



THE ULSAN PEAR

VOL. I ISSUE IV

an urban survival guide to the industrial capital of Korea

JULY 2004

URBAN ASSAULT



BY MATT WURDEMAN
CONTRIBUTOR

I set out to write this article on mountain biking Mt. Munsu. But after spending a couple days on my bike exploring everything that remotely resembled a dirt trail, I was unable to find anything that didn't rapidly end at a farm, hermit caves, or with me on top of an ancient tomb. But there is more of Munsu to explore, and as long as there is blood in these veins I will find rideable single-track.

Since I can't offer you any mountain biking meccas this issue, I can offer you the next best thing: Mount Ulsan. Ulsan is the ideal city for Urban Assault riding, a hybrid form of mountain biking and trials riding.

PHOTO: DAVE HARVEY

Where's the escalator?

The premise is simple: in the absence of readily accessible trails, terrorize the manmade mountain surrounding you. This industrial capital is a veritable playground of stairs, jumps, drop-offs, ledges and randomly placed benches and tables.

Be you a novice rider or an expert, Urban Assault is great for everyone; perfect for increasing your technical skills or just screwing around. The nice thing about this type of riding is that you don't need a lot of time, you don't have to go very far, and you don't have to be in particularly good shape.

What you need:

A bike: Obviously. Depending on what type of riding you'd like to do, fully rigid will work for straight trials riding, while you'll want a full suspen-

SEE CONCRETE PAGE 4

HIKING:

AN INTERVIEW WITH AN AVID KOREAN HIKER.



PHOTO: DAVE HARVEY

BY JASON TEALE

THE ULSAN PEAR

INTERVIEWEE: ALICE PARK

Instead of droning on and on about something that I am sure you've all done here, I will try to find a new angle. Instead of boring you to death while I show off my outdoor expertise and make you want to cry by telling you stories about how many times I have "conquered the trails" on multi-day hikes in some lame attempt at sounding cool or professional. I have

decided to interview a local. You know, those other people in this country.

I am going to try to shed some light on the mysteries that I have encountered while attempting to differentiate a Korean hiker from a Waygook Hiker. So with out further ado, I will introduce my co-worker Alice, who is an avid hiker in this area and around Eonyang.

SEE GHOST BUSTING PAGE 3

SCOOTER INVASION

BY FIN MADDEN
THE ULSAN PEAR

Ajummas in the rice paddies stood erect for the first time this decade just to watch. The coffee girls could only blink through their heavily painted eyes. Pizza and jajangmyeon got cold as the delivery boys stopped and stared. In a country of strange happenings, nothing stranger had happened.

Twenty-seven foreigners on little Korean bikes, guarded by Koreans on big American Harleys, blazed through traffic lights in a seemingly endless train.

This spectacle was the second Scooter Inferno, a rally organized by Ulsan's only scooter gang, the Hell's Ajummas. The 2003 rally was a 300 km grueling death ride around Ulsan city, seeing only 2 of 6 teams finish after 10+ hours of riding. Saturday, June 12, 2004 saw historic Gyeongju as the destination of the photographic scavenger hunt.

This year's race was planned to be a much shorter course. The list included such Korean landmarks as Seokuram Grotto and Cheomseongdae astronomical observatory. The riders in this event, all teachers and engineers, live

and work in the Ulsan area, but come from such diverse places as England, Ireland, Scotland, Canada, the US, Australia, New Zealand and Russia.

'Twenty-seven foreigners on little Korean bikes, guarded by Koreans on big American Harleys'

The escort riders were from the Ulsan Harley Owners' Group.

SEE ROLLING PAGE 2



Riding the open road...

PHOTO: BENNETT HO

HELP THE PEAR!

WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED READING THIS RAG, PASS IT ON TO YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY, CO-WORKERS AND STUDENTS!



the Ulsan Pear 2004

Who says there's nothing to do this summer? (see page 8 for details)

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Scooter Rides
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Dear Readers,

This issue of the Pear marks our first issue without the guidance of our resident media czar, Joel Burslem. Joel is currently somewhere in North America, attending to some business involving getting married. We wish him the best.

