Point of View

The Student Newspaper of ICS

MARCH 2026

Trump Repeals EPA's Authority to Regulate Climate Pollution

by ANNIE JANG

Image Source: Wttw News

The Trump administration has officially repealed the authority of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate climate pollution. This action eliminates the "endangerment finding," which is a scientific determination issued in 2009 stating that greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and methane, are bad for human health and the environment. This determination has enabled the EPA to establish rules to restrict greenhouse gases from automobiles, factories, and power plants. This has been an important determination in the fight against climate change in the United States. By repealing this authority, the government will no longer have the same level of control over carbon emissions as before.

President Trump supports the repeal of the EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gases. According to Trump, environmental rules have been too tough on businesses and have caused a significant financial burden on the country. He believes removing these rules will help boost the economy and bring down the cost of energy for American families.

However, scientists and environmentalists disagree with the decision, arguing that greenhouse gases are one of the major contributors to global warming, which can result in more powerful storms, rising ocean levels, and extreme weather events. Environmentalists have already initiated lawsuits against the decision, which may eventually reach the Supreme Court.

The decision is indicative of the fact that climate change is still a contentious issue in the United States. On one hand, some people feel that the decision will boost the economy, whereas others feel that it may slow down the pace of combating climate change, which is a major issue in the country today.

NASA Pushes Artemis II to April as Lunar Ambitions Face Reality Check

by YEJU JANG

The dream of returning humans to the Moon has hit another celestial speed bump. NASA officially announced this week that Artemis II, the first mission to carry a crew toward the lunar neighborhood since 1972, has been pushed back to April 2026. While space enthusiasts are understandably disappointed, the delay isn't just about missing a deadline; it's a calculated move to ensure the four astronauts on board actually secure a safe return. During the uncrewed test flight of Artemis I, engineers noticed the Orion spacecraft's heat. The shield didn't behave exactly as predicted. It wore away in a "charring" pattern that raised red flags. When you're hitting the atmosphere at 25,000 miles per hour, unexpected is the last word you want to hear regarding your heat shield.

Beyond the shield, there have been continuing issues with the electronics that power the life-support systems. NASA's philosophy has shifted: they are no longer in a Cold War sprint where risks are ignored for the sake of national pride. Today, the focus is on sustainable exploration.

However, this delay creates a massive domino effect. Because Artemis II is the flight that proves the ship is safe for humans, the actual Moon landing, Artemis III, is now projected to be in 2028. This mission is supposed to be a historic milestone, landing the first woman and person of color on the lunar South Pole.

For the crew—Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen—this means another year of simulations and "what-if" scenarios in the classroom instead of the cockpit. For the rest of us, it's a reminder that while the Moon looks close, the 238,000 miles in between remain the most difficult environment humans have ever tried to conquer. The "Final Frontier" is proving to be as stubborn as ever.

NASA is pushing the Artemis II mission to April 2026 due to new technical issues with the SLS rocket's helium system, but honestly, this reality check feels necessary to ensure the four astronauts actually make it back safely. While it's frustrating to see another delay for such a major, historic mission after waiting over 50 years to send people back around the Moon, this shows that deep space exploration is still incredibly difficult

and cannot be rushed, even with all our modern technology. It's a classic case of safety over speed, which is frustrating as a space fan wanting to see instant progress, but I'd rather they fix the valve issues now than risk a catastrophe in deep space, and it just proves that returning to the Moon requires ironclad reliability.

Ukraine Conflicts Unceasing as War Enters its Fourth Year

by SEJIN TENNANT

Image Source: The Guardian

As the Russian invasion of Ukraine enters its fourth year, frustration mounts on both sides over stalled peace talks led by the Trump administration and a deepening territorial stalemate in the eastern Donbas region.

According to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the war has resulted in at least 500,000 deaths and over 1.5 million total casualties since February 24, 2022. Yet, Russia has managed to capture only about 20% of Ukrainian territory. Since 2024, military actions on both sides have slowed because of Russia's struggling war economy. Russia, in particular, has faced challenges due to its heavy dependence on oil export revenues and rising domestic inflation.

Recent peace talks have not shown any signs that this conflict will end soon. When the United States took the lead in negotiations, many Ukrainians felt hopeful about ending the war. For a short time, a peace treaty seemed possible.

However, that hope faded quickly. The main divide between the two sides, especially regarding territorial concessions and security guarantees for Ukraine, has made any agreement difficult. Zelenskyy has strongly refused to accept Russian control over occupied areas, while Putin and the Kremlin are hesitant to withdraw from land that was taken at great cost. Russia has claimed to be open to negotiations while keeping strict demands behind the public's eyes.

Among ordinary Ukrainians, the mood has shifted from optimism toward something more complicated. Although the support for continuing the fight remains strong, citizens have increasingly become exhausted.

