

# Gwangju News

International Magazine for Gwangju and Jeollanamdo

**December 2006**

Volume 6, Issue 12

## Christmas

in Portugal and Germany

**Ms. Janice Marshall,**  
the UNHCR Representative to Korea

**Re-entry Shock:**  
Back in Canada





# Editorial



In an effort to make Gwangju News more interactive, we have created a forum to distribute ideas, develop articles, proofread each others' work and contribute photos. Because of this, we have been able to expand the magazine from 40 pages to 44 pages and now to 48 pages in just 3 months.

If you would like to be involved in the process of making Gwangju News the most useful, fun, and exciting magazine of its kind, send us an email at [gwangjunews@gmail.com](mailto:gwangjunews@gmail.com) so that we can send you the URL of our forum. Gwangju News is only as good as our volunteers. And this month our volunteers made us fabulous!

Dave of Speakeasy says, "I have to tell you, this new method of contributing (via forum) to the Gwangju News is really, really fantastic. It's so easy to use. I'm finding myself wanting to contribute a lot more now that it's so easy to check in and see what other people are writing and add to it. I don't know what the difference is but it feels so much more convenient now. It sort of feels like I'm posting on (deleted name of a well known forum about life in Korea) but without the ANGER! ... Instead of getting your head bitten off... by some grumpy teacher up in Seoul, you're actually helping people with your info. Plus you get a colorful hardcopy of it when it's done!"

Thanks Dave! And I would like to add that I will be more than willing to write a letter of reference for anyone who contributes regularly to the magazine, as long as I am editor.

Also, I would like to ask our readers to send me an email to [gwangjunews@gmail.com](mailto:gwangjunews@gmail.com) for ideas on where you believe we can and should be distributing Gwangju News. Right now we distribute in 4 places downtown: TGI Fridays, Starbucks (out front), , Speakeasy and the phone card shop next to YMCA. I believe we have downtown properly covered. What other places would welcome us in the 4 corners of this city? And would you be willing to help us distribute the magazine to these places once a month?

If Gwangju (and the surrounding region) is your home, then Gwangju News is your English Language magazine.

**Kammy Benham, Editor**

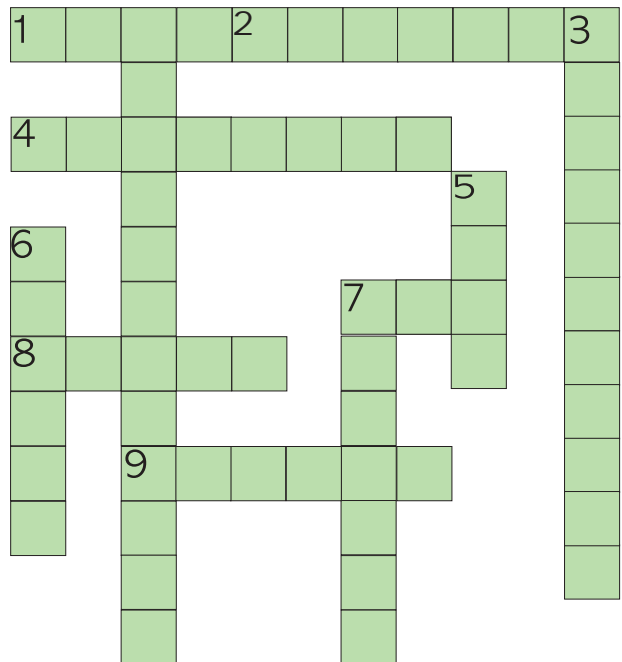
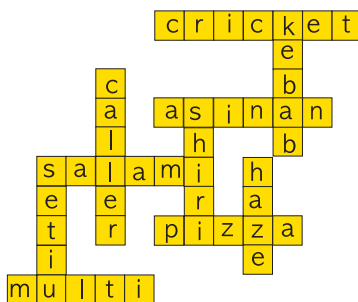
## December Crossword Puzzle

Solve our new crossword puzzle – you'll find all the answers in this month's Gwangju News – and you could be a lucky winner! Prizes include a day trip to a mysterious destination in Korea or seven weeks of free Korean language lessons at the GIC. Just send in your answers for the crosswords to: [gwangjunews@gmail.com](mailto:gwangjunews@gmail.com)! Prizes are limited, so send them in early!

*Compiled by Amber Kinimont*

Congratulations to **Miho Hirase, Michelle Lee, Windi Indra** won last month's crossword. Miho and Michelle won free Korean classes at the GIC and Windi won free GIC cultural tour.

## November Crossword Answer



### ACROSS

1. Dave says to be wary of these, among other things, when in Korea.
4. Yun Dae-Jeong's recommendation the day of Rebecca's 'Semi-sushi' visit.
7. Seung-jin's first thought about Sri Lanka.
8. Party organised on the second night of the Asia Culture Forum: 'Night for \_\_\_\_\_'.

### DOWN

9. The content of vegemite causing it to be banned in the US.
2. South Africa's new 'sport'?
3. Korean high school students?
5. One reason why children love KONA Storybook Centre: 'they can \_\_\_\_\_'.
6. Nearly 950 of these seekers are now in Korea.
7. This is important in Asian food according to Kelly.



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December 2006, Volume 6, Issue 12

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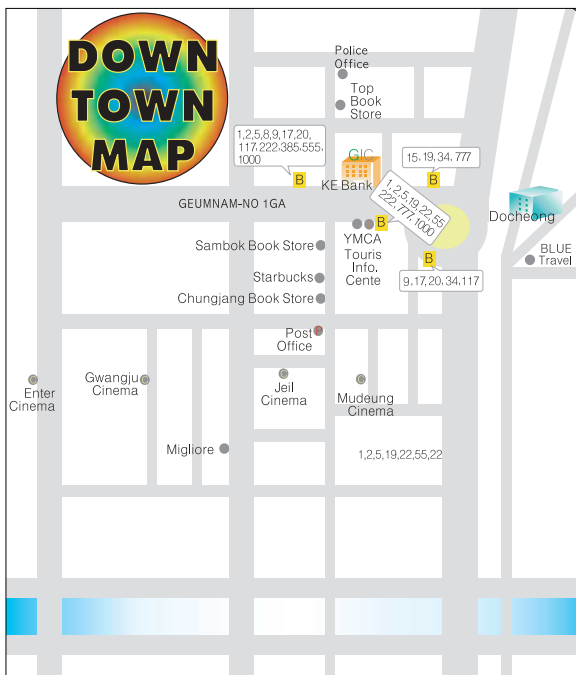
**GWANGJU**

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Gwangju News welcomes letters to the editor ([gwangjunews@gmail.com](mailto:gwangjunews@gmail.com)) regarding articles and issues. All correspondence may be edited for reasons of clarity or space.



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Photo by Gi Yongho

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# Christmas in Portugal

**T**here is always something mysterious and magical about the Christmas season regardless of where you are celebrating the holiday. You can hear beautiful Christmas carols being played and sang in joyful chorus everywhere. The season seems to bring new hope, causing people to become happier and more generous. It doesn't matter whether you are an adult or a child, a man or a woman: the seasonal cheer is infectious. The carols, combined with the Christmas trees arrayed in their tinsel and glowing with lovely colored lights, engender a lighthearted feeling. And of course no one even asks why; it's Christmas!

Although I am Korean, Portugal is my second homeland and where I spent most of my childhood. It is in this European nation that I experienced most of my more memorable Christmases. Many countries, including Korea, have different traditions involving their friends and families at Christmas and New Year's, but for Portugal, Christmas is without a doubt one of the most momentous, significant, and festive seasons of the year.

Portugal is located west of Spain and celebrates Christmas like many other European nations. This large national holiday is spent with family and friends, who gather to celebrate with those they have oft neglected in the rush of the rest of the year. Although Christmas is traditionally a Christian holiday honoring the birth of Christ, the holiday has become a well-loved season by many outside the faith. Most people enjoy the comfort of remaining at home with their dear family and decorating the tree and their home with beautiful flowers, colorful paper ribbons, and twinkling candles that fill the house with sweet, fragrant aromas.

On Christmas Eve, the Portuguese share a traditional dinner of boiled, dry codfish and potatoes, seasoned in pure olive oil, accompanied by red wine. In addition to the main course, there is another vital component to the hearty meal: a table of desserts. Some of the various desserts include rice pudding with cinnamon, broas de mel (the pastries made with honey), rabandas (toasts), filhoses (fried desserts), sonhos (pumpkin fritters), although many other delicious sweets make an appearance at the meal. Most of these desserts are always present, but the Bolo Rei (King's Cake) is never absent. Shaped like a wreath, this very rich fruitcake laced with crystallized fruits and pine nuts is a traditional favorite. Hidden inside the cake is a surprise - a broadbean. The person who discovers the bean in his/her slice of cake, must buy the next Bolo Rei. At midnight, the more religious families attend church for a special Mass, the Missa do Galo (Rooster's Mass). The children believe in and wait for Pai Natal (Father Christmas) to bring them gifts, which they receive early the next morning. On Christmas day, the Portuguese eat a big lunch comprised of turkey, sometimes roast chicken or lamb, and the desserts from the night before. Christmas in Portugal is a time to gather with loved ones and remember the importance of family bonds. Often families will spend the New Year together as well, but Christmas is more important than the New Year.

Being a Korean who has lived in Portugal, I am able to compare the holiday celebrations in both countries and the differences are huge. In Korea, Christmas is a time to spend with friends, while the New Year is the more important holiday with family. Although these two nations have different ideas regarding which holiday is more important and how to celebrate each holiday, the Christmas season is a time of cheer in both nations. So regardless of your nationality, enjoy the holiday festivities where you are, hum a carol, and do some decorating. Merry Christmas!

*By Ju Min-sook*







# German Christmas Weihnachten

**I**n Germany, Christmas, known as Weihnachten, is celebrated in many different ways. In my home state, Saxony, Weihnachten is truly unique. Saxony is famous for its silver mines. During the cold and snowy winters, the silver miners would stay at home and carve crafts from wood. Today we are still proud of this local artistic tradition. During Christmas wooden sculptures of miners and angels decorate all of Saxony.

The Christmas season in Saxony begins on December 1st. There are many traditions in Saxony to mark this special occasion. In every house there is an Advent Calendar, a special calendar with 24 doors. Each door counts down the days to Christmas; behind each door there is a piece of chocolate. Once Christmas time begins, we open the first door of the Advent Calendar and enjoy our sweets.

## The Decorations:

Decorating the house is one of the most important parts of celebrating a Saxon Christmas. We decorate our homes with angels, Smoking Men

(Rauchermaner), and ornate incense holders in the shape of houses. In the past Saxons burned incense for two reasons: to protect the house from evil spirits and to prevent the tiny miners' homes from stinking! Today Saxons burn incense as a special way to honor tradition and Christmas.

There are two other main decorations in a Saxon house: Christmas Pyramids and schwibbogen. A Christmas Pyramid is a wooden candle holder that is decorated with different Christmas scenes. There is a fan at the top of the pyramid. The heat from the candles causes the fan to turn. Christmas Pyramids are a uniquely German way to celebrate the season!

Schwibbogen are window decorations. The schwibbogen are half-round wooden frames with scenes depicting the miners of Saxony. The most important part of the schwibbogen is that they hold candles. Since there were no street lights hundreds of years ago, the schwibbogen helped people find their way home on cold winter nights. Today people often walk through their neighbourhoods to marvel at these traditional Christmas lights. Those who are



really lucky end up walking into a German Christmas market, where they feast on grilled sausages, cinnamon donuts, and traditional mulled wine (Gluhwein).

#### The Holidays:

The 6th of December is St. Nicholas Day. If you have shined your shoes you will find chocolate in them, if not - coals. The four Sundays before Christmas Eve are the Advent Sundays, which are symbolized by four candles in the Advent Wreath. Once the last candle is lit on December 24th, you know Christmas isn't far away.

On the night of Christmas Eve some people go to church. However, most people stay at home with their families to eat and drink. A lot. A typical Christmas Eve dinner consists of roast goose with potato dumplings and red cabbage. At some point Santa Claus (Weihnachtsmann) comes in and brings presents for the good girls and boys. With all of the food, friends, gifts, and family, German Christmas reminds me a lot of Korean Chuseok.

#### Christmas in Korea:

Here in Korea I try to keep my Saxon Christmas spirit alive. Keeping with tradition, I decorate my place on December 1st. I brought smoking candles from Germany (my neighbours have to live with the smell) and I even have a little Christmas tree! All of the rest of my decorations come from the 1,000 won store. At my university I make a Christmas party for my students. At home I invite friends over to enjoy sweet mulled wine, talk, and listen to German Christmas carols.

Even if I'm far from home, I'm still able to enjoy a little bit of a true German Christmas.

*By Sandra Wyrwal*



## Trivia Questions

### Easy

G: What Asian country used to have the same Independence Day as the United States of America?

E: Which of these famous pop singers was not in the 'Mickey Mouse Club' as a youngster?

- Christina Aguilera
- Justin Timberlake
- Mariah Carey
- Britney Spears

H: Which of the following statements did the London Sunday Telegraph quote Margaret Thatcher as saying on October 12, 1969?

- Benny Hill is a dirty old man
- No woman in my time will be Prime Minister
- The Beatles will never last

AL: How long did it take Michelangelo to paint the fresco on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel: 4 days, 4 weeks, 4 months or 4 years?

SN: Which nocturnal wild cat inhabits southwest USA, Central and South America?

SL: 'Nutmeg' and 'striker' are terms related to which sport?

### Not-so-easy

G: In Switzerland, there are four main ethnic groups, the German speaking being the largest. Which is the second largest?

E: On the TV show 'Queer Eye for the Straight Guy', what is Carson's (the fashion guy) surname?

H: By what name was Octavian, the first Roman Emperor, better known?

AL: What does the word 'majuscule' mean?

SN: What is the atomic number of carbon?

SL: How many sides are there on the grip of a standard tennis racquet?

### Bloody Hard

G: Which country resolved its long-standing border disputes with Saudi Arabia and Bahrain in 2001?

E: What colour is the Legendary Black beast of Arrrrrh in Monty Python's 'Holy Grail'?

H: Military experts agree that the French army lost at Waterloo because a health program forced Napoleon to delay his attack by 2 hours. What was the problem?

AL: Who is the woman Leonardo da Vinci painted in the Mona Lisa?

SN: What is the life span of an average red blood cell?

SL: In what year did the first Indianapolis 500 take place?

Source:  
<http://www.funtrivia.com>,  
<http://www.puzz.com>

Categories  
 G: Geography  
 E: Entertainment  
 H: History  
 AL: Arts and Literature  
 SN: Science and Nature  
 SL: Sports and Leisure

*By Amber Kininmont*





The Korean Way No. 51

# The Story of Chunhyang

Perhaps Korea's most famous and beloved love story is the Story of Chunhyang. Originally the Story of Chunhyang was one of 12 *Pansori* works. It depicts the romance of two young lovers, both aged 16. The writer is unknown, and the story is presumed to have originated during the reign of Yeongjo, 1724~1775, during the 21st monarch of the Joseon Dynasty (1392~1910). The national creed of the Joseon Dynasty was Confucianism. It stressed the so-called three bonds and the five moral rules in human relations. It had a strict social stratification made up of four classes: the scholars, farmers, artisans, and tradesmen. The scholar class was monopolized by the *yangbans*. The *gisaengs* belonged to the *cheonmin*, the lowborn class which included slaves, entertainers, butchers, and shamans. They all received their status through heredity. The *gisaengs* were female entertainers engaged in singing, dancing, playing musical instruments, and a variety of other activities, both official and private. They were trained in special *gisaeng* schools, and some even attained high literary fame. (Such social stratification was abolished in 1894 as a result of the Gabo Reform.)

