy system within the office in the old days, but nowadays the general atmosphere has become more friendly and family like. "If you spend several sleepless nights together locked inside the Communications Building, you see many different sides of fellow reporters that you don't normally get to see," says Kim Mun Hyung ('10, English Language and Literature), another *The KU Weekly* reporter. "Working as a reporter, you can build on many memorable experiences, be it fun or stressing." The power of the chief editor is very strong, however, for he or she has the final say in approving what should or should not go in the paper.

Despite its long history, *The KU Weekly* still has been working for improvement. "The problem is, many students only know of *The KU Weekly*, but have no idea where the actual papers are," worries Wi. He also expressed concerns over the decreasing readership, and the dilemma of balancing between social issues and on-campus issues. Although the principal rule is dealing with on campus news, they sometimes get criticized for being a mere public relations brochure. Moreover, there are other problems such as keeping an impartial stance between the university and Student Council. Since *The KU Weekly* is not made up of only a few reporters, Wi believes that they can come up with a good solution in the near future.



The Korea University Television System

KUTV
Korea University Television Systems
since 1989

The Korea University Television System (KUTV) was established in 1989. While KUBS focuses on audio programs, KUTV uses visual programs to communicate with students. Readers may have

watched telecasts from KUTV during freshmen orientation, School Festival Ipselenti "Jiya Hamsung," and The Annual Ko-Yon games. KUTV is an independent press body of KU, which means that the school guarantees more freedom to KUTV and its staff members. However, sometimes KU asks KUTV to cooperate with the school projects such as making advertisements. According to Chung Halim ('10, English Language and Literature), the director of KUTV, it participated in the "Open KU" project, aka "KUREKA", by recording the lectures.

KUTV mainly produces the TV news of KU, documentaries, and entertainment programs. Usually, the programs are planned the first week of each month, and shot are taken the next week, and then broadcasted in the final week of the month. The students can watch the news in the cafeteria on the first floor of the Student Union Building and Aegineung Cafeteria.

Kim Kyung Geun ('10, Education), the technical director (TD) of KUTV, says that the students of KU often confuse KUTV to KUBS. However, besides the fact that KUTV receives less support from the school than KUTV, those two broadcasting systems are quite different in other parts. For example, staff of KUTV not only has to collect news but also edit the images even though they do not belong to the production department. Moreover, there is only one announcer at KUTV.

Chung says, "When it comes to the broadcasting system, it is really important to have plenty of equipment and support. But, since we do not receive sufficient aid from the school, there are many things to take care of. However, I think this passion gives us our identity. The harder our effort, the more valuable the products we make, I think."



The Korea University Broadcasting Station

since 1961
KUBS)))
고려대학교 교육방송국

Many KU students must have heard the radio broadcasting from speakers all over the campus. For those who are curious about who is behind them, here is the answer: The Korea University Broadcasting Station (KUBS).

"It is sad that many confuse the three broadcasting stations," says Jeon Hyelim ('10, English Language and Literature), the director of KUBS. Being an integrated broadcasting station, KUBS not only makes audio programs but also various documentaries, reports, video content, and the like. Compared with other official KU media, KUBS has the upper hand at reporting breaking news over newspapers.

As the sole official broadcasting station, KUBS receives financial support from the university, which is then distributed for various uses. "For staff welfare, we provide good meals and free uniform. Moreover, payment for Membership Training (MT) is free," says Jeon. For the video producer (PD), 100,000 won is provided each semester as production support funding, which is then used to buy props and cast actors. Announcers narrate, act, MC, and sometimes take part in productions.

There are various events that KUBS hosts annually, which are as follows: the Granite Tower Broadcasting Ceremony, The Annual Ko-Yon co-broadcasting, broadcasting at Freshmen Orientation Camp, and live-broadcasting of The Annual Ko-Yon games (for the past 6 years). Other private programs of KUBS include a New Year's party and an athletic competition, at which they invite former members who have graduated to join in.

As with other official university media, the order of rank within KUBS

is very clearly defined. In fact, it is in some ways so strict that the executive director and the staff are not allowed to talk to each other, and even laughing is forbidden. "During official events, we tend to be very strict and formal with the staff of lower rank. However, in normal daily situations, we hang out very casually. I guess it is impossible not to be so close after trainings," says Jeon.

Although KUBS has been doing well, there is still room for improvement. "Even if we try hard to come up with good quality audio broadcastings, some complain that it is noisy. Also, many KU students do not listen, and there is always the problem of confusion with KUTV and KTN. We need to work more on promoting KUBS to students," worries Jeon. With efforts to improve, KUBS will keep KU students updated with the latest news.



The Korea University Television Network

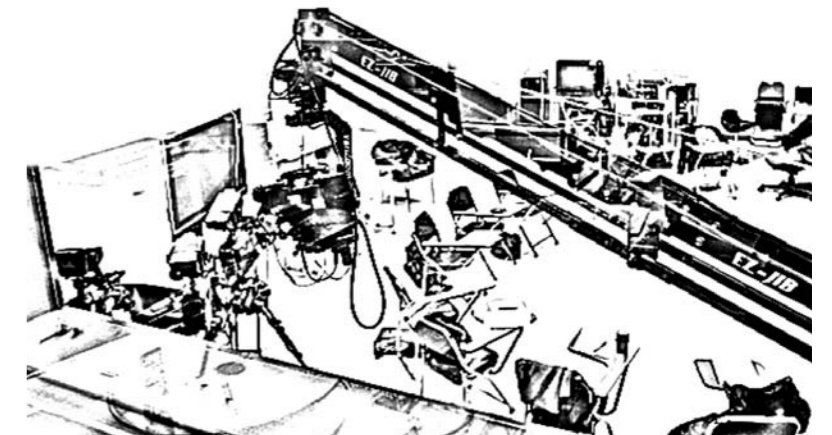
KTN
고려대학교 TV방송국

The Korea University Television Network (KTN) is made up only of the students from the College of Journalism and Mass Communication. Kim Bo Hee ('11, Journalism and Mass Media), a staff member of

KTN, says that she thinks what KTN regards as the most important is the interests of both the staff of KTN and the audience of the programs. There is only one program director (PD) for a particular program at KTN, which means that the PD can pick out the staff members or additional production personnel (AD) who are going to participate in the production of the program. According to Kim, the mood at the station is quite free. "We sometimes make an advertisement including shots in which a model drinks Makgeolli. If we were a public broadcasting station such as Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) or Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (MBC), this advertisement could not be even imagined," says Kim.

Many students think that KTN is just one of the academic societies of the College of Journalism and Mass Communication. However, clearly, it belongs to KU itself, not the College of Journalism and Mass Communication. KTN also receive a lot of support from the school. The equipment and materials for broadcasting, production, and editing are up-to-date. Also, the programs of KTN are broadcasted on the TV screens throughout the campus, for instance, channel 4 on TV sets in KU at places such as Popeyes, Café Felice, the Woodang Hall, and the Student Union Building.

Kim says "The awareness of KTN is one of the problems. The number of viewers is not so many, and the promotions are not efficient, either. We try our best to promote KTN by playing our video and clips during Freshmen Orientation Camps and The Annual Ko-Yon Games."



The *HOANS*


First established in 2004, the *HOANS* of the College of Political Science and Economics is the only remaining college-based newspaper at KU. The fact that it does not belong to the university administration makes The *HOANS* very unique. "Because the *HOANS* is an independent press body, we are comparatively more free to write without outside pressure," says Choi Jung-ho ('10, Public Administration), the editor-in-chief of the *HOANS*. When asked about whether he thinks that the *HOANS* showed its own political views and colors thanks to its excessive freedoms, Choi is rather careful, saying, "Since the stance that an article takes may seem progressive to some while conservative to others, I would not say that the *HOANS* has a specific political color." He emphasizes that regardless of political views, the most important fundamental principle that the newspaper follows is looking at the world from the student's viewpoint. Therefore, in deciding the contents of the next month's issue, the top priority is whether it is useful for and closely related to students' life, both inside and outside of campus. As the representative press of the College of Political Science and Economics, the *HOANS* deals mostly with political and economic issues. "Since the *HOANS* issues monthly, there are problems regarding timeliness. To make up for this, we try hard to be more in depth," tells Choi.

The *HOANS* operates on funds provided by Autonomous Media Association and its advertisement revenue. Since the support provided to the reporters is relatively low compared with that given by other university media, "the reporters have to really love what they do in order to hang on here," says Choi.

The *Kodaemunwha* (The Korea University Culture)

"Confrontational press to change the world." As its motto suggests, The *Kodaemunwha* constantly seeks a practically dynamic press. Released quarterly, The *Kodaemunwha* stands as another unique press medium at KU.

What the *Kodaemunwha* sets apart from other KU media would be that it regularly studies humanities and social science through seminars once a week. Moreover, as it pursues a democratic system unlike other press at KU, there is no use of honorifics among its members, which is significantly different from the atmosphere of strict classification in other KU media. "There is no high or low or difference in who has first say in The *Kodaemunwha*. This is to cut out order of rank altogether and seek extreme democracy," says Kim Seong Bin ('09, Russian Language and Literature), the chairman of editing committee. In pursuit of full-blown democracy in the office, the paper also requires unanimity.

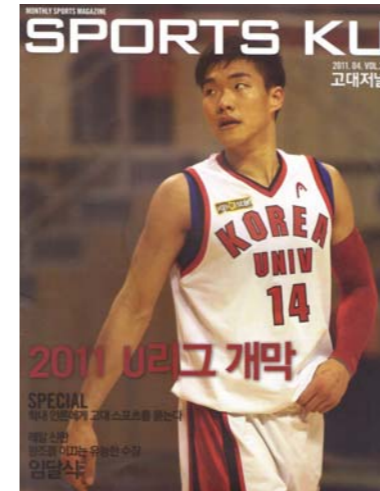
Being an independent press body, The *Kodaemunwha* does not receive any financial aid from the school. Therefore, the editorial rights, authority over personnel, and financial planning are all the responsibility of the students, giving more freedom and independence to the paper. With limited funding from Autonomous Media Association, The *Kodaemunwha* is released four times a year, giving it another advantage of long articles with profound content.

The *Kodaemunwha* continuously keeps in touch with its former reporters, who have considerably profound knowledge about various subjects. Through seminars, the current members study with and learn from the retired reporters about various subjects regarding humanities and social science. "It is one of the meaningful things to personally get to know and stay in touch with knowledgeable people for writing an article," tells Kim, "not to mention the amusement of learning precisely about the uncomfortable truths in our daily lives." With an enthusiastic attitude of continually studying and seeking to learn more, The *Kodaemunwha* will further inform KU students with high-quality articles.



SPORTS KU

SPORTS KU



Though it is the first university sports magazine in Korea, *SPORTS KU* was founded only four years ago. Hoping to contribute to the revival of college sports, the reporters of *SPORTS KU* do their best to make the magazine. Unlike the official media at KU such as GT, The *KU Weekly*, and KUBS, *SPORTS KU* does not receive any subsidies or

supports from the school.

