

South Korean ferry sinks on field trip



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South Korean passenger ferry Sewol, managed by the Cheonghaejin Marine Company, made trips between the Jeju Islands and Incheon.

BY SUKYUN CHUNG
STAFF WRITER

Number 58. Male student. Skinny, with pimples and braces. Wearing a light green hoodie.

A woman walks into a tent, sobbing, as she gives 58 a name: Jin Woohyuk.

Such numbers and descriptions lay sprawling across a white board in Jindo, South Korea. Volunteers gradually match names with descriptions as family members identify their lost loved ones.

"The sinking becomes all the more tragic when you look at how many of the victims were students with the rest of their lives ahead of them," said Early College senior Akosua Bekoe.

The passenger ferry, Sewol, sunk off the southern coast of South Korea on April 15. Rescuers have uncovered 187 bodies from the wreckage, but 115 remain missing. Only 76 escaped the sinking ferry alive.

Most of the passengers were high school students on a field trip to the Jeju Islands.

"It frightens me to think about what was going through the students' minds during their last hours," said Lee Dong Gyu, a high school sophomore in Seoul,

South Korea, in a phone interview with The Guilfordian. "One moment you're on a fun field trip with all of your friends, and the next moment you're on your way to a watery grave."

As the search for missing bodies continues, surviving crew members face prosecution from the South Korean government.

"The captain did not comply with passenger evacuation orders from the vessel traffic service and escaped ahead of others while telling passengers to keep their seats," said South Korean President Park Geun-hye during a press conference. "This is something that is never imaginable, legally or ethically."

The captain, Lee Joon-seok, told passengers to stay under the deck as the ferry started to sink and quickly evacuated other crew members along with himself when circumstances looked grim.

"The crew did very little to help those students when it was their duty to secure the safety of the people on the ferry," said Seoul native Chun Min Jun in a phone interview with The Guilfordian. "I believe that many more people could have been saved had the crew followed proper procedures

rather than save themselves."

Any hope for survivors stranded on the boat has diminished, as the ferry shifted too much during the sinking for any air pockets to stay under the boat.

South Korean Prime Minister Chung Hong-won resigned on the morning of April 27 due to his discontent with the government's initial reaction to the disaster.

Authorities have also investigated the offices of Cheonghaejin Marine Company, which owned the sunken ferry. They suspect Sewol to have been illegally modified to accommodate more passengers, sacrificing easy access to lifeboats and proper stowage of cargo among other issues.

As the South Korean government searched for answers, families of the victims held a memorial service at Danwon High School in Ansan, the hometown of most of the victims.

"It was a very emotional service," said Lee Dong Gyu. "I used to live in Ansan, so I played soccer and baseball with a few of the victims."

"I still kept in touch with them, and I was shocked to learn that the people who I thought I would grow old with had passed."

Renovated North Hills Amphitheater sparks celebration

BY EMERSON SANTIAGO
STAFF WRITER

Crisp green grass. The beaming spring sun. Smiling faces all around. Stalls line the sides of the park, offering everything from free dog treats to sushi samplers.

Sunday, April 27, was a gorgeous day at the commencement celebration for the Midtown Park and amphitheater.

The \$10.5 million project, funded exclusively by Kane Realty Corporation, is the most recent addition to the expansive North Hills shopping center.

"We aim to provide a community space that can cater to every type of person," said Ashley Stallings, events and community relations specialist for Midtown Events, a division of Kane Realty. "North Hills is a wonderful compliment to the events that are going on in the Raleigh area."

Kane Realty owns the North Hills region and has been working for the past 14 years to transform North Hills from the fledgling mall it purchased in December 2000 into the local mecca of shopping and social life that it is today.

Located behind Chuy's Mexican Restaurant, the park includes a gently sloping one-acre green, overlooked by a minimalist open-air stage.

"So far it's been great," said Terry Spigelmyer, manager of Chuy's Mexican Restaurant. "We've got a patio one-third the size of our restaurant overlooking the park. There are beach concerts every Thursday and bluegrass concerts every third Sunday."