The two lovers involved in this story are often referred to as Korea's Romeo and Juliet. But unlike Romeo and Juliet, this story has a happy-ending melodrama. The love story begins at a chance meeting of the son of a local magistrate, Yi Mongnyong, and the daughter of a retired *gisaeng*, Seong Chunhyang. The scene of their first encounter was in Gwanghallu, Namwon,



Jeollabuk-do, a scenic place. Mongnyong, the hero, fell in love with Chunhyang, the heroine, at first sight, just like Romeo and Juliet. However, the encounter of the young lovers had a tragic element at the beginning of the story in that they came from polar-opposite classes, like Romeo and Juliet came from feuding families. And like Romeo and Juliet, they decided to marry in secret. Their happy days continued off and on until the hero had to leave Namwon to accompany his father who was transferred to Seoul. Being the son of a magistrate, the hero pledged that he would study hard in Seoul to pass the *gwageo*, a civil service exam, and come to fetch his young bride.

In Seoul the lovesick young hero was constantly tormented by the image of his beautiful bride and had many sleepless nights. He lost his appetite and became bedridden with illness. Thus he wasted two years. Then one day he came to remember his firm pledge to his lovely bride. He made up his mind anew to study in a desperate effort to pass the civil service exam.

The lovelorn young bride during those 2 years was tormented by the newly arrived magistrate. Upon arriving at his new post, the magistrate proclaimed orders to summon all the *gisaengs* under his jurisdiction, but none could satisfy him. Someone suggested young Seong Chunhyang. He immediately sent for her. He was stunned at the beauty of Chunhyang, but he accused her for not attending his summons. She responded by saying that she was no



longer a *gisaeng* since she was married to a *yangban* son. The magistrate ignored this as nonsense. At that time a marriage crossing social classes was taboo. The magistrate continued seducing Chunhyang with honeyed words at first, but then threatened to ruin her life when confronted with her adamant chastity to her husband.

Once she boldly asked the magistrate in front of many officials if he learned the precept that a loyal subject never serves two masters nor a faithful wife two husbands. He was beside himself with indignation and ordered Chunhyang to be tied on the torture board and given resounding lashes against her back. Later she was put into prison where she languished for a long time.

Meanwhile, after intensive study, Mongnyong passed the civil service exam *summa cum laude* and immediately became the King's favorite. He chose the post of an undercover emissary of the King among other prestigious positions, hoping to meet his bride as soon as possible. His job was to correct misrules by the local administrators. He disguised himself as a beggar clad in rags and went on his journey. On the way, he heard of his wife in distress. Hurrying up, he reached his wife's house, but his mother-in-law did not recognize him in rags. When she realized it was him she heaved a deep sigh and lamented her daughter's plight, pounding the earth with her fists.

The following day was the magistrate's birthday and there was to be a banquet where Chunhyang was to be dragged out for the last questioning. In the midst of the banquet, a strange beggar presented himself asking for food. Attendants tried to chase him away but he resisted adamantly demanding a piece of paper, ink, and a brush. He composed a poem in Chinese characters meaning, "The wine in the golden cups is the blood of the people, The dainties are made of the people's fat. The candles drip with the people's tears, And music drowns the people's moans."

Scholarly officials immediately got the message but the magistrate who was enclosed in self-absorption did not. Chunhyang, it seems, was dragged out of the prison to be tried at the court without knowing Mongnyong's presence there. The "beggar" threw off the rags revealing himself as the King's emissary and ordered to arrest the magistrate. So their story ends happily.

By 2Ys

\*The Pansori works are usually of the nature of promotion of virtue and reproof of vice, and mock at the hypocrisy of the ruling class.

"The Korean Way" is a standing column to allow the readers some insight into the thoughts and views of the culture that we live in. We invite you to express your thoughts on this and any other column via email at [gwangjunews@gmail.com](mailto:gwangjunews@gmail.com).

## Useful Korean Phrases

### #1

민호: 샐리 씨, 지금 어디에 가요?

(Minho: Sally ssi, jiguem eodie gayo?)

Minho: Sally, where are you going?

샐리: 점심을 먹으러 식당에 가요.

(Sally: Jeomsimeul meageureo sikdange gayo.)

Sally: I am going to the restaurant to have lunch.

샐리: 민호씨는, 지금 어디에 가요?

(Sally: Minho ssi nuen, jiguem eodie gayo?)

Sally: Minho, where are you going?

민호: 책을 빌리러 도서관에 가요.

(Minho: Cheakeul bilireo doseogwane gayo.)

Minho: I am going to the library to borrow a book

### #2

샐리: 민호 씨, 오늘 바빠요?

(Sally: Minho ssi, oneul babbayo?)

Sally: Minho, are you busy today?

민호: 아니요, 무슨 일 있어요?

(Minho: Aniyoo, museun il itseoyo?)

Minho: No, Do you have something to do today?

샐리: 같이 쇼핑하러 시내에 갈까요?

(Sally: Gatchi shoppinghareo shinae-e galggayo?)

Sally: Shall we go shopping downtown?

민호: 좋아요, 몇 시에 어디에서 만날까요?

(Minho: Joayo, myeot sie eodieseo mannalggayo?)

Minho: Great! What time and where will we meet?

샐리: 세 시에 충장서림 앞에서 만나요.

(Sally: Se sie chungjangseorim abeseo mannayo.)

Sally: Let's meet at 3:00 in front of Chungjang bookstore.

### \* 목적

Vst + (으)러 가다 / 오다

(purpose, to go(come)to + V

Vst ending form

vowel or ㄹ

-러 가다 / 오다

consonant

-러 가다 / 오다

By Ji Hyeyoung

She is teaching Korean at the GIC.



# It's "Dave the Bookie" and I'm giving odds!

*It's no surprise that there are usually a lot of new foreign faces around Korea in the fall. The new semester begins and a lot of new English teachers arrive from abroad ready to begin a fresh year-long contract with local schools and academies. Perhaps some of you reading this right now may be newcomers to Korea. You may be feeling exhilarated, overwhelmed and curious while at the same time you are poised in guarded anticipation about what lies ahead. For you, dear readers, I can enlighten you as to what to expect. You see, I've met hundreds of "Englishee Teachuhs" in my time here and, after a while, their stories begin to all sound the same. Now, I understand that gambling is illegal in Korea, but if this were Vegas, these would be the odds that I would give on these things happening to you in the next 12 months.*

### The Chances Are...

- squeezing into the same jeans you wore to this country 12 months ago 10%
- experiencing a day at work with a powerful hangover 90%
- eventually choosing to steer clear of soju altogether (or only as an absolute last resort) 85%
- contracting the worst cold you've ever had in your life 98%
- getting the worst haircut you've ever had (boys- beware of military style, girls- botched perm/straightening/coloring/trim) 93%
- using the "thumbs up" sign more than you ever thought possible 95%
- drinking more instant coffee than you ever have before in your entire life 68%
- hearing more about a ten-year-old computer game than you ever thought you could 86%
- buying a motorcycle and NOT winding up in some sort of accident 10%
- gradual acceptance and eventual enjoyment of eating kimchi 63%
- being able to speak more than 20 words in Korean properly WITHOUT first learning the alphabet 2%
- Korean summer being your least favorite season 78%
- receiving a gift of socks 100%
- owning a cell phone, computer, MP3 player and a digital



### camera 91%

- accomplishing anything at the immigration office in one trip 15%
- choosing to say the word "many" when you should say "lots of" while speaking to Koreans 89%
- saying a number between 5 and 10 without holding up your fingers 6%
- resorting to "rock, paper, scissors" to solve any and all disputes 77%
- crossing the street to avoid groups of students, drunken men or "smelly spots" 92%
- giving up on correcting people when they mispronounce your name 94%
- getting called "beautiful/handsome" and "hairy/fat" in the same week 82%
- getting asked if you're a Russian (girls only) 70%
- getting asked to pose in a random photo with a stranger 91%
- getting asked for your phone number by someone you'd rather not give it to 100%
- them calling you 100%
- not only knowing what a "Ddong Chim" is, but experiencing several 73%
- going to Seoul and NOT eating at Subway restaurant 7%
- actually eating "Korea's most famous dish," bulgogi 8%
- knowing, without doubt, whether it is beef or pork 0% (Koreans don't know either)

Now that the mystery has been revealed, go head first into your future feeling ready and sure about what to expect. Give in to your thirst for new experiences and desire to own cheap electronics, feeling comfortable in the knowledge that some things are statistically inevitable. But also remember to be wary of sneezing children, soju, barbershops, motorcycles, cheap pizza and bending over in the classroom.

*By Dave Martin*



# Legal Answers from EFL

## - Law expert Curtis Desjardins

Is your current boss paying you on time? Are you not getting your legally mandated pension and medical insurance? Did you get fired and evicted without cause and without notice? Were you assaulted and don't know where to turn for help?

Many EFL teachers here in Korea have come across these problems, as well as a whole host of others. And call me a cynic, but I believe ALL foreigners in Korea will encounter one legal problem or another before they leave, whether very minor or of nightmarish proportions. Where does one go in such times? Well, there is no one fix-all place to turn to. If you've been here long enough, you know that government offices are very compartmentalized; each having a very narrow segment of the government to oversee. Often this leads you to visit several offices to fix one problem. When problems arise in the EFL industry (and they arise with alarming frequency), finding help can be confusing and time-consuming. There are resources available to you, should you be in legal limbo, and which one you need depends on the problem you are facing.

For instance, any types of problems to do with the labor laws of Korea can be discussed, and hopefully resolved, with the help of caseworkers at your local Labor Office. What kinds of problems are labor problems? Not being paid on time (or not at all), not receiving your severance pay, not given 10 days of paid vacation, not given breaks during your work day, fired without being given 30 days notice, or other monetary things promised in your contract, such as paid return airfare. The Labor Office nearest you will help you with these and other similar contractual problems.

Everyone working more than 80 hours per month is entitled to receive pension (whether private pension or National Pension). If your boss is not deducting it, or he is deducting it but not submitting it to the pension office, or he is not deducting the correct amount, then you have a legitimate grievance and can file with the local pension office. National Pension is calculated at 9% of your salary (4.5% deducted from your salary is YOUR contribution, your employer matches that with 4.5% out his own pockets) and all 9% is given into your pension account. Problems with this should be addressed at the local pension office.

As of Jan. 1, 2006, all foreigners MUST be enrolled in the National Health Insurance Plan. You cannot opt out, it is not a choice, and your employer cannot in any way deny it to you. Period. Don't let your employer tell you otherwise. If you are not receiving National Health Insurance, for whatever reason, go to the nearest NHIC office and file a complaint. However, be aware that you will be asked to

back pay all unpaid premiums to the beginning of your contract (your employer will have to pay half of that).

Of course, no discussion of legal problems in Korea would be complete without talking about visa status, visa rules, and Immigration. Let's just get this one out of the way first: unless you are married to a Korean (F-2 visa), are a kyopo (Korean born, foreign raised) (F-4 visa), or a permanent resident (F-5 visa), teaching privates is illegal. To teach English legally, you need either an E-1 or E-2 visa, both of which require a degree from a three-year or four-year accredited university (no degree mills!) and sealed original transcripts. It is possible to teach English on a Working Holiday Visa (the rules have just changed regarding this), but again, you must have the degree and transcripts in addition to the requirements for the WHV.

Another issue regarding visas is the dreaded Letter of Release (LoR). If, for any reason (fired or resigned), you do not finish your contract, you will require a LoR in order to acquire another work visa. An interesting note: E-1 and E-2 visa-holders are the only people in Korea with this requirement for a LoR... no other industry, no other visa, and certainly no Koreans, need one when they leave their job. Only the foreign teachers. It is not a law; just one of the rules that Immigration has made up along the way.

There are so many other situations and problems to cover (and we haven't even looked at the complaints process or courts or lawsuits), but not enough space here to do so. If you need help with your situation, hopefully one of the websites below can be of initial service. There is also a legal advice forum at EFL-LAW, to discuss these problems and a whole wide range of others not covered here.

Seoul Help Center for Foreigners: [shc.seoul.go.kr](http://shc.seoul.go.kr)  
Ministry of Labor: [english.molab.go.kr](http://english.molab.go.kr) (or call 1350)  
National Pension Service:  
[www.npc.or.kr/eng/g-index.html](http://www.npc.or.kr/eng/g-index.html) (or call 1355)  
National Health Insurance Corporation:  
[www.nhic.or.kr/wbe/index.html](http://www.nhic.or.kr/wbe/index.html)  
Ministry of Justice (Immigration): [www.moj.go.kr](http://www.moj.go.kr)  
Working Holiday Visa:  
[www.workingholiday.or.kr/working-eng/sub1\\_1.asp](http://www.workingholiday.or.kr/working-eng/sub1_1.asp)  
Or discuss your legal dilemmas in detail and at length:  
[www.efl-law.com/forum](http://www.efl-law.com/forum)  
Curtis Desjardins Admin, [www.efl-law.com](http://www.efl-law.com)

[ Do you have a question for EFL-Law.com? Send your (short) questions and problems to Gwangju News. Future "Ask EFL-Law.com" columns will devote space to answering your questions]



# Ms. Janice Marshall, the UNHCR Representative to Korea

**W**hen Ms. Janice Marshall, the UN Human Rights Commission on Refugees Representative (UNHCR) to Korea, spoke at the GIC in November, it was her second time in Gwangju. In June she came here as the UNHCR Representative to the Summit for Nobel Laureates, a forum for international leaders to promote human rights and peace. As a dignitary hobnobbing with Kim Dae-Jung and former Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev, Ms. Marshall lived in a sphere only for the elite. She was an Ambassador. She was an Expert. She was a Mover & a Shaker. But when she spoke at the GIC, she was one of us.

Despite the subject matter, Ms. Marshall did not strike the crowd as a typical "Diplomat." Looking beyond the daunting presentation, "Contemporary Challenges in Refugee Protection: The Migration/Asylum Nexus, Refugee Protection and the Situation in Korea," one could not help but feel at ease. Ms. Marshall did not have the stereotypical three-piece business suit, the rigidly coiffed hair, or the aloofness one would expect with the title "Madame Representative." Her wavy silver hair coupled with thick black-rimmed glasses and matching oversized bangles and earrings conjured up images of an haute couture art historian or university professor. Only her 14 years of experience as one of the UN's most preeminent human rights activists-- complete with emergency missions into the heart of Kosovo, Rwanda, and Guantanamo Bay-- singled her out.

Since her arrival in Korea with husband Cedric in 2005, Ms. Marshall has experienced both the joys of progress and the frustrations of a still-developing Korea. Nearly 950 asylum seekers from over 45 different nationalities are now in Korea. The majority come from Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Africa. Some of these asylum seekers chose Korea because of a possibly easy entry; either they could quickly get a visa or simply didn't need one. Others chose Korea for more idealistic reasons. According to Ms. Marshall, Myanmar's democratic activists come to South Korea out of great reverence and respect. They see South Korea as the model for Asian democratic and economic development.

(Not counted in the 950 asylum seekers are North Korean defectors. North Koreans are seen as automatic South Korean citizens. Due to







UN definitions, North Koreans are neither seen as “asylum seekers” nor “refugees.” They are, however, UNHCR “persons of concern” until final resettlement.)

