



THE ULSAN PEAR

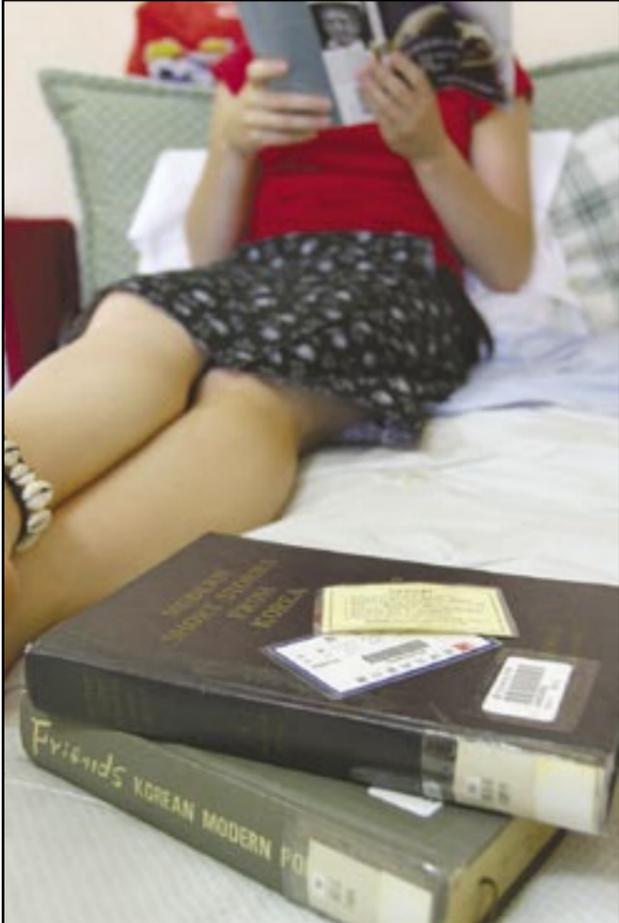
VOL. I ISSUE V

an urban survival guide to the industrial capital of korea

AUGUST 2004

CHECKING IT OUT

The Pear researches an underused city resource



BY EILEEN KEAST
THE ULSAN PEAR

I was shocked to discover, while researching Ulsan's four public libraries, that their total collection came in at under 400,000 books. That is a ratio of almost three people for each publicly owned book in the city - not a promising statistic.

One of my Korean colleagues, who spent six months studying in Toronto, bemoaned the state of Ulsan's public libraries. "They're terrible in comparison [to Canada's]," she said, "There's not enough funding for them."

Hence the profusion of "book-bangs" throughout the city: small book-rental businesses usually attached to a stationery or convenience store. You may have

noticed them as a side business at your video store.

However, if you don't compare Ulsan's public libraries with their better-funded western counterparts, you'll find that they do have some good resources to offer the foreign community.

Both the Nambu and Jungbu libraries have small but surprisingly diverse collections of English-language books. Besides the requisite *Harry Potter* and *Lord of the Rings*, both have a number of the usual Wordsworth Classics that you'd find at the local bookstores, as well as a few more recent paperbacks.

In my opinion, the real find was the collection of Eng-

LIVELY GROUP TO SHINE ON STAGE

An introduction to the Hae Kom Players

BY MATT WURDEMAN
CONTRIBUTOR

When I first moved to Korea, I expected the foreign teacher population to consist of far more Theatre majors. Because, let's face it, no one really wanted to hire us back home. After a couple months here, I found that not to be the case. The expats here come from as diverse an array of studies as any. What I also found was a theatrical creative void, most a pity.

But then along came the Hae Kom Players. Translated as the Sun Bear Players, they're Ulsan's premier and only foreign theatre troupe. The group was

started about three months ago by Jen McDonald and Rachele Miron to fill that void. "Basically we just wanted to do anything creative," said Jen. They started out meeting every Sunday to do scene work and other acting workshops but since the troupe has grown, they have decided to put on a fully staged production.

24-five, starring John Buckley, Jen McDonald, Rachele Miron, Emily Thompson, Patrick Smith and myself, Matt Wurdeman has been performed in New York, San Diego and Colorado, and will be making its international debut some time

SEE ELEPHANT PAGE 5

Did you say free internet?

PHOTO: DAVE HARVEY

SEE AMELIA PAGE 2

HISTORY AT YOUR DOORSTEP

A guide to three museums across the city

BY FIN MADDEN
THE ULSAN PEAR

Gyeongju is a museum without walls; Ulsan is a factory without history. That is the commonly accepted concept among for-

eigners and Koreans alike.