In Russia, the support for the war is diminishing, as polls suggest that enthusiasm for the conflict has softened, mostly among younger Russians, as mounting casualties and a failing economy become harder to ignore.

Jupiter Gets Distorted When the Wind Blows

by SALLY HUH

Jupiter is often considered the most important planet in the solar system. It is the largest one, which can hold over 1,300 Earths, and the first one to be formed in the solar system. It also has the strongest gravitational force, protecting other planets from bouncing off its place, and even pulling in the asteroids heading towards the Earth.

However, recent research at the Weizmann Institute of Science revealed that Jupiter is flatter and smaller than we previously thought.

Jupiter was known to be 66,854 kilometers long from the North Pole to the Equator. According to the researchers' new analysis, Jupiter's radius was 12 kilometers smaller than what was previously known. In addition, they also found that Jupiter is about 20 times flatter than the Earth. They explained, "It is the result of a combination of various factors due to the fast rotation of Jupiter and the wind in the atmosphere."

Jupiter usually has strong winds reaching speeds of approximately 500 km/h. This is more than twice the speed of hurricanes on Earth. Furthermore, unlike Earth, Jupiter is composed entirely of gas. This means storms don't easily disappear, but last long, affecting their size in the long term.

The planets in the solar system are broadly divided into two groups. Jupiter is a "gas giant," composed of light gases like hydrogen and helium. Unlike Earth, it lacks a solid surface. Therefore, it is possible for strong winds on Jupiter to easily dent its shape and size. Furthermore, Jupiter rotates in less than 10 hours while Earth takes 24 hours. Consequently, the gas that makes up Jupiter can't withstand this rapid speed, eventually flattening its shape. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune are considered gas giants. Conversely, planets composed of solid materials like rock and metal are called "terrestrial planets." Earth, Mercury, Venus, and Mars are representative examples of rock giants. They were formed close to the sun, where lighter gases flew away, leaving only rocks and metals with high melting points.

Will the AI Revolution Leave the Office Empty?

by JOE CHUN

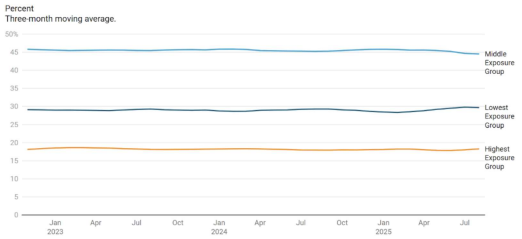

Image Source: WEF Report

On behalf of the fourth technological revolution, AI development has undergone a major development. Following the development, companies have expressed euphoric aspirations regarding the unprecedented efficiency that could be gained through utilizing AI. For workers, on the other hand, the ubiquity of AI was perceived as a threat to their job security. In fact, in recent years, the media has thrived with mild anticipation of massive job displacement. However, these anticipations' credibility must be questioned as the historical precedent set by past innovation Unimates tells a different story.

In 1961, the arrival of Unimates created a comparable degree of enthusiasm to that which AI received. Unimates were developed into the first form of industrial robots. Companies saw the use of Unimates as an optimal way to automate these repetitive tasks and lessen the risk of injuries from dangerous tasks. As Unimates were accepted as a replacement in a wide sector of factories, workers' concerns simultaneously grew. Low-skilled workers questioned the vulnerability of maintaining the labor force, and feared Unimates' ubiquitous existence would make standards of living devastatingly hard to maintain. These concerns, however, were soon to be eased. Ultimately, Unimates were proven to be far less disruptive and catastrophic than touted in the media. Rather than replacing tasks and taking over jobs, Unimates were prioritized into specific tasks that require a high level of patience and care, allowing workers to shift their role to maintaining and supervising Unimates.

Unimates successfully collaborated with workers to enhance both efficiency and productivity. Despite its recent emergence, the vague anticipation portrayed AI as an innovation that'd take over the job market. Yet, as experienced from Unimates, AI is more likely to be prioritized in a specific step of production, simultaneously creating new job opportunities related to AI operations. Moreover, as unimates were revamped into certain steps of production, AI's ability to automate tedious tasks, such as data collection, and its inadequacy to bear responsibility for harms would guide AI into an active assistant rather than providing absolute profits to firms and displacing human workers. The historical precedent, furthermore, suggests that anticipation of the simmering, catastrophic job market is a sketchy and vague prediction that is overstated and lacks legitimate indications.

Moreover, the World Economic Forum anticipates that by 2030, based on the current trend of gathered data, the total new job creation due to AI is estimated to be 170 million. On the other hand, 92 million jobs were expected to be displaced by AI. In other words, respectively, a positive net growth of 78 million jobs is anticipated by the year 2030. In all, the current employment trend undermines the anticipation of massive job destruction and rather suggests AI could create a higher degree of opportunity compared to the number of jobs displaced, and that the job market has stayed comparatively stable.