Although there has been some recent improvement, South Korea is unprepared for the current asylum seekers and the wave of immigrants still to come. Refugees have been coming to Korea since 1992, when the ROK signed the UN Refugee Treaty, but the vast majority has come in the past 3-4 years. Of the 950 asylum applicants residing in Korea, only 48 people have been granted asylum. 229 people have been denied. Over 500 cases are still pending. “The Korean system to take in refugees and asylum seekers is still in its infancy,” said Marshall. “Korea only recently became a good country with a strong economy. A lot of the current problems are simply a result of Korea’s lack of experience with foreigners.”

The greatest challenge for refugees in South Korea is not the amount of bureaucracy, but the total lack thereof. There is no domestic legislation and no well-defined protocols (aka: Standard Operating Procedures or SOPs) for processing refugees in Korea. Also, South Korea does not guarantee an interpreter or a personal interview to asylum seekers, two necessary components for a fair immigration hearing. Currently, refugees fill out a form, receive a receipt, and then wait months for a potential interview and decision.

Yet despite such setbacks, there is hope on the horizon. True to modern history, Korea adapts quickly. “In Korea there is a very significant commitment to improvement,” said Marshall. During Ms. Marshall’s tenure alone, the Korean Ministry of Justice has already doubled the size of its Refugee Unit in Seoul, where 85-90% of all refugee claims are made. The Korean government has also made a considerable effort to find volunteer interpreters for asylum seekers. Finally, the UNHCR has started training the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs on international

jurisprudence.

There are still many social and bureaucratic issues facing refugees in Korea, but it is a start. “We still have a long way to go,” said Marshall. “But at the end of the day it’s about protecting the individual in front of you.”

There are currently 21 million “persons of concern” to the UNHCR

Refugees: 8.4 million

IDPs: 6.6 million

Returnees: 1.6 million

Stateless individuals: 2.4 million

#### Technical Definitions

**Refugees:** People who have a well-founded fear of persecution on the basis of race, religion, nationality, social group membership (such as women under the Taliban), or political opinion. They must be outside of their own country and unable/unwilling to get support from their country.

**Asylum Seekers:** Potential refugees. Individuals who have yet to have the validity of their claims determined

**Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** People displaced within their own country of nationality or habitual residence. Although only 6.6 million IDPs are listed as “persons of concern” to the UNHCR, there are roughly 20-25 million IDPs worldwide.

**Returnees:** People who have been refugees or IDPs and returned to their homes

**Stateless Individuals:** People that no state recognizes as having the bonds of citizenship or nationality.

*By Melissa Yasinow*



# KONA Volunteers: Ms. Nabi Volunteers

**“W**here, oh, where has the time gone!” Ms. Nabi laments. It's odd talking about yourself in the third person, but I have experienced so many things since coming to Gwangju that I feel like someone else. In the past five months, I've lost 20 pounds (by exercising and eating a healthy Korean diet). I've traveled all over Gwangju (not necessarily by design, but because of my penchant for either getting on the wrong bus or the right bus in the wrong direction). Meditation has become my morning ritual, and I have begun to learn about the Korean culture and language. However, my most rewarding experience is that of becoming a KONA Volunteer.

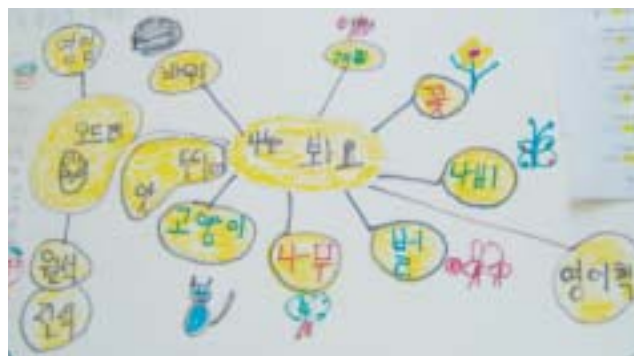
Back home, I had been a volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House for over two years. I love to volunteer, so I was ecstatic when I learned about KONA Volunteers (KV). Young-Im, founder of the KONA Storybook Center, holds a MA in Teaching English as a Foreign Language from the University of Reading in England and has PhD course work in English Literature from Chonnam National University. She is a phenomenal lady who believes that dreams do come true.

The KONA Storybook Center (KSC) grew out of Young-Im's desire to serve her community and help improve society (like Anne of Green Gables). Although Young-Im was "growing" through particularly adverse circumstances, she recognized that her time and talent (English-speaking abilities) were more than enough to make a difference in the community. In 2004, Young-Im and her children started volunteering at an orphanage by teaching English to the young wards. It was just the tonic she needed to give herself a renewed focus on life. One year later, in 2005, with the help of an "angel", Young-Im took her volunteering one giant step further. She opened the KONA (Korean Organization of Natural Approach) Storybook Center. KSC is a research facility for extensive listening and reading in English. KONA Volunteers was also established during this time.

KONA Volunteers (KV) is a registered non-profit organization whose volunteers are members of Dongu Volunteers, Gwangju. (There are currently ten student,

parent, and foreign volunteers). KV teaches English to orphans and children of low income or single parent families free of charge. The purpose of KV is to provide a venue for students and foreigners to serve the community by sharing their English-speaking abilities.

KV forms a partnership with the underprivileged children to equally distribute the responsibility of a successful learning experience between child and mentor (volunteer). Once a month, the students meet at KSC or an orphanage to learn English. The session begins with the children choosing a simplified graded storybook to read with the aid of a volunteer. After reading, the children are guided through an array of learning activities based on the child's skill level and interest. The activities include story-maps, presentations, and songs. The session ends with a ritualistic series of high-fives exchanged between the students and the volunteers. The hi-fives serve as a bond and recognition of a job well done. The success of the children is directly linked to their feeling a sense of accomplishment in a very short period of time. This increases their motivation to study and enjoy English.



The partnership, however, does not end with KV, but is continued at home. The children are required to listen to and read simplified Internet stories that are provided by Little Fox free of charge. They keep a journal of their work on a daily basis and make computer entries verifying their achievements. Sound daunting? You bet, but remember that these children have a strong desire to learn.



The children love the program and when asked why, these are the top reasons they gave:

- \* They are the teacher/researcher. The volunteers are, essentially, helpers. The children teach themselves through independent learning and self-testing at a pace that is comfortable for them. They select their own stories and create story-maps. Then, as a teacher, they read their favorite story to family and friends, pets and even inanimate objects. If they don't know the definition of a word, like a researcher, they try to determine the meaning by guessing, using a dictionary or by asking an adult.

- \* They are not limited to one or two books designated by the center or teacher. The children enjoy the freedom of being an active participant in their learning. They select books that they find enjoyable to read. In this way, they create their own syllabus and find reading and learning English fun.

- \* Teamwork. The children love working with what KV calls "success partners". After working with the volunteers, the children read their favorite storybook to each other in pairs or teams. The teams consist of children with a variance of skills so they can learn from each other, as well as, reinforce skills they have already mastered. We encourage healthy competition!

- \* They can draw! Yes, they express their creativity and learn through drawing. The children create story maps with words and pictures that depict key elements in the book they've read. The story-maps are then used as tools in their presentation. Some of the children are very talented!

In addition to English, the children are taught the value of sharing and giving of themselves using the power of mediation and positive affirmations. Some of the students and their parents assist KV in volunteering at the center and the orphanages.

This valuable and liberating experience has allowed Ms. Nabi to emerge from her cocoon with the knowledge that even children can contribute to society by sharing their talents. Ms. Nabi, who is also a KONA student, can testify to the success of the program by her own progress in

learning the Korean language. (Although, I must admit that her study habits are not nearly as good as the kids). In addition, she has come to appreciate the Korean culture through her interactions with the children and the Korean volunteers.

Ms. Nabi continues to dream of the things she's yet to do and learn while in Korea. As she bathes her wings in the transforming radiance of an afternoon of volunteering, she realizes that her most important dream has come true, becoming a KONA Volunteer.

If you feel inspired to share your time and talent, you can enrich your life by becoming a KONA Volunteer at the KONA Storybook Center.

Oh! By the way, Nabi (나비), which means "butterfly" was one of my first Korean words. It's on MY story map.

More information about the KONA Volunteers can be found in the Community Board pages.

- \* Theme music of Kona Storybook Center: "I Have a Dream" sung by ABBA

- \* Daily Affirmations: "Napoleon Hill's Positive Action Plan 365: 365 Mediations for Making Each Day a Success" (The teachers read the affirmation of the day during their classes to help children to understand that they have to believe in themselves to reach their fullest potential.)

By Audry Hawkins







*A Look Back  
at November*  
Photos by Jacques

Jeungsimsa Autumn Colors



Cosmos with Cranes





Gwangju City Hall



Mt. Mudeung Day trippers



## Restaurant Review



me and my taste buds, my friend Inkyung introduced me to such an establishment.

The interior of Semi Sushi is small, clean and unpretentious – the focus here is the food. My Korean companions took over ordering duties, so all the food delivered to our table came as a delightful surprise to me. We first readied our palates with bowls of salty, cloudy miso soup. Our server then brought out a succession of wooden platters exquisitely laid with the fruits of the sea: flatfish, tuna, shrimp, crab, salmon, clam, flying fish eggs and California rolls. With wooden chopsticks we tackled our fare. The soft, fresh fish seemed to liquefy on my tongue like butter, and the brilliant green wasabi paste added a kick that bordered on painful – but agreeably so.

The handsome man creating artful sushi platters behind the counter turned out to be restaurant owner Yun Dae-Jeong. Yun travelled to Nagoya, Japan, in 1999 to study sushi cookery at culinary school and gain experience in sushi restaurants. He brought his skills back home and, in 2003, opened Semi Sushi in West Gwangju's Kumho-dong. Yun was unable to name one kind of sushi as the house specialty; on that particular day he recommended the flatfish, but noted that the sushi varies from day to day, depending on what is available at the fish market. Yun makes daily trips to

# Semi Sushi

**F**or those gourmands bored with gimbap, fed up with unwieldy metal chopsticks and hankering for a shot of spiciness other than that delivered by the ubiquitous Korean red pepper sauce, an authentic Japanese sushi restaurant can serve as a gastronomic oasis. There are a number of Korean restaurants around town with “California Rolls” on the menu, but, really, a true sushi roll should not have pickles in it, nor should it be served with a side of kimchi. Bona fide Japanese-style sushi restaurants are fewer to be found, but definitely worth seeking out. Luckily for







the Nam-Gwangju fish market where he chooses fresh seafood for the day's menu.

As the evening neared its end and we sat contentedly sated on seafood and rice, Mr. Yun personally delivered to us cups of hot sake. Much easier to swallow that straight soju, but still packing an alcoholic punch, the rice wine warmed our bellies and mellowed our minds. Delicious food, hot booze and first-rate friends – the makings of a fine Gwangju evening.



Sometime soon, the name of Semi Sushi will change to Yuki Hana. Whatever its name, Yun Dae-Jeong's restaurant is a good place to visit for scrumptiously-prepared raw fish. Semi Sushi is located in Kumho-dong, Seo-gu (West Gwangju) near the Seogu Munhwa Culture Centre, right beside a pedestrian overpass. Ask taxi drivers to take you to "Seogu Munhwa Centre, Kumho-dong yook gyo", or take bus 7, 20, 91, 518 or 666. The restaurant is closed every first and third Tuesday of the month. Phone number: 062-384-6695.

*By Rebecca Fairless*

The best way to order at Semi Sushi is to choose Set A or Set B. These sets will vary depending on what kinds of sushi are prepared that day. The following is a guide to individual menu items:

- 사라다 Salad
- 베이컨 Bacon
- 계란 Egg
- 유부 Fried Tofu
- 조개 Clam
- 새우 Shrimp
- 오징어 Cuttlefish
- 다이나믹롤 Dynamite Roll
- 소고기등심 Sirloin Beef
- 대게다리 King Crab
- 오이마끼 Cucumber
- 한치슬라이스 Sliced Squid
- 참치 Tuna
- 연어 Salmon
- 단무지마끼 Pickled Radish
- 문어 Octopus
- 다이아몬드롤 Diamond Roll
- 전복 Abalone
- 마 Yam
- 새우튀김마끼 Fried Shrimp
- 캘리포니아롤 California Roll
- 장어 Eel
- 광어 Flatfish
- 농어 Sea Bass
- 연어 Salmon Roe
- 게 Crab
- 드래곤 롤 Dragon Roll
- 프랜지 롤 French Roll





# School Breaks: The Cost of Future Opportunity

**W**hen I was younger, I remember looking forward to winter vacation, because it was an actual break from school and was more enjoyable than summer break. I also recall the big snow fights I used to have and the not-so-perfect snowmen that stood outside. Though I always found myself sick with a cold after these wonderful activities, I loved winter vacation, and dreamed of the ultimate snow fight I would enjoy when I grew up and could run faster and throw harder. Unfortunately, I haven't had the chance to have a snow fight or make snowmen since the seventh grade. As I got older, I gradually realized that my dream wasn't going to happen.

People who are not familiar with Korea's educational system might think students actually get to 'enjoy' their winter break. However, as is the case for me, fun winter activities end as students enter middle school; even elementary students often don't get to play as much nowadays. People all over the world say, 'Prepare for the future, when you are still young'. In Korea, this preparation seems to start especially early. Of course, for high school students, breaks are not actual breaks, but mini-semesters between real semesters. In other words, there is no such thing as 'vacation' for Korean high school students.

The Korean educational system is notorious for changing a lot, and also for being very innovative at making the best student stand out, --moves which ultimately place increased pressure on already over-worked students. The University Entrance Exam score has been regarded as the

most important performance evaluation for students applying to university. These days, however, it has been gradually reduced to being one of three main screening indices. This year, universities will mainly use the exam score to select their students. When I enter university in two years, however, it will be one of several qualifications for students, though it will remain highly stressed. The exam has been and always will be a huge burden to Korean students.

Universities are keen to secure the best students and they constantly create new ways of doing so, which imposes additional burdens on students. While students will still be required to write the exam, they will also need to write an integrated essay-based test on the major school subjects. The multiple-choice based system, which has long been practiced, has been continually criticized, giving rise to the essay-based test and inevitably increasing

the pressure on high school students. Not only students, but also teachers are not ready to deal with this new essay system. However, universities want more discriminating evaluations of their own, since the exam shows only a student's 'level' rather than the exact scores as per the policy of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development. Though this stance is understandable, the new essay test will result in many students going to academic institutes to prepare for it. Naturally, students are deprived of time to relax during the vacation period, since they can hardly find time to attend institutes during the school semester.

Perhaps the most stressful change made for students is the added importance of performance during regular semesters. In the past, the exam score played the most important role in students' acceptance into university: those students who failed several mid-term and final exams, but worked hard for the exam, could still have a chance for top universities. Now, each semester performance is recorded and reported to the universities, meaning if you fail a semester there will be no second chance to make up for it. When this is the case, who can dream of playing with snow while others may be studying? Korean students can hardly enjoy their breaks since we are busy dealing with the mounting requirements of school. The high schools in Gwangju have only a week or so of winter break, and students are obliged to go to school even during this official winter vacation. Some people may be stunned by what they view as an abnormal educational situation in Korea, and might think Korean students are insane 'studyholics'. When I came back to Korea after



spending a year and a half in Colorado, I thought exactly the same thing. Memories of my time abroad include spending a night at a friend's house, going to parties, dressing up for Halloween, and playing football and soccer. After being used to the active and playful atmosphere of the US, I had a hard time adjusting to the totally different lifestyle of students here, and I frequently hoped that I would be able to study in the USA again. It did not take long, though, until I realized that the situation in these two places is totally different, and, if I were to survive in Korea, I would have to accept it. We have a large population living in a small land with few natural resources. Our only advantage is human resources, and so the competition starts much earlier than in countries like America, where the population is far less dense. Because of this competitive atmosphere, Koreans

have proved that a small country can become strong, evident in its great development during the late twentieth century. When I stayed in America, it was always amazing for me to see successful, hardworking Koreans everywhere I went. Seeing these people, I was very proud to be a member of such a great country.