SPORTS KU hosts an annual event called "Eulim," which matches the student athletes with other students interested in meeting them. Min Seulki ('06, Sociology), the editor-in-chief of *SPORTS KU*, says he is planning to make other special customs and events.

The diversity of readership is what *SPORTS KU* takes pride in. According to Min, its readers range from male students who are interested in college sports to female students who like the handsome and nice student athletes. But the most proud aspect is that *SPORTS KU* is making history. Since it is the nation's first campus sports magazine, every-

thing it makes becomes precedents for others. Even its weakness turns into strength. "The fact that it does not get any monetary support from the school and manage to run on its own advertising revenue and donations from alumni and businesses, makes *SPORTS KU* reporters work harder than others," Min says.

However, there are also some problems to solve. Among them, one of the most serious problems is lack of ideas for stories. "It's difficult to find groundbreaking, fresh, and remarkable item for our magazine. We have already interviewed most sports stars from KU. There are not so many big stars left to interview for the magazine," Min worries.



All the media at KU say that the students are not very interested in them. Even Wi, the chief editor of *The KU Weekly*, the most well-known college media at KU, worries about the low percentage of readership. However, in spite of the students' indifference, the different media at KU are doing their best to attract its readers and audiences.

The traditional mass media channels such as newspaper and radio are withering. It is absolutely

natural that college media are now seeking another way to exhibit their passion, effort, and outcome. Recently, college media have not only been delivering the campus news, but also discovering their own identities through its own endeavors. It seems that KU might experience the historical revival of KU college media, soon. ■

STUDENT JOURNALISTS' VOICE TO THE WORLD

University English Press in Non-English-Speaking Countries

By Kim Hak Young (jensophie7@korea.ac.kr), Kim Minhee (minhee713@korea.ac.kr)



As a student-run English News publication at Korea University (KU), *The Granite Tower* (GT) is obviously in the same boat with other university English magazines and newspapers in Korea and even in other non-English-speaking countries. Compared with Korea's current situation where almost every university has its own English press, not many foreign countries have college English press. Through questions on three aspects—as a publication, as an organization, and as a student community—we looked into the lives of journalists at English publications.

AS A PUBLICATION

Visions

Most newspapers describe their visions similarly: student-relevance, communication, and international approach. Aigerim Zhanarova (20, KIMEP), *The KIMEP Times* editor said, "The purpose of our newspaper is to convey the events conducted at KIMEP University, highlight the most important facts, tell about outstanding KIMEP students, and bring interesting and useful information to the KIMEP community." So it is basically about KIMEP, itself. "We are a platform for all students at Oslo, giving them opportunities to express themselves," said Rebecca Plath (26, Oslo University), the editor of *The Monthly Moose*. "Also, we want to inform students of any national topics related to student life at the university and in the city of Oslo."

Kim Young Bum (21, Konkuk University), *The Konkuk Bulletin* editor, said, "For us, it is about writing what only the newspaper of Konkuk University can write. We concentrate more on Konkuk University's events rather than on those in general society." Of course, they might report beyond the boundaries of their university, but they stay inside the circle of college students and their lives. The *PKU News* shares a similar, but rather narrower vision of introducing the university to English-speaking netizens.

"GT has maintained its vision of covering KU community-centered news within the school," said Kang You Kyung ('09, Psychology), the GT editor-in-chief. "Whether they are on-campus, off-campus, or international affairs, we search for the ones most looked for by college students, most influential to them, and the ones they should ponder." At GT, the focus is on students as well; however, that does not restrict the newspaper's reach. "Korea's voice toward the world!" is the basic part of GT's vision.

The English publication at Korean universities has the additional aim of making the best use of the monthly magazine format. "Of course, we try our best to be timely," said Kim Hye Ran (21, Yonsei University), the editor of *The Yonsei Annals*. "However, as we are inevitably behind weekly newspapers in that aspect, we try to overcome that in other methods." They try to do that in several ways:

interviewing specialists and famous figures for reader interest, publishing articles based on surveys of more than 1000 students at least twice per semester, and making the topics related to students, considering that they are a college newspaper.

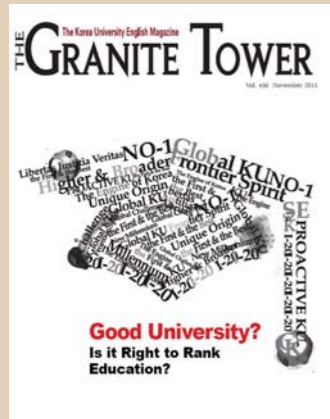
Apart from deciding on the scope and focusing of their contents, the university English press struggles over how to stand out and distinguish themselves. "To be honest, being a monthly magazine with more time to cover and write does not guarantee more depth," says the GT editor. "So, GT tries to write more special features rather than fragmentary news." A need to be more omni-faceted and in-depth is a common issue among English publications we spoke to, especially in Korean ones which are normally published in a magazine format. *The Argus* has a bit different vision. Their motto is "Journalism and Academism." They focus on educating the readers rather than just entertaining them. "When we choose a topic, we ask ourselves, 'Why do we have to cover this?' based on our motto," said Cha Eon Jo (22, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies), the editor of *The Argus*.

Targets

Targetting a specific set of readers is related to the vision and identity of the press as well. Although their audiences are similar, each publication varies a bit on whom they put more emphasis on.

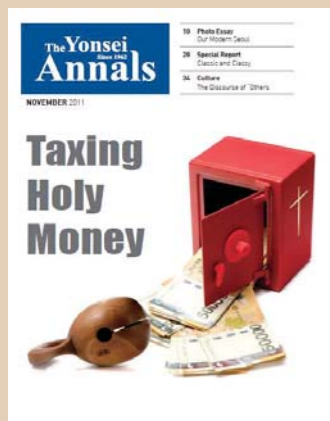
The Yonsei Annals editor answered "Yonsei people," when asked who the magazine targets as their readers. *The Monthly Moose* editor said that they "focus mainly on international students," while *The Konkuk Bulletin* editor said their main readers were local students until now, but they are starting to aim at reaching out to international student readers. "We sometimes have conflict with the school over the contents of articles because we try to write articles for students, while the school wants us to write something that publicizes it," says *The Argus* editor.

GT editor Kang said her view on who makes up a stronger reader base has changed throughout her years at GT. "At first, I thought an English magazine is definitely both for Koreans and foreigners equally. However, I realized that it might be more useful for foreigners than for Koreans because, to be honest, Korean publications are



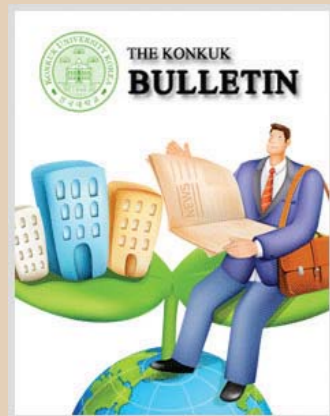
The Granite Tower
Korea University, Korea

- Founded in 1954
- Magazine format
- Published monthly
- Editor-in-chief/Associate Editor/Senior Reporter /Junior Reporter/Cub Reporter
- Public Relations/Photograph/Internet Divisions
- 18 Reporters (13 females, 5 males)



The Yonsei Annals
Yonsei University, Korea

- Founded in 1962
- Magazine format
- Published monthly
- Editor-in-chief/Associate Editor/Senior Reporter /Junior Reporter/Cub Reporter
- Current Issues, Research, Culture, Photograph, Campus Issues Divisions
- 18 Reporters (10 females, 8 males)



The Konkuk Bulletin
Konkuk University, Korea

- Founded in 1966
- Magazine format
- Published bimonthly
- Editor-in-chief/Associate Editor/Senior Reporter/ Junior Reporter
- Webzine/Coverage/Mailing/Administration Divisions
- 12 reporters (7 females, 5 males)



The Argus
Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Korea

- Founded in 1954
- Magazine format
- Published monthly
- Editor-in-chief/Associate Editor/Senior Reporter /Junior Reporter/Cub Reporter
- Campus Issues/Current affairs/Culture/ Academic Divisions
- 5 reporters (4 females, 1 male)

likely to convey better for most Koreans,” said GT editor. From readers’ feedback toward GT, it turns out that most consistent readers are mainly foreigners, Koreans with long-term experience abroad, college graduates, and last but not least, high school students.

The *PKU News* and *The Mita Campus* tend to define their readership broader, as “anyone who speaks English.”

Agony

People understand the news better when it is written in their native language. Considering this, the English press in non-English-speaking countries find their identities beyond just delivering the news as fast as it happens. “Our English context does a primary job of broadening our readers from one country to countries all over the world,” said Yuta Arndt Osada (21, Keio University), the chairperson of *The Mita Campus*. Similarly, the *PKU News* found English as effective means of showing its diversity and achievements to the world. “There is a need to encourage the publishing of newspapers in English, especially in Almaty, where KIMEP is situated, as there are lots of English speakers,” said *The KIMEP Times* editor. *The Konkuk Bulletin* editor sees their role as a way of communication between local and international students, binding them together in the name of Konkuk.

GT has three main purposes : To enhance international understanding, to honor the founding spirit of the school, and to foster students’ English skills, which is a purpose quite controversial, and fading in meaning. The first two purposes come down to building the image of the school and spreading news and stories about it to a worldwide audience. “Even some professional journalists in English press say that ‘English press is always a minority in Korea,’” said the GT editor. “It might be true, but actually it is the same for the Korean press as well. Even the *Chosun Ilbo*, *Korea Joongang Daily*, the *Donga Ilbo* struggle to get more readers. Having a somewhat unsatisfactory scope of readers and influence is just a common matter for all print media,” GT editor added.

“We see it as a headache for all student media in colleges,” said *The Yonsei Annals* editor, “that we are not as much sought after as we desire. However, saying

that the English press will not be read as much because it is written in English, may be a mere excuse.” *The Yonsei Annals* said that instead of worrying, they devote themselves to choosing the topics and interviewees which readers will want to read about. “I think that it is not really necessary to distinguish between Korean and English newspapers,” said Yoo Joo Woo (20, Yonsei University), *The Yonsei Annals* reporter. “I realized that it is more about writing a good article and being a good reporter, not about good English skill or anything.”

Training

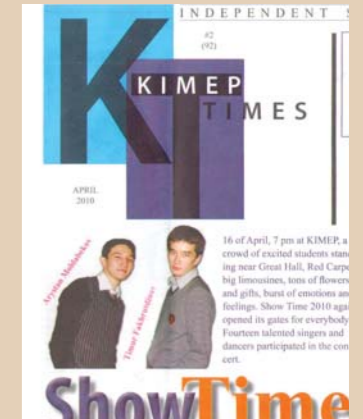
There is usually a training period in Korean university English press. In GT’s case, reporters train for two weeks every vacation. Everyday from morning till night, reporters learn and practice, writing different kinds of articles. The training covers almost every aspect of being a reporter: how to conduct interviews, how to take photographs, how to upload onto a website, and how to actually write an article. Reporters are assigned one or two articles to write every day. It is basically similar for other publications in Korea. *The Yonsei Annals* has a two-week long training at the beginning of the semester after recruiting cub reporters, and two-to three-week long training periods during vacations. “Basically, it comes down to whether the reporters can handle the stress and the workload,” said *The Yonsei Annals* editor. Reporters cannot leave until they have finished their assignment for that day. Staying up all night long is not unusual for reporters in the training period.

