



A herd of wild geese fly over a rice field after the harvest in Munson, Kyonggi-do, Tuesday. The arrival of the migratory birds heralds the start of the cold season. Korea Times

Girl Scout Official Urges Young People to Be Resilient

By Hong Sun-hee
Staff Reporter

A high-profile executive from the Girl Scouts world headquarters in London recommended that its Korean chapter put forth all its energy to help Korean girls and young women develop into resilient individuals.

"Korea has shown impressive progress in the last decades, and the current economic situation will affect that progress. Therefore, young people, in particular, are apt to become desperate or give up easily when something blocks their own progress. We must impress a sense of momentum on them and educate them to become the leaders at the head of new progress," said Lesley Bulman, 50, director of the international bureau of the World Association of Girl Guides

and Girl Scouts.

She arrived in Seoul Monday after observing the start of the Friendship Caravan in Beijing in which Guides and Scouts from seven member countries from the Asia Pacific region will make friends with thousands of young Chinese until Nov. 6.

Having established a national network of computer learning centers in Britain, Bulman lauded the Korean chapter's computer-aided programs using the Internet and e-mail to develop the international awareness of its members.

Before assuming her current post last



Lesley Bulman

year, Bulman held several senior national policy-advisor positions in the United Kingdom. She completed policy papers on the University of Industry, an on-the-job training institute, and on computer education in schools. She also wrote speeches for Tony Blair and worked closely with others who have since become Cabinet Ministers.

She was head of education at the Industrial Society that compiled a list of good practices from the public and private sectors. Earlier, she was one of the youngest headteachers in London.

She was also on the National Opera's Equal Opportunities Committee. "In Britain, opera is seen as a middle-class domain. The committee is helping young people, black people, ethnic minorities and the disabled to enjoy opera and take part in it," she explained.

Entertainment Places to Be Limited to Designated District

By Choe Yong-shik
Staff Reporter

The government is considering a plan to set up a special district that will house bars, night clubs and other entertainment/commercial businesses in a bid to create a sound environment for youths.

The Commission on Youth Protection proposed a 10-year blueprint to contain the ever-growing entertainment sector in the city with an eye toward discouraging juvenile delinquency and underage drinking. The plan was revealed during the ongoing parliamentary inspection on the commission Monday.

According to the long-term plan, licenses for entertainment businesses will be issued only to those which plan

to set up in the designated district. The boundaries of the special commercial district will be designated in consideration of the current map of downtown commercial areas, said the commission.

Existing businesses outside the proposed district will be encouraged to relocate within the next five years to the commercial district. To facilitate the voluntary relocation process, the government will offer a wide variety of tax incentives.

"Youths are being indiscriminately exposed to the entertainment businesses which have been set up throughout the city, including residential areas," said Kim Sang-wook, an official of the standing committee under the Prime Minister's Office.

According to a 1997 poll by the Min-

istry of Culture and Sports, more than 71 percent of minors under 18 consumed alcohol at commercial establishments in 1996, in contrast to 61.1 percent in 1989. Roughly half of those teenagers started drinking when they were 15 years of age or younger. Those who drank on more than 20 days in a single month accounted for 18.8 percent, the report showed.

In addition, excessive competition in the ever-growing entertainment industry is taking a heavy toll on youths, who are often secured as regular clients or illegally hired as employees, including hostesses, at local establishments, said the report.

The number of businesses authorized to sell alcoholic beverages was recently tallied at 431,023, which breaks down to 16,725 bars; 23,564 semi-room salons with singing facilities, or "tallan-jujom" operations; and 390,734 restaurants as of the end of June this year. This averages out to 841 establishments per 100,000 people, excluding businesses operating illegally.

"Compared to most foreign countries, where bars are usually set up in a limited number of areas, there are a great number of drinking establishments in Korea that are widely scattered throughout the city," Kim said.

Waitresses More Vulnerable Than Prostitutes to VD

Waitresses working at bars and other entertainment establishments are more susceptible to venereal diseases (VD) than those in red light districts, it was reported yesterday.

According to statistics released by the Health and Welfare Ministry regarding recent medical check-ups of women working at entertainment facilities, including brothels, a total of 10,737 were found to have a venereal disease.

Of that total, 4,990 are working in cabarets, bars and night clubs, while 2,403 are employed in brothels. The number of tea room workers infected

totalled 2,056, it said.

Some 86 massage parlor employees were discovered to be carrying a venereal disease, while 17 lodging facility workers were found to be infected, according to the ministry.

By type of venereal disease, 6,706 workers have urethritis, 2,120 have gonorrhea, 571 have syphilis and 1,340 have other types of infections.