This situation, of having to study when I want to play outside and enjoy the winter breeze, is unpleasant. However, I am fine with it because it's the opportunity cost of the bright future ahead – for me and for Korea.



*By Choi YoungHoon*

The writer, YoungHoon, is a first grader at Salesio High School and has won many prizes in English competitions.



## Review

# 2006 Gwangju Kimchi Festival

**H**eld in the parking lot of Yeomju Gymnasium, the Kimchi Festival is alive with the sights and sounds of collective productivity. Shaded from the rather overcast and bleak sky under an open tent, ajummas wearing yellow vests bearing the words "Korean Red Cross" across their backs chat away excitedly as they slather whole heads of cabbage with dark red yangyam paste. At the booths bordering the main area, vendors call out to

festival-goers to try their fried fish, salted seaweed, and, of course, their mouth-watering kimchi. Mmm... "Mashitseoyo!" they cry out. One man equipped with a headset and microphone has drawn a fair-sized crowd and is demonstrating the magic of knife sharpeners and their handiness at kimchi-making time, especially when it is time to chop the cabbage and white radishes.

But, who would guess there could ever be a dull moment in this exciting age-old tradition, especially after taking a walk through the indoor market and sampling all the different kinds of kimchi? I walk up to one booth and pick up a few jars of baechu (cabbage) kimchi. Then I go up to another and buy a bag of gaht (mustard leaf) kimchi and make my way for the exit.

Back under the grey autumnal sky, it is time for me to bid adieu to the pickled veggies. However, before leaving, I head over to the message board on top of which is perched a giant smiling turnip. He knows people have only good things to say about kimchi. Especially, the foreign crowd who have enthusiastically written "Kimchi Rocks!" and "Go, Kimchi, Go!"

As one can clearly see, kimchi continues to win the hearts (and taste buds) of those who come to Korea, and there's no sign of it letting up.

*By Annie Sirgey*







# Sung-bin Girls Orphanage

**T**his year's Biennale had a special exhibit focusing on groups within a society that become segregated. One group of such people (within Korea and most other places) is orphans. In general orphans have a more difficult environment in which to grow. An orphanage is not an optimal place to raise a child, so many societies allow adoption. Unfortunately in Korea, many times adoption is not an option.

The reason is that Korean orphanages play a slightly different role than typical orphanages. I am familiar with the idea that a child is given up by a single mother having a child when she is too young, or a child being given to an orphanage as a result of unexpected death, or a child taken away due to unfit parenting. However, in Korea, another situation that leads to children living in orphanages is divorce.

To understand how divorce creates orphans, we must understand a few key aspects of Korea living. Men work all day, mothers stay at home, and single mothers are unpopular. After a divorce, the man has little free time to be a father, and the mother can not afford to raise her children. Korea is a rather new 1st world nation, and so their social programs have

not yet caught up. If parents can't afford their children, to the orphanage they go.

The Sung Bin Girls Orphanage takes care of approximately 80 girls ranging in age from newborn to eighteen minus a day. There are also several other girl group homes around town that are affiliated with Sung Bin. They are operated with a "mother" who takes care of them. They use the orphanage for special activities and educational programs.

There are far more girl orphanages than there are for boys. The reason makes me want to cry while smashing things. Korea is rather patriarchal and conservative due to Confucianism. This means that a daughter has a stigma, and a son is a source of pride. When a family has financial troubles, due to divorce or just rough times, the daughters go to the orphanage because they can't be afforded, but the sons stay.

I got to know about this aspect of the culture shortly after arriving in Korea, when I followed a pair of foreign girls on a Friday night to a bar catering to foreigners, Speakeasy. At this bar I met a wonderful man named Mike Simning. He mentioned how he volunteers at an orphanage, and if I was interested I could as well. Every Saturday he gathers a group



at the Starbucks downtown at 1:20. To get there take a taxi to, "Shineh KEB bank, Chonul building" which is the GIC building. Then cross the street and look for Outback Steak House which is across from a bookstore and Starbucks on the first floor.

The following Saturday I went to the Starbucks with a couple friends, and since then I have been involved. It is easy amusement. Every week we play games, color, sing, eat ice cream, talk, and have fun. We do teach English, but the primary reasons for going are to familiarize Koreans with the idea of foreigners being normal humans, and to entertain the orphans. It is such an easy and fun thing to do, and the rewards are outstanding. I met a lot of good people and made friends with them. I get a feeling like I'm somehow helping people. And afterwards I can go to the Speakeasy for a social pint if I care to. By volunteering at the orphanage I feel much more like a member of this community, and that feeling of



belonging is something that many foreigners are missing.

Lately there have been several of new developments spearheaded by the Sung Bin Volunteers, a group composed of both foreign and Korean volunteers. They are currently working on the Christmas fund-raising campaign, which raises money to purchase gifts for the orphans, as well as a much more ambitious endeavor.

*By Banning Symington*

## The Sung-bin Educational Endowment



As many of you will know, there is an incredibly high value placed on education in Korea. More than 80 % of all Korean high school students

will go on to study at university (compare this to the less-than 20% found in most Western nations). Sadly, without the support of a family, the majority of orphan girls are unable to afford university education or basic vocational training. The result is that a great number of these girls live lives of extreme hardship and poverty with dismal prospects for the future.

To help overcome this situation, the Sung Bin Educational Endowment will provide bursaries as well as interest-free loans to support the educational ambitions of girls who demonstrate unique skills and potential. In order to ensure that

the endowment can continue for years to come, we are actively seeking partnerships in the local community as well as abroad. If you have an idea for a fund-raising event or would like to make a donation please don't hesitate to contact the Sung Bin Volunteers directly at [sungbinvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:sungbinvolunteers@gmail.com). Back to top

The Sung Bin Educational Endowment

*By Elton LaClare*







# Sri Lanka, the Pearl of the Indian Ocean Now I am here...

**W**hen you imagine Sri Lanka, what is your first thought? I always think of black tea. In fact, when I decided two months ago to sojourn to Sri Lanka, all I knew about the country was black tea. Despite this lack of knowledge, I am now in Sri Lanka, where I have discovered that my mental picture was accurate: I always drink many cups of black tea. Tea, because it is the main export of Sri Lanka, is essential to the nation's economy. As citizens of the tea-producing center of the world, Sri Lankans drink, on average, more than four cups of tea per day. In court when I am defending the victims of rape and torture, I have noticed that even on the busiest days Sri Lankans have time for tea. Although tea was all I knew of Sri Lanka, it proved an important part of their culture.

In Sri Lanka I am an intern at Kandy Media Center, which is run by a Sri Lankan priest. I also live with a Sri Lankan family. As a result, I have joined the Sri Lankans in drinking more than four cups of tea per day. When I arrived in Sri Lanka, I was happy because everyday I could drink very delicious kiri tea (kiri means milk); however, about ten days later I realized that I had drunk kiri tea more than forty-five times. Startled by my discovery, I immediately decided to reduce my tea drinking. Imagine everyday drinking more than four cups of milk tea: in the morning, at 10:00am, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, and sometimes when visiting the families of victims. Since my realization, I have reduced my milk tea intake to one cup a day and my plain tea intake to three cups a day. Even with these reductions, I am still participating in the Sri Lankan tradition of four cups a day!

Although Sri Lanka conjured images of black tea for me, I learned it brought other ideas to my friends. Before leaving Korea, I told one of them that I would be working as an intern in Sri Lanka. He informed me that I would

find curry to be a staple of the Sri Lankan diet. He was right: I always eat curry and rice. Sri Lankan curry is not like the curry we eat in Korea; there are many different types. Usually Sri Lankans consider curry a side dish, while we in Korea eat it as a main course. When eating rice and curry, Sri Lankans serve fish, pork, eggs, beef or chicken as a main dish, with three or four kinds of vegetables. While I do eat curry frequently, there are many other interesting dishes. Sri Lanka is home to various unique cuisines because its traditional fare, over a long period of time, mixed with recipes brought by people from India, Great Britain, the Netherlands, and Portugal.

Although the cuisine is delightful, eating this amazing food proves to be a challenge. After ladling rice onto your plate and adding delicious curries and other foods, use your right hand to mix the food and scoop up a bite-sized amount. Caution: don't use your left hand! Even left-handed people use their right hands when eating. Then, hold the scoop of food in your four fingers and push the food into your mouth using your thumb. Sri Lankans always tell me how easy it is to eat this way; however, you quickly realize that eating by hand is more difficult than you might have imagined.



Needless to say, I've adapted myself to this new environment. Sometimes I really want to eat Korean food, but I love and enjoy Sri Lankan food and drink. You should definitely try Sri Lankan food and tea, but don't forget to eat the food with your right hand. Only when eating with your hand and drinking four cups of tea a day can you fully enjoy the Sri Lankan spirit!

**By Mun Seon-jin**

*Mun Seong-jin, 22 years old, worked at the Gwangju International Center as a volunteer, translating for Asian Human Rights issues. She found the position in Sri Lanka through GIC. She currently volunteers at Kandy Media Center helping victims in court who are experiencing Human Rights violations in Sri Lanka. Next month she will write an article about what she does in Sri Lanka and why volunteers are needed.*

Koreans who would like to contribute important stories to Gwangju News are welcome to help because of volunteers like Melinda Hall who provided the final edits for this article.



Once upon a time

## Seven Stars Bridge



**W**e're almost finished with 2006. Christmas is coming and some of us will ask ourselves: Where did the last year go? And then you think about what happened to you during the past 12 months and hopefully you will be able to tell some interesting stories. If you go home for Christmas, like I do, you can make the long winter evenings shorter, when you tell your family and friends about your life in Korea. So, we are between countries, cultures, and even continents and we should make it possible for people to cross this bridge in both directions. Also in our daily life there are possibilities to build connections. Maybe if you meet a new person or you introduce one friend to another. You may never know what happens afterward. Sometimes it's positive and sometimes not, but you did it. And that is exactly what seven sons in the following folk tale from Gyeongju did.

During the Silla-Dynasty there lived a widow near by the Wolseong castle at the Moon-cheon River. She had seven sons and was still attractive. A long time after her husband died, she found a new lover, who lived across the river. So when her sons were asleep she crossed the dangerous waters almost every night. But her sons knew about her night activities and were afraid that she could drown in the river. So the sons built a bridge out of seven huge stones to help their mother. When the mother saw this, she realized how much the sons loved her and she broke up with her lover. Of course, the people around her also knew about this relationship and they were deeply moved by the gesture of the sons. But also was this bridge a sign, that the sons didn't honor their dead father. So the people called the bridge – "Bridge of the Good and Bad Sons". Later it got also the name "Seven Stars Bridge" because of the seven sons. Since then, women who wanted to become pregnant prayed on this bridge at night...and

sometimes it helped. Also, maidens prayed on the bridge for their dream husband.

The story tells us about family bonding and how people from outside judge things we do for our family members, like the sons built a bridge and the mother, who gave up her new love. Interesting here is the number 7. Of course many of us know about the seven dwarves or the seven ravens, and even the seven deadly sins. Also, there is a very similar story about a mother and her seven sons in Christian history. Did you ever hear about Felicitas or St. Felicitas?

She lived as a noble lady during the second century in Rome and was a Christian in a time when this religion was a minority. And because of her faith she and her seven sons were imprisoned by the pagan priests. Felicitas was told to give up her faith or she and her sons would die, but she held on, as did her sons. So the priests killed first the sons and then the mother. She is now one of the martyrs of the Catholic Church and is also the patroness of women and mothers for pregnancy, especially women who want sons.

Here we find a connection between the two stories and between two different cultures. In both stories are a strong family spirit and commitment is an important part, even if it's bloody. Also the wish of getting pregnant or to increase the fertility is connected to the Korean and the Christian legend. This is maybe because of the theme of a mother with seven sons, which is a large number and of course in former times many of the children died as babies. The number of children in the stories shows health of both – the mother and the children. So to want a healthy, strong family is independent of culture or religion. And this should be in our minds when we think about Christmas. It doesn't matter if you are Christian, Buddhist, Muslim or Pagan and it doesn't matter where you will be during the holidays. We should just enjoy the time with our family and friends, should build new bridges and/ or repair old ones.

Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*By Sandra Wyrwal*

Sandra's hometown is Freiberg, Germany. She completed her M.A. degree in literature and psychology from the TU Chemnitz, Germany, in 2003. In Korea since 2004 is she lecturer for German language and literature at the Chonbuk National University in Jeonju. To contact Sandra, please email her at: sawy@chonbuk.ac.kr



A photograph of a man in winter clothing (green jacket, dark pants, brown beanie) using a yellow shovel to clear snow in front of a house. The scene is snowy with evergreen trees in the background.

## Re-entry Shock: Back in Canada

**A** freezing and windy February in Gwangju – no problem for the average Canadian – unless you’ve just come from the heat and humidity of Malaysia. This shock to my system was compounded by the fact that teaching kindergarten had me talking more than I had ever talked before. No surprise when I came down with a sore throat. The real surprise came shortly after, when I went to a doctor’s office and my sore throat was treated with a hypodermic needle in the butt! Who was this doctor, with such questionable knowledge of human anatomy? Who was this young nurse with rubber gloves and no shame? What happened here?

Nothing more than a healthy dose of Culture Shock, the “physical and emotional discomfort one suffers, when living in another country or place different from one’s home or place of origin.” Culture Shock has five stages, although their order and symptoms can vary depending on individuals and situations.

First is the “Honeymoon” stage, when everything seems fresh and exciting. Next the “Crisis” stage, when one often feels angry, foolish, or impatient with the difficulties of adapting to new surroundings. Third, the “Balance” stage is achieved when one has begun to function in the new surroundings. The fourth





again... refreshing my memory to the beautiful colours of British Columbia in autumn... the Pacific Ocean... the Rocky Mountains... the fragrances of old leaves, and new snow... even “everyday Canadian” things like sitting in a hot bath, walking on familiar streets, baking in an oven...

Speaking of which: in Korea there are so many reasonably priced restaurants, serving

stage is “Belonging”, in which an individual recognizes the good and bad in both their old and new cultures. Here a person can act both as an individual, and as a part of the larger community or society. The fifth and final stage is “Re-entry Shock” or “Reverse Culture Shock”, occurring when a person returns to their country of origin. One’s culture, by comparison, may seem unusual or difficult to adjust to.

Culture Shock didn’t play a big role in my life in Korea. I long ago discovered that I was one of those waygookin who simply doesn’t crave western brand names or restaurants, which was helpful. I even found a sort of enjoyment and refuge in being surrounded by people speaking a language I couldn’t understand. Call me antisocial. I often spent free time reading in a park or bus, happily oblivious to loud and busy surroundings.

But I wasn’t immune to Culture Shock – my first visit to a local restaurant, for example, can only be described as shocking. I’m adventurous when it comes to food, but I was totally unprepared for the platter of squiggling, writhing, still-living octopus when it arrived at my table.

I also remember being baffled by street signs – until I finally learned to read Hangul. (If you haven’t done this yet, by the way, I strongly recommend it – makes restaurants and buses and everything so much easier.)