The Konkuk Bulletin also has a fixed training period during vacations, and flexible ones during semesters. “Alumni members often come to give lectures,” said *The Konkuk Bulletin* editor. “We are also educated at journalism school at Konkuk University during this period.” *The Argus* has a more frequent training system; about twice a week during the semester, and three weeks during vacation. They foster journalistic minds by discussing what they read in the newspapers and books.

English presses in foreign countries also carry out training sessions, but in a more irregular term. Training tends to be more strictly organized in Korea

The KIMEP Times
Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research (KIMEP), Kazakhstan

- Founded in 1996
- Newspaper format
- Published bimonthly
- Editor-in-chief/Copy Editor/Managing Editor/ Photographer/ Reporter
- 14 Reporters (5 females, 9 males)



The Monthly Moose
Oslo University, Norway

- Founded in 2008
- Magazine format
- Published monthly
- Chief editor/five-member editorial board (Copy, Graphic Content, Internet, and Social Affairs Editors)
- Layout, Graphic, Editing, Web, Social Ddivisions
- 5-20 reporters



The Mita Campus
Keio University, Japan

- Founded in 1946
- Online website
- Editor-in-chief/Associate Editor/Reporter
- 25 reporters



PKU News
Peking University, China

- Founded in 2004
- Online website
- Editor-in-chief/Editor/Reporter
- 22 Reporters (18 females, 4 males)



AS AN ORGANIZATION

Size and gender ratio

The university newspapers around the world are big and small in size, ranging from those comprised of only around five members, such as *The Argus*, to those composed of as many as 25, such as *The Mita Campus*. The average number of students is 15 to 16. The gender ratio at each university press, however, represented a distinctive pattern—the number of female reporters exceeded that of males with the exception of two universities, *The KIMEP Times* and *The Mita Campus*.

Structure and Culture

All university newspapers mentioned above share a similar organizational structure in general, with an editor-in-chief, associate editors or a board of editors, and reporters. The editor-in-chief is in charge of all procedures and details about articles and editing. The editor of *The KIMEP Times* said that her role is to “collect the topics for the issue, send all the articles to copy editor for checking, check them again, choose photos for articles, and work with the designer on the layout.” The editor of *The Mita Campus* added, “The editor-in-chief has the power to return the article for rewriting or to reject the article completely.” Besides the principle role of editing, editor-in-chiefs are also responsible for administration and management of reporters and annual events, such as training sessions. “Basically an editor-in-chief possesses authority over all things happening at the publication,” said the editor of *The Konkuk Bulletin*.

An intriguing fact about the newspapers at Korean universities is that they are more hierarchical than those in other countries, with stricter distinction of positions for reporters. The editor of the *PKU News* suggested, “The gap between junior reporters and the seniors is actually ignorable,” and the situation is no different at other universities abroad. Newspapers at Korean universities, however, subdivide the reporters into three positions—senior, junior, and cub reporters, and reporters are promoted after one semester of participation. To be an official newspaper alumnus or to receive recognition of participation, a reporter has to stay at the publication for three to five semesters in Korea. Foreign press, on the other hand, barely has an obligatory participation period. Only *The Mita Campus* requires members to participate for at least one semester, “since many of [their] members do internships in companies and go abroad to study.” Rebecca Plath, the editor-in-chief of *The Monthly Moose* said, “A majority of reporters stay at Oslo (*The Monthly Moose*) only for one or two semesters.”

Fellowship

Besides writing and publishing articles, university newspapers are a place for reporters and editors to bond with each other. In order to promote fellowship among its

members, each newspaper and magazine organizes several activities, such as parties and travel, at least once a semester. *The Monthly Moose* goes on a cabin trip once a semester, and *The Mita Campus* goes on “a short trip every three months to Shizuoka, Sendai, etc.” GT holds four official gatherings—the Anniversary Celebration, two times of staff replacements, and mountain climbing—and has several Membership Trainings (MT) during each semester. *The Yonsei Annals* has similar events which also take place four times a semester—during the cub reporter training period, after the cub reporter training, during workshop, and after staff replacement. *The Argus* also throws events for alumni, inviting them to homecoming days twice a year.

The relationship between university newspapers and future of journalism

For most university newspapers, the number of alumni working in journalism or the mass media sector is fairly low, with the large majority pursuing careers in other fields. The editor of *The Argus* pointed out, “We have a number of alumni working as journalists, including those at major Korean newspapers, such as the *Korea Joongang Daily*, *Yonhap News*, and *The Korea Herald*. But we also have a lot of alumni not working in journalism.”

The primary motive for students to join a university publication may explain this phenomenon. The editor of *The Konkuk Bulletin* said that most reporters join the newspaper to “get to know people and improve English ability,” rather than preparing for journalism as a future career. *The PKU News* also faces a similar situation, its editor-in-chief added that some students join simply to gain personal fulfillment. *The KIMEP Times* answered that the majority of reporters purely want to “gain experience” and “obtain skills” by working at the magazine, and *The Mita Campus* found that most of its members are interested in “discussing world affairs but not necessarily journalism itself.” The editor of *The Monthly Moose* added, “The reporters mostly view their work in *The Monthly Moose* as a hobby.”

Atmosphere

The predominant atmosphere at university newspapers, as suggested by the student reporters in Korea and

around the world, can be summed into three words—rigorous, creative, and family-like. Because a press is an organization that has an obligation to produce a tangible result in the form of a newspaper or magazine, meetings and deadlines are tightly scheduled, and members with diverse ideas inevitably clash with each other. The university newspaper is no doubt a place of “vigor” in this sense, but because of that very rigorousness, better and distinguished articles are created. The editor of GT said, “We are ready to devote our time to GT, whether it’s for work or the organization itself. And this attitude spawns creativity and diversity, which naturally enhances the quality of the newspaper.” Moreover, in the process of preparing for a newspaper, reporters happen to endure difficult times with each other, nurturing a family-like feeling among the members. “Even though every reporter gets stressed out by the frequent meetings and tight schedules, they realize that there is no other place that makes them feel so at home,” added the editor-in-chief of *The Argus*.



AS A STUDENT COMMUNITY

Rewards

The moment of happiness for journalists is when the results of your efforts are published and recognized by others. When asked to pick one of the best moments of their life as a reporter, many answered, “When the article comes out with my name on it.” *The Yonsei Annals* reporter said, “One of the best things about working in the press is that you are participating in the cre-

ation of something.”

Getting feedback or compliments from readers or spotting someone on the street with your newspaper in hand is all a happy moment for reporters.

Hardships

“Time management” was the answer of seven English publications out of the eight we interviewed, when asked what was hardest about their jobs. “I sometimes feel discouraged since there is so much work to do and I do not have any free time,” said the chairperson of *The Mita Campus*. “The hard part is that it takes a lot of time and you need to keep everyone on a strict schedule.” Not only do reporters have to sacrifice their free time, they sometimes have to skip classes to meet the schedule of work at

the press. “In the busiest times, I find it hard to concentrate on my courses because something might just come up at the press, and you have to be ready anytime, anywhere,” said *The Konkuk Bulletin* editor. The editor of *The KIMEP Times* spoke about worsened eyesight, and *The Yonsei Annals* reporters mentioned working all night, and not having enough time to participate in other activities.

The editor of GT talked about three major hardships: the matter of a relatively narrow reader scope, reporters having their stories rejected, and working together in an organization.

Prospects

“There is something inexplicable, something ‘GT-like;’ it is a characteristic or atmosphere at GT that I cannot quite define in words,” said GT editor. “It is just something that bonds the reporters, not only in work but also in their everyday lives.” For 57 years, many aspects of human society have been included in the small society called GT; a power struggle, fight, love, friendship, bond, and everything. “There were different times of different value, culture, and perspective, but one thing never changed. The magazine always have been coming out, whatever the situation,” said the GT editor, looking back at the GT’s history.

“Cooperation,” is what the editor of GT chose as a keyword for more growth and development of GT. Better cooperation is needed, of reporters, even though individualism is pursued by an increasing number of people, of Anam and Sejong campuses, of various majors including natural sciences and engineering, and of Korean and foreign reporters—not only from English-speaking countries.

“We are very well-organized,” said the editor of *The Yonsei Annals*. There are pre-editorial meetings and briefings. Reporters have to do a pre-survey and hand in the meeting material a day before each meeting. Whenever a reporter does not meet the deadline, he or she has to spend the night at the office and finish the work. In an office day, associate editors in each division work on drafts with reporters. “Overall, the process of handling work is well-established and strictly carried out,” said the editor.

As for *The Konkuk Bulletin*, “We feel like a family without boundaries,” said the editor. Comfort and closeness in the publication make reporters freely express their thoughts in story idea meetings. “Of course, sometimes it is not always good that we are so close. Reporters sometimes do not do what I say...” said the editor, half-jokingly. He talked about the five-semester requirement as a weak point. Because of it, reporters have to sacrifice more time in the press, delaying other things such as going abroad as exchange students. “Male students are especially reluctant to join the press because of the military service,” the editor said.

It seems like the charm of working in the college press is that we experience both, to work—responsibly, and under a lot of stress and workload—and to live with others who, as time goes by, become another family. ■

A AMATEUR

ONCE AN AMATEUR, NOW A PROFESSIONAL: The World of Journalists

By Kang Uoo Seob (cmztk8585@korea.ac.kr),
Kim Ha Joong (hajoong91@korea.ac.kr)

Dreaming of becoming a professional journalist, many university students take on the challenge of campus journalism. Upon graduation, some of them eventually achieve their dreams of becoming professional writers or editors. *The Granite Tower* (GT) met with three of our very own alumni and took notes on their respective views on how ink and paper can make a difference.

PROFESSIONAL

P



Kim Soo Han
(’95, Russian Language
and Literature)
Former Reporter at *The
Korea Herald*
Reporter at *The Herald
Business*

Photograph by Kang Uoo Seob

“Wow! Becoming a journalist would be pretty tough,” thought a twenty-year-old young man during his days of campus journalism at GT. 16 years have passed and now the former amateur is the new hotshot journalist at *The Herald Business*.

“Becoming a journalist was like ‘connecting the dots’ for me,” said Kim referring to what Steve Jobs had said in the 2005 Stanford Commencement. His experience as the 51st editor-in-chief naturally led him to the world of professional journalism, starting with *The Korea Herald* (nation’s No.1 English newspaper) and then to *The Herald Business* (Korean newspaper). Having experienced journalism in both English and Korean press, Kim presented his views on GT’s role as the one and only English university press at Korea University (KU).

Kim had a distinguished view on the conventional and the fundamental role of the press. “It was during the 1980s when campus journalism came into the spotlight. Under the military regime, the press was censored and the truth was suppressed. It was the university journalists back then who spoke out for truth and democracy,”

said Kim, referring to the conventional role of campus journalism. Campus journalism was indeed different from ordinary journalism. They may have shared the same role in voicing the public’s opinion, but it is without a doubt that the former had more freedom of speech.

