



# Point of View

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## Concerning AI Art: An Interview with Mr. Tennant

by JIYONG SIM AND SEJIN TENNANT



Image Source: Dall-E 2, OpenAI

*Two young students reading under a Korean persimmon tree on a moonlight night while light shimmers across the water in a nearby pond, in the style of an abstract oil painting*

AI Art is an unprecedented style of drawing: unlike previous styles of drawing, which are drawn by humans, AIs draw. It has been controversial in the philosophy of mind, aesthetics, ethics, etc. and Mr. Tennant, our philosophy teacher, answered the question.

Q: Is there a specific name for the drawing AI?

Mr. Tennant: There are a few different ones. The most popular ones are [...], the first one is Dall-E [...], released by a company called OpenAI. They also have AI text generators, and they released the second generation of the AI called Dall-E 2. And the one that I've been using is called Midjourney, and another one [is] – it has a few different names. The thing is the first two, Dall-E 2 and Midjourney, are both proprietaries. They're not open source, anyway. And the third one came out, which is called Stable Diffusion, and it is open source. Midjourney has, actually, used Stable Diffusion source code now, and incorporated it into the model, so you can use Stable Diffusion through

Midjourney. Midjourney is good for abstract artistic things, and Stable Diffusion is good for photo-realism and also for copying styles of well-known artists very accurately. Since Midjourney incorporated source code from Stable Diffusion, it [makes] the users of Midjourney go the same capability as Stable Diffusion's.

Q: What is an "AI art" in your opinion?

Mr. Tennant: Well, it's kind of a tricky question because you first have to have an idea of what "art" is. And that is the subject of the entire field of philosophy called "aesthetics". [...] So, in my opinion, art is something [...] that has to have an emotional connection to the creator and to the audience. AI Art is kind of in the gray area, because the big question there is, "Who is the creator?". When I type in words like "a giant mirror floating above the ocean", and then the AI [...] generates the image, who's the creator? I'm the one who came up with the idea, but I'm not the one who actually put in: I didn't put my own sweat into the final product. That's why it is in kind of a gray area [...] [That is why] AI Art is kind of a tricky one; I'm not sure where I should fall on the issue, yet. [...] I think it is too early to [judge] it.

Q: I think you kind of answered the next question: the main difference between AI Art and Human Art.

Mr. Tennant: Yeah, I suppose the main difference, because if I stick to my tentative definition from the last question and argue [about] something that has an emotional connection to the creator and to the audience, you can easily see how anybody could develop an emotional connection to a piece of art, regardless of who created, so the audience boxes kind of tick off there. But, the thing is, "Who is the creator?" Actually, in the legal sense of creatorship, [...] it has been impossible to register a copyright for an AI-generated drawing.

## How does "noise-cancelling" work?

by HYUNSEO KIM

Recently, many people use earphones and headphones that have noise-canceling functions. Noise-canceling is, as it is assumed from its name, a function that cancels other sounds from the outer environment and lets the user only listen to the sounds that come from earphones or headphones. This function

is loved by many earphone and headphone users. Though this function was first invented in 1930 to help airplane pilots, it started to be used for headphones in 1978. If so, how does this function work?

The most important part of noise-canceling is a part called “microphone”. Microphones catch the noise and then produce an anti-sound. An anti-sound is a sound that cancels out other sounds. The sound we hear is basically a wave of the air. This anti-sound system makes an opposite sound wave of the sound you hear and adds that sound wave to noises, and cancels it out. By having this process done before the environment sound reaches the user’s ear, the user can listen to and enjoy the sounds that come from their earphones and headphones better.

## Why are ‘Classics’ so cheap?

by JIYONG SIM

When I visited the Kyobo bookstore, I was shocked at the price of *War and Peace* (1869) by Leo Tolstoy. It was very thick – it had about 1400 pages – but it only cost ₩6,700. It was the price after the discount – the original price was ₩8,900 – but that is still cheap. The price of a book depends on the publisher, but it will be much more expensive if it is a new book. I was already shocked because of the price of *The Bluest Eye* (1970) by Toni Morrison. Again, the price of a book depends on the publisher, but the one I grabbed cost approximately ₩20,000, although it was about 6-7 times thinner than *War and Peace*. And by looking at the online app for the bookstore, I realized that classics are much cheaper than new books. Why?