After 18 months in Korea, and a total of two years away from Canada, I finally returned. “Re-entry shock”! Who would have guessed that Vancouver could feel so cold and dry? After Gwangju’s long summer and rainy season, one of Canada’s wettest and warmest cities felt like a chilly desert! My skin dried up, my throat hurt (no needle-wielding nurses in sight), and I shivered uncontrollably.

But there were wonderful aspects of arriving back in Canada, too: seeing my parents and grandparents

delicious and interesting food: kimchi, kimbap, bibimbap... fresh seafood, barbecued meat, spicy soup... by Korean standards, Canadian restaurants leave a lot to be desired. The food here is very expensive, and (in my humble opinion) not nearly as good. One thing I learned from being in Asia is that a food’s texture is very important. Average Canadian restaurants don’t often agree. I also miss the spiciness of Korean food! The selection offered by most restaurants here is bland and flavourless by comparison.

Despite some minor Culture Shock, I’m very glad I decided to go to Korea. I’m glad I chose Gwangju. I have only one regret: if I were to do it over again – and let this be my advice for those recently arrived in Korea – I wish I’d have taken more time to learn the Korean language! English is everywhere (and now that I’m back in Canada I’m hearing it more than I want to), so why was I so anxious to speak it while I was in Korea? Take advantage of where you are while you’re there!

*By Kelly Shepherd*







# [ Home Pages ]



## K o r e a

In Korea, we refer to young people who rely on their parents after graduation (regardless of employment) as 'Kangaroos.' Living at home and being supported by your parents is associated with a young kangaroo trying to stay in its mother's sack. In the 1960s and 1970s, when people in their 50s now were in their 20s, it was quite normal for adults to get a job, marry and become independent from their parents. In fact, many married children began to support their parents in return.

Such a delicate balance of mutual support between parents and their children has been maintained for generations. But now, high unemployment rates, late marriage and evolving concepts of family are upsetting this balance. Professor Kim Tae-Hyun (Family Welfare) noted that the distortion of family relationships caused by 'The Kangaroo' is resulting in financial burden and mental anguish. Experts are giving parents with "Kangaroos" this simple piece of advice: Never give them money. Think about your own old age and get ready for it."

### 5 principles for parents to prevent their children from becoming 'Kangaroos'

1. Discuss with your children whether or not they will live at home and be financially dependent once they are in their 20s. Outline the pros and cons of this situation. Set a specific time when all monetary support will stop.
2. The parents' house is theirs. The children's house is theirs, too. Respect these boundaries. Never meddle in married children's childcare and domestic life.
3. Let the children call you in advance for permission to visit.
4. Frequently communicate with each other regardless if you live together or separately.
5. If your children disrespect you because you refuse to give them financial support, stick to your decision. Continue to say "NO" firmly and clearly.

By 8ball



## A u s t r a l i a

### The Feminisation of Immigration.

Single women are coming to Australia in record numbers to help fill the gap in a skills shortage. Go-getters like 30-year-old Jennifer He, from Shanghai, are part of the increasing "feminisation" of Australia's skilled immigration program. Miss He left behind a sprawling city with 20 million people to take a job at Barcoo in western Queensland, population 460.

Figures show the number of skilled women coming to Australia as primary applicants – as opposed to wives and partners – has more than quadrupled from 4000 a decade ago to 17,500. China has overtaken Britain as the main source of skilled female migrants.

In the past, when couples migrated to Australia, it was generally about the man's occupation or job prospects, but this is no longer the case. Miss He said moving to outback Queensland was a chance to step outside her comfort zone. On her first day home from work, Miss He found a kangaroo on her porch. "He must

have been six feet tall - but luckily he hopped away."

### Australians Richer Than Ever

Latest figures show that private sector wealth has passed through \$7 trillion by the end of June, rising by 3.7 per cent to \$7.17 trillion. The average Australian is \$11,000 richer than three months ago with per capita wealth at a record \$348,000. Additionally, over the past five years, real private sector wealth has risen by 91.2 per cent, the biggest gain for an equivalent period in the 46-year history of the series.

Over the past decade, real wealth rose by a record 177.4 per cent. The Federal Treasury and the Bureau of Statistics released the private sector wealth estimates. Australia's rental vacancy rate is at a 18-year low and the unemployment rate has dropped, according to government statistics.



### Even Smart Horses can be Stupid

On race days, the Australian racehorse Testafiable, is loaded onto a horse float and driven around Melbourne for an hour or so, only to return to race just 300m from where he started. The reason? His trainer has noticed how much better the horse performs away

from home. Therefore, prior to each race Testafiable is loaded onto the float and driven, well, anywhere.

"I might go to Cranbourne, maybe Pakenham or Traralgon, with just him, the strapper, and the security guard. I let him think he's going to Sale races or something. Then, turn the float around and bring him home. We seem to fool him. He always races best when he travels. I think it fires him up a bit more."

Someone suggested his trainer load the horse on the float and take him nowhere. Instead, just put a couple of big blokes on either side of the float and tell them to shake it. However, the trainer said the horse was dumb, but not an idiot. The horse's trainer and race jockey, Luke Nolen reckons with this bit of 'horse psychology' the highway horse may win the Melbourne Cup – (did it)?

### "No Vegemite" - says the US

The United States has slapped a ban on Vegemite, outraging Australian expatriates there. The bizarre crackdown was prompted because Vegemite contains folate, which in the US can be added only to breads and cereals. Expatriates say that enforcement of the ban has recently been stepped up and is ruining a lifelong tradition for Australians - having Vegemite on toast for breakfast.

Former Geelong man, Daniel Fogarty, who now lives in Calgary, Canada, said he was stunned when searched while crossing the US border recently. "The border guard asked us if we were carrying any Vegemite," Mr Fogarty said. "I was flabbergasted." So the very essence of Australian cuisine; the stuff we were reared on, is now an illegal substance in the US. Will Vegemite smugglers be added the growing list of Australians abroad, languishing in foreign gaols due to their illegal activities?

By Gayl Kim





## Pakistan



Eid-ul-Fitr, the most famous festival in Pakistan as well as in all Muslim countries, was celebrated the last week of October. Much preparation and excitement precedes

Eid-ul-Fitr, particularly among families. Eid is looked upon as a day of family rather than public celebration. A spirit of charity marks the entire month preceding the festivity as well as the day itself.

Eid is a national holiday and typically at least three days are devoted to its celebration. If possible, new clothes are made for Eid during Ramadan, and many families spruce up their homes for the happy occasion. In Pakistan, the 'chaand raat' – when the new moon is sighted denoting the eve of the first of the next month – has become as important a festive occasion as Eid itself. Females of all ages flock to the marketplace to buy bangles to match their Eid clothes and apply henna on their palms. Entire families can be spotted doing last minute shopping or even just window shopping in order to be part of the general mayhem taking place on the streets, till late into the night.

On Eid day, families get up very early and partake of a light, sweet snack – in Pakistan, sewainyan (a dish of fine, toasted vermicelli noodles) is generally cooked. Before the Eid prayers begin, every Muslim – man, woman and child – must pay Zakat-al-Fitr, a fixed amount of charity. Then attired in new clothes men go to attend special prayers held specifically for the occasion in mosques, large open areas, stadiums, or arenas. After prayers visiting friends and relatives during the three days of celebration is common.

*By Aamir Malik*



## Aotearoa - New Zealand

**Bird booties:** Several of Napier's Marineland penguins, transported to Christchurch's International Antarctic Centre in September, have recently had to adapt to wearing booties. The specially designed shoes were the mastermind of veterinarian Pauline Howard after the captive penguins developed calluses on their feet from their new home.

According to the centre director, Richard Benton, the birds are not accustomed to swimming for their supper (as regular 'non-captive' penguins would do) and therefore 'spend a lot of time standing around waiting for fish to come to them'. This lazy lifestyle resulted in rather tender feet, creating the need for the snugly tailored, rubber shoes available in either kelp green or penguin blue. I wonder if the penguins get to choose.

**Lost homing pigeon found:** It all started well. Saturday, November 4, and Knobby, along with 26 other homing pigeons, was released in Tauranga to race his way home to Christchurch. Heavy winds battered the Cook Strait, but still the birds began arriving home that same day. All that is, except Knobby. The North Christchurch Pigeon Club tired of waiting and decided Knobby had found better pastures. It turned out they shouldn't have given up so easily. Knobby didn't. Veering well off course he ended up in Te Anau 3 days later. The extended journey took its toll on Knobby. According to his rescuer, Sandra Stevens, he

looked 'tired and not itself' when she spotted him in a Te Anau car park. Hawks were ravenously circling from above just waiting for a Knobby feast it seems. Luckily for the weary bird, Sandra worked some magic and coaxed Knobby indoors away from the 'vultures'. After locating the owners it was decided that Knobby should be trucked back to Christchurch. Guess the owners weren't prepared to give his homing skills a second chance!

**Look but don't touch!:** Not to be outdone by the birds, Nuts, a radioactive cat, is creating havoc in Christchurch's suburbs. After escaping from a veterinary property where she was in quarantine, local residents were advised to be on the lookout for the said cat. Anyone spotting Nuts was warned to keep an eye on her and contact the veterinary clinic, but not to touch her. She was kept in quarantine for some days after being treated for an over active thyroid gland with radio active materials.

Nuts escaped from the veterinary property by fleeing through an open garage door after being spooked by fire crackers.

*Source: <http://www.nzherald.co.nz>*

*By Amber Kinimont*



## Germany

### Sweet and loud

On the "Guinness World Record Day", which took place on November 9th, 2006, Hartmut Timm from Germany set out to establish a new world record for continuous singing. After 59 hours and 15 minutes, he was able to bring the title home.

Another world record was set by a 354, 21 meter long praline (chocolate) made by several confectioners in Freiburg. It was later cut into pieces and sold for a good cause.



### When friendship stinks

A man in Meissen (Saxony) alarmed the police after he found a large deposit of dung in his backyard. The police discovered that this extremely smelly gift came from a circus, with was performing in Meissen at the time. The owner of the circus explained that the delivery was requested by a man, who wanted to help out a friend. The man was identified as a good friend of the backyard owner, who might have mentioned the need for fertilizer for gardening during an earlier conversation. Since there was too much for the small garden, the thoughtful friend had to help carry away his well-intended gift.

### Lost in Berlin

Many tourists visiting Berlin were recently confused by a public city map at the Alexanderplatz. The map showed an older version of Berlin – more than 10 years old. Many streets, especially in East Berlin, were still called by their former names and some places like the Potsdamerplatz or the Jewish Museum didn't exist at all. The company in charge explained that this was a map left over in their store room and changed the mistake immediately. Fortunately, the map wasn't so old as to show the Berlin Wall, because that would have really confused the tourists.

*By Sandra Wyrwal*





## Ireland

### The Man with Three Graves

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the death of Frank Stagg. Frank Stagg is a man with an unusual distinction: he has three graves.

Frank Stagg, born in County Mayo, Ireland, was a member of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) during the tumultuous time between the British and the Irish known as "The Troubles." Stagg died after a 62 day hunger strike in Albany Prison on February 12, 1976. In fact, this was his second - and final - hunger strike. (His first attempt lasted 70 days!) Hunger strikes were used by IRA members to fight for "political prisoner" status. When hunger strikers died, their funerals were rallying points for the Irish and PR disasters for the British.

The British government didn't know what to do about Stagg's upcoming funeral. Stagg was scheduled to be publicly buried with full IRA honours, complete with a triumphant funeral procession across the breadth of Ireland, from Dublin airport through the center of the country to a Republican plot in Ballina, County Mayo. If the Brits used physical force or overt political pressure to prevent this event from happening, they would have been hammered in the press. But if they allowed the funeral to occur, it would be even worse.

At the time of Stagg's funeral, the British were still reeling from the funeral procession of hunger striker Michael Gaughan. Gaughan's funeral, which also took place in Ballina, was even bigger than the funeral of Eamon de Valera, one of Ireland's greatest freedom fighters, Prime Minister, and author of the Irish Constitution.

The world media waited in ghoulish anticipation at Dublin airport for the expected showdown between the British government and IRA supporters over Frank Stagg's coffin. But the clash never materialized. The British aircraft with Stagg's body overflew Dublin and landed at Shannon airport. Stagg's coffin was whisked away to Leigue Cemetery in Ballina, where the Gardai [Irish police] hastily dug a grave near Stagg's family plot. Stagg was buried under 18 inches of solid concrete to ensure against his removal. (Grave #1)

This first burial place is within eyeshot of his family plot. Even though he is not buried there, the Stagg family gravestone bears his name. (Grave #2)

Finally, on the night of November 6, 1976, a group of IRA volunteers and a priest tunneled under the concrete to recover Frank Stagg's coffin. After blessing Stagg's body, they reburied him in a Republican plot next to Michael Gaughan just a hundred yards away. (Grave #3)

### Sean South of Garryowen

Meanwhile the 50th anniversary of the death of another famed freedom fighter, Sean South, is being marked by the publication of a biography. The book by Des Fogarty, entitled Sean South of Garryowen was launched on Friday November 17th at Peter Clohessy's Bar, The Sin Bin.

South, whose death inspired the famous rebel ballad Sean South of Garryowen, was shot dead along with another IRA man, Fergal O'Hanlon, during an attack on the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) barracks in Brookeborough, Northern Ireland on January 1st 1957. South was only 18 years of age and O'Hanlon 16.

Excerpt from Sean South of Garryowen:  
Sad are the homes 'round Garryowen  
Since lost their giant pride.

And the banshee cry links every vale  
Around the Shannon side  
That city of those ancient walls  
And broken Treaty Stone, undying fame  
Surrounds your name - Sean South of Garryowen

*By John Buckley*



## South Africa

### China in Africa

Desperate to find raw materials to power its rapidly growing economy, China has struck deals throughout Africa and done business with many states that are seen as "pariahs" by the West.

"The China-Africa relationship is truly one of equality, friendship and mutual benefit based on the common interests," China's ambassador to South Africa, Liu Guijin, said in a speech last week.

Many observers, however, are concerned that the balance of trade is far from equal. In the past, Africa has always had to buy from China without selling its own products to China. Also, China has traditionally dumped its second-bests in Africa while selling its choice goods to buyers in the West.

Chinese companies are involved in a host of construction projects across Africa. In Gabon, the Chinese are building a €2.5-billion hydro-electric dam in order to access iron ore in a remote forest region. Also, Chinese companies are set to rebuild the port of Buchanan in Liberia.

At least one Zambian politician, the pro-Taiwanese Michael Sata, has complained that "instead of employing Zambian laborers, they bring hundreds of Chinese. They should bring their technology, bring their expertise, but use Zambians." Chinese firms claim that they will increasingly use local labor.  
— Adapted from News24

### Surely the strangest "sport" in the world

Johannesburg – Train-surfing is something boys in Soweto do for fun. It is a deadly game, in which the boys climb on the roof of a moving railway carriage, or climb in and out of a train while it is in motion.

In the first week of November, four boys died trainsurfing. Originally only three boys were killed. Then a group set out to honor their friends' memories by indulging in this "sport." One fell. He was only 15 years old.

"He fell off the roof of the train and died on the scene," said emergency services spokesperson chief superintendent, Malcolm Midgley.

The pastime was described by Minister of Transport Jeff Radebe as an "abhorrent and totally disturbing activity" in October. The minister was speaking at the launch of the railway safety regulatory inspection body in Braamfontein, Johannesburg. He said about 5,000 railway police would be appointed next year to help curb problems like train surfing, and to oversee the general safety of commuters.