“Nowadays, student demonstrations at a national level are over. Given our current state, I think the fundamental role of campus journalism is campus news itself. However, it must not neglect on social issues, especially those that are suppressed by the government such as FTAs or half-tuition fee issues,” continued Kim, reassuring the basic role of the press. “Publicizing social issues is in need for student journalists even today,” Kim continued.

As an English magazine, GT has somewhat of a limited readership and Kim presented an advice as to where GT should head. “English medium shall always be in the minority in Korean society,” said Kim. According to Kim, however, what makes GT a minor can actually become its unique strength.

“What GT should aim for is not the domestic readers but the readers of the world. In other words, ‘Globalization’ is what GT should aim for. If for-

eign students outside Korea can go to the GT website and read its articles, that would be the end of story. The website can serve as the window for the world to see the thoughts of KU students. GT would be the most cost-efficient way to advertise KU to the world,” advised Kim.

Regarding professional journalism, Kim pointed out that the hot keyword in Korea’s press today is “New Media.” “Studies say that people will stop reading newspapers in merely a decade,” said Kim. New media such as smart phones and tablet PCs have created channels for news to be read anywhere at any time. “The time has come for the newspaper publishers to ponder about its future as its survival is at stake,” Kim continued.

As for the question on what function the press serves in today’s society, Kim’s answer was a simple metaphor; press is just like a “blood vessel.” “Blood vessel is something that connects our entire body. And when the blood vessel clots up, our body cannot function properly. Likewise, our society is connected through different mediums of press. And when the press doesn’t function well, the society corrupts,” said Kim.

As a current reporter of *The Herald Business*, Kim presented a word of advice to the GT reporters and all those students who wish to become journalists. “In a university life where student demonstrations have phased out, campus journalism is surely one of the most challenging activities students can experience. The experience of being a campus journalist will aid you throughout your life. The hardships you go through now are really worth it. You shall realize that this period is the golden days of your life,” said Kim. “If you want to become a journalist, you must read newspapers or magazines and learn who some of the reporters, columnists, or editorialists are. And when you think you can write better than these journalists, that is when you should challenge yourself to become one.”

헤럴드경제
heraldbiz.com



Photograph by Kim Ha-Joong

Rhee Hak-young
(’80, English Language
and Literature)
Deputy Editor-in-Chief of
The Korea Economic Daily

한국경제

“The way I worked at GT definitely helped me work as a professional journalist,” said Rhee. As is the case with some journalists, Rhee, deputy editor-in-chief of *The Korea Economic Daily*, one of the largest newspaper companies in Korea, confessed that experiences he gained as a campus journalist provided him with a great help when adapting into a world of professional journalism. “At GT, I picked out hot issues of campus, and society, made a plan, and delivered information to KU students every month. At my workplace, the underlying process is almost same. The only difference is frequency of the publication. Now, I have to repeat the process every day,” explained Rhee.

Rhee emphasized the campus press’ role as a communicator to connect the whole student body. “In the past, the student body was uniform. But now a virtue of diversity should be respected, because each student is unique and has different

perspective from others’ on many issues. The campus journalism should facilitate the communication among such diverse student body. It has to serve as a medium that encourages smooth communication on campus,” said Rhee. He also highlighted that GT works hard to advertise KU to non-Korean speakers in other countries because of its uniqueness as the only English-written press of KU.

Originally, Rhee applied to *The Korea Economic Daily* merely as a step to building his career before going to graduate school in the States, but this one application totally changed his life. After he started his career as a professional journalist, Rhee discovered that to write an article of great quality, a journalist should meet experts from various fields and study a lot. Such continuous efforts and endless challenges he faced every day as a journalist mesmerized him and ultimately made him continue his journalistic pursuits.

Working at *The Korea Economic Daily*, Rhee served in various high-ranking posts and finally became deputy editor-in-chief last February.

Now, he administers 250 journalists and decides overall planning. As one of the most experienced journalists, Rhee had a distinguished view on journalism. “The most important role of journalists in the past was to deliver information to the public. However, now the public gains information through various media other than newspapers such as Social Networking Services (SNS) and smart phones. So, it is crucial that journalists have keen insights to read the world and suggest critical interpretation of specific issues,” emphasized Rhee. “It is also important to have an ability to arouse sympathy from the public. ‘Ahn Chul Su Syndrome’ is the typical result of the public’s sympathy. The press took the initiative in forming a bond of sympathy among young generations, enabling Ahn to gain tremendous popularity,” continued Rhee. He also pointed out that the public gets comforted and finds solution to their social problems through reading articles with sympathy. Newspapers no longer merely deliver information; it is now serving as an efficient catalyst to encourage social solidarity among the public.

To develop such insight and ability, Rhee emphasized “study!” “Being a journalist is a process of challenging oneself and broadening intellectual capacity. And this process will continue throughout one’s entire career,” said Rhee. In the past, people wanted to become journalists as a means of making a living. However, nowadays many devote themselves to being journalists even if their income is not relatively high. “I respect such people who easily give up other opportunities to earn much more money and become a journalist. Hopefully, younger generations, before making up their minds, ask themselves why they want to be journalists. Even though it is very tough to live as a journalist compared with other jobs, I can confidently say that you would be satisfied as long as you know why you are working as a journalist.”

고대校友會報

“Looking back at a life at GT, I think it was tougher to work at GT than at *The Korea University Alumni News* (KUAN).” Laughing broadly, he started his interview with this interesting comment. Then, he explained why. “As a college student, I had to study for exams and write articles for GT at the same time. Simply, I had two jobs. There was a lot to do.” Park seemed to have a strong attachment to GT and has supported it in various ways even after graduating. As an alumnus deeply connected with GT, Park presented an advice for GT to serve properly as the only English-language newspaper in KU. “Now that KU actively establishes academic ties with renowned universities around the world, the main goal of GT should be to advertise KU to students of other foreign universities and to serve as a guidebook for foreign exchange students,” said Park. He also underscored what GT can do as a magazine. “GT needs to make the most of its characteristics as a magazine. Magazine has a tendency to focus on its layout and design to attract readers’ attention. If GT improves its image by adopting decorated layouts inside the magazine, it would be much easier to arrest readers’ attention,” explained Park.

Park started to devote himself to KUAN as a graduate student. After building his career at other workplaces, he came back to KUAN last December and rose to editor-in chief a few months ago. “The most difficult thing as an editor-in chief is responsibility. I have to tell others what to do and make many important decisions on my own. The direction of KUAN largely depends on my decisions and purposes,” said Park.

KUAN introduces KU alumni and delivers their news. Park administers KUAN and decides the overall composition of the newspaper. “It is very significant to mediate between the school and the KU Alumni Association. KUAN is an intermedi-

ary that tries to maintain a relationship between the two and express the graduates’ gratitude toward the school. KUAN is an important medium of the KU community,” explains Park.

Park also had a distinguished view on the role of the press. “The press is taking a pivotal role in our society. Its main duty should be to facilitate communication among the public and to speak for the public good. It is also important to have an ability to form a bond of sympathy among those adopting information the press provides,” enthusiastically explained Park.

Park also suggested his own perspective on campus journalism. “Until late 1990s, campus journalism used to play an important role in forming students’ opinion on grave subjects like democracy, student movements against autocracy and so on. However, nowadays we cannot find much seriousness in campus journalism,” said Park. Even though he lamented disappearing solemnity, Park did not propose it to go back to what it used to be. “The more important thing for campus journalism is that it should be indulged in chal-

lenging spirit. It should try something new, not breaking away from existing frame of the press,” explained Park.

As the current editor-in chief of KUAN and the former reporter of GT, Park presented an advice to those who wish to become future journalists. “The most important thing is to ‘do your best.’ I know it is a simple principle, but it is the basis for everything. The standard of one’s doing best might be different for each individual just like the spectrum of lights. Since the degree of doing one’s best is different for each of you, there is always room to try more. I hope KU students set their own standard of doing their best and try to meet the standard whatever they do and whenever they do it!” ■



Photograph by Kim Ha-Joong

Park Ki-Buem
(’97 German Language
and Literature)
Editor-in-Chief of
*The Korea University Alumni
News*

Fallen in Turbulence, Again

By Photo Division



PHOTO ESSAY



1



2



3



4



5



6

From Top:

1 _ The placard says "Ramming National Budget; Ramming Four-River Restoration Bill; Ramming Media Reform Bill; Ramming KORUS FTA; Let's Go Sweep Ali Myung-bak and 151 Ramming Thieves." The last statement is a parody of the famous adventure tale, *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*.

2 _ Protestors hold candlelight vigil against FTA with the US in Gwanghwamun to voice out their opinions.

3 _ Candlelight and Placard. "KORUS FTA; Invalidate Rammed Bills"

4 _ Rep. Chung Dong-young of Democratic Party and Chairwoman Lee Jung-hee of Democratic Labor Party are participating in the protest.

5 _ A girl is carefully listening to what the speaker is saying in front of a stage at Sejong Munhwa Hall.

6 _ The combat police force are guarding the police line.

Being Intelligent to Protect Our Intelligence

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

"I believe running is the basis for all sports. That's one of the reasons why I run the marathon," says Lee Soowon ('73, Business Administration), the Commissioner of the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO). With his impressive career as a government official, he was appointed the commissioner of KIPO in 2010. Since then, it would be no exaggeration to say that the atmosphere of KIPO has turned upside down. With Lee's focus on "bilateral communication" and "openness", he had been voted "The boss I want to be like" several times in his previous posts and is still considered a popular superior among his workers.



Photograph by Park Jin Yung

His dream as a student had always been to become a government official. With the influence from his father, who had also been a government official at the time, Lee wanted to become not just a government official, but a successful one, too. In pursuit of his dream, Lee entered Korea University (KU) and studied Business Administration. In his fourth year of college, Lee passed the Higher Civil Service Examination which opened the door for him to take a closer step towards his dream.

Although a very successful man in our society today, Lee had been just like any other student in KU during his time as a university student. "During my school years, one of the most memorable courses that I took was 'Principles of Accounting.' I was never good at math so the class was hard for me. Also, I was often late to class as it was in the morning and sometimes I even ended up skipping it. Of course I got an F on my final grade." Throughout his life as a college student, we were able to spot the human and humorous side of him which was veiled by his charismatic and professional figure. He added he wrote a letter to his Accounting professor instead of answering the questions on his final examination. This event probably left the professor with an unforgettable memory.

Graduating KU, Lee joined the Korean government as deputy director of the Economic Planning Board (EPB) in 1980. Then, being acknowledged for his talents at his post,

he was assigned as the Secretary to the President for Economic Crisis Management in 2009 with the advent of a global economic crisis. For about 17 months, Lee lived in an underground 'war room' where he worked 15 hours a day to fight against the crisis. It took about a year or more for the nation's economy to stabilize again and Lee played a great part in this recuperation. Being recognized for his contribution, he was appointed Commissioner of KIPO in 2010. Since then, he has brought a great number of changes to our intellectual property society.