Summertime fun is the agenda for this issue. We hope the info on these pages will help ya'll find some sunny good times. Here's one key piece of advice: Korea also gets plenty of rain in the summer, so when you got a sunny weekend, don't let it go to waste. Get out there and be the life of your own party.

As always, feel free to drop us a line with whatever questions, comments, or rants you might have. Hope you enjoy the issue.

Michael T. Weber
editor@ulsanpear.biz

...Rolling Thunder



Easy riders ready to roll...

PHOTO: BENNETT HO

The race began in the early afternoon at the Bomun Lake resort area and saw an utter swarm of westerners on scooters racing madly from one point to another throughout the city limits.

'Gyeongju is a gem of emerald lawns and historical sites.'

The Scooter gods smiled and blessed the event with beautiful sunny weather. Riding was only slightly hampered by the tail winds of a typhoon that happily hit Japan instead of riding up the peninsula.

Riders were grouped in teams of two or more bikes for safety reasons. For three hours these foreigners were seen screeching to a halt, jumping off their bikes, snapping photos and then racing away, terrorizing Gyeongju.

Gyeongju, certainly the most beautiful city in Korea, made the perfect background for an afternoon's ride through history. Filled with burial mounds and Buddhist temples, Gyeongju is a gem of emerald lawns and historical sites in a country quickly covering its landscape with photocopies of the same apartment building.

The history of this city stretches back almost 2000

years to the start of the Silla dynasty. Many of the sites visited in the Inferno were over 1500 years old.

The race ended at 5:00 sharp, finishing where it began. This year's event saw a grand total of 3 teams finish the 100 km race. Some stopped for mechanical

'Many Sunday drivers shook their heads in disbelief.'

problems, others had navigational difficulties, and some just stopped for lunch. The day in the sun ended with a night of drunken debauchery at the Hotel Gyeongju.



DID YOU KNOW?

Ulsan has a total of 5,273km of roadways, with an additional 3,258km of planned expansions.

Source: Ulsan Metropolitan City

Sunday morning the riders headed back down to Ulsan following the scenic road along the Jujeon Coast from Gampo to Bangeojin. Many Sunday drivers shook their heads in disbelief as the mass of scooters rolled slowly home along the sun-drenched coast. The event was a success, suffering only three dead scooters and three stitches.

finmadden@yahoo.ca

The Pear is always looking for new writers and contributors. We want to hear about your experiences, events, and foreigner related news stories. Drop is a line at info@ulsanpear.biz

THE ULSAN PEAR™

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ACTING EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
Mike Weber

PRODUCTION/LAYOUT/DESIGN:
DAVE HARVEY

EDITORIAL BOARD/STAFF WRITERS:
Fin Madden
Jason Teale
Mike Weber

CONTRIBUTORS:
Dan Barham
Eileen Keast
Matt Wurdeman

COPY EDITOR
EILEEN KEAST

PHOTOGRAPHERS:
Dave Harvey
Bennett Ho
Jason Teale

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Fin Madden: 019.811.5373

web: www.ulsanpear.biz
email: info@ulsanpear.biz

...Ghost busting?