Few people who live in Ulsan have lived here for more than a generation. With the growth of Hyundai in the last few decades, what was a

small town has boomed and become the seventh largest city in the country. People have flocked here from across the peninsula and the world. These people bring their own histories and their own stories with them, be they from Jeollado or Nor-

'There are even some life-sized models of ancient Koreans.'

way, and remain ignorant of the history of the area. Three museums in Ulsan commemorate the long, long history of this river valley. Unlike a Tarantino movie, I will start at the beginning.

The OkHyun Museum, snuggled away 500 m directly behind the McDonald's in Mugeodong, is a recent addition to the museum scene in Ulsan. There are two buildings with a beautiful stone amphitheatre built behind.

The facilities are modern, clean and empty. The exhibits include a number of stone age tools, models of dig sites and many photos of locations of stone age sites in Ulsan. Most of these sites were uncovered during the recent building boom.

SEE HISTORICAL PAGE 8



Is that an ancient hand phone?

PHOTO: FIN MADDEN



Hae Kom Players bearing grins

PHOTO: DAVE HARVEY

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

What's inside **PETROGLYPHS MUSEUM TOUR** **BUSAN'S UNIVERSITY DISTRICT** **DRAMA GROUP** **WRITERS' GROUP** **WON SHOTS and the UGLIES**

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REVIEWS: restaurant: **XIAN** bar: **ROYAL ANCHOR** movie: **OLD BOY**



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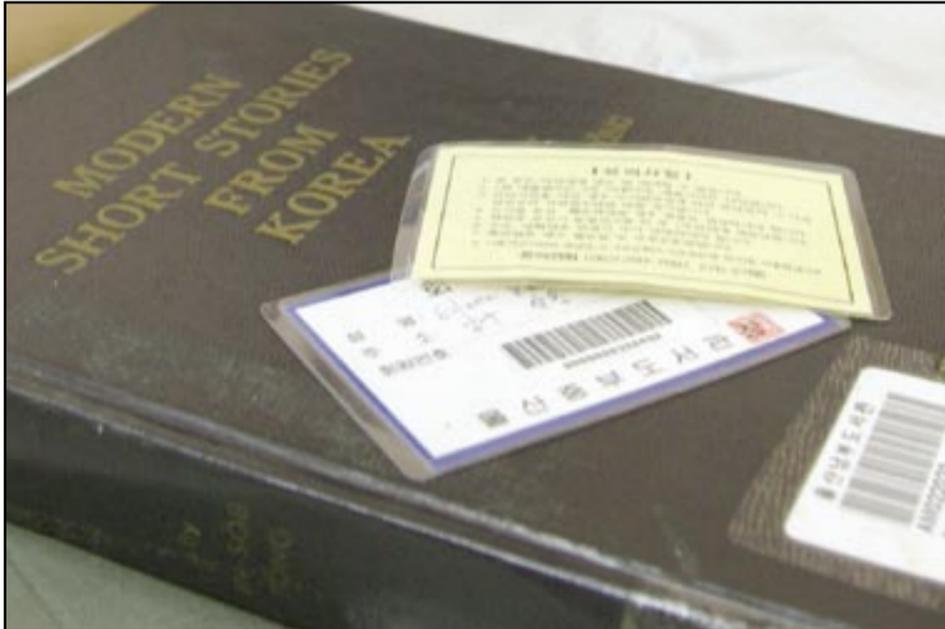
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Amelia Bedelia and more. . .



Titles include 'How the cell phone stuck to her ear' PHOTO: DAVE HARVEY

lish translations of Korean fiction and poetry.

For teachers looking to alleviate the monotony of their hagwon curriculum, both libraries also have good collections of children's books in English. (Although I'm not sure that Amelia Bedelia translates as well cross-culturally as Harry Potter.)

On swelteringly humid days when your shoebox apartment starts to feel like a sauna, the multimedia room at the library offers a cool retreat. There are fast, free internet connections (as a friend of mine asked "do Koreans KNOW about this?"), and a selection of DVD's (mostly Hollywood) that you can view on one of

the widescreen TV's right there. Unfortunately, you can't take DVD's out of the library.

Applying for a library card is easy. Just present your alien card at the reference desk, and they will issue you a card on the spot. Books can be borrowed for two weeks.

I tried, for the sake of research, to find out how much the overdue fine is, but there either is none or Korean politeness prevented my being fined. It may well be that it's as hard for a foreigner to get a library fine as it is to get a traffic ticket in this city.

The university library in Muguedong is by far the

best in terms of its English language book collection. After a few months of book deprivation, its shelves full of Shakespeare, D.H. Lawrence, Keats and late twentieth century lesbian literary criticism may well have you weeping in joy.

It is harder to get a library card here. I showed up with my alien card, driver's license, and passport, and was told to come back with a photo and a 'certificate of employment' signed by my employer. Jumping through the hoops is well worth it, however, as this library will provide even the most avid reader with many a rainy weekend's worth of books.