"As you all probably know, the 21st century is a knowledge-based society. This is exactly why intellectual property (IP) is very important today. Since I was appointed the



Photograph by Park Jin Yung

commissioner of this organization, I have focused on providing a ground for our economy to grow in quality through the means of IP," says Lee as he proudly presented us with his success so far in KIPO. With his stress on the importance of IP, he explained the process of its development through competition between enterprises. Also, he added that many colleges today are providing their students with courses about IP in order to increase the awareness of its significance.

One of the main concerns he highlighted during his first months as the commissioner was the importance of intellectual management in small and medium enterprises (SMEs). As these businesses lack in resource and power, many of their skills and ideas were extorted by larger enterprises. KIPO, realizing the current situation, has been providing these small enterprises with education about intellectual management and other services ever since. Moreover, with continuous support from the government and SMEs' effort, they believe that an increasing number of SMEs will be able to compete in the bigger picture in the future.

Korea is considered to be one of the leading countries around the world, relating to IPs. "Our nation is currently ranked within the top five out of all the countries in the world in relation to IPs. About 170,000 patent applications have been filed in our country just last year." Here, Lee was very content to say that KIPO is one of the leading



organizations throughout the world in fields related to patents and trademarks today.

The recent lawsuit between Samsung and Apple has aroused a lot of interest in IPs. Yet, Lee sees this conflict to be "quite different from the ones in the past." He asserts that, while Samsung filed a lawsuit against Apple focusing on the patent, Apple's lawsuit centered more on the issue of designs. Although Samsung possesses a great number of patents in the U.S., their control of IP of sleek designs seems rather weak. Hence, this recent issue has opened our eyes to the importance of IP over designs as well as patents and trademarks.

Adding on to the current issues at hand, Lee also emphasized the important role of research and development (R&D) carried out in universities. "66 percent of top domestic researchers in Korea are currently working in universities. Moreover, about 11 percent of the national investment for R&D is used by universities. Hence, it would be no exaggeration to say that universities are the core agent of our country's R&D field." However, despite the surprising figures, the utilization rate of patents by universities in Korea is only about half compared to that of the United States. Here, Lee asserts the importance of making sure that suitable research environments are provided to researchers in universities to boost up those figures.

"It is important that the students today realize the importance of IP. IPs are the current of the times. We are now past an information-oriented society and living in a knowledge-based society." By the end of the interview, Lee wanted to draw our attention to the significance of IP in our society again. He also advised students to take courses relating to IP and learn to respect not only one's own IP but also others' as well.

Throughout the interview, one aspect of the commissioner that caught our attention was his optimism and confidence despite his busy and tiresome job. He believes that such an attitude is what got him to where he is now. Knowing that laughter and happiness are contagious, he highlighted the importance of communication and enjoying oneself as a route to success. The future of Korea's IP seems as promising as the hope and ambition that Lee has as the Commissioner of KIPO. With his devotion to his job and the people's support to take a step further in the global competition of IP, Korea will definitely find itself standing at the top in the near future. ■

Meet **TIME**: Club **SIS TIME**

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

There are many effective means of obtaining information about current events: sharing news with peers, surfing the Internet, and reading newspapers. If you are a Korea University (KU) student, however, there is an even better chance of achieving it. That is joining Student Intellectual Society (SIS) Time, where one cannot only be updated with latest news, but can also improve English skills.



SIS TIME has more than a 50-year history as the first English club in Korea. In September, 1955, few KU students including Yeo Yeong Mu, Cha Seok Jun, and Lee Jong Sik laid the foundation for SIS TIME to keep abreast of the times where English is considered the most competi-

studies English but also interacting with people, we have more intimacy towards each other," he adds.

SIS TIME's main activity is reading *TIME* magazine and discussing the articles. The club members meet on weekdays and interpret the latest articles from *TIME* that week. "For an in-depth

tive foreign language worldwide. In 1956, the club received accreditation from KU under the name TIME Discussion Club (TDC). TDC was renamed SIS TIME the following year.

One of the great merits of SIS TIME is that the club is a massive community with a large membership. "Including approximately 30 current staff members, almost uncountable number of students have participated in SIS Time since 1956," says Kim Yun Gi ('06, Electrical Engineering), the current SIS TIME president. "Because our club puts a lot of emphasis on not only

study, we appoint one or two members a day as 'columnists,' before discussion," says Kim. Each "columnist" takes one article. The "columnists" play a leading role in reading an article, sharing ideas, and leading a discussion. This main activity of SIS TIME is conducted for two hours, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., from Monday to Friday. "Of course all our members do not have to come every day," Kim says.

Like other clubs, the members of SIS TIME can experience various activities beyond learning English and getting information about current events. Kim emphasizes that the most important thing is building relationships. The SIS TIME members participate in membership training (MT) and they have a wrap-up party after their sessions. Kim says that they can maintain a close senior-junior relationship through these activities.

For the 50th birthday of SIS TIME in 2006, *TIME* reported on SIS TIME as the Asian club that reads *TIME* and uses it for study material. In addition, there are numerous famous seniors who participated in SIS TIME, the people who are easily recognized by their names. "Because our club has over 50 years of history, there are countless great seniors in our club," Kim says. Euh Yoon Dae, former president of KU, was a member of SIS TIME, and Kim Dae



Kyun, a renowned TOEIC instructor, enjoyed his college life leading SIS TIME as its 63rd president of the club.

Reading *TIME* from cover to cover is not the ultimate aim of SIS TIME. What the club regards as most important is how accurate and natural the reading is. The club members think that it is important to invest a lot of time in reading articles in *TIME*, of course, but it is more important to compare their own interpretation of articles with that of others and draw the best understanding about the article through questions at club meetings.

Since most of the "columnists" of SIS TIME are Korean students, their interpretation may be wrong and differ from person to person. Therefore, the club puts more focus on critical thinking and discussion rather than passively reading the articles.

To take part in SIS TIME, you only need to attend the club meeting on weekdays and there is no official procedure for joining. The place of meeting changes every day but you can check the location on the SIS TIME's website (<http://sis-time.net>). After attending several meetings, you are appointed as a "columnist". Then, you are given full membership in SIS TIME. Anyone can join SIS TIME, regardless of student number, age, sex, or English proficiency.

Not only KU students, but also stu-

dents from other universities can join the club. Any university student who wants to improve their English or learn about current events is welcome. Actually, students of various universities including Ewha Womans and Sookmyung Women's University study in SIS TIME. Foreign students can join SIS TIME, although there is no foreign student in the club right now. "We are always open! All you need is passion and sincerity," says Kim.

"SIS TIME is a club where its members can keep continuous relationships. It is wide open to anyone. Please join us" says Kim. ■





The IMF in the European Debt Crisis and the Asian Financial Crisis

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

With the outbreak of the recent European economic crisis, mainly concerning Greece, help was offered immediately from groups such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF). However, there are some critical voices in the global community saying that the IMF is behaving more favorably than during the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis. Is there legitimacy to such criticism?

Over the years, the IMF has received criticism for its inconsistency. It has been disapproved by many groups around the world for having a double standard; one standard for a few advanced coun-

tries, and another one for the rest of the world. These criticisms have highlighted the IMF's limitations and have raised the question of whether the IMF has lived up to its title as an international organization.

Many critics have claimed that,

historically, the Fund has been more favorable to leading Western countries. Such argument has been sharpened recently as the IMF's actions in the Greek debt crisis are directly compared to its actions during the past crises in other regions, such as



Countries most affected by the Asian crisis

Asia and South America.

The IMF was condemned especially for its ineffective yet harsh measures during the Asian financial crisis. Jeffrey Sachs, who is currently a professor at Columbia University and a special advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, was one of the key critics of the IMF's actions in the Asian financial crisis. He wrote in *Financial Times* that "the IMF threw together a Draconian program for Korea in just a few days, without deep knowledge of the country's financial system and without any subtlety as to how to approach the problems."

In specifically comparing the Fund's actions in the Asian financial crisis and its actions in the Greek debt crisis, critics point out the Fund's inconsistency on the basis of two major differences. The first difference is the size of loans given by the IMF. During the Asian financial crisis, the Asian countries hit by the crisis did not receive full-out support of the IMF and other groups. On the other hand, in the recent debt crisis in Greece, the IMF has been very lenient on giving a large amount of loans.

Professor Oh Jung Geun (Department of Economics) explained in detail about the significant difference in the amount of loans given by

the IMF in each case, specifically comparing Korea's situation with Greece's current situation. "In 1997, Korea's debt reached about 160 billion dollars," explained Oh. "However, only 22% of that total amount was granted by the IMF and other groups like the World Bank."

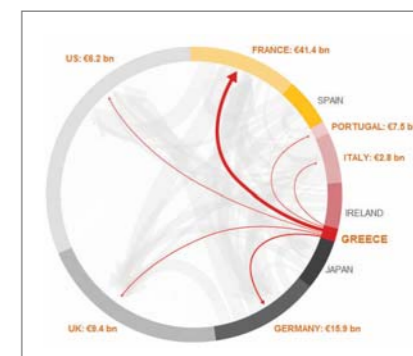
On the contrary, it was a very different scenario for Greece. "Greece's debt was about 450 billion dollars, but almost 67% of it was given by the IMF and other groups," said Oh. Not only that, almost half of Greece's debt was written off. As a result, essentially, Greece was able to clear off all of its debt with the help of others. "Greece had nothing to lose in the bargain," said Oh.

Another difference between IMF's measures in the Asian financial crisis and the Greek debt crisis lies in the severity of policies and measures. During the Asian financial crisis, the IMF imposed high interest rates and harsh reforms, discouraged liquidity, and prescribed tight fiscal policy in the Asian nations.

The high interest rates prescribed by the IMF to the Asian countries brought fatal effects to the countries. For example, many companies in Korea were over-killed because of the high interest rates. In fact, many analysts believe that many of these companies could have been saved from bankruptcy if there had been more support from the IMF and other countries.

Furthermore, the IMF required the Asian countries to decrease the debt ratio in only a short period of time. Korea's debt ratio was 400% at the time of the crisis, but the IMF required Korea to decrease the ratio to its half. In order to meet this condition, stocks of many Korean businesses had to be sold at a giveaway price to foreign countries.

Just like Korea, other Asian countries hit by the crisis had to make painful concessions in order to recover from the crisis. On the other hand, Greece has been facing much more favorable situation thanks to the active support from the global community. In the recent Greek debt crisis, interest rates have been kept very



Greece's debt to foreign countries

low and a large amount of capital has been released on the market. As a result, Greece does not need to dispose of its assets, as the Asian countries had to during the Asian financial crisis.

Professor Kim Yong Duk (Business Administration) who served as the governor of the Financial Supervisory Service and also as an economic advisor to President Roh Moo Hyun, pointed to the inconsistent behavior of the IMF. "During the Asian financial crisis, the responsible firms were required to take the so-called 'bail-in' pills," said Kim. "However, recently the IMF has been adopting a policy of 'not-punishing' and a 'wholesale bailout' of responsible financial institutions. Such difference will no doubt go down as a typical case of policy inconsistency."