My first assumption is that because classics have no copyright, i.e. public domain. Legally, when it becomes more than 50 years after the book’s author dies, there exists no copyright on the books the author wrote. (This is Korea’s law but changed to 70 years on July 1st, 2014, but the books with copyright already gone are still without copyright. The U.S. law was 75 years after the artwork is published, but it was extended to 95 years.) Because of this, the publisher does not need to give money to the person who has the copyright. That is why books like *The Great Gatsby* (1925) by F. Scott Fitzgerald and other books are published by many publishers.

My second assumption is that the prices of new books are expensive because the publisher wanted to. *The Vegetarian* (2007) by Han Kang costs ₩16,000, without a discount. This is maybe because it won the Man Booker Prize in 2016. Also, *Klara and the Sun* (2021) by Kazuo Ishiguro, the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2017, cost ₩19,000 (₩14,640 from another publisher). However, there are many more famous writers such as Shakespeare and Dostoyevsky, why are their books so cheap?

I assume that it is because of the public domain. Since it is easier to publish a book when there is no copyright, it would be

cheap. My point here is that it is easier to publish a book, rather than the public domain itself. Some classic books with fancy hardcover designs usually have about or more than ₩20,000.



By Lilly Kim

Artwork by Lilly Kim

## Fernando Tatis Jr tests positive: What is Clostebol and what has it done to him?

by HAYDEN LEE

12th of August, 2022. That was the date when the unexpected happened. It has been confirmed, that Padres' star shortstop, Fernando Tatis Jr, has tested positive for Clostebol, an alternative form of testosterone.

Tatis Jr's debut was a signal of a birth of a star. His first 3 years were phenomenal. Tatis Jr became an MVP caliber already in his second season and won the homerun title in his third year. With two silver sluggers and one all-star in his first 3 seasons, he was on his route to becoming a star. The Padres had no other answer, but to give him a massive contract extension, where Tatis Jr. receives \$340 million in 14 years. This has all been achieved at an age of 22.

However, a suspicious atmosphere started to arise in 2022. It started with his injury. While riding a motorcycle in the Dominican Republic, Tatis Jr faced a hand fracture, therefore he was expected to be out until early June for rehab. However, weeks passed after June started and Tatis Jr still didn't come back. He didn't even come back after the all-star week and even the trade deadline in July. During that period, Padres were preparing for their first title. They traded their best prospect, CJ Abrahams, starting first baseman Luke Voit, left-handed starter MacKenzie Gore, and two more prospects for Josh Bell, starting the first baseman of the Nationals and Juan Soto, a potential GOAT (greatest of all time) who rejected a \$440 million contract that would have set the largest contract size in baseball history. All the Padres needed was for Tatis to come back, then the dream team would be set. But the Padres' dream was shattered by the drug test of Tatis Jr. As he tested positive for Clostebol, an anabolic steroid that is listed in the prohibited substances, he received an 80-game suspension, which doesn't allow Tatis Jr to play the 48 remaining games of the 2022 season and 32 games on the start of the 2023 season.

Like most players who tested positive for PEDs, Tatis Jr also listed a reason why he tested positive, where he said he accidentally treated clostebol for his ringworm treatment. However, numerous questions arose as clostebol is not used to treat ringworm in the first place. Clostebol is an alternative form of testosterone and is a synthetic anabolic steroid. Although steroids are mainly used to build muscles for sports players, as they are also used for ringworm treatments, it may seem at a slight glance that this reason is plausible. However, Dr. Jerry Hizon, a pro sports team physician, says that although steroids may be used for ringworm treatment, these steroids are anti-inflammatory, not anabolic.

Whether or not Tatis Jr. has intentionally taken clostebol or not, it is sure that this issue will be crucial for Tatis Jr's career. Not only his reputation as a player will be affected by an asterisk on his records, but he will also be affected as a brand

himself. Already, Adidas decided to cut ties with Tatis Jr, even though they have already released his shoe brand, Ultra Boost DNA. Tatis decided on the next step of his career by taking shoulder surgery for the constant injury that he faced as a player. His spot as a short-stop seems to be taken to competitors such as Ha-Seong Kim or Jake Crownenworth, due to his lack of defensive ability, therefore it is projected that he might move to the outfield.

## An Interview with the new President of the Elementary Student Council, Alvin Kim

by JI WON WOLCOTT, SEJIN TENNANT



Alvin Kim, Elementary Student Council President

Q: Why did you want to become president?