Dear Readers,

Another month has gone by already. I hope you are surviving the rainy season and summer heat with a sense of humour. With the humid summer in full swing, the Pear staff has found numerous activities to keep you occupied- many of which have free flowing air conditioning.

This issue brings you stories that hopefully portray some of the 'higher-culture' of Ulsan and its environs. We encourage you to get out and explore this city we call home and report back to us on your findings. From petroglyphs to the libraries, to museums, bars and restaurants, Ulsan has a lot to offer.

Thanks for picking up the paper and taking the time to read it. If you have any suggestions, drop us a line, or post a thread in the forums of our website (www.ulsanpear.biz).

Thanks,



Dave Harvey
 info@ulsanpear.biz

명함나라 인쇄 · 고속복사 · 제본

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The library is easy to find. Just go straight up the main university drive. It's in the first building on your left when you come to the statue in the middle of the road. Go upstairs to the second floor to find the entrance.

Ulsan's two largest libraries are centrally located. To get to the Jungbu library, go straight through Shigetop away from the river, and turn left at the T- intersection. Follow the road up and to the right. The library is on the left past the park. For the Nambu library, head away from Gonguptap towards Munsu Stadium. Turn right immediately after the second pedestrian overpass, then left again after 100 metres. The library is on your left.

The Dongbu library in Bangeojin was closed at the time of research, but was scheduled to re-open in late July. It is well sign posted.

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THE ULSAN PEAR™
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WRITING ON THE WALL

Decipher the ancient graffiti of Ulsan



PHOTO: DAVE HARVEY

Reproductions at Munsu Stadium

BY JOHN BUCKLEY
THE ULSAN PEAR

Perhaps I got the job of writing about Ulsan's oldest form of high-art because I was the oldest person at the meeting. I don't know, but it certainly turned out to be a lot more difficult than I anticipated but also a lot more interesting than I imagined.

To cut to the chase, after hours of tediously interviewing an eclectic range of native Ulsanites, including academics, businessmen and old ajummas, it appears that none of them knows of any art form in and around Ulsan, indeed Korea in general, that pre-dates petroglyphs.

Most dictionaries define a petroglyph as a carving or

line drawing on rock, especially one made by prehistoric people. The definition may be simple but this art form is indeed intricate, awesome and ancient.

Such is the rocky topography of Korea that it has one of the highest concentrations of petroglyphs in the world, and indeed some of the most impressive. Ulsan has two major petroglyph sites, one at Cheonjeon in Ulju and the other at Bangudae in Daegok-ri.

At Cheonjeon-ri there are numerous carvings of circles, mud snails, deer, fish, birds, snakes and even human faces. These are done in the Myeonjjogi technique (completely chiselling out

'Korea...has one of the highest concentration of petroglyphs per country in the world.'

the inside of the object). There are also various geometrical designs done in the Seonjjogi technique (chiselling just an outline). 'Bawigeurim' refers to pictures painted on the rock whereas 'Amgakhwa' refers to pictures carved on the rock.

Some of these petroglyphs date from the later Old Stone Age, but the most typical are from the New Stone Age and the Bronze Age. They are, in most cases, interpreted as symbols for rites of fertility and abundance. The pictures of a cavalry parade, sailing

'There are numerous carvings of circles, mud snails, deer, fish, birds, snakes and even human faces.'

boats, dragons, horses, deer, and more than 300 characters on the lower part of the rock were left by the people of the Three Kingdoms and the Unified Silla periods, indicating that this place has been regarded as holy since the Three Kingdoms Period.

At Bangudae the style of petroglyphs is similar. They also mainly date from the New Stone Age. Here you can also see whales, turtles, seals and other sea animals. While most of the pictures are carved on one ten-meter-wide and three-meter-high rock, there exist here about ten rocks in total which have petroglyphs. These huge rocks are considered sacred by many people and are seen as a site where

people may have gathered to perform rituals.

To get to the Bangudae Petroglyphs head out to Eonyang on Hwy 24. Take Hwy 35 north for about 12 km. There is a small road off to the right with a small brown sign for Bandugae petroglyphs. Follow this road until the very end. It gets small and muddy, and stops after about 4 km. At the end of this road is a small

parking lot and a short hiking trail into the site. The petroglyphs are across the Daegok river from here, inaccessible and submerged for part of the year (swimming across is not advised). Consult the tourist office for directions to Cheonjeon-ri. For further reading on the ancient high-art of Petroglyphs the web sites below are recommended.

buckleyj7@hotmail.com

- <http://myhome.shinbiro.com/~kbyon/petro/petro.htm>
- <http://www.nps.gov/petr/>
- <http://www.ohiohistory.org/places/leopetro/>
- <http://www.highspeedplus.com/~edonon/horse.html>

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Restaurant Review: Xian



PHOTO: JASON TEALE

Watch out for the creamy crap meat. . .