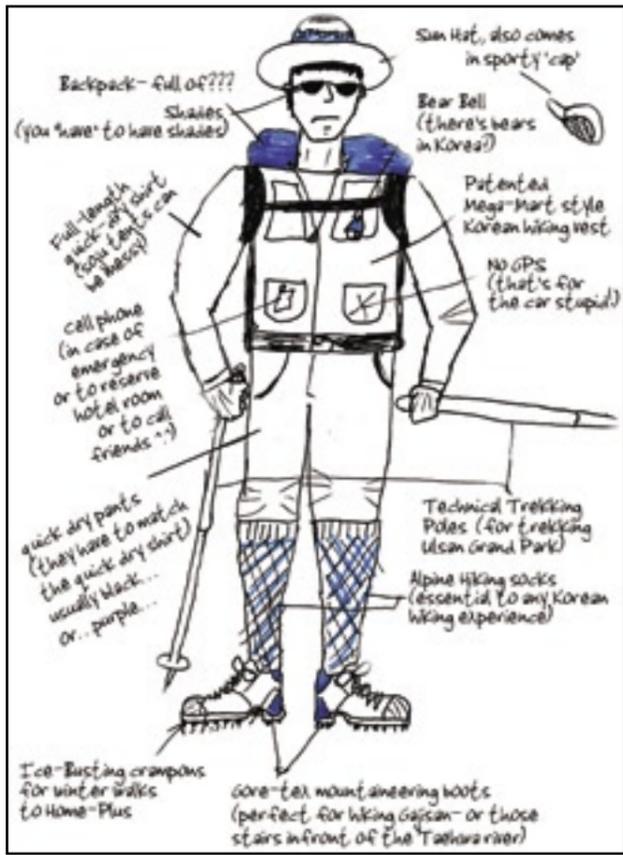


ILLUSTRATION BY JASON TEALE

Remember: JT = Me and A= Alice.

JT: "Okay, you have to tell me: why the socks? Every-hiker I see has these brightly coloured socks. Why?"

A: "Uhh...(laughing a little) They are for the scratches. You know when you are hiking there are sharp bushes and sticks. They also protect against dirt and dust, so your pants don't get dirty"

Basically they are gators. Westerners wear them to keep their legs warm and dry in wet areas. Ours are made from gore-tex or cordura, here they are simple and beautiful (okay well not so much beautiful...)

JT: "I have seen hikers wearing bells. Is that to scare away animals?"

A: "Can you imitate the noise that the bell makes?"

JT: "Uh... Ding, ding, ding..."

A: "Oh! That is for ghost busting. The ghosts in the mountain do not like the vibration that the bell makes and they either run away or (gesturing a ripping motion)..."

JT: "Get destroyed?"

A: "Yeah, that is it. Some people can see the ghosts and use a bell to get rid of them because sometimes

'I have seen hikers wearing bells. Is that to scare away animals?'

the ghosts can do bad things to people."

From what I got, the bells differ greatly here than in say, Canada, where one may wear a bell to warn a dozing bear that they are near, thus preventing an unwanted bear attack. Here they are used more for spiritual reasons, and with the number of tombs that seen on the hills, there may be something behind this ghost busting stuff.

JT: "What motivates you to hike?"

A: "First, health. Then training and stress relief."

She later quoted what I think was Sir Edmund Hillary's famous saying " Because it's there..." She also wrote me a note saying that from training she can get stronger and gain more energy. Lastly, she said that she wanted to be closer to nature. This I think is common with every one who loves hiking.

JT: "So tell me roughly what you bring on a typical hike?"

A: "Usually just water and some snacks (she later clarified that these are chocolate bars and things like that, so not kim-chi and rice, which was what I was thinking) and fruit for energy and of course... kim-bop."

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JT: "What do you normally wear?"

A: "Special hiking clothes that bring the sweat away from the skin."

JT: "Ah, so like a technical hiking fabric! Okay, well, where do you normally buy these clothes? At a specialty store, or at Home Plus?"

A: "Usually it depends on what I am buying. Both are good. Home Plus has good prices and Mega-Mart is good too."

'Oh! That is for ghost busting.'

JT: "Lastly, is there any piece of equipment that you would recommend?" (Fishing for answers like; a ghost-busting bear bell or the kick-ass hiking socks.)

A: "The special clothes. They make hiking in the mountain easier and more comfortable." (Crap, that was what I would have recommended too.)

So, what I learned from this interview was that, in this particular case, hiking in Korea is more of a spiritual matter than just trying to conquer nature in order to brag to your friends about how fast you completed it. Hiking here also seems to be more about exercise than an extreme sport as it gets so inappropriately labeled in the west by SUV driving pseudo-hippies. I would like to thank Alice for taking the time to talk with me, which no doubt made her late for her classes.

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...concrete jungle



PHOTO: DAVE HARVEY

Going down?

sion for epic stair descents. Either way I highly recommend tubeless tires.

'The premise is simple: terrorize the manmade mountain surrounding you.'

A helmet: This is not a safe sport, and concrete is far less forgiving than dirt or bushes. On my first ride here I flipped over the handlebars, going headfirst into a concrete wall, yet walked away with nothing but a smile and a busted helmet to show for it.