As criticism fired at the IMF continues, there are many groups around the world that question the existence and the purpose of the organization. "One question in all of this is what, if any, preventive measures the IMF took during this global crisis," said Kim. He claimed that the IMF did not fully play its role of warning countries of crises when they were in vulnerable positions. "In this sense, the IMF, at the center core of the international financial system, no longer completely fulfills all of the functions granted it." ■



Media, Film, and the Public

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

"There are so many showoffs in journalism. So many braggarts and jerks. They are always selling; always work in the room, always trying to make themselves look hotter than they actually are. Journalism is just the art of capturing behavior. You have to know who you are writing for and you have to know what you are good at. I record what people do. I find out what moves them, what scares them, and I write that down. That way the other ones tell the story. And you know what? Those kind of pieces come on Pulitzers too," – Stephen Glass's line from *Shattered Glass*

If you work as a student journalist, you will have plenty of opportunities to meet journalists and photojournalists. Journalists write a number of articles every day to get a single good piece. Some feel upset when their articles get criticized or are attacked by anonymous internet users. Photojournalists take thousands of pictures to find just one

picture that can be put in a magazine or newspaper. They get bruised while taking pictures and yet sometimes end up with no good work, but still, they keep picking up a pen and pressing the shutter to deliver something to the public.

Nowadays, the public sees the world through a window called media. The public shows interest in films

related to journalism to satisfy their curiosity and doubts about media. Therefore, the more realistic a film is the more interest and reputation it gets. Movies related to media are more realistic than others since the reporting job is dramatic by itself. However, the films do not stop here; they throw questions to the public and the media.

Upright Journalists

All the President's Men



Release Date: April 19, 1976
Directed by Alan J. Pakula
Starring Dustin Hoffman, Robert Redford
Duration: 138 minutes
 4/5

On June 17, 1972, five men were arrested for breaking into the Democratic National Committee (DNC) headquarters at the Watergate Building. They were spies from the committee for the re-election of President Richard Nixon. They broke into the office in order to place a bug. However, this was only the tip of the iceberg. President Richard Nixon was involved in the reconnaissance and defamation of the DNC. The whole iceberg was revealed by Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward, two journalists from *The Washington Post*. Consequently, President Richard Nixon resigned on August 9, 1974, being recorded as the only resigned president of the U.S. This is the famous Watergate Scandal that the movie deals with.

It is based on a real story. That means the ending is settled, and some might feel bored about it. But the whole process and record of the two journalists are interesting enough for us to enjoy the movie. Along with the plot, the stable cinematography and actors' abilities made the movie more lifelike. Accordingly, the film won numerous awards including an Academy Award and a National Society of Film Critics Award.

The film follows the journalists who engaged in lots of legwork and overcame threats to reveal the truth. If you think a journalist's work has only to do with writing, this film will prove you wrong. True articles cannot be written behind a desk. Journalists must experience and hear outside the office. Also, if you think being awarded a Pulitzer Prize is made solely by a journalist's own effort, you are wrong again. Woodward and Bernstein could only write the article with the support of the brave editor and people related to the scandal. The right journalism in this film is made by journalist's strong will to get closer to the truth and the bravery of people.

This movie starts with introducing completely different cases. Cal McAffrey (Russell Crowe), a journalist at the *Washington Globe*, begins to find a connection between the two cases and gets closer to the relationship between the nation and the defense industry. McAffrey keeps following the clues and reaches the truth under political pressures and threats.

Adapted from the British television series that aired in 2003, the film again talked about journalism through the memorable acts of Russell Crowe and Ben Affleck. Compared to *All the President's Men*, the story development is faster in order to summarize a six-hour story into a two-hour plot. Furthermore, since it is fiction and more violent, you can enjoy the thrill and tension that was hard to find in the previously introduced movie.

This film shows what binds down journalists. Now, every industry is under the restraint of money. Media is no different. To attract more readers, newspapers and magazines write gossip and what is currently going on. However, the *Washington Globe* and McAffrey were different. In order to give the truth to the public, he checked the facts and wrote about how the facts led to the truth. That is the reason why the title is *State of Play*. Another constraint is the influence the politicians have on media. The whole plot is about facing political pressure to reveal the truth. The last factor that makes journalists feel pain is personal and moral conflicts, which is considered the most difficult things to define. All journalists have diverse relationships and are a part of society. Sometimes, they must overcome ethical problems and personal conflicts in order to write the truth. This was also what made McAffrey agonize until the ending. Many journalists fail to see the truth due to such burdens. This film will give a thrill to those journalists and readers who are sick of shallow articles full of undetermined facts.

State of Play



Release Date: April 17, 2009 (in U.S.)
Directed by Kevin Macdonald
Starring Russell Crowe, Rachel McAdams, Ben Affleck
Duration: 127 minutes
 5/5

Moby Dick



Release Date: June 9, 2011 (in Korea)
Directed by Park In Je
Starring Hwang Jeong Min, Jin Gu, Kim Min Hui, Kim Sang Ho
Duration: 112 minutes
 2.5/5

On November 20, 1994, an explosion occurred on a bridge near Seoul. Lee Bang Woo (Hwang Jeong Min) starts the investigation case. Suddenly, Yun Hyeok (Jin Gu) appears and gives important data that connects the explosion with a political group. Lee and his colleague journalists dig into the case and confront the hidden ruling powers.

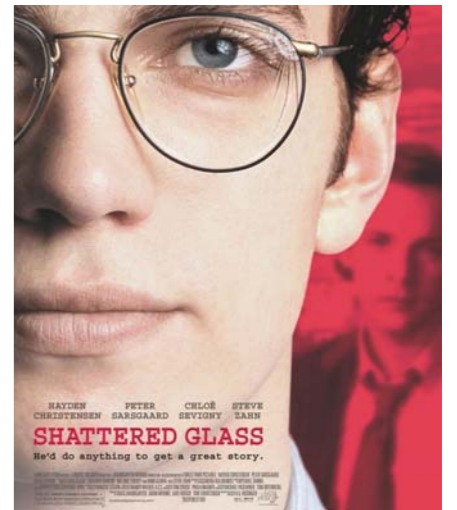
Before the release, this film received attention simply because top actors in Korea were cast and was about journalists and conspiracy. However, many critics were disappointed with the monotonous plot without depth, which is true. Still, it highlights what problems the Korean media has a back-scratching alliance of media and politics.

This movie seems similar to *All the President's Men*, except it is about Korean journalists. Unlike Woodward and Bernstein, Lee and his colleagues work on the case without the support of a newspaper corporation. Even worse, the media is under the influence of politics. The plot well epitomizes the present Korean society in that, Korean media particularly has a tighter connection while politics may have a strong grip on media in any other countries. Such a fact makes Lee's work more courageous and that is why Moby Dick gets the spotlights from the public.

Here is another film based on a true story. On June, 1998, there was an apology from *The New Republic* to its readers, mentioning that 27 pieces of the 41 articles written by Stephen Glass were either partially or entirely invented. Stephen Glass wrote a novel in 2003, using himself as a model.

This film also shows how journalism is in ruins. Readers prefer short and provocative articles. Articles that are entertaining have more chance to be read by readers. Consequently, yellow journalism has become a wide-spread phenomenon. Media becomes an entertaining tool for the public. The true role of media, to become the eye to watch over society, is being lost. Maybe, Stephen had to write such articles to be loved by readers. Then, the media is not the only one to be blamed for its corruption. We, the readers, are also to be blamed. Of course, there may be some brave editors like Charles "Chuck" Lane (Peter Sarsgaard) who pursue the voice of the public, shouting for the truth. However, it is not enough. Such shouts are useless if no one tries to hear them. Let's try to hear their cries for help, at least putting as much effort as we can to understand the underlying message of this movie.

Shattered Glass



Release Date: October 31, 2003
Directed by Billy Ray
Starring Hayden Christensen, Peter Sarsgaard
Duration: 95 minutes
 5/5

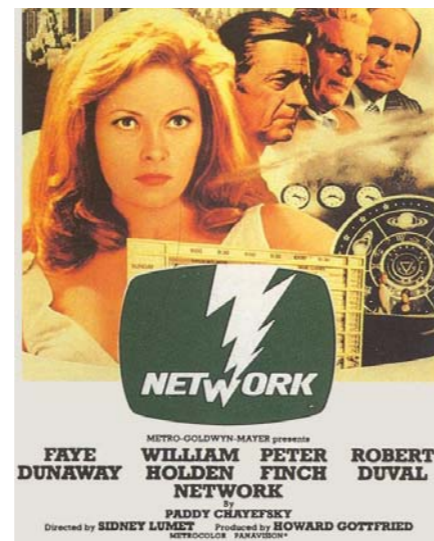
Corrupt Media

Howard Beale (Peter Finch) is a renowned news anchor. As the ratings drop, he was forced to resign. However, during his last broadcast, he pre-announces his suicide and the ratings spiral up. Diana Christensen (Faye Dunaway) believes the deranged Beale is what the audience wants and persuades the CEO of the station, UBS, Frank Hackett (Robert Duvall) to let Beale continue his program. Watching this, Max Schumacher (William Holden) feels regret and shame as a friend of Beale and a lover of Diana.

All four characters show different aspects of media. Beale is the victim of media being corrupted by capitalism. There are those who control the strings from the other side, like Frank. Diana shows the media adapting to this tragedy, forgetting the professional ethics for broadcasters-truth. Max is the last remaining hope of the media but falls into a state of torpor.

This film deserved to win countless awards including a Golden Globe Award, an Academy Award, and a Orange British Academy Film Award. It shows the corruption of media most vividly, from the cause to the outcomes. UBS shows what the audiences want to see; it became a puppet master. Here, the issue is introduced; should the media show what the audiences want or what the audiences should know about? Whatever the issue may be, the audience must not forget what media is and what it stands for.

Network



Release Date: November 20, 1976 (in U.S.)
Directed by Sidney Lumet
Starring Faye Dunaway, William Holden, Peter Finch, Robert Duvall
Duration: 120 minutes
 4.5/5

PhotoJournalists

The Bang Bang Club



Release Date: September 15, 2010 (in Canada)
Directed by Steven Silver
Starring Ryan Phillippe, Taylor Kitsch, Frank Rautenbach, Neels Van Jaarsveld, Malin Akerman
Duration: 108 minutes
 5/5

It is hard to imagine ourselves running all over the battlefield taking thousands of pictures. Yet, this is the daily life and work of the photojournalists who take pictures of war. The Bang Bang Club was the real name for a group of four photojournalists who took pictures in South Africa from 1990 to 1994; Greg Marinovich (Ryan Phillippe), Kevin Carter (Taylor Rautenbach), Joao Silva (Neels Van Jaarsveld), and Ken Oosterbroek (Frank Rautenbach). Even though two of them went on to win Pulitzer Prizes, glory was not everything they received. They had to face moral problems and agonize between photojournalist's role and human obligation.