BY DANIEL CURLEY
CONTRIBUTOR

Xian Food & Drinks, 221 - 0343

(located a block away from Tombstone Bar)

Although not entirely fine dining, Xian, located in Mugeo-dong close to Ulsan University, offers a nice selection of foods. Limited really, but quite good all the same. The main fare centers on spaghetti, with four kinds of sauces and assorted mēlanges, and is complemented by side dishes that range from nachos, the Ko-

rean equivalent to mozzarella sticks and a fried shrimp salad.

The main dishes come with a garden salad (a bit of a misnomer, but still enjoyable), a few pieces of garlic bread and your choice of beverage, beer included, all at a price of 8,000 won. Prices for side dishes range from 5,000 to 15,000 won and 7,000 to 10,000 for main dishes. The pay scale seems a bit off, as does their selection of wine, but most of the side plates are overpriced versions of traditional hof food anyway.

The interior is simple, radiating at least an attempt at sophistication, and there is a four table patio out front which is really nice during the warmer months, but it is indeed a shame about the view.

The service is great, and the servers, who are also the owners, speak a little English, which is unnecessary but still really appreciated. They are open quite late for a non-bar kind of establishment. If this review were based around an imaginary restaurateur scale, which it isn't, Xian would rate about



DID YOU KNOW?

Ulsan has more than 21,000 post-secondary students, most of whom reside in the Mugeo-dong area. This makes it a hot spot for many new bars and restaurants.

Source: Ulsan Metropolitan City

a 3 out of 5. The food is very good, the people are friendly and the menu has been translated into English with only one simple, but tremendously funny, spelling mistake. Go, enjoy, just don't order the cream sauce with crap meat.

dangacurley@hotmail.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

HAE KOM PLAYERS- 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

HASH HOUSE HARRIERS- Every second Sunday (Aug 14, 28, Sept 4) 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- The Ulsan Ugliers meet most Sundays to play touch rugby. Matches happen on the shores of the Taehwa river.
More info: ulsanrugby@yahoo.co.uk

SOCCER- The Won Shot Wanderers are back and play various teams around the city.
More info: wonshotwanderers@hotmail.com

There are also pick-up soccer games 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

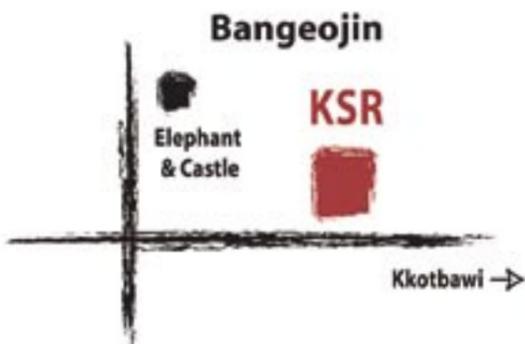
WRITERS' GROUP- Every other Wednesday (Aug 4, 18, Sept 1). Share your work, critique, be heard or just listen at McKenzie's.
More info: sokoredfury@yahoo.com

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

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KOREAN CINEMA CORNER

With Dan Barham

OLD BOY
(2003)

DIRECTOR:
Chan-wook Park

CAST:
Oh Dae Su: Min sik Choi
Lee Woo Jin: Ji Tea Tu
Mido: Hye Jeong Kang



states, "You could kill me now, but you would never know why." Instead, Woon Jin makes a deal: if he can figure out why he was imprisoned, then Woon Jin will kill himself. If not, he will kill Mido.

This movie is full of twists and turns, as these two men try to exact their revenge and rationalize their evils throughout the movie. The cinematography is excellent, and the director makes narrative voiceovers a seamless part of the movie and not the crutch that they often are. The movie is dark and yet sympathetic.

Chan Wook Park takes us on a journey that shows how ordinary people end up doing unspeakable things under pressure. He takes revenge and explores it with a remarkably sympathetic view. Be forewarned: this movie contains some scenes and plot twists that are shocking, disturbing, and graphic. This is a film about revenge, after all.

'Old Boy' comes from the same people who produced 'JSA' and 'Sympathy for Mr. Vengeance' - two other excellent films, and has the distinction of having won the Grand Prize at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival. 'Old Boy' is excellent film making and is definitely worth your time.

Imagine you are standing at a phone booth one night. You've just finished talking to your daughter, "Don't worry honey. . .Daddy will be home soon." The next thing you know, you wake up locked in a strange room.

No idea how you got there, no idea how long you're going to have to stay there, and most importantly of all, no idea why you are there. Your only companion for the seemingly infinite days and nights that you spend in this room is an old TV. The only way that you can keep track of time, or of history, is through the sitcoms and news reports that cross the screen.