An imagination.

Where to go:

Munsu Stadium: Elevated on a hill, the Munsu stadium area offers everything from awesome staircases to underpasses to jumps. Remember that the trail around the lake is closed to bikes.

Ulsan University: A better place for weekend riding to avoid the crowds, the university offers much the same as Munsu stadium. Although you won't find staircases as big, you will find stairs that curve. But be careful, front tires don't always like to turn and descend at the same time.

Anywhere: Seriously, just grab your bike, a good pair of balls, an over inflated sense of immortality, and ride...

sokoredfury@yahoo.com



DID YOU KNOW?

Though Ulsan is the 'Industrial Capital of Korea', rice fields still account for more than double the amount of land held by factories within the city limits.

Source: Ulsan Metropolitan City

I NEED A BIG BOX (PART TWO)

BY JASON TEALE
THE ULSAN PEAR

Aram Mart

This place is balls. Too small to be considered a Big Box by my 3rd year university: "retail geography" definition, I thought that I'd throw this in to give some perspective.

Too big to be considered a corner store or even a "convenience" store it stocks little more than the average Wooleedle and the prices are about the same. My indignation comes from the numerous times that I have been duped into thinking they would have what I needed but have left with little more than a pair of "toe-socks" in hand and then had to brave the Korean traffic system in typhoon-style rain to get to



PHOTO: JASON TEALE

Home Plus or even Lotte Mart to get the things I need from the place I should have gone to the first time around. Solace comes from achon-won mini-pizza... or three.

The Lowdown: The place is nestled right by Sinbok Rotary and is good if you live in Mougeo-dong and are scooter, taxi, bus, or bipedally impaired. Or, you feel like walking past 15 LG-25's and 14 Wooleedles to get essentially the same items that they stock.

The Downfall: Well, I think that I have established that already and I don't want to beat on it anymore. Just go to Homeplus, Lotte-Mart, or Wal-mart to get your shit. It's just easier.



PHOTO: DAVE HARVEY

The Ulsan International Ministry Center opened its doors June 13th. Heather Miller

gives sermons and prayers in English. She is a Baptist missionary from Alabama who

has served in Burkina Faso for two years, as well as Burma and Thailand. The Mission is attracting an international crowd, offering services in English and Korean. Heather is seen here with Dr. Im Young Hoon and other members of the church. It is a great place to meet some friendly, open minded foreigners and Koreans.

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KOREAN CINEMA CORNER

With Dan Barham

Oh La La Sisters (2002)

DIRECTOR Park Je-hyeon
CAST: Lee Mi-suk, Cho Eun-ja, Kim Min, Na Hae Young
SUPPORTING ACTORS: Kim Hun Seo, Min Kun Hae, Kim Won-hie, Jang Mi-ok, Kim Geo-man, Kim Bo-sung



It's a comic ride from start to finish. Sure, at times the comedy skates along the edge of being a little too cheesy, and most of us aren't going to get all that excited over the k-pop interludes, but you'll still get plenty of laughs out of this movie. It's well worth watching. There is one scene where the sisters are lip syncing to 'Freak out!' that you won't know whether or not to be freaked out at, but Korean culture has a habit of doing that to you anyway.

If you want two hours of good comedy check out "Oh La La Sisters" at your local video store or DVD Bong. It beats a lot of the current comedy offerings out there.

A Tale of Two Nightclubs: the families of Club La La and Club Nemo have been feuding for the last two generations, both trying to get the upper hand and fighting for control of the local nightclub scene. Things are pretty evenly matched, until one night tragedy strikes and Club La la is out of control. Now the tables are

Things start looking up however, when Cho Eun-ja's sister Mi-ok (Kim Won-hee) returns from trying to make her way in the big bad world of entertainment, or something like that. She has decided that she likes it better at La La, and her return brings some new ideas and much needed energy to the club.

Kim Geo-man, still smarting from the beatings he used to receive from Cho Eun-jin as a child, is a laughable character who moves from scene to scene followed by his own cheering squad. He thwarts the sisters at every attempt they make to save the bar, but will he see his department store dreams realized?