Director Steven Silver tried to make the movie as realistic as possible. He put effort in not only casting but also in small details of every scene so that it resembles the real photos the Bang Bang Club took. Coming up to his expectations, actors did a superb job, expressing the pain photojournalists carry around with them.

The job of a photojournalist as a war correspondent is to show the real battlefield to those who cannot see it directly. It is not a required virtue for them to rescue a person who is burning in fire or provide aid for refugees. Yet, as a human, it is natural to first rescue and provide aid when he or she comes across refugees or an injured person. However, as a photojournalist, the first thing he or she has to do is to quickly take a picture and show it to the world. Therefore, they experience a contradiction and become confused of being photojournalists. And this is what makes the film interesting rather than the guns in South Africa. ■

Time for You to Control Your Money

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

A few years ago, I was no different from other students who had difficulty in controlling their money. At the beginning of the month, I felt happy by just looking at the high number in my account balance. As time passed and the end of the month came, the account balance went straight down to zero and I had to suffer from the shortage of money. However, one thing let me deal with my money more efficiently and that was financial management.



Photograph by Lim So Hee

Financial management (in Korean, *Jae-tech*) is a term that described the act of corporations participating in a stock market or a foreign exchange market with their financial surplus to earn interest, dividend, profit from security trades, or profit on exchange. Now, the term also covers the act of individuals using their assets to earn money by investing in banks, stocks, or real estate.

Individuals in Korea started to learn and have interest in financial management after the Korean International Monetary Fund (IMF) crisis in the late 1990s. At that time, Koreans painfully realized the importance of asset man-

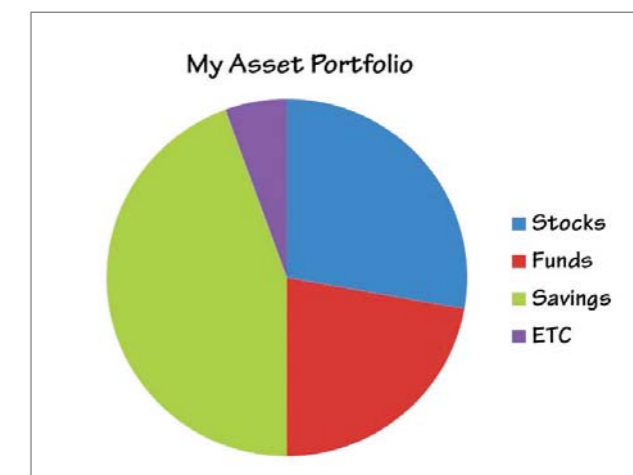
agement and investment. Since then, fund- and stock-related service products from regular banks and investment banks increased. Especially people over their 30s were always nervous about money, since they had so many financial goals to achieve, preparing for their own house, their children's marriage. Once in a while, my parents talked about past regrets like when they used money without control and did not efficiently manage money in their 20s. Following their advice, I started to study and practice financial management. While I am not an expert in this area, I hope that I can deliver some points of what I think is important from my experience as a person in her 20s.

The Earlier The Better

At my age, there are so many reasons to spend money. I have to meet my friends. I buy drinks and food for freshmen. I want to enjoy my hobby and enjoy cultural activities. However, I had to realize that I have a long life to live. It is so easy to find articles discussing the increasing average life expectancy. The problem is, it is also as easy to find articles about how fast Koreans lose their job in their 50s. This is a good reason to support the fact that financial management has become an indispensable part of the lives of 20-year-olds. More importantly, 20-year-olds must realize that financial management is all about probability. The earlier you start gathering money, the higher probability you get to be the winner in the financial management game.

Now you know that you have to start studying financial management. The next step is to understand the difference between saving and investment. The biggest difference between these two concepts is risk. When money is in your hands, you will start to agonize about whether you should put it into your bank account or use it for your investment. At this moment, if one prefers to definitely have some money with less return, he or she will decide to save the money. On the other hand, when one can accept the higher risk for a higher return, the person will use the money for investing. Your tendency of risk-taking will be reflected in your asset and investment portfolio. Of course, until you make the seed money to use for investing, savings will have more weight in your portfolio. Once you have enough money to invest, it is recommended for 20-year-olds to actively enjoy investing since there will be no chance to enjoy aggressive investment later in your life. However, don't forget it is all up to you and your preference on risk taking.

After understanding the most important concepts about financial management, you must self-examine your habits related to your spending and try to get into a good



habit. Always be cautious about your consumption. For this, you can use a check card with a text message service rather than a credit card. Frugality is a must to succeed in managing your assets. This does not mean that you have to be a penny pincher. Here, frugality means setting clear standards on spending and saving money. Small changes in your lifestyle, such as decreasing smoking and drinking, or having less coffee will save you a lot of money. Have your own financial statements to see how your asset, liability, and equity are moving. The most suggested habit is to always pay attention to business- and economy-related news. This will always help you, especially when you start investing.

Before you start making your seed capital, clarify your goal. In the short term, you may want to make money for a trip or your hobby. In the long term, the goals can be preparing money for your own house or even for your retirement savings. Whatever the goal is, having a goal will help you concentrate more on your financial position.

Let's Make Some Seed Money

Seed money is the start of all financial management. It is like a small snowball. Using this, you bank the money or buy stocks for investment. You roll the snowball on the snowy ground and it gets bigger and bigger. It is difficult and relatively less fun at the beginning because the sum of money is small. However, once you get over a certain amount, a whole new world of financial management appears.

To begin with, I would like to recommend that you select a main bank. This becomes more important when a person starts to earn money. As a student, to use the bank for about five to ten years, I selected a bank near my apartment. There, I got familiar with one bank teller. I could ask her whatever I wanted to ask and from time to time she introduced some good financial products or solutions. Not only for such information, but also it may be easier to manage your savings accounts when they are made in one or two banks.

Once you select a main bank, you have to make savings accounts. Not one but many. Every Korean might have one or two savings accounts, but I would suggest dividing the accounts by purposes or goals. To give myself as an example, I have five savings accounts of the following; ordinary deposit account, cash management account (CMA), installment savings account, subscription deposit account, and performance-dividend-related account. CMA is similar to an ordinary deposit. The difference is, it has a higher daily interest rate. Here, you must remember that if something has a high

interest rate, it asks you to take more risk. This account can be usually made in financial supermarkets or stock firms. When you deposit money, they make intensive investments and pay back the performance-related profit to the customers. Since this account is made in investment banks or other stock firms, it is recognized as riskier than other accounts. However, the principle amount is guaranteed up to 50 million won by the depositor protection law. Still, I keep some amount of short term capital in the ordinary deposit account because I am not a risk taker. An installment savings account is the safest way to invest your money compared to funds or stocks since it almost perfectly guarantees your principle amount with a relatively low interest rate.

A subscription deposit account is a must for Koreans. This is necessary to prepare money to buy one's own house. If you deposit your money into this account, the longer you deposit, the higher possibility you have of becoming the first priority in receiving interests when getting the first-resident living apartment. I have had this account since I was born. Even though related systems changed and other factors are taken into consideration in getting the first-resident living apartment since 2007, you better have one since all the others have one too.

A performance-dividend-related account has a sum of money that is invested in funds or stocks. By having this performance-related account, I can check my fund and stock portfolios and their performance.

It is stressful if you check the account every day as the stock price fluctuates. Unless you are a day-to-day trader, you may check the balances once a week or even once a month if your portfolio has less risk.



Photographs by Lim So Hee

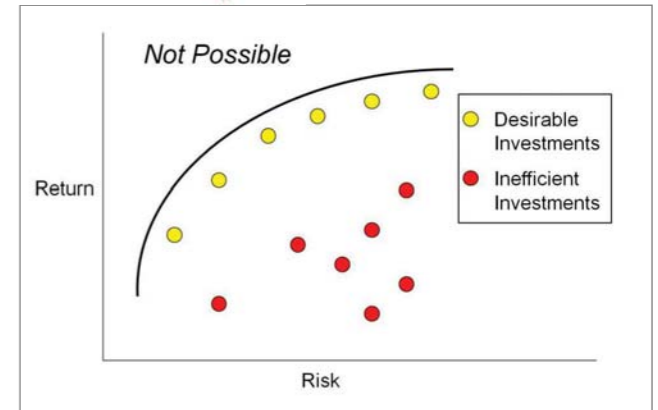
Patience, Patience, Patience!

When there is enough seed money we are finally ready to roll in the money. I would like to say that regret after doing something is better than regret that comes after doing nothing. Even though compound interest is used in savings accounts, it cannot catch up with the inflation rate. Therefore, in most cases, you can only maintain your principle amount when converted to the present value. When investing, it has to be long-term, diversified investment and you always have to pay attention to business- and economy-related news.

Subscribing to funds and buying stocks are the most common ways to invest money. They both make profits by purchasing stocks at low prices and selling at higher prices. An easy way to explain the difference between funds and stocks is whether you do the investment by yourself or leave it to experts like fund managers.

It is hard to say which one is better. If you are not familiar with the stock market, subscribing funds is recommended. Still, you have to know how to choose a good one. The most important thing is to know whether you are a risk taker or not and consider your other economic situations. Then, I suggest that you visit a fund manager for consulting. Try to choose a representative fund of one investment management. Also, no fund can make the best performance-related pay in every case, but, there are some funds that make profits steadily. Never trust the past profit reports, and only consider it as a reference to finding a constant profit maker.

My advice related to stocks is similar to that for funds. Consider your investment tendency and make your portfolios. The companies you invest in should be well-known, since they have lower risk and can guarantee your principle amount. The financial position must be stable, which means the company must have a relatively high market share with increasing profit. If you consider dividends, check the company's earnings per share. ■



Some tips for buying and selling stocks

1. Check Price Earning Ratio (PER) - This number is calculated by dividing the stock price by expected profits per one stock. When this ratio is low, it means that the stock price is undervalued compared to profits. Therefore, low PER can be an indicator for buying a stocks.
2. Check interest rate, exchange rate, and business fluctuations - Usually, when the interest rate goes down, more money is out in the market and they flow into the stock market. Therefore, the stock price goes down. When the exchange rate goes down, in most cases, the stock price of exporting companies goes down since the won appreciates. Also, the stock price is affected by business and economic fluctuations. By these three indexes, you can guess how the stock market will be.

Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) :

This index is related to the sum of the whole stocks of public companies. January 4, 1980 is the basic date. The composite stock price index at this date was converted to 100. In other words, KOSPI shows how much the stock prices of public companies have risen since the basic date.

Korea Securities Dealers Automated Quotations (KOSDAQ) :

While KOSPI is mainly about major companies, KOSDAQ is a security market for venture capitals. The basic date is July 1, 1996 and the composite stock price index at this date was converted to 1,000.

Never Forget!

1. Start managing your assets from your 20s.
2. Divide your bank accounts, considering the interest rate and your financial goals.
3. Quickly determine whether you are a risk-taker or not.
4. Diversify your portfolio. Never all in!
5. Never hope for a jackpot. Be patient. Long-term investment will eventually bring you profits.