One line in the movies sums this relationship up: "It becomes your friend, lover, and entertainer, though you are never satisfied with the company." One day the television announces that your wife is dead, and you are the prime suspect as some of your blood was found at the scene.

It's impossible, but you see the needle mark on your arm where the blood must have come from. Then suddenly, after fifteen years, you wake up in a suitcase on the roof of an apartment complex built on the very spot you were abducted from. Free, but what do you do next?

When 'Oh Dae Su' played by Choi Min Sik, finds himself suddenly free with a wallet full of cash and a new cell phone in his pocket, he must try to answer the questions 'who did this to him', and 'why did they do it?' He stumbles into a sushi restaurant for his first meal and ends up telling the girl behind the counter, 'Mido' Hye Jeong Kang, about his ordeal.

Mido, a tortured soul herself, decides to help him in his quest to find answers. After coming in contact with his captor via the phone and an eventual meeting, Dae Su confronts his kidnapper, Lee Woon Jin (Ji Tae Yu) who simply

WHERE THE F*CK IS EVERYONE?

WITH FILTHY O'NASTY

The Royal Anchor



PHOTO: BENNETT HO

The romance, the intrigue and the drinking. The Royal Anchor is not so much known for its romantic interludes, but more for its drinking habits or the habits of its drinkers. As for the intrigue, what intrigues me is how I got home from there last night.

The Royal Anchor is a well known watering hole in old down town. The Anchor, as it is commonly known, is located a couple of hundred meters from the May department store directly up the street. The second floor bar is well sign posted and is much easier to find than many others.

The Anchor is the type of place where you can sit and have a couple or more drinks, whilst trying to escape the heat of the summer evenings. Many of Ulsan's past and present beautiful people grace the wall, sure to put you off your meals for some time.

One of the attractions of the Anchor is that there

is always somebody there to have a chat with, and either teach you how to drink in Ulsan or let you know what not drink, in order to get home in one piece. I've always enjoyed walking home from there in an absolute mess.

As with all bars and clubs in Ulsan, prices start at around 3000w for domestic beers and slowly head upwards for international beers. Besides beer, there is a good selection of harder beverages. Many of these are not found in other bars, so if you are after something different it could be worthwhile stopping here.

With a name such as the Royal Anchor, it is only appropriate that they offer his and her's royal thrones. This everyday item that we take for granted is not so common in many of the bars in

Ulsan. If nature is calling, stop into the Anchor, do that thing you do, have a drink and head on from there. It has to be better than taking on the dreaded dungeon facilities.

Music choice at the Anchor is good. There is a huge variety of MP3's to choose from. Apart from the drinking, the thrones and the music, there is also a pool table to battle on. I have always encountered somebody to challenge over the green felt. If kicking off your Sunday shoes is more your thing, there is also a salsa dancing group that meets regularly. For more details contact the Anchor.

The next time you are in the downtown area, stop in and have a drink.

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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ELEPHANT INSIDE THE SNAKE

... from Lively Group page 1

in September at The Ulsan University in Mugeodong.

Inspired by *The Little Prince* and *Camus' The Stranger*, 24-five is a collaborative theatre/movement piece about loneliness and separation and the notion that in the face of utter desperation and despondency, unity, realism, and peace are just within our grasp. All we need to do is open our eyes wide enough to see the elephant inside the snake.

The Hae Kom Players invite anyone interested to join us. We could always use some fresh faces. We will be need-

ing a lot of help with the upcoming production and also have some side Guerilla Theatre projects planned over the next few months.

We meet Saturdays at 6:30pm at the statues at the entrance to the university. So whether you're a techie, an equity actor or just looking to do something creative with your time, come check us out. Because a void is only as big as those not wishing to fill it.