*By Melanie Steyn*



OFFICIAL VISIT: President Thabo Mbeki inspects the guard of honour in Beijing at the Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Beijing. (Elizabeth Dalziel, AP)





U . S . A

### Election Reflection

With the midterm election results finally tabulated, the Democrats have taken a majority in both the House or Representatives and Senate in Congress for the first time since 1994. Midterm elections, federal elections in the USA not involving the President, are generally referred to as referendums to judge how well the President is doing the job. The Republican Party had held the House of Representatives since 1994 and the Senate since 2002, meaning it was easier for the Bush administration to pass legislation. The primary reason for the Republican defeat in Congress has been attributed to the President's dealing with the war in Iraq. Since the sitting President is a Republican, a Democratic Congress will lead to either political gridlock or genuine compromise between the two parties.

There are some important "firsts" to the 2006 midterm election. In the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi of California is expected to be named as the new Speaker of the House (of Representatives), marking the first time that a woman has been named to this prestigious position. The Speaker of the House serves as the second in line of Presidential Succession behind the Vice President should the President be removed by death or impeachment. Also, Keith Ellison of Minnesota became the first Muslim to be elected to Congress.

In the Senate, the election produced drama because by the morning after the voting, the Senate was still up for grabs. The Democratic Party majority came down to two close races in Montana and Virginia. With Democrats (including Independents) and Republicans each holding 49 seats as of the following day, the Democrats had to win both seats to accomplish a majority, as the Vice President sits in on the Senate and is the determining factor if a vote is tied 50-50. With the impending chance of a recount, the Republican candidates from Montana and Virginia conceded defeat. Two Independently affiliated Senators, former Vice Presidential candidate Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut and Bernie Sanders of Vermont have decided to caucus with the Democratic Party. President Bush quickly organized to meet the new Democratic leadership in hopes his administration does not become considered a "lame-duck".

By Jonathan Brenner



However, there are exceptions to the rule. Recently Don Cherry, a Canadian hockey commentator, was invited to the House of Commons. He was booed by some politicians for supposedly being anti-French. In other asinine political news: one politician called another a dog. This event caused another politician to associate knitting with leading a boring life. The Canadian knitting community requested an official apology. The apology is still pending.

By Karla Ulloa

## GIC TALK

December 2nd

Speaker: **Helen Dempster**

(ESL Instructor, GJ Foreign School)

Topic: **"Residential Schools in Canada: Genocide for Aboriginal Peoples"**

December 9th

Speaker: **Adriane Moser**

(Graduate student, English, CNU)

Topic: **"Who works for you, who works for you-all? Stewardship over creatures: Rehabilitating Birds of Prey"**

December 16th

Speaker: **Cho Mikyong**

(Gwangju University, Faculty of Social Welfare, Assistant Professor)

Topic: **"Family Caring for Older People in Korea"**

December 23rd

Speaker: **Chris Benham**

(Gwangju University, Foreign Language Division)

Topic: **"Holiday Traditions and Transitions"**

December 30th

Speaker: **Maria Lisak**

(Gwangju University, Foreign Language Division)

Topic: **"New Year's Resolutions"**

**Contact the GIC to confirm the schedule:**

phone: (062) 226-1050, 2734

email: [gwangjuic@gmail.com](mailto:gwangjuic@gmail.com)

**All talks take place at the GIC office.**

Address: 5th Floor, Jeon-il Bldg, Geumnam-no, Dong-gu (동구 금남로 1가 전일빌딩 5층).

Directions: The GIC office is located in the same building as the Korea Exchange Bank (KEB) in downtown Gwangju. The entrance is immediately north of the KEB on Geumnam-no street, across from the YMCA.

(Subway stop: Provincial Office, Bus: 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 19, 20, 35, 55, 117, 222, 555)

For more information about the GIC Talks go to [www.gwangjuic.or.kr](http://www.gwangjuic.or.kr)

**Call for Presenters:** GIC Talk series welcomes your proposals for presentations on topics of society, culture, politics, science or education, or anything of interest to the foreign community. For more information, or to submit a proposal, please contact **Kim Singsing** at: [gwangjuic@gmail.com](mailto:gwangjuic@gmail.com) or call: (062)226-1050, 2734.



C a n a d a

### Sports culture keeps the media alive

October's over and that means three things in Canada: the freeze begins, football finishes, and hockey gets into full swing! This year's Canadian Football Championship, the Grey Cup, was held in Winnipeg, or, as the locals call it, Winterpeg for its unforgiving ice and snow.



The Montreal Alouettes played against the British Columbia Lions in the 2006 Grey Cup. The BC Lions won 25-14.

During the Grey Cup, the Canadian media generally focuses on its ratings and veers away from childlike behavior of politicians.





# Spirit-building at Kwangju Foreign School

**I**n a small school of 100 students, how does one build school spirit and pride? Do you simply throw spirit sticks at them and command them to cheer? Do you force them to wear uniforms with the school logo and trimmings of the school colors? Or do you force them to memorize the school pledge, quizzing them if necessary? If all of these have failed, how about trying the gentler approach of school projects? "Too easy," you say. Absolutely.

I recently moved from Busan to Kwangju this summer after teaching at Busan International High School for one

year. Prior to that, I taught in Houston, Texas for two years. It was certainly a leap seeing the differences between my first two schools, particularly among pedagogy methods and school spirit as one can imagine. Amazingly though, teaching at Kwangju Foreign School (K.F.S.) has allowed me to appreciate those differences and to help bridge them, giving my students the best chances of success abroad. This bridging is not a one-man, one-month process by any means; it requires the joint effort of the whole K.F.S. family.

One fine example of such teamwork was at our Halloween





bash, which drew in nearly all 100 of our students. The secret method: getting students and teachers involved in the process. "But we can't buy costumes or decorations in Gwangju," some initially frowned. "Buy?" I replied, "You guys are fantastic artists. You can make everything," and so they did. Within three days, our school gym was covered with skeletons, ghosts, pumpkins, and haunted houses, simply hand-drawn with oil pastel crayons. The Cougar Jailhouse was built outside, and for a mere one ticket, students could imprison their friends outside for five minutes. We turned the basketball hoop into the famous Granny Shot, and even though we never got around to using it, due to over-crowdedness, the gym would not have felt complete without it. Other bonding ventures including three trips out to the hayfields to collect straw for the scarecrows and stage. "No, we're not stealing it," I assured the little criminals, "We're merely sharing it."

While the high school troops took care of indoor decorations, the middle school students were in charge of the home-made pinatas. One pinata was designated per grade group (elementary, junior high, high) and though this took the longest preparation time (one week), it was certainly the highlight of the party. As soon as the wooden sword cracked the paper mache pumpkin, pig, and spider, the little angels of darkness hit the floor quicker than a back alley drive-by, snatching every piece of gold wrapping and lollipop within three arms' length. The high school students of course complained that the three-foot minions "weren't playing fair." "Next year they should separate the elementary kids. They took all our candy," one senior told me. Regulation? I dare say not. When it comes to pinatas, it is every candy ghou! for himself.

On top of that, our team of teachers spent five hours baking cookies, brownies, blondie-bars, and making caramel-apples and ice-cream sandwiches. My students dimmed the gym by covering up the ceiling lights with red,



yellow, and orange construction paper. We taped black construction paper all along the walls for the student drawings, and one student even received face painting supplies from her aunt back in the United States. Just how well did the party turn out? "Stupendously," as one co-worker said. "It was the best Halloween party our school's ever had," and the number of attendees showed it. The trick was simply getting students involved with it.

Another spirit-building project occurred the following Saturday, involving the painting of three classrooms. Once again, the students jumped right in. We had three classrooms painted within three hours. The well-known formula: project + service hours + pizza = great fun. For the Halloween party, nearly 30 junior high and high school students (combined) helped, and 18 of my 33 high school students came in to help paint our rooms. Total student hours counted towards Halloween party preparation: 107. Total student hours counted towards our painting project: 77.

What do the numbers mean? Nothing, just like the bullet points of a resume. What matters is the heart that went into these projects, the stunning results from their teamwork, the escalating school spirit effect, and their desire to do more. For the Christmas holiday, my students are coordinating a project for one of the local orphanages. Similar to the Angel Tree Project back in the U.S.A., students will pick a child to personally Christmas shop for. As a long term project for next year, they plan on organizing an activity for the orphanage at least one Saturday per month. Even if the number of volunteer participants starts off small, I know it will grow in no time. With so much momentum going for them, who knows how far the K.F.S. Cougars will go? Jingling, this teacher waits.

*By Michelle Drake*







## Bike Tour - Spinning Around Jeju

**T**he recent four day Chuseok break allowed me to finally visit Jeju Island. Almost 5 years of hearing the locals describe it as "Paradise", or "The Hawaii of the East" had me well interested but also somewhat skeptical. 43,500 won (one way) and five hours sailing took me and my bike from Mokpo to Jeju-si. Cheaper tickets at 21,500, which do not include a cabin onboard the ferry, can also be booked from New Sea World Express at 061-243-1927.

So a stiff breeze on a bright October day found me pedaling the 48km eastwards to my first destination, Seongsan-ri. A few tourist spots a long the way, are worth mentioning. The first, and probably the most spectacular thing I saw on the whole island, is the rare lava-tube caves at Manjanggul, about 20km outside Jeju-si in the north east corner of "paradise". While "Vilemotgul", at 8.4 miles is the largest single cave in the world, "Manjanggul", has to be one of its most scenic. A kaleidoscope of shapes and colours deep within the bowels of "Manjanggul", have you believe that you are seeing dragons, tigers and even bulbous ginseng. The rising damp and chill within the cave plus the fading light meant that I did not spend as much time here as I would have wished. These caves are definitely worth a day unto themselves. Close to these caves is the Gimnyeong Hedge Maze. The maze's outline mirrors that of the island itself. I spent about 20 minutes wandering around the garden of leylandii shrubs, but would probably still be there if I had tried to cover all, of its 1.6-hectare site.

Even though darkness was well upon me by 7:30pm when I wheeled into Seongsan-ri, at all times did I feel safe as the 182 km cycling track which circumnavigates the island along highway 12 is well lit. Great credit is due to the local authorities for providing and maintaining such a fine facility. Seongsan-ri is a sleepy little town, nestled at the foot of Ilchulbong (Sunrise peak) with probably the best beach, Sinyang, in all of South Korea.

I was glad to check in to the 25,000 won a night Jeonmang Minbak to a hot shower and an even hotter feed of dolsotbibimbap in a piping-hot stone pot. Incidentally, at check-in the receptionist discovered I was Irish. After my shower and meal, while relaxing in my room I got this knock on the door. Who was it but the receptionist with a CD player and about a dozen or so U2 and Enya CDs. He told me I could return them to him in the morning when I was checking out. Tremendous hospitality.

Morning came too early, 6:30am to be on time to climb Ilchulbong to catch the sunrise, a life affirming journey for many Koreans. An hour later I was back on the road for the 52 km spin to Seogwipo, my intended stop for Day2. Stop-offs at Jeju Folk Village and its Cinema Museum were well worth the bother. The last 16km into Seogwipo were a pure breeze as an orange grove farmer with broken English pulled over and threw my bike into the back of his pick-up. More tremendous hospitality.



A visit to the Syngman Rhee (South Korea's first president) Memorial Centre was the only thing that delayed me in Seogwipo. Now, what to do with my time? It wasn't yet midday, so I decided I'd brave the Hallasan road which dissects the island in two, even though it was almost all uphill, very uphill. My initial plan was to just stick to the coast without going inland. It's a damn demanding 19km from Seogwipo to Seongpanak, the point where the mountain starts going downhill and from which most people attempt Mount Halla. It's not recommended for the faint-hearted as, firstly you are dealing with so many steep spiral inclines and secondly seemingly runaway buses and trucks come within inches of your bike. This road was not designed for cyclists. "Crazy bloody foreigner", was probably what went through the minds of all the drivers that passed me, and not without reason. A tortuous three hours got me to a well-deserved pit-stop at Seongpanak.



Jeju Crater

I don't know which was creaking more at that stage, my-self or my bike. The good news is that a 30 minute freewheel frenzy downhill took me the remaining 20km's right back to Jeju-si where I had started off from the day before. 20,000 won for a room with a hot-bath and air-con at the Olympia Hotel, straight across from the Bus terminal was a blessing. It was so good I stayed there on my final night as well. A supper of the local delicacy, Jejudo-ddong-dwaegi (Jeju-island-shit-pig) and I was right as rain, ready for bed for another morning. It had been too late when I got to Seongpanak that day to climb Mount Halla.

As I set off on my bike the morning after at 6am for what I expected to be about a 3 hour grueling climb back up that same road I had whizzed down in 30 minutes, I was resolved on climbing South Korea's highest peak (1952 meters). Fortune favours the brave. Ten minutes out the road, another farmer, another pick-up, more local hospitality. It wasn't even bright yet and there I was at Seongpanak ready for Hallasan. The 9.6km trail to the top took two and a half hours and was surprisingly undemanding and only cost 2,000

won to do. A point to remember is that the climbing gate to the summit closes at 12.30pm and that descent time is 14.00pm.

I don't know whether it was the good food I was eating, the fresh air, the good weather (not a drop of rain in my entire four days there) or a combination of all three but I was full of energy. So, I decided to descend by a different route. I mistakenly believed this to be either the Yeongsil trail (3.7km) or the Orimok one (4.7km). It turned out to be the 8.7km Gwaneumsa trail and a complete adventure in itself, beautiful valley streams, river-basins and out-of-this-world foliage. However, as with the Seongpanak route, it was so well stepped-out that it is next to impossible to get lost on the mountain. Buses do not service the Gwaneumsa Entrance Centre at the foot of the mountain, so a 5,000 won cab-ride took me back to where I had parked my bike. It was with sheer satisfaction that I avenged the 19 km, back



Jeongbang Waterfall

into Seogwipo that had caused me so much trouble and toil the day before. 3 hours had become 30 minutes. So day three ended with me staying at a friend's house (who had been expecting me the night before) in Seogwipo.

The next day of relatively relaxed biking covered the west coast back to Jeju-si and took in the following tourist attractions: Sanbangulsa, a natural cave turned into a Buddhist temple (3,000 won to enter) and O'Sulloc Green Tea Museum (free). Doors is a great bar to hang out in Jeju-si, with almost as much music in it as Nashville (LPs, old Vinyl and CD's for all tastes). The kind owner Kyung-sook even dug me out some Kris Kristofferson to help me make it through the night. Listening to his unvarnished voice and flooring my first few pints in four days, I reflected on my "figure 8" tour of this enchanted island, about 260km in total. I knew I had seen a lot of beautiful sights and some great people. I also knew there was so much more of it left to see. I know now that Jeju-do isn't Hawaii or Disneyland. It doesn't have to be. Jeju-do is magnificent because it's uniquely Jeju-do.

*By John Buckley*



## Interview



# Kim JuHyang,

Public Official from Namgu District Government  
- Dept. of Culture and Physical Exercise

**A** local Korean, JuHyang (J), is trying to utilize her language skills as well as provide good information about less publicized activities in our city. Here is her interview with Maria Lisak (ML).