In all, the recent vigorous development of AI led workers to fret over their job prospects; however, taking the historical precedent and the current trajectory into account, these anticipations seem to be vague and lack legitimate indications.

Airless Basketball: Innovation in Basketball Fields

by LUKE SEO

Image Source: Wilson

Wilson, the most famous basketball equipment brand in the world, created airless basketball by applying their scientific technologies.

First introduced in the NBA All Star Dunk Contest in 2023, Airless basketballs have reinvented the traditional form of basketballs. They are made from 3D printers, which create many holes on the surface of the ball. Airless basketball is being increasingly noted in the basketball field because of its unique design and innovative structure.

Airless basketballs have unique features that contrast with common basketballs. The most interesting part of Airless basketball is its holes on the surface. Most people guess that its use is merely for appearance; however, there are scientific reasons why it is designed this way. Holes on the ball are actually shaped like hexagons, which minimize air resistance and keep a certain elasticity. When you drop an airless basketball, hexagons transform into another shape, and they come back to their original

state. Then, the ball goes up by using the restoration power of hexagons. Airless basketballs use thermoplastic polyurethane, or TPU, to get more elasticity and durability. Because of these advantages, airless basketball is easier to use and saves resources that are needed to make a traditional basketball.

However, there are also disadvantages to airless basketball. Since it was made by a 3D printer, its price is about 2400$. Thus, many basketball players said airless basketball has a different grip sense compared to the original one, which makes their basketball skills worse. It also has 30% lower bounce than the original basketball, so people who used the original basketball need a lot of time to adapt to the airless basketball.

Many companies try hard to make useful,efficient and innovative sports tools. Airless basketball is the first challenge against original sports tools. Although it has disadvantages, we should recognize this can be a major leap to future sports.

How Animals Survive in the Arctic and Antarctic

by RIWON KIM

Many people think the Arctic and Antarctica are just empty and full of ice. They look very cold and impossible to live with. However, many animals actually live there and survive in these extreme places. Even though the weather is very cold and windy, animals have special ways to stay alive.

First, animals use their body to keep warm. For example, polar bears in the Arctic have very thick fur and fat under their skin. The fat is called blubber, and it helps them keep heat inside their body. Their white fur also helps them blend in with the snow when they hunt. Penguins in Antarctica also have thick feathers and fat. Their feathers are waterproof, so cold water cannot easily touch their skin. This is very important because the ocean water freezes in the Arctic and Antarctic.

Another way animals survive is by working together. Emperor penguins stand very close to each other during winter. They make a big group and share body heat. Sometimes they even move slowly in the group so everyone can stay warm. If one penguin stands outside too long, it can get too cold. So teamwork is very important for them.

Some animals change their behavior depending on the season. For example, Arctic foxes change their fur color. In winter, their fur becomes white, but in summer it turns brown or gray. This helps them hide from predators and also catch food. Other animals migrate to warmer places before winter starts. Some small animals even hibernate and sleep for a long time to save energy.

Food is not easy to find in these cold places, so animals must be good hunters. Seals can swim in icy water and hold their breath for a long time. Polar bears wait near holes in the ice to catch seals. If they cannot find enough food, it becomes very hard to survive.

In conclusion, animals in the Arctic and Antarctica are able to survive because they adapt to the environment. They have thick fur or feathers, work together, and change their behavior. Even though these places are very cold and dangerous, animals still find ways to live there. It shows nature is strong and amazing in many ways.

Artwork by Heidi Jang

Inflation of Computer Components and Accelerated AI Development

by IDAM SUH

For computer maniacs or those who need to build their own computer, it is getting hard to build new computers due to the inflation of computer components. In this article, the reason for this inflation and how it might be resolved in the future will be discussed.

One of the first components that encountered inflation is random access memory(RAM). As AI companies like Meta, Microsoft, Google, or OpenAI pursue to development of better models, they require a lot of RAM. For example, for small/mid-sized AI models, the server with 256GB can handle around 50 concurrent users. Compared to consumer computers, which typically have 16GB or 32GB, many people will realize how large 256GB of RAM capacity is. Even for a professional's laptop/desktops, it is atypical to go over 64GB of RAM. In the current world, where everyone has easy access to AI models like Claude, ChatGPT, or Gemini, the companies of these AI models truly require a lot of RAM. In addition, usually enterprise-level RAMs are more expensive than consumer-level RAM because of some technologies related to stability or Error Correcting Code(ECC) functionality. As selling RAM to companies is

more profitable, companies began to transform their manufacturing lines more for enterprise, which elucidates the current situation of a shortage of RAM for consumer-level computers.