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BEXCO/EXCO COMING EVENTS

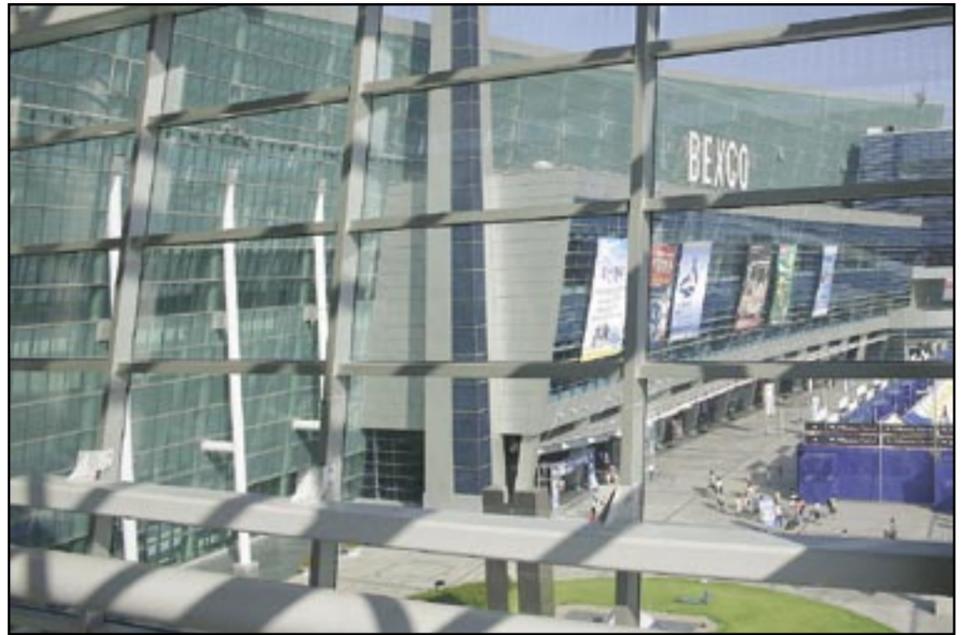


PHOTO: JASON TEALE

What was that about people in glass houses throwing stones?

BY JASON TEALE
THE ULSAN PEAR

So you are in Busan or Daegu and you want something to do. If you are bored and need to get out of town and forgot to read the last issue of the Pear, read on. Here are some up-coming and current events from the Bexco and Exco people to whet your appetite.

BEXCO - Busan

Right now you have got the "Amazing Body Adventure" (bet ya had one of those last night!... ugh I did...) and the "Science Adventure" They go until mid August.

August 15th to September 23rd: The Beer Island Festival! Yeah, that is right. You can foster your addictions, kill you liver with "international beer" and pass out on the beach!

August 13th to the 22nd: this is the event of the century: the International Furniture Show: Yippee... Just think of the excitement... Couches with phlegm green stripe patterns, Erica Pac-arri dust ruffles, and those asian-esque paper lamp made by the hard working indigenous people of...Minnesota.

August 19th to the 22nd: Just when every Korean male thought it was safe to go out again, The Wedding Fair is here!!! How cutie ^.^

EXCO - Daegu

September 10th to the 19th: The 7th Annual Korea Tourist Souvenir. I do not know what the Souvenir is, but I am sure it will be cutie in classic Korean Anime style.

September 14 to the 16th: The Family Mart Convention. You can meet the poor people who work there until

6 am. You know, the ones that you buy your beer and dried squid from. Fun, fun, fun...

August 13 to the 15th The Denpo International Game Show. Pat Sayjack and Bob Ubanks will not be present for this one but that's okay right? This is actually a showcase for all of the latest games and electronic toys. I am also sure that there will be shit loads of Star Craft and anime characters to keep you happy... geeks.

That's it for now. If you'd like and further information please check out their web-sites at <http://www.bexco.co.kr/eng/index.php> and <http://www.excodeagu.co.kr/2002eng/index.asp>. They are in English but the descriptions of the events are in Korean so that sucks. Cheers!

jasonteale37@hotmail.com

POETRY, PROSE, CHEERS AND BEERS

BY MIKE WEBER
THE ULSAN PEAR

For several years, the Ulsan Writers' Group has been a crossroads for poets, writers, artists and musicians. There has been an astonishing output of quality material at these meetings, and the Group shows no signs of slowing down.

The Group was started a few years back by Ulsan expatriates as an outlet for creative energy, and to give various writers a chance to meet and socialize with fellow wordsmiths. Almost from the start, there was a very diverse collection of writing styles, spanning continents and generations.

At any given meeting, you might hear poetry, prose, nonfiction and perhaps a song or two. Themes can be as varied as politically charged diatribes to lovesick guitar songs to rants about the foibles of life in Korea (one treasured verse rages against the musical garbage trucks of Korea).

The atmosphere at the meetings is quite relaxed. There is no microphone or stage, simply some friendly folks sitting at a large table, enjoying a pint while listening to some words. It should also be mentioned that many of the people at these meetings are there simply to appreciate the works being read, and not to actually read

themselves. The Group has always welcomed the support of anyone who can appreciate some good writing. To actually produce writing is strongly encouraged, but certainly not required.

The Writers' Group has been a bastion of the expat community for quite some time, and will likely continue to be such in the future. Anyone interested in stopping by for a meeting should contact the Group's head writer dude, Matt Wurdeman (m_wurdeman@hotmail.com). Whether you're an experienced writer, a casual dabbler, or just a spectator, Writers' Group meetings don't disappoint.

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Illustration by Jason Teale



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PHOTO: DAVE HARVEY

McKenzie's is the proud sponsor of the Won Shot Wanderers FC

The combined forces of the Wonshot Wanderers Football Club and the Ulsan Ugliers Rugby club are holding a fund raising night in McKenzies on Friday August 20th at 11.00 pm.