Blood, Toil, Sweat, and Tears:

Paving the Way for Democracy in the Arab World

By Omar Berrada

The last two years have been those of the uprising of the Arab peoples against dictatorships that oppressed them for decades. These somehow peaceful movements bloomed after the shocking immolation of Bouazizi in Tunisia in December 2010. Initiating a butterfly effect, millions of civilians throughout the Arab world, driven by the thirst for freedom, peacefully protested for months, braving the violence used to silence them. But blood and tears have not been shed in vain: Tunisia's Ben Ali has been ousted, the young generation of Cairo's Tahrir Square dispelled an aging Hosni Mubarak and Libya got rid of Qaddafi. Morocco, meanwhile, reformed its constitution and is slowly moving towards a democratization of the regime. Today, Arabs face the great challenge of building new societies based on democratic values. Sir Winston Churchill's speech "Blood, Toil, Sweat and Tears" sums up anachronistically what the Arab Revolutions have undertaken.

The Revolution of Dignity in Tunisia

Considered the most progressive Arab country because of the freedom it has given to women, Tunisia had known only two presidents in 60 years. Though Bourguiba came to power through universal suffrage in 1959, he quickly became a despot, banning pluralism and proclaiming himself president for life in 1975. He muzzled civil society by force and spread corruption and nepotism in the political sphere.

In 1987, Ben Ali became Bourguiba's Prime Minister, and then was elected president in April 1989. He expanded his powers and established a presidential lifelong immunity. Gradually, his regime jeopardized individual liberties. Wikileaks revealed in 2010 a U.S. diplomatic telegram summarizing corruption in the Ben Ali regime: "What's yours [Tunisian people] is mine [Ben Ali]."

In this context of long lost moral values, political vacuum and economic crisis bloomed the Dignity Revolution. This revolution started with the immolation of Mohamed Bouazizi, a street vendor in Sidi Bouzid. Fed up with his lack of prospects, he decided to sacrifice himself. This act of desperation triggered events that would lead to the overthrow of the 23-year reign of the dictator.

The Tunisian youth organized demonstrations, communicating mostly through social networks. Meanwhile, Ben Ali did not hesitate to urge the police and the army to shoot those in the resistance movements. In spite of the violence, Tunisians held tight for four long weeks of peaceful demonstrations and the death of 300 civilians. The regime was finally overthrown, and Ben Ali was forced to flee the country on January 14. After several months of confusion, free parliamentary elections were held on October 24, elections involving 112 political parties and witnessing a historic turnout exceeding 90 percent.

But will it lead to a democracy of law, where individual freedoms are respected? Will this promising start end in a fizzle? Nobody knows. However, it is certain that this is the moment of truth for the Tunisian people.

The Silent Walk Towards Democracy in Morocco

Morocco is governed by a multi-centennial monarchy that draws its modern legitimacy from the independence struggle. Moroccans, alongside King Mohammed V, fought for the end of the protectorates imposed by France and Spain since 1912 (the Treaty of Fez). After an exile to Corsica and Madagascar, the King came back to heroically proclaim the independence of Morocco on March 7, 1956. After he ruled the country for five years, his son Hassan II succeeded him.

His mission during his 38-year reign was to stabilize

Morocco (a "Green March" took place in 1975 to take back the Western Sahara) and build a market-driven economy that will lead the country onto the road of modernization. Despite economic progress, Hassan II repressed his political opponents, reduced individual freedoms and concentrated all the powers in his own person.

In 1999, Mohammed VI ascended the throne and began a series of economic and social reforms. He established ambitious education policies and opened the Moroccan economy. Major infrastructure projects were launched, new legislation giving more rights to women was enacted and the country has since then experienced a strong economic growth of 6.5 percent per year. Despite this progress, Moroccan citizens noted a significant degradation of moral values, the omnipresence of corruption and an unfair distribution of the benefits of said growth.

All public institutions are placed in the dock. The police use torture, justice is corrupted, public administration is inefficient and national education produces unemployment. In February, all claims crystallized around the February 20th Movement. Thousands of young Moroccans demonstrated in the streets to demand change. The movement organized peaceful demonstrations in every city of the kingdom to demand more freedom and justice without calling for an overthrow of the monarchy.

Numerous events would be bloodily repressed, ending in seven deaths and 500 civilian injuries. On March 9, 2011, Mohammed VI delivered a historic speech to the nation stating his will to democratize the political field, promote equality and strengthen freedoms. He appointed a commission charged with reviewing the constitution, and he agreed to release many political prisoners.

On July 1, 2011, Moroccans voted and adopted a new constitution which provides greater power to the Prime Minister - and less to the king- and paves the way towards a clear separation of powers. The next parliamentary elections are scheduled for November 25. Morocco is now at a crossroads and must strike while the iron is hot.

Lost decades and the hope of a new Arab democracy

Unlike East Asian countries, Arab countries did not experience what Professor Watanabe (Takushoku University) defines as Authoritarian Developmentalism: economically literate authoritarian leaders who made national development their supreme goal. Indeed, no Arab dictator had the motives of Suharto or Park Chung-Hee. Instead, the Arab despots stole wealth from their own people to get insanely rich. (Mubarak fortune is estimated to \$40 billion.)

Arab countries lost five decades in the economic and political fields. Economically, all 22 aggregated Arab economies are hardly worth the French economy (2010 GDP \$1900 billion). Politically, they lost their credibility at the international level and lost the confidence of voters.

Arab people therefore face a historic challenge. They have the mission of reshaping their countries on moral values, justice and human rights. This requires an over-

haul of their institutions, a renewal of the political sphere and cleansing of public administrations.

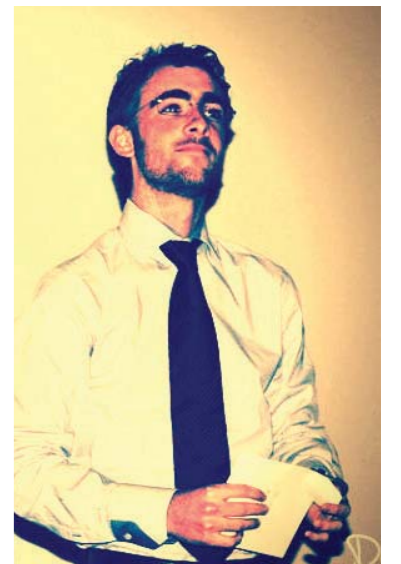
It took 58 years for the French people to move from an absolute monarchy (The French Revolution started with the storming of the Bastille in 1789) to a fragile republic in 1848. In between, France experienced the reign of terror and the failure of constitutional monarchy. The case of France shows that there is no blueprint for revolutions. As Saint Augustine said, "Put on your way, because it exists only in your walk."

This is exactly what Arab countries should do. Together, political leaders, civil society, intellectuals, youth, and women have to commit and strive to build new societies. Professor Tariq Ramadan (Oriental College, Oxford University) explains that Arabs have the opportunity to draw conclusions from the excesses of Western democracy and thus avoid its pitfalls. The actual EU debt crisis showed that financial markets were able to force governments to resign (Berlusconi in Italy and Papandreou in Greece). Arabs may avoid leaving financial markets to rule the roost.

Arabs may also draw inspiration from Asian countries. Arab and Asian societies share similarities, especially regarding the importance given to the family, social harmony and respect for authority. For political leaders, the challenge will be to regain voter confidence. The mission for civil society will be to keep the pressure on its leaders and ask for more transparency.

This is the case in Morocco, thanks to some independent think tanks such as Tariq Ibnou Ziyad Initiative, founded last September. Its role is to provide citizens with a clear vision of Moroccan politics. Its observation of the political parties, their political programs and the leaders' experience will be rated and presented to Moroccan voters. Dozens of associations bloomed in Arab countries as the hope of democracy reappeared. Blood and tears were shed; it is time now for toil and sweat so as to bring a significant change into the Arab world. ■

Omar Berrada is a Moroccan exchange student from EMLYON Business School. He is involved in student and political associations and militates for democratic change in the Arab world.





By Kim Hoon
Hakgojae
416 pages

Heuksan: Between Life Full of Betrayal and Hope for Redemption

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

Until Constantine I legalized Christianity within the Roman Empire, Christians had undergone harsh persecution for over 300 years. As a part of entertainment for non-Christian citizens, they were bitten by wild beasts and died a horrible death, being trapped in the Colosseum. Such tragedy, however, is not the history of only Westerners, but Koreans during Joseon dynasty as well.

After waiting four-long years, people are finally given the chance to read *Heuksan*, the newly published book by Kim Hoon, one of the most eminent authors in Korea. Like his many other bestsellers, Kim brought another enchanting historical novel. Yet, the latest story shows more elaborate descriptions of characters' minds than any other of his previous works in an appealing but solemn voice. This time, he sheds light on the inner conflict of elites in the 18th and 19th centuries as to embracing Christianity.

The background of the novel dates back two or three centuries ago when Christianity began taking root within the country. Although it was limitedly accepted by some noblemen as part of a study at first, it was from the mid-1700's in which the influence of the religion came to sweep the whole area as people faced social turmoil. Because political corruptions became pervasive, living conditions of peasants were correspondingly getting worse due to extreme poverty, heavy taxes, and tyranny. Under this circumstance, people searched for alternative values that would break through such problems, and Christianity satiated such desire. On the contrary, since several principles of the religion such as equality and ban on idolatry denied Joseon dynasty's ruling philosophy such as ancestral worship and the class system, the authorities had been absolutely obsessed with eradicating its influence.

The story begins with Jeong Yak Jeon, generally known as the second elder brother of Jeong Yak Yong who was the representative scholar of Silhak (the Realist School of Confucianism). For having practiced Christianity, Yak Jeon was sentenced to exile to a distant island called Heuksan in the southern sea. Soon, the focus moves to a horseman named Manori belonging to the post at Jeongju. In a continued series, the writer pays attention to Hwang Sa Young,

Jeong's nephew-in-law, who was deeply fascinated by Catholicism and even wrote a letter to a bishop in Beijing for an army so that the holy force could beat the tarnished upper class and save people from their predicaments. Flipping through the book, readers can encounter around 20 characters, learning about how they became captivated by Jesus and their contribution to propagating faith during its early stages in Korea.

What is more interesting is that characters are divided into two categories—those who survived by betraying their God and those who were sacrificed on behalf of their belief. For the former, besides Jeong Yak Jeon, some characters such as Jeong Yak Yong and Park Chadol exchanged their lives with those of other devotees, even their family or intimate peers. On the other hand, for the latter, characters including Hwang Sa Young and Jeong Yak Jong were willing to die looking for redemption, though they have endeavored to escape from the dark shadow of cruel punishment.

Even though both sides eventually chose different paths, the writer leaves the decision of which is better up to readers. Instead, he strikes the balance between two ways of living by describing genuine aspects of both decisions. While martyrs humbly accepted their death, they were more feverishly preoccupied with wishing that God would save them in fear deep inside them. In contrast, those who remained in the real world at the cost of others' lives had been tortured by guilt every time they breathed. From this viewpoint, Heuksan where Yak Jeon had lived during rest of his life, symbolizes somewhere in which the life of remainder still goes on, shouldering sorrow as the survivor. ■



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a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.