**ML: What process did you go through to get your position? (What background, skills were needed, testing)**

*J: There are various ways to become a public official but the most general way is to pass the open examination. Administrative officials, who hold a high rate in the occupational category, don't need special licenses or skills. (The subjects of the exam are Korean, English, history, law of administration, and political science). In special cases like computational officials or architectural officials, special licenses are needed.*

**ML: How many hours per day and per week do you work?**

*J: My usual work time is from 9:00am to 6:00 pm and I work for five days per week. Sometimes I have to do overtime work or work on a holiday depending on work conditions. But I do not always get overtime pay. The most important thing is service spirit for citizens.*

**ML: What do you like about this position?**

*J: It is a very stable job. That is the best point in choosing this job. Because of regular working times, we can spend much time to develop our ability and receive much recognition by people.*

**ML: What did you dislike about this position?**

*J: Comparing with other companies, our salary is not so much. Except this point I don't dislike any points. However, in case of civil application officials, they are very stressed, because they have to treat many kinds of people.*

**ML: What have you learned working for Namgu office? What skills did you learn?**

*J: I have worked at Namgu office since 2004. 9. 7. I work in the Tourism and Culture business in the Department of Culture and Physical Exercise in Namgu office. Before working in this department, I worked at Namgu Culture and Art Complex (Namgu branch office) in Bongseon Dong. We have to change departments every two years. In the branch office, I worked on art exhibitions and performances so I met many local artists, like painters and musicians. Now I am preparing an international music festival. I have learned the process about how to promote a big international culture event through these activities. That is my interesting part and not boring at all. It is really lucky to me.*



**ML: Describe a typical day.**

*J: I get up at 5:40 am and go to Gwangju University to have an English lesson at 7:20. After the lesson, I immediately go to office and drink a cup of coffee with my colleagues before starting my work. I work until noon and usually have an hour lunch at the dining hall in the office. It is cheap and convenient (the taste? not bad). After lunch, I work until 6 pm. I have some coffee breaks or sometimes go outside on business. After work I sometimes have a dinner with my colleagues or drink some beers. If there isn't any special promise, I run or walk along the Gwangju waterside (small river).*

**ML: Is this your dream job?**

*J: No. Far away from my dream job. My major was Chinese and Chinese literature and I am interested in writing. I wanted to be a copywriter. I had worked as a copywriter at an advertisement agency for 3 years, but since the Korean economy conditions were so bad, I had to transfer over 5 times. I was fed up with job applications. So I decided to be a public official who is never to be fired. I had studied for half a year for the exam. It was a challenge, like a gamble - pass or nothing. I am very satisfied with my job now. I love it. It is not just because of stable job.*

**ML: What are the benefits? (salary, free tickets)**

*J: The pay is not so much about the same as a small or medium enterprise worker. Benefits are different at every district, city or organization, because budget conditions are different. Extra pay (bonus) or welfare level (discounts on vacation resorts, for example) are also different by district. Benefits of welfare are limited to the district's own budget. My office of Namgu has poor budget conditions. We can use a resort once in a year and our welfare credit card for cultural activity, education, exercise starting next year.*

**ML: How has this job helped you move towards your dream?**

*J: It makes me feel comfortable, so I can develop my abilities like learning foreign languages or computer programs. And I can promote big cultural events with the government budget.*

**ML: What skills do you use regularly?**

*J: My major (Chinese) and experience at advertisement agencies are really helpful to me. I can translate brief documents, use MS office programs and graphic programs like Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator.*

**ML: What are the disadvantages of working in Namgu office?**

*J: Poor budget conditions make business difficult. Due to poor budget, good ideas are canceled. It is really sad for me.*

**About Namgu District office**

**ML: Is this a part of the government? Can you briefly explain the hierarchy of government branches?**

*J: Namgu isn't a part of government. Namgu is a basic, self government. This means that Namgu has their own council by elections. The City, Gun (in a county), and district, Gu, are self-government organizations. The metropolitan city, Do (in the province), is an integrated government. Basic government and integrated governments are independent because each government has their own council and laws. Some parts are related each other, however. Ministries like the Ministry of Culture and Tourism or the Ministry of National Defense is a national office (a federal government agency).*

**ML: What does Namgu office do?**

*J: There are various things in Namgu office:*

- 1. Administration and registration for businesses*
- 2. Social Welfare*
- 3. Urban Development – construction, landscaping*
- 4. Census Registration*
- 5. Environmental Management – cleaning, ecology*
- 6. Cultural Activities*

**ML: What is interesting about Namgu office?**

*J: The senior welfare programs like the "Senior Writing Program."*

**ML: Can you tell us more about the cultural activities in this area? Who can participate?**

*J: There are small street concerts once a month at the Green Street Park (from Chosun University to Baek-un Plaza). There is usually a banner at the park to advertise the date and time.*

**By Maria Lisak**

*She teaches at Gwangju Univ. in South Korea and Valparaiso Univ. in Indiana.*

Like all "ESL Payoff" articles where a student (or teacher on behalf of the student) submits a sample of his writing for the Gwangju News, this one has not been intensely proofread so that it may accurately reflect the writer's progress in learning English. Teachers who would like to encourage their students' to submit their work for "ESL Payoff" are also invited to write to us as well.



## Restaurant Review



**G**raced by a convenient location near the side entrance to Chonnam (Jeonnam) National University, this small-scale operation is family run and features unique Western food. The menu, equally provided in English and Hangeul, can be divided into two parts. First, the drink menu includes an assortment of coffee and fruit smoothies, just like in many other coffee shops in the area. What separates this café from the others, and adds appeal, is the food menu.

The first thing that one notices upon entering the shop is the fact that steak sandwiches are available. LET ME SAY THAT AGAIN, STEAK SANDWICHES ARE AVAILABLE! Having been born in Philadelphia and spending my formative years in Southern Jersey, I know a good cheese steak when I see or taste one. These come at a very reasonable price, and with combos available, any craver of a good steak sandwich will be satisfied. The steaks come with onions, an assortment of peppers, lettuce, and mayonnaise. The service has been inconsistent in my visits there, but sometimes I have been able to get a side of cheese whiz, which is good on the steak or potato wedges.



There are several combos available and one choice for the combo includes clam chowder (the New England variety). The potato wedges, a good deal in their own right, come adequately salted. The hotdogs are adequate for a snack and a good deal for a snack on the go. And remember, outside of Seoul or other cities with a Costco (or other market that sells a wide variety of “socialty” foods) available, these choices are rare find.

The atmosphere of the restaurant is a definite attraction, as the tables are well organised, and there is adequate room to maneuver around. While waiting around the ten minutes it takes for them to make the steak (culinary delight takes time!) they have a magazine rack with a sufficient number of English and Korean magazines. The one drawback is that the café closes early, at around 9:00 pm, but if you live on the north side of Gwangju it is conveniently located, saving a long trip downtown in case you are craving some good Western food.

Taxi Direction: 전남대학교 후문 위, 공대쪽문 건너편 “보바스테이크”

Phone: 062-267-1225, 010-2252-5156

*By Jonathan Brenner*





## 2006 아시아문화포럼 Asia Culture Forum 2006

### Nothing is Impossible!

dramatically less. Thanks to the development of this kind of technology, participants can write reviews on different sessions of presentations and are able to extend their academic discussion to the blog or Forum even after the sessions are over.

**P**rior to the 26th of October, many people would have questioned if it was possible to hold a colossal event such as the Asia Culture Forum in the City of Gwangju.

After the 29th of October, everyone knows that not only was it possible to host such an event, but, that it could be done with incredible results! The media and the world of academia lauded the success of the Asia Culture Forum. The success of the event not only reflected positively upon Korea, but, for all of Asia.

Yeah!!!!!!! We did it!

The Asia Future Initiative in Korea had organized its very first global cultural Forum, called 'Asia Culture Forum' in the Kim Dae Jung Convention Center of Gwangju on 26th October to 29th October 2006. The globalized, technological-dependent and hybridized world society that we live in demanded a venue in which there could be an ideational or cultural exchange. The foremost aim of this conference was to provide such a platform for scholars, graduate and undergraduate students to engage in discussions relating to issues in Asia.

During the four day conference, there were numerous interesting, catchy and hot-debated discussions sessions going on inside the Forum. The Forum was divided into various categories with different specific sub-topics, such as Asia and Cinema, Mobile and Popular Culture, Asia Youth Culture Camp and the Gwangju Forum on Asian Human Rights, etc. The Forum had invited over two hundred participants which included guests from Africa, Europe, America and other Asian countries. During the conference, hundreds of papers were presented and discussed.

One of the basic objectives of this Forum was to enhance and stimulate the debate between technology and human in our globalizing world. The organizer deliberately developed a 'blog-team' which was in-charge of the 'blog' for the conference. 'Blog' is one of most important and advanced modes of communication used by teenagers and adults. The 'blog' for the conference, was designed to provide instantaneous transmission for the sharing of information, ideas and opinion reporting. In a traditional type of conference, the number of people who can express their opinions and pose questions during a conference are

According to Professor Samuel Huntington, author of the book called 'The Clash of Civilizations and the Re-making of World Order', different cultures in the world will eventually and inevitably clash with each other. This clash will contribute to the third world war. However, during this conference, we provided a well-presented example that scholars from different countries with different cultural, religion and political backgrounds could be extremely friendly and kind towards each other. For example on the second night of our conference, the Forum organizer hosted a party called 'Night for Youth' outside the Gwangju City Hall. At the party, numerous participants wore their countries' traditional costume. They enjoyed each other, played and joined in competitions no matter which countries they were from. So, at that moment, differences between individual countries no longer existed and friendship was the common language for them all.

Gwangju, which is famous for its immense contribution to democratization in Korea, proved to be the most representative example of an energetic, courage and amazing city in Korea. Citizens in Gwangju, until this moment, still hold the spirit of 'nothing is impossible' and are keen on trying continually new things. This essential element was one of the reasons that Gwangju was chosen to host the Asia Culture Forum.

This outstanding Forum shouldn't be an end, but an important starting point for future Asia cultural exchange and communication .

*By Steve Chung Lok-wai*



Koreans who would like to contribute important stories to Gwangju News are welcome to help because of volunteers like Audry Hawkins who provided the final edits for this article.





## ambrosia nectar of the gods

**"B**ecause of increased disposable income, health concerns, and growing wine demands from Korean working women, wine is gaining popularity in Korea. Wine has become an attractive substitute for higher alcohol content beverages."

– "Exploring the Korean Wine Market" by Kyuho Lee, Jinlin Zhao and Jae-Youn Ko, *Journal of Hospitality & Tourism Research* (2004)

Come in from the cold and enjoy the warm, cozy atmosphere at Ambrosia Wine Bar. Surrounded by the subdued lighting reflecting off the red and orange decor, you can soak up the ambiance over a bottle of Chianti or a nice chardonnay and snack on a variety of cheeses.

Jeon Hyung Jin and Jacques Sheard created this oasis of grapes and atmosphere. It is one of few wine bars in Gwangju, and the only one in the Chondae Humun area. Ambrosia opened two months ago and already has regular customers and a clientele that is about 50/50 Koreans to foreigners. The Spanish class from Chonnam migrates over weekly after their class, and a chess board is often seen as an accompaniment with some of the ex-pat crowd. According to the owners, although 60% of wine is still consumed at home, more Koreans are coming into the wine bar recently due to the emerging wine market. This new clientele consists of young Korean professionals who have some disposable income.

This shift in Korean preferences is reflected in not only the increase in wine imports but also in the sales of wine refrigerators, which can be seen in the kitchens of some TV dramas. Some kimchi refrigerators even have a special space to hold wine bottles.

With the surge in Korean wine consumption comes a desire for individuals to educate themselves about taste and value. Ambrosia's owners seek to provide quality wine at good prices while helping to guide patrons to a variety of enjoyable wines from many markets, showing that good

wine comes from many countries, not just France.

According to Hyung Jin, "In the past, Koreans usually drank strong drinks like whiskey or sweet liquors like soju, but now many Koreans are drinking wine for health." Hyun Ju, who is from Jeongup at the base of Mt. NaeJangSa, explained that when she was young her parents would make *bok-bun-ja*, a Korean sweet wine. This was mainly drunk for medicinal purposes believing that it gives the drinker stamina. This claim was written in the Song Eui Po Gam, a kind of ancient Korean medical journal. Hyung Jin later tried dry western-style wine but didn't enjoy it. It wasn't until years later that she fell in love with a particular chardonnay. Whilst traveling in Australia with Sheard, they had dinner and chardonnay at a Greek restaurant. "The chardonnay was the perfect compliment to the Greek food," Sheard recalls.

Thanks to the surge in Korean wine consumption and the owners' love of good wines, you can stop in at Ambrosia, sink back into the sofa and let the soft jazz, blues or Latin music wrap itself around your mind as you immerse your taste buds in a dry but fruity Chianti or, if you prefer, a little bite in your white, a tangy Barron Duval.

The current recommendations are value priced Chilean wines 2004 Provata Merlot and 2005 Gato Negro, or you can splurge on a 2005 Lindemans Bin 45.

Sheard's dream is to import more boutique and Australian wines. Plans are in the works for periodic wine tastings and a party on Christmas day. Ambrosia is currently accepting bookings for private parties. Stop by and have a glass of wine at a reasonable price with a great view of Humun's busy streets on the second floor corner, just down the street from Dunkin Donuts. (See advertisement for map)

Taxi Instruction: 전대 후문 던킨도너츠 앞

By Kasia Auer

Kasia has been in Korea for 3.5 years. She is currently teaching at Seokang College in Un Am Dong, Gwangju.



# Metallica

**"H**ave you ever seen these guys?"  
 "I've been waitin' to see these guys for fifteen years, man."

This is the conversation I overheard behind me on the floor of Seoul's Olympic Main Stadium on Liberation Day during the much-anticipated Metallica/Tool concert.

I made the trek up from Gwangju with my two good friends, Shauna and Randolph, on Tuesday morning so we could get in a few drinks with lunch at Gecko's in Itaewon. After the rain went away around 4:00 pm, we took a taxi to the Olympic Stadium's main gates, which couldn't be missed as a huge "Metallica" logo loomed from the side of the stadium. I bought a 30,000-won black Metallica T-shirt for our good Korean friend and work-mate Jesse, who had painstakingly ordered the 120,000-won floor tickets for us on his Visa a few weeks before. I stuffed the tee in my shorts pocket, gulped down another couple of OBs, and sauntered past hundreds of fans waiting in the 100,000-won line-up to get in.

My friends and I were met in the dome-less stadium with insane humidity and Korean and foreign head-bangers alike. There were no beer vendors inside, so halfway through Tool's blistering set of old and new songs, I took a fifteen-minute walk away from the stadium to hit up a Mini Stop for a couple of tall boys. Ironically enough, it was during the song "Sober" that I made this mad dash for alcohol. I drank one beer on the way back through the cavernous bowels of the stadium and pocketed the other, meeting up with Shauna and Randolph and around 5,000 other rock-starved metal-heads, pumping fists to Tool's tight, ten-song set. The stage was basic, with two enormous video screens on either side of the band, both displaying Tool's strange videos.

A full hour later, Metallica FINALLY hit the stage. I was promptly separated from my mates within twenty seconds of the start of a brand new song from the band formerly known around the world as "Alcoholica" (lead singer/rhythm guitarist James Hetfield kicked his well-known habit a few years ago). The low bleachers were half-full of fans who paid the minimum 80,000-won admission fee. James, lead guitarist Kirk Hammet, drummer Lars Ulrich and newest member Robert Trujillo (formerly Ozzy Osbourne's bassist) were in top form, wearing their traditional black Levi's and black tank tops. Trujillo sported the shorts and let his hair down well to

his waist, opting to forego the braids. Hetfield had a good-sized goatee growing under his short haircut and Lars was in shorts and black tee.