It is not only RAM that is going through inflation; the price of graphics processing units(GPUs) is also increasing. It might seem like it's just because GPU-related technologies like CUDA acceleration for Nvidia are useful for AI development. However, there is another reason for the higher price of GPUs that is actually associated with inflation in RAM. In GPU design, there is a part called VRAM. If you look at the GPU's specification and see something like "GDDR6" or "GDDR7", that is about VRAM. This VRAM is highly related to RAM production because VRAM is one type of RAM, specialized for graphical calculations or, more broadly, for the tasks that the GPU deals with.

On top of GPU and RAM, three main components are directly influenced by AI-accelerated development. In their server, conversations and accounts are stored in Solid State Drives(SSDs). For a lot of SSDs, they also use Dynamic RAM(DRAM) Cache to achieve faster response and performance. As this movement continues, the price of SSD is also being influenced by the price of RAM, which contributes to increasing the total price of the computer. Additionally, coolers, which deal with heat created by resistance throughout the computer components, are encountering inflation because of natural resources. In the cooler, Copper(Cu) is commonly used for conducting heat. Similar to other components, coolers' prices are increasing to deal with more and more heat in AI servers. Lastly, Central Processing Unit (CPU) prices are increasing and will increase. Main CPU manufacturers like Intel and AMD are implementing a Neural Processing Unit(NPU), which is a specialized chip for AI calculations based on inspiration from neural networks, in their CPUs. As the size of Large Language Models (LLMs) is increasing, more calculations are required, and CPU is one of the most significant components that determines the performance of the overall system. Therefore, the price of CPUs is increasing and will continue to increase.

Then, how will this price go in the future? Well, some manufacturers like Samsung, SK Hynix, or Micron are trying to increase their manufacturing scales by building new factories. However, those factories are most likely going to be focused on enterprise to adjust to the increasing demands of AI companies. One of the positive news is that there is also a growing industry for minimizing computer resources, especially for On-device AI. Nota AI, listed in KOSDAQ around November of 2025, is cooperating with some global companies like Nvidia, and their main work is to minimize the computer resources being used by AI; especially, its Netspresso technology is being highlighted. These technologies might slow down the inflation of computer components due to accelerated AI development.

Artificial Intelligence is being integrated into our lives deeply nowadays. Not only focusing on AI itself, but it is also important to take a look at related industries like the semiconductor/computer resource market. What will be the ultimate solution to stabilize the price of computer components and slow down inflation, or even deflate to lower consumers' price burden of buying new computers?

New Era of AI Paves Way to Combat Energy Crisis

by JIHOON CHOI

AI development is currently facing a crisis. Due to the recent proliferation in the usage of generative AI, resources such as water and electricity are more in demand than ever. According to the UN, data centres accounted for 1% of global electricity usage. This effect is even bigger in technology-dependent countries like Ireland, where 17% of the country's total electricity is used by data centres. Because AIs continue to grow, data centres will increasingly use electricity. A method to alleviate this novel crisis may be the employment of spiking neural networks (SNN), a machine learning algorithm that reimagines AI.

AI is a broad term that encompasses technology that mimics human behaviour. The term used to describe prompt-based AI, such as ChatGPT, is generative AI. It uses a specialised algorithm called neural networks, which is a machine learning model based on algorithms inspired by the human brain. A typical neural network has an input layer, a hidden layer, and an output layer that consists of rows of "neurons". These "neurons" function similarly to biological neurons by receiving inputs, and when a threshold is reached, a signal is output to the next "neuron". This simple algorithm is what allows the generative AI to solve math questions and write essays flawlessly.

However, neural networks have drawbacks. It uses too much energy. When processing an input, every "neuron" is continuously activated, requiring the calculation of every parameter, input, and output. In ChatGPT alone, there are 96 layers with 12,288 "neurons" each, creating 175 billion parameter values. For this reason, massive computational power is needed.

SNNs may be the solution to this cumbersome problem of energy usage. SNNs, unlike traditional neural networks, fully mimic the biological neurons. Instead of continuously firing output values for every input, the SNN neurons fire a single spike output when a threshold is reached. Furthermore, the biological complexity involving current, ion movement, and voltage is calculated through computational models. This network is hypothesised to reduce energy usage by up to 99%, making it the most energy-effective neural network.

However, SNNs are still in the process of development and will need time before actual implementation. Although there are concerns about its output quality, it will still drastically help combat the energy crisis by implementing it for certain wearable devices. In spite of the concerns, it is undeniable that SNNs will lead the new era of AI.

AI development and energy usage are inseparable, raising concerns about the increasing energy usage. Developing SNNs may be a way to combat this crisis. But will this be enough?