This will consist of a table/trivia quiz, a raffle AND the presentation of certificates for various Triathlon winners, plus a few surprise events. A good night is in the making so any support will be greatly appreciated.

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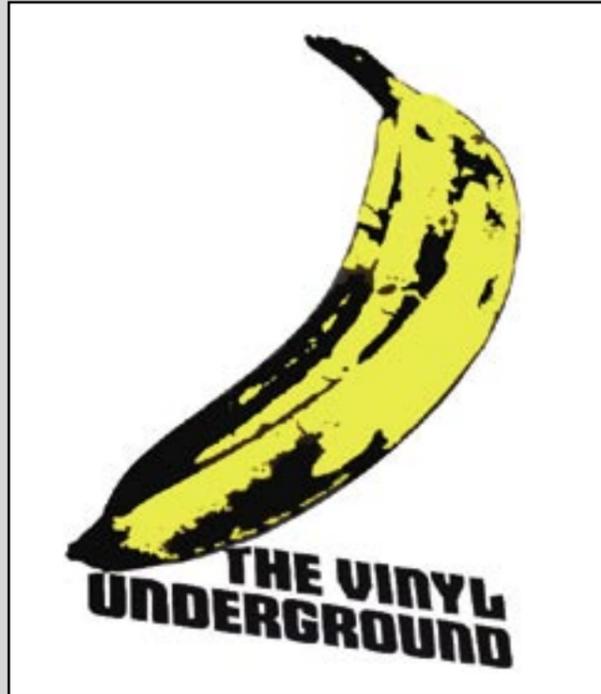
If you don't pick up a prize then at least you'll still have a shot at a Wonshot or a rugby beast. Wonshots really need to raise some funds as we have entered the Busan League and this has cost us at least 450,000 won in addition to buying jerseys etc.

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GETTING OUT OF ULSAN

Your ticket out of this city for a day (or night)



BY SODA JONES
CONTRIBUTOR

So the Ulsan scene is starting to wear a little thin but you're unwilling to shell out the dough to make it up to Seoul. Fear not, refuge can be found closer at hand. Conveniently, within a tight few blocks, Busan's Kyung-sung/Pukyong University district offers a variety of establishments that will please almost anyone's tastes. Since university students seems to spend at least as much time perfecting the art of drinking, socializing and vomiting on the sidewalk as they do mastering their studies, university districts are a traditional wellspring of nightlife.

After checking out some jazz, you're maybe not quite ready to hit the clubs yet, so head over to a top secret spot called Bob Dylan. This is a quiet place reminiscent of McKenzie's, but smaller and with a bigger selection of 70's and 80's rock on vinyl. The owner, Ji-young, is a lovely woman always ready to have a chat and keep up a steady flow of quarts to your table. Be sure to browse the records and request your favourites.

Now maybe it's time to make a move to one of the area's hot spots. Foxy is arguably the more popular place, as it gets jam packed full of steamy sweaty bodies on your average Saturday night. This basement place is not huge, but if you can get one of the booth seats overlooking the dance floor, you're in for some excellent booty viewing. The music here leans towards top 40 hip-hop, but with a slammin' sound system and reasonably talented DJs, the selection is usually interesting. To ensure you blend in with the crowd, don't forget to shave your head, throw on a few sweat bands and an oversized basketball or baseball jersey.

To get the night started on a cultured note, show up a little early (9:00 pm) to

'It gets jam packed full of steamy sweaty bodies on your average Saturday night.'

catch some live music at Monk Bar. The Saturday night band is called Buzz, and they do some decent jazz/funk stuff. Though you may be tempted by some of the tasty looking import beers in their fridge, be forewarned that anything fancy, such as Canadian, Tsing Tao or Stella is gonna set you back 7000 smackers. Yeouch.

For a marginally more cosmopolitan scene, step around the corner to the Vinyl Underground. The music tends to be a little more eclectic here, ranging from old school hip hop, to drum n' bass, break beat, trance, house, ragga, dancehall...

etc. The main point here is that on the weekends there are usually DJs playing, the kind with turntables and vinyl. This place is definitely where it's at for the musically progressive listener who hopes to hear something a little underground. If, however, you're not too concerned about the musical offerings, you can be contented by the very cheap draught beer (2500 for a big glass), and the constant flow of better than usual looking people. The crowd here is very mixed, definitely more so than your usual gang of English teachers with a few brave Koreans thrown in. This joint usually gets hopping between midnight and 1 am.