*"Hello, Seoul, Korea!" boomed Hetfield after whipping the eager crowd into a quick frenzy of tremendous sound. "We're ready for you. Are you ready for Metallica?" "Yeaaaaaaahhh!!!!!!!!!!!" "Gimme an 'M'!" "M!"*

*"Gimme an 'E'!" "E!"*

*"Gimme a 'T'!" "T!"*

*"Gimme an 'A'!" "A!"*

*"Gimme an 'L'!" "L!"*

*"Gimme fuel, gimme fire, gimme double genocide!"*

And with that, the crowd pulsed forward crazily, catapulting me forward to about eighteen feet from stage left, with a great view of the now shirtless and sweaty Hetfield and Hammet.

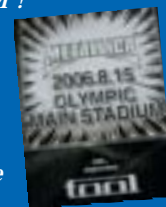
"Wherever I May Roam" was followed by the "Master" album's "Sanitarium" and the "Justice" album's "Harvester of Sorrow". I joined a mini mosh pit during Kirk's "Sanitarium" guitar solo. Everybody was dripping sweat from the searing heat, but the rabid fans kept it up, singing the lyrics to each song, much to Hetfield's glee: "I see you know the words, get it all out if you want to!"

"For Whom the Bell Tolls" was next, but instead of finishing the song, Metallica launched into a mesmerizing rendition of the instrumental "Orion", which had not been performed live until June of this year, respecting the twentieth anniversary of bass player Cliff Burton's tragic death.

"Master of Puppets", "Creeping Death" and "Battery" tore the crowd up, sending fans into a rabid frenzy again. After a quick rest, the band returned with an encore, the heavy, riff-laden favourites from the "Black" album: "Sad But True", "Nothing Else Matters" (during which I had security pull my spent body from the front of the crowd), a blistering rip-through of "One" and "Enter Sandman".

Sensing the end of a truly enjoyable night, many fans, including myself, started to trudge out of the still-packed, sweltering stadium. I bought a beer (now being sold) and pocketed it upon hearing a new track from the ageless metal gods. Then James, quietly, teasingly: "Kill 'Em All?" (short pause amidst the waves of screaming); "Kill 'Em All?" And "Seek and Destroy" literally ripped the roof right off the stadium, bringing forefingers and pinkie fingers up together in unison all around.

The smiling fans chanted "Metall-eeka" (clapclap clapclap) "Metall-eeka" into the night, while the band tossed countless guitar picks to the respecting fans, who knew this would probably be the last time "Metallica rocked Seoul, Korea". **By Kaz Montgomery**  
 Kaz Montgomery has been in Gwangju 17 months and rates this show the best out of the three times he has seen Metallica live.







# GWANGJU INTERNATIONAL CENTER

The No.1 Resource for Foreigners in Gwangju and Jeollanam-do

The GIC office welcomes foreigners from around the world. Our staff and volunteers speak English, Japanese, and Chinese. Whether you need advice on issues with your employer, want to borrow some English books from our library, or just can't figure out what bus to take from point A to point B – we are here for you! The GIC team gives you the tools to live independently while learning about Gwangju and Jeonnam and strives to ensure that you enjoy your stay in Korea. Stop by our office or call us to find out more about:

## The GIC Resources

- Monthly Cultural Tours
- Korean Language Classes
- Regular Talks by Foreign Visitors and Academics
- English Book Lending Library
- Gwangju News – A Monthly International Magazine
- Music Events and Exhibitions
- Annual Cultural Festival "Gwangju International Community Day"
- Employment related counseling and conflict resolution assistance
- Translation services

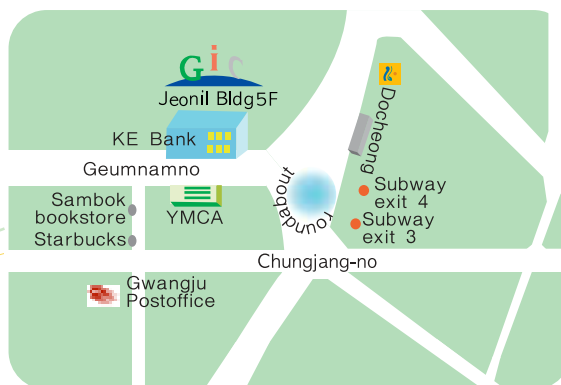
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- Access to all events sponsored by the GIC
- Opportunity to network and make friends with the foreign community
- Volunteer opportunities to help promote your personal growth, social involvement, and develop your skills and talents
- Recognition of your work in the GIC publications and materials

### Membership Fees

- Foreign Residents: ₩10,000/year
- Korean Students: ₩10,000/year
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Contact the GIC at [gwangjuic@gmail.com](mailto:gwangjuic@gmail.com) or Phone: 82-62-226-1050, 2734 | Fax: 82-0505-227-2092

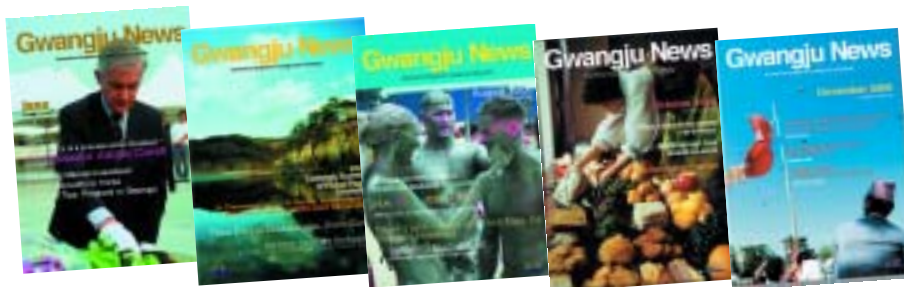
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Directions: The GIC office is located in the same building as the Korea Exchange Bank (KEB) in downtown Gwangju.

The entrance is immediately north of the KEB on Geumnam-no street, across from the YMCA.

(Subway stop: Provincial Office 도청, Bus No.: 1, 2, 5, 9, 19, 20, 55, 117, 222, 555, 8, 35)





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The magazine is available free of charge at:

- The Korea National Tourism Organization(KNTO) in Seoul
- Incheon International Airport, Gwangju Airport
- Downtown, Gwangju Bus Terminal and Train Station Tourist information Center
- University language centers and private language institutes - The GIC office in downtown Gwangju



Contact the GIC at [gwangjuic@gmail.com](mailto:gwangjuic@gmail.com) or Phone: 82-62-226-1050, 2734 | Fax: 82-0505 -227-2092

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## December Events



### Live Entertainment: December Schedule

#### Saturday December 9th "FARR-OUT!" '70s and '80s themed charity event

Tickets are 5000 won at the door with a costume. There's a buffet and a band! All proceeds go to the Sung Bin Orphanage. Come out and get your groove on to classic retro played all night by the Speakeasy band and spun by DJ Sneaks.

Saturday December 16th  
**"G-Jay Band" from Cheongju**  
The Killers meets the Kinks and they duke it out. This 4 piece rock combo of prancing waygooks are the biggest name in bar rock in Cheongju. They have a new CD they're promoting and a powerhouse set of new and classic rock ready to explode all over our stage.

Saturday December 23rd  
**Christmas with the King!**  
**"Nosmo King" returns!**  
This dynamite combo from Suncheon brings they're own fan base and takes prisoners. They're fronted by Harold Lear a master of blues guitar. He's jammed with everyone from Ringo Star to Ronny Hawkins. He brought a crowd of over 40 Suncheon based waygook rock disciples last time around. This time it's a Christmas party! Bumping, grinding and spilt draft beer are all guaranteed.

Sunday December 31st  
**New Years Eve Bash!**  
Speakeasy House Band, DJ, disco dancing, games, prizes, cake, food, decorations, balloons, kissing, singing, fun.

## Festivals



2006 Jeonbuk  
Love Light  
Festival  
Period:  
Dec. 22, 2006  
~ Feb.19, 2007

Place:

Worldcup Stadium in Jeonjoo

For more information, please visit at  
<http://www.enlf.or.kr>



#### The 5th Light Festival

Period: Dec. 8,  
2006 ~ Feb. 28  
Place:  
Green Tea  
Plantation in  
Boseong

Program:  
Lighting Ceremony, Congratulatory  
Entertainment, Fireworks  
For more information, please visit at  
[http://www.boseong.go.kr/ko/culture/events/light\\_festival](http://www.boseong.go.kr/ko/culture/events/light_festival)



#### The 6th Gwangju International Film Festival

Period:  
Dec. 14 ~ Dec. 18  
For more  
information,  
please visit a

<http://www.giff.org>



Memory  
(Parade &  
evening festival)  
- Citizen Concert  
in memory of  
Jung, Youl-Sung

6:30 pm,  
December 12th  
2 0 0 6

(Tuesday)/May  
18th Foundation, Democracy (Minju)

Hall/Academic Seminar - Jung, Youl-Sung and Christianity  
1:30 pm, December 12th 2006

(Tuesday)/May 18th Foundation,  
Daedong Hall

#### 2006 Gwangju Jung, Youl-Sung International Music Festival

December 13th 2006 (Wednesday) /  
7pm / May 18th Foundation

## Movies

#### December 7th



Just Friends  
Director: Roger Kumble  
Starring: Ryan  
Reynolds, Amy Smart  
Genres: Comedy and  
Romance



Borat: Cultural  
Learnings of America  
for Make Benefit  
Glorious Nation of  
Kazakhstan  
Director: Larry Charles  
Starriing: Sacha Baron  
Cohen

Genres: Comedy and Adaptation



The Holiday  
Director: Nancy Meyers  
Starring: Cameron Diaz,  
Kate Winslet  
Genres: Comedy and  
Romance

#### December 21st.



Casino Royale  
Director:  
Martin Campbell  
Starring: Daniel Craig,  
Eva Green, Caterina  
Murino  
Genres:

Action/Adventure,  
Thriller, Adaptation and Sequel



Happy Feet  
Director: George Miller  
Voices: Robin Williams,  
Hugh Jackman  
Genres:  
Action/Adventure,  
Kids/Family,  
Musical/Performing Arts

and Animation

#### Notice

Send your Event Information to  
Gwangju News: If you would like to  
advertise any upcoming events,  
please email the information to:  
[gwangjunews@gmail.com](mailto:gwangjunews@gmail.com)



### Sung Bin Orphanage

Sung Bin Orphanage is looking for long term volunteers. We would like you to give at least two Saturdays per month. As well as being a friend, you will be asked to teach basic English to girls aged 7 to 14.

For more information please contact Michael at: [sungbinvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:sungbinvolunteers@gmail.com)

### Looking for Native English speakers

Kona Volunteers is a registered organization for helping underprivileged kids by teaching English using storybooks. We are looking for long term volunteers who desire to enrich their lives by volunteering. We would like you at least 2 Sunday afternoons per month.

On the 2nd Sunday of each month, we help children of low income families or single-parent families. On the 4th Sunday, we help orphanage children. If you have any picture books and storybooks, please donate them when you leave Korea.

For more information, please contact Kim Young-Im at [konastorybookcenter@yahoo.com](mailto:konastorybookcenter@yahoo.com)

### Gwangju KOTESOL

The Gwangju KOTESOL Chapter will be celebrating a great 2006 on December 2 at noon at KONA Storybook Center. Members and officers will be recognizing our busy 2006 schedule and brainstorming ideas for events in 2007. If you are not a member, please contact [gwangju\\_kotesol@yahoo.com](mailto:gwangju_kotesol@yahoo.com) for details. Members are welcome to enjoy a yearend buffet lunch - gratis.

[www.kotesol.org/gwangju](http://www.kotesol.org/gwangju)

### Gwangju Men's Soccer

The Gwangju international soccer team plays regularly most weekends. If you are interested in playing, please contact [gwangju\\_soccer@yahoo.com](mailto:gwangju_soccer@yahoo.com).

### Looking for a volunteer

We are looking for a volunteer to help us with the development of a new sun bear education exhibit which will contain interactive displays and information aimed at the local public in Kalimantan. As part of the position we hope that a volunteer will be keen to help with the care-taking of ex-stray cats (55) and dogs (5) currently looked after by us at the facility (i.e. feeding, medical care, nursing of small newcomers, cat enclosure enrichment). Ideal would be someone who has some experience with training dogs (in good behaviors) and who is also interested in enrichment work with the sun bears in their natural enclosure at the

facility.

There is no deadline for sending in applications-but the sooner the better! We recommend that a volunteer would be able to stay for at least 4-6 months. At the facility we can provide housing and food for a volunteer, but unfortunately not the airfare. Airfare to East Kalimantan will depend on where someone is coming from and whether cheap AirAsia flights can be used. South Koreans can get a visa on arrival in Indonesia, but we suggest any volunteer to come on a social visit visa for which we can arrange the necessary invitation letters.

Unfortunately we have not yet developed a website, although in the next couple of months we should have something ready! For the moment the best option is to contact Ali Redman ([airedman@gmail.com](mailto:airedman@gmail.com)) or me, Gabriella Fredriksson ([gmfred@indo.net.id](mailto:gmfred@indo.net.id)).

### Join the Gwangju Yahoo! Group

As a policy we restrict the membership to only international members of Gwangju and Jeollanamdo. This group aims to help the incoming and existing international community in understanding their new home, Gwangju and to share one's native country's culture. Share valuable travel and shopping tips, useful web-links and find others with common interests. This group is a safe place to share your problems and difficulties and seek solutions and support while in Gwangju, Jeonnam. The group also hopes to plan events such as hiking, skiing or checking out various local hot spots. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Gwangju>

### Help Gwangju News Magazine!

#### Volunteer one day a month.

GIC needs volunteers to mail out Gwangju News. Gwangju News, published monthly, is sent to nearly 700 addresses. Please give back to Gwangju News by helping monthly. Join our Gwangju News mail-out volunteers monthly at GIC. Volunteers are called 48 hours before the mail-out day (during the first week of each month). GIC needs 6-8 people who can help. GIC & Gwangju News are only as good as the volunteers who bring it to life!

Contact GIC at 062-226-1050, 2734 or [gwangjuic@gmail.com](mailto:gwangjuic@gmail.com)

### For Sale

Air Conditioner (wall mounted): 250,000 won, Iron: 20,000 won, Child's new Karaoke Machine: 20,000 won  
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## Community Board

converter, mini hair dryer, books, games, bowling ball, small book cases, Large curtain with rod and lots of clothes (coats, suit, jackets, sweaters, pants...) mostly medium or 10/12 petite.

Many other small items

- Open House: Saturday Dec. 16th 2:00 pm ~4:00 pm

Email: [carolmoyer555@yahoo.com](mailto:carolmoyer555@yahoo.com)

## Speak Out

Would you like to Speak Out in the next issue of the Gwangju News? With less than a month to go in 2006, some of you may be thinking ahead to your New Year's Resolution. next month's question is: **What will your resolution for 2007 be? How do you intend on seeing it through? Or, tell us about a past resolution you made. Were you able to keep it? If so, how? If not, how long did it last?**

Please email us at

[gwangjunews@gmail.com](mailto:gwangjunews@gmail.com) with your response and headshot photo.

## Trivia Answers

### Easy

G: The Philippines

E: Mariah Carey

H: No woman in my time will be Prime Minister

AL: 4 years

SN: ocelot

SL: soccer

### Not-so-easy

G: The French

E: Kressley

H: Augustus

AL: a large letter (i.e. a capital letter)

SN: 6

SL: 8

### Bloody Hard

G: Qatar

E: green

H: hemorrhoids

AL: Nobody knows

SN: 120 days

SL: 191





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Gwangju News is only as good as its volunteer magazine staff. Your writing, proofreading, and photography can reach over 6000 foreigners in the Jeollanam-do region not to mention the countless Korean readers. If you'd like to be involved, write to [gwangjunews@gmail.com](mailto:gwangjunews@gmail.com).

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