This movie is a fun change from typical Korea Cinema. There is no gory fight scene, and there is no dopey love story. Instead it's just the tale of four scrappy friends who refuse to give up to the very end.

'A fun change from typical Korea Cinema.'

empty and the bills are piling up. Cho Eun-ja (Lee Mi-sook) has two weeks left to pay the bills before the bank forecloses. If not she'll have to sell the club to her rival Kim Geo-man (Kim Bo-sung) and see her childhood home, (it has an apartment upstairs) and all her memories demolished to become a department store. This is a fate she will fight at all costs.

FILTHY SAYS

Tombstone

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- Free pool, darts and internet music
- An elevator for those not too sound of foot.



Filthy gives TOMBSTONE bar: 4 Shamrocks out of 5

WHERE THE F*CK IS EVERYONE?

WITH FILTHY O'NASTY

Tombstone Bar

The first drink I ever had in Ulsan was at Tombstone Bar on St. Patrick's Day 2002. Now I'm glad to report that many drinks and a couple changes of ownership later, Tombstone is still alive and kicking.



PHOTO: JASON TEALE

Situated in the heart of downtown Mugeodong, walk the street parallel to the main street until you come to a bar called "Fuzy." Turn left at this corner, look up to your left and on the third floor you'll see a small sign with 'Tombstone' written on it.

It's a spacious joint with plenty of room for drinking, dancing, free pool and darts. It also has internet music behind the counter, and free side dishes, including popcorn. Tombstone has good draught beer: a large pitcher costs 6,000 won.

Bottled beer is along the usual lines with Korean stuff starting at 3,000 won and imports from 4,000 and up. Shots start at 3,000 won.

This bar has been going for over 10 years and has established a good mix of Korean and Western punters. Many young trendy Koreans from the nearby University scene hang out here. You can also meet many of Ulsan's more seasoned Western campaigners here. Apart from having a good time and chat with these guys, they are a goldmine of information for any newcomers to the Ulsan scene. Wednesday night seems to be a particu-

larly good one at Tombstone. On occasion there are pool competitions.

I have always enjoyed Tombstone, and find the atmosphere friendly and relaxed. Indeed on one infamous occasion there after a World Cup soccer match a crowd of us proceeded to drink the bar dry. It was a good thing on that night and many others that there is an elevator from the ground floor to Tombstone. Be assured Tombstone is well stocked these days with good beer, so don't be thirsty, and check it out.

Where the F*ck is everyone? Know of a happening new joint? Tell us where it is and we'll send our crack team of alcoholics and social misfits to investigate and get you the straight goods. info@ulsanpear.biz

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TRIATHLON THANKFULLY DIDN'T INVOLVE SWIMMING THE TAEHWA



Well, it wasn't World Cup or Olympic caliber athletics, but Ulsan's waygook population came out in strength and numbers for Ulsan's first ever multi-national foreigners' triathlon June 27. Like everything in Korea, this "triathlon" had a unique twist, pitting seven teams from six countries against each other in soccer, rugby and ultimate frisbee. The teams also competed the week before in a table quiz at McKenzie's. Participants came out to the fields by the Taehwa river on a humid Sunday afternoon to back their country's bid for first place. An afternoon of sometimes ferocious competition and marathon beer consumption saw the English team defeat the New Zealanders in a heated final match-up. ~EK

PHOTOS: DAVE HARVEY



PHOTO: DAVE HARVEY

Dude...Which way to the beach?

Hitting the Beach: Korean Style

BY EILEEN KEAST
THE ULSAN PEAR
INTERVIEWEE: DAN BARHAM

For me and millions of other westerners raised on t.v. classics like "Baywatch" and "Saved by the Bell," summer means hitting the beach. At home and abroad, I've logged countless hours worshipping sun, sand and surf.

This will be my first summer in Korea, and while I'm looking forward to checking out what the local beaches have to offer, I'm a little apprehensive about what to expect. I haven't been here very long, but I've already learned that Koreans do things in ways that westerners find, well...odd.