Those working at brothels and other entertainment businesses are required to undergo regular check-ups to determine if they have contracted VD or other infectious diseases.

Weather Forecast

TODAY

Clear but temperature range will be wider throughout day. Morning lows, 3 to 13°C (48-61°F), daytime highs, 19 to 23°C (66-73°F).

Sunrise: 6:52 a.m.
Sunset: 5:39 p.m.

Seoul: Clear 8°C (46°F) / 20°C (68°F)
Taejon: Clear 7°C (45°F) / 21°C (70°F)
Chunchon: Clear 5°C (41°F) / 20°C (68°F)
Kangnung: Clear 10°C (50°F) / 20°C (68°F)
Kwangju: Clear 10°C (50°F) / 22°C (72°F)
Taegu: Clear 10°C (50°F) / 22°C (72°F)
Pusan: Clear 13°C (55°F) / 22°C (72°F)
Cheju: Clear 16°C (61°F) / 22°C (72°F)

TOMORROW

Clear, partly cloudy in southern provinces. Morning lows will range 4 to 13°C (39-55°F), daytime highs, 18 to 23°C (64-73°F).

Sunrise: 6:53 a.m.
Sunset: 5:38 p.m.

Seoul: Clear 9°C (48°F) / 19°C (66°F)
Taejon: Clear 9°C (48°F) / 21°C (70°F)
Chunchon: Clear 6°C (43°F) / 19°C (66°F)
Kangnung: Clear 11°C (52°F) / 20°C (68°F)
Kwangju: Becoming partly cloudy 11°C (52°F) / 22°C (72°F)
Taegu: Becoming partly cloudy 10°C (50°F) / 21°C (70°F)
Pusan: Becoming partly cloudy 13°C (55°F) / 21°C (70°F)
Cheju: Becoming partly cloudy 17°C (63°F) / 23°C (73°F)

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serious environmental hazards related to power generation facilities, 41 percent cited air pollution, followed by radioactive contamination at 28.1 percent, exposure to electronic waves at 15.3 percent and marine pollution at 6.4 percent.

A Green Korea staffer explained, "From the survey, we learned that the tide of public opinion is turning against nuclear power plants.... The government is urged to reconsider its

14 Pet. of Koreans Want N-Plants Shut Down

About 14 percent of Koreans want nuclear power plants in Korea to be shut down, while almost half oppose the building of additional plants, according to a recent poll of 1,000 people in the nation's big cities.

Green Korea United, led by Prof. Chang Won of the Taejon University department of environmental engineering, conducted the survey on electricity consumption and the environment.

Of those polled, 48.5 percent were against additional construction of nuclear plants and another 13.9 percent demanded that plants here be shut down. However, 30 percent of respondents advocated future construction of such facilities.

Asked to comment on the fact that some communities stage campaigns against their neighborhoods being chosen as sites for nuclear plants or nuclear waste storage, 71 percent supported such campaigns. Some 70.2 percent said they, too, would oppose their residential area being selected as a nuclear facility or waste site.

Asked what they think are the most

'Shoot-out' Plot Probe to Continue

The prosecution made it clear yesterday that its investigation into the so-called Panmunjom shoot-out plot will continue with an eye to exposing the behind-the-scenes figures in the shadowy scheme.

Announcing the details of its month-long probe into the case, the prosecution formally indicted three conspirators for having asked North Korea to stage a shoot-out at Panmunjom to influence last year's presidential election in favor of Lee Hoi-chang, candidate of the then-ruling Grand National Party (GNP).

The month-long prosecution probe has thus far confirmed only the involvement of these three covert campaign operatives.

A senior prosecutor said the next phase of the probe will focus on whether or not Lee Hoi-sung, younger brother of Lee Hoi-chang, received reports on the plot from Han Song-ki,

plan to build 18 nuclear plants by 2015."

Last Thursday, the Swiss government announced that it is planning to stop using nuclear power, saying it would rather support hydroelectric plants.

In a related move, the federal cabinet ordered energy officials to draw up a discussion paper on changing laws governing the domestic electricity market.

(HSH)

one of the three arrested, before it was supposed to take place, and whether he gave Han 5 million won before his departure for Beijing, where Han was to meet North Korean officials.

Hoi-sung will be summoned again for questioning if any new evidence proving his involvement comes to light, said the prosecutor.

He also stated the probe into Chang Chin-ho, chairman of the Jinro Business Group, will be continued based on allegations that he was briefed on the shoot-out plot by Han and that he offered Han money in support of the plot.

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