Well, the night's already been full, but it's time to wind down a little in a more laid back environment. You're now ready to step into the blackness

'The music tends to be a little more eclectic here, ranging from old school hip hop, to drum n' bass, break beat, trance, house, ragga, dancehall....etc..'

of Bar Code. This bar is well known in the neighbourhood as The After Hours bar. Of course, almost every bar in Korea is effectively an after hours bar, but Bar Code usually doesn't get busy until well after midnight. The chic dark interior with its chic staff is a perfect place to see and be seen by local scenesters. Bar Code is a favourite destination for film makers, artists and music types, so lends itself to a sophisticated sort of vibe. The music is rarely irritating and set at a volume conducive to chatting. For those with boring friends a projection screen displays a range of viewable distractions from hip hop to bhangra videos.

SEE SODA JONES PAGE 8





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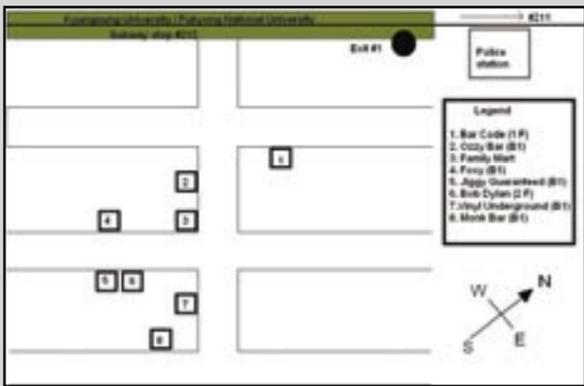
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Soda Jones Says . . .

Your evening is slowly ebbing into morning, and it's almost time to find a yogwan. Before doing that, you maybe inclined stop into the Family Mart, grab a snack and, hell, maybe one last beer. Now park yourself in the lawn chairs provided outside. Chances are you will be one of many doing the same, enjoying the night air whilst taking in the shenanigans of the many people passing by.

There are two other clubs in the area, but they are still in the beta testing stage, so SodaJonze cannot say for sure what to expect. There's Ozzy Club, which though it brings to mind tight black jeans and shaggy hair, is actually a small dance

bar. Techno/trance music has been heard to emanate from there, as well as your usual hip hop. Jiggy Guaranteed is a new joint on the scene, and though it was initially not welcoming foreigners, this policy has since changed. The dark and modern interior is in fact fantastic, with a decent dance floor, a DJ booth above, a bar at the back in one half, and in the other half of the space there's another bar and a small seating area. Though there was only one brave chap dancing when we visited this place, we were encouraged by the friendly bar girl with Yoko Ono glasses who immediately approached us to ask what we'd like to drink. So if you're feeling adventurous, this place may be worth a shot.



Historical Tour . . .



The Last Samauri of Ulsan PHOTO: DAVE HARVEY

There are even some life-sized models of ancient Koreans, talking on ancient cell phones (don't get too excited, they aren't anatomically correct). Sadly there is no English to be found, if you can find the museum at all. The staff is helpful, but they don't speak any English either. A nice little Korean museum, but for foreign-

ers who can't speak Korean I would recommend giving this one a miss.

Celebrating the Korean victory over the Japanese in 1597 is the Chungui Shrine, built on the ruins of Hakseong fortress. This fortress was an outpost of the Japanese during the Hideyoshi invasions (like

Seosangpo Waeseong). The Japanese were surrounded and defeated by the combined armies of Korea and China. The people of Ulsan played a pivotal role in this battle. This has been commemorated in a beautiful and quiet shrine in the middle of the city. Contained within is a roll of all of the Koreans who died in the battle (400 years ago!) and a small one room mu-

'There is a phallic monument erected to the glory of the soldiers.'

seum. The museum contains, again, no English, but has a few suits of clothing and armour. Not worth the trip by itself, but if combined with a stroll through Hakseong Park (the ruins of the fortress) they make a peaceful diversion from the bustle and noise of modern Ulsan. To find it, start at Ulsan MBC, head left past the Ulsan Women's Center. It is the second temple like complex.

The most modern war to devastate the area was the Korean War, which started June 6, 1950 and is still simmering away today. Ulsan has built a large monument to the war veterans. It is

built to the same style as the War Memorial in Seoul but, of course, to a lesser scale. There is a phallic monument erected to the glory of the soldiers who died saving the South from one brutal dictator only to install a different one. Today's monument is tucked away behind Ulsan Grand Park. Beneath the monument is a small museum and/or bomb shelter. The museum shows some interesting photos of Ulsan from different times in history and also contains various battle memorabilia. By itself this museum is lacking (again no English), but in combination with Ulsan Grand Park makes a good break from hundreds of screaming children.

The three museums I have discovered in Ulsan are all very difficult to find, small, and lacking in English. Sadly, they are spread across the city rather than housed together in one building. Each museum took far more time to find than to enjoy. The tourist maps are no great help either. If you are a dedicated historian, can speak Korean, or don't have anything better to do I would recommend a tour of the city museums.

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