Determined not to make any faux pas during my first

Korean beach experience, I turned to my good friend and two and a half year Ulsan veteran expat, Dan, an international beach connoisseur in his own right, for the scoop on the local beach action.

E: First off, Dan, what beaches are there in the area?

D: There's three beaches in the area: the Jujeon shore, Ilsan beach, and Jinha beach.

The Jujeon shore is the coastline along the road from Ulsan to Gyeongju, and consists mostly of black pebble beaches. The pebbles make lounging in the sun an uncomfortable option, and the water's a little cold for swimming. That said, the scenery's okay, it's

a nice drive to get out there on a hot summer's day, especially if you're on a scooter, but it's not the greatest place to hang out. I'd say it's not worth the visit if you don't have your own wheels.

Ilsan beach is the closest beach to Ulsan proper. It's

'Needless to say, swimming is NOT recommended here'

out in Bangeojin, right by the HHI shipyards. And I mean right by the shipyards. At one end of the beach you'll get a nice view of trees and the park around Ulgi lighthouse, but at the other you'll be treated to a eyeeful of cranes, warehouses,

and industrial smokestacks. Needless to say, swimming is NOT recommended here. I know of someone who actually had to get an operation after picking up an ear infection while swimming at Ilsan beach. It's a good place to hang out on a summer's night, as there's lots of bars and soju tents either on or nearby the beach, but there's definitely no frolicking in the surf.

'This is what you'll need to blend in with the crowd'

Ulsan's third beach, Jinha, located between Ulsan and Busan just off highway 31, is actually quite nice. It's got a one kilometre long strip of decent sand, and is located far enough away from Ulsan's industrial complexes for swimming. There's also a good selection of coffee shops, bars, convenience stores and restaurants in the strip just off the beach. All this comes at a price, however. Once the official summer season starts in July, you'll be sharing the beach with 50,000 Koreans out for seaside family picnics. It's still not as crowded as Busan's Haeundae Beach, though, which you'll find packed at 1 am on busy summer nights.

E: How do I prepare for a day out at a Korean beach?

D: First, gather together all your usual beach gear: bikini, sarong, tanning oil, frisbee, volleyball, beer cooler

and portable tunes. Now, after taking one last wistful look at them, pack them into a box and send them home.

E: Yikes. What is considered standard beach gear in Korea?

D: This is what you'll need to blend in with the crowd: a giant visor, SPF 60 sunscreen, a shapeless and completely concealing sundress or long-sleeved shirt, and a well-organized family picnic, complete with mini-barbecue and aluminum blanket. A large group of friends and a couple pitchers of Hite will do as substitutes for the last of couple items.

E: Right. I think I anticipated from the abundance of skin whitening products available here that this is not a sun-worshipping culture. But if I want to wear my bikini at the beach to catch a tan, will I offend anyone?

D: You'll probably get gawked at, but that's about all. If you're not comfortable with that, I'd say you're better off at the pool in the foreigners' compound in Bangeojin. However, there have been sightings of Korean women wearing bikinis at Haeundae this year, and the Speedo, while mainly confined to swimming pools, has been known to make an appearance at the beach.

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- Pepper Steak
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- Fried Chicken
- Baked Chicken
- Pork Chops
- Chicken Salad

Side Dishes for W10 000

- Mashed Potatoes
- Fried Mushrooms
- Onion Rings
- Homefries + Bread



Testing the waters....

PHOTO: DAVE HARVEY

E: What's there to do at the beach?

D: Like I said, the main event for Koreans is the family picnic. You'll see a lot of people wading, but Koreans aren't generally big swimmers. That shouldn't stop you from jumping in. Likewise, if you're into beach sports, bring your own equipment, although on busy weekends you may have a hard time finding enough space to play in. Otherwise, there's fireworks

available at all the beaches, no shortage of soju, and, at places like Haeundae, there are even jet-skis for rent.

E: What's your final word on the Korean beach scene?

D: If you want to have the typical western summer experience, stick to the pool at the foreigners' compound. Otherwise, get out there, catch some rays, and see a bit more of what this city has to offer.