Chuy's is not the only local business hoping to take advantage of the social activity surrounding the new park and amphitheater. Kane Realty envisions North Hills as a walker-friendly area and encourages pet owners to walk their pets through the park.

"Because of how dog friendly it is here, we'll probably start doing events at the Midtown Park," said Michael Morales, owner of Woof Gang Bakery and Grooming, a local pet store in North Hills.

"It's just as much a green park space as it is a space for people to hang out in," said Thomas Sayre, designer of the park, in an interview with The News & Observer. "We knew that if we could make this a cool place for kids, it would almost guarantee



Residents of Raleigh enjoy a performance in the old amphitheater.

its use for all seasons."

The emphasis on creating a green, walker-friendly space for the community has paid dividends. According to their website, Kane Realty currently boasts awards ranging from "Most Creative Land Use" awarded by the Triangle CREW Network to "Best Midrise Multifamily Project" awarded by Multifamily Executive Magazine.

Midtown Park defines the unusual business strategies that appear to be pushing Kane Realty to the frontline of commercial innovation in North Carolina.

"It's one of the only privately owned parks in Raleigh," said Spigelmyer.

Located only 90 minutes away from Guilford College, the North Hills shopping center presents a unique experience for students and faculty interested in trying new food options, listening to local music groups perform and enjoying a relaxed spring afternoon with company.

Chris Brown's legal history: does it hinder?

RECENT ASSAULT ACCUSATION LEAVES MUSIC FANS DIVIDED

BY REBECCA DOU
STAFF WRITER

The celebrity artist once again finds himself bound by the law after a man named Isaac Adams Parker reported that Brown and his bodyguard, Christopher Hollosy, assaulted him outside a hotel in Washington, D.C., last October.

Parker said in his report to the police that Brown attacked him after he tried to join in a photo that Brown was taking with a fan.

A D.C. court found Hollosy guilty of assault on April 21, which complicated Brown's defense. Initially, Hollosy was scheduled to testify in Brown's trial, but he will not be able to speak until after his appeal. Prosecutors did not grant him immunity.

"The cynic in me would say that, apparently, it is not a search for the truth," said Brown's lawyer Mark Geragos, according to CNN. "Because if they wanted the truth, they would give Hollosy immunity and allow him to testify."

Prosecutors doubted that Hollosy would tell the truth even if granted immunity.

As a result of the prosecutor's decision, the Los Angeles County Superior Court refused Brown's request for release from custody. He will remain in jail until the status hearing about his probation in May.

Although Brown's lawyer believes that the court gave Brown too severe a punishment for a misdemeanor charge, others find the ruling to be a confirmation of Brown's violent character. To them, his run-ins with the law are reasons not to listen to his music.

Brown's most notorious conviction was when he was charged with beating his then-girlfriend, Rihanna Fenty, in his silver Lamborghini near a Los Angeles neighborhood.

"The assault scandals would personally deter me from listening to his music because those are not victimless crimes, and the level of violence in the Rihanna assault is especially chilling," said Parke Puterbaugh, part-time lecturer in music. "I could not listen to his music without my enjoyment being clouded by my sense of his character."

However, loyal fans do not take Brown's background into consideration when judging his music.

"Talent is talent," said Person High School senior Dre Herbin. "I do not view Chris Brown's music any differently. I just look down on him as person rather than an artist."

Many people seem to share Herbin's sentiment, as Brown's career was not harmed by the Rihanna incident.

His album "Graffiti," which was released the same year as his conviction for assault, managed to debut at number seven on the Billboard 200 list. He also took home the Grammy Award for Best R&B Album two years later for "F.A.M.E."

"I think Chris Brown was still able to succeed because, in such a capitalistic society, money and fame trump morals," said Early College senior Saidivya Komma. "So, regardless of what a person does, their fame and fortune hold more value than their personality."

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