How to get to Ulsan's beaches:

The Jujeon Shore: Catch bus No. 1-2, 102, 112, or 126 from Ulsan Station or the intercity bus terminal, and transfer at Gonguptap Rotary to either No.306 or 601 to Jujeonmaeul. If you've got wheels, just drive north along the coast road towards Gyeong-ju.

'There have been sightings of Korean women wearing bikinis at Haeundae this year'

Ilsan Beach: Catch bus No. 1-2, 102 from Ulsan Station or the Intercity Bus Terminal. If you've got wheels, drive south towards the Hyundai Department Store in Bangeojin, and follow the road signs.

Jinha Beach: Catch bus No. 102, 305, 314, or 317 from Ulsan Station to Gonguptap, and transfer there to No.62 or 77 to Jinha. From the Intercity Bus Terminal, take the No.62 direct to Jinha. If driving, first take highway 14 towards Busan, turn left onto the 31, and follow the signs.

emkeast@alumni.sfu.ca

GETTING OUT OF ULSAN

Your ticket out of this city for a day



PHOTO: DAVE HARVEY

Kings at rest...

BY FIN MADDEN
THE ULSAN PEAR

Just to the North of Ulsan lies Gyeongju, the former capital of the Silla Dynasty. A dynasty of scholars and builders, almost every historical or cultural site in this corner of the peninsula is owed to the people of the Silla culture. Gyeongju is littered with historic sites, museums and monuments. Bulguksa temple is the most famous in Korea and is an UNESCO World Heritage site. Even on rainy days the temple sees crowds of tourists running around snapping self-portraits with their camera phones. Getting away from the crowds in Gyeongju is pretty easy. If you want to stay away from hordes of people, stay away from Bulguksa. Instead, go on a walking tour of the downtown.

The Silla kings were buried in giant mound tombs.

These tombs sprout up across Gyeongju like zits on a teenager before the prom. The main collection of these tombs is seen at Tumuli Park, which has piped music and a hollowed out tomb. For a more private and touching experience with the past kings of the land, head to the tombs of King Taejong Muyeol or the Oreung Royal tombs. On a sunny Saturday afternoon one can find oneself alone with nothing but grass under one's feet and green mounds all around. Many of the sites require a ticket, which costs a few hundred won, but there are also many parks with tombs rising out of them that are completely free.

They call Gyeongju a museum without walls, and it is a pretty fair name. There is the National Museum, which is worth checking out on a rainy day, but stay outside if the sun is shining. The city is filled with

beautiful grass lawns that you can actually walk on. There is English on every signpost in the city. For a true day of exploration and relaxation, you can rent bicycles near the bus station, train station and tourist information booth. There is also a city bus tour for those with less energy, but it is a city designed for the cyclist with wide sidewalks and slow moving traffic.

How to get there: The vehicle-less should head to the Intercity bus station next to Lotte Multiplaza. Hop on the bus to Gyeongju. They cost 3400 won and leave every 20 minutes. If that is not convenient, nothing is. By scooter or other modes of transportation just head up Hwy 7, from Ulsan Station it will take you 45 minutes or so, depending on traffic and driving habits.

NOW, FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

BY MATT WURDEMAN
CONTRIBUTOR

I now pose a new challenge to the good people of Ulsan. Not so much a challenge really, but an opportunity to embrace a time honored tradition of self-pride: Naked Thursday. Forged in Ketchikan, Alaska, the 3rd rainiest place in the world, Naked Thursday gave all involved a sense of pride, a sense of freedom. In short, it gave us purpose.

The premise is simple. On Thursday, get naked - in front of people. Preferably friends, but strangers work

as well. After that it's up to you. Some may be inclined to run, others might prefer a leisurely gait. Either way, it's a beautiful thing.

Some, or actually most, of you are probably wondering, "Now, why would I want to get naked, and why on Thursday?" I understand your concerns. The girls in our apartment warmed to Naked Thursdays very slowly. Why would you want to get naked? But "Why not?" is the real question. As for Thursdays, what ever happens on a Thursday? It's such a dull day. Thursday

needs some spice, some pancha.

I realize that since most of us live alone, a good opportunity is not always there. The solution; invite a group of friends over, and watch your shock value shoot through the roof. I must warn you however, Naked Thursdays invariably lead to ill-fated relationships, incriminating photos, being nicknamed "The Red Fury," traumatized Alf dolls, a better self image, and ultimately, peace of mind.

This world needs leaders. Next Thursday, will you be one?



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Momma always told you to...

Summer Safety tips from the Pear

BY MIKE WEBER
THE ULSAN PEAR

Ah, the sweetness that is summer. Summertime can be a blast, but remember that any good time can easily turn sour. It's all fun and games until someone gets soju pumped out of their stomach. Here's a few easy tips on how to make this summer safe and healthy:

1.) Use sun block. Didn't you get that stupid email about the sun block a few years back? Not using sun block means you'll die of skin cancer within a few weeks. Undisputed scientific fact. You'll die. Also, be warned that Koreans will stop and stare at a sun-burned waygook like (s)he's got three heads.

2.) Be careful about the mosquitoes. They're small and fast and smarter than a lot of people I know. They want your blood. Mosquito nets do wonders. Bug spray with deet is de rigueur for hiking and camping.

3.) Most crime happens at night, and in the summer, more people are out at night. While Ulsan is generally as safe a neighborhood as Vatican City, there certainly have been incidents. Be wary of roving drunks, dark alleys, drunk drivers, etc. Keep your eyes open. Lock up your stupid scooter. Also, buy a gun.

4.) Should the occasion arise, use a jimmy hat. It just makes sense.

5.) And of course, the number one danger to people is, and always has been, themselves. Nobody wants to see Darwin justified in any dramatic ways (well, yeah maybe we do, but still. . .), so exercise your own good judgment. Just because you can do twelve shots of tequila doesn't mean you should.

6.) Stay out of the river.

Here's to hoping everybody has an enjoyable, and safe, summer. Take care, and don't get hurt.

expatriatemike@yahoo.com

EVENT CALENDAR

This is where you can find what's happening, who's meeting and who to talk to about anything in Ulsan.

BOOK CLUB- Meeting once a month at McKenzie's to discuss, critique and rave about a pre-selected book.

More info: emkeast@alumni.sfu.ca

DRAMA GROUP- Welcome to anyone who is interested in the production of a play to debut in September. Meet at the statue in front of Ulsan University (Mugeodong) Sundays at 6pm

More info: sokoredfury@yahoo.com

The Youth Orchestra of Belvedere
벨베데어 청소년 오케스트라 연주회

7월 12일 (월) 저녁 7시 30분 | 현대예술관
7:30 p.m., Monday, July 12 at Hyundai Arts Center

Ticket : Hyundai Arts Center Desk
Lee Jin(leejin26@hhi.co.kr)
Tel. 052-230-2344, 018-529-5564
<http://www.hyundai-artscenter.co.kr/>

HASH HOUSE HARRIERS- Every second Sunday (July 4, 18, Aug 1) this drinking group with a running problem meets at the foreigners compound in Bangeojin.

More info: blakegc@attglobal.net

JAM SESSION- Always open to newcomers, this musically driven group meets most Saturday nights at 11 at Woodstock bar.

RUGBY- Most Sundays touch rugby matches happen on the shores of the Taehwa river.

More info: ulsanrugby@yahoo.co.uk

SOCCER- The Wonshot Wanderers are back and play various teams around the city.

More info: wonshotwanderers@hotmail.com

There are also pick-up soccer games that happen in Mugeodong on Tuesday mornings at 10.

More info: buckleyj7@hotmail.com

STREET HOCKEY- Hockey in Korea? A number of people play in the Taehwa-dong area, sticks are available.

More info: ohsowright02@yahoo.com

ULTIMATE FRISBEE- New players always welcome, Ultimate Frisbee is played on the riverside by the Taehwa hotel every Sunday at 4pm.

More info: usluts@yahoo.com

WRITERS GROUP- Every other Wednesday (July 7, 21, Aug 4). Share your work, critique, be heard or just listen at McKenzie's.

More info: expatriatemike@yahoo.com

If you have any events you would like listed here, let us know: info@ulsanpear.biz

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