Alvin: "I wanted to [become the] president because I wanted to try it and I wanted to help the school."

Q: What is your goal after you become president?

Alvin: "I will make no one arguing, and make [sure] everyone follows the rules"

Q: What did you do to be the President?

Alvin: ““I want to make the library [...] cleaner, and make the school better, so I picked the student council, and I - picked the people who wanted to try president.”

Q: What are some problems the student council needs to solve?

Alvin: “ I want to make the library cleaner, and stop breaking the ICS language rules.”

Q: What do you think the most challenging part of your job is?

Alvin: “I think the hardest of the job is telling the student council what to do, but the librarians are easy because they are an organized system.”

Q: What do you like most about your job?

Alvin: “Making posters with my student council.”

Q: What are some ways you will improve to become the best president in ICS?

Alvin: “ Organizing my work and the Vice President’s work(To clean out the school system).”

Q: What is your future dream job?

Alvin: “ I would like to become a soccer player, like the leader of the group. . .”

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## A Controversy in the Sale of the NBA Suns

by HYOUNGBIN KOH

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It has been reported that there was evidence of Sarver using racially insensitive language, showing acts of unequal treatment of female employees, and displaying sex-related statements and conduct. He was fined the maximum fine of \$10 million; however, he was not banned from the league permanently unlike previous Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling, who was banned for life after he was recorded using racist language.

Influential players such as LeBron James and Chris Paul were some players that called for a more decisive penalty. Following the criticism, Sarver has decided to sell the club, openly looking for a business partner to complete the deal for both NBA team Phoenix Suns and WNBA team Phoenix Mercury. He claimed, “I want what’s best for these two organizations,

the players, the employees, the fans, the community, my fellow owners, the NBA, and the WNBA.”

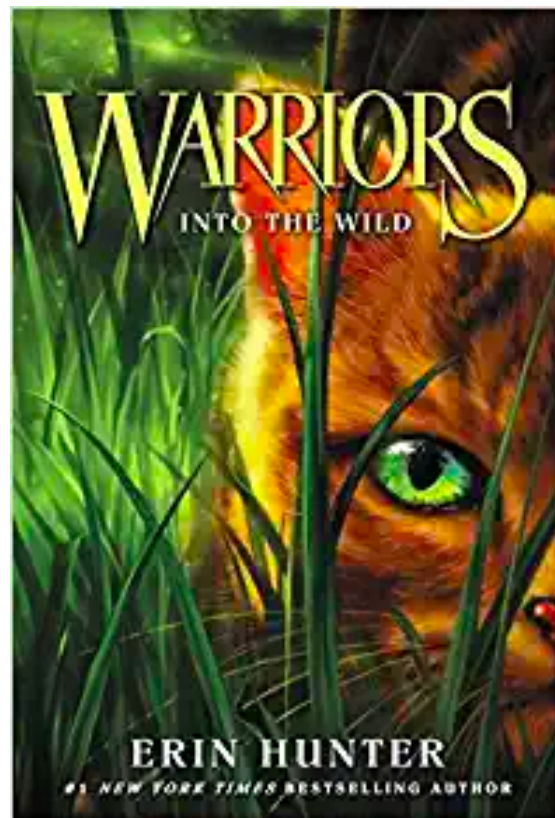
The NBA’s investigation has led to the exposure of inexcusable behavior present in the league. NBA commissioner Adam Silver has stated that the league will do its best to further investigate such potential behavior and prevent these issues.

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## BOOK REVIEW: *Warrior Cats* by Erin Hunter

by JIHOON CHOI

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Forest cats, cats living in the forest, have secret lives that humans do not know. Rusty, a kittypet (also called a house cat), is invited by the forest cats and is required to prove his loyalty to the clan. While in the stage of becoming royal and getting trust, he faces many challenges, including suspiciousness, dishonesty, and a cat who attempts to rule the clan. Can Fireheart(Rusty’s “clan name”) stop the attempt for power on his clan?

This book was unique since it used cats as the character of the story. The cats had human emotions, such as jealousy, hatred, and rage, so I could feel more understanding about the cats. While reading this book, I could not put it down because the story included many parts where it made me read more, such as tensions between Fireheart and Tigerclaw (the cat who tried to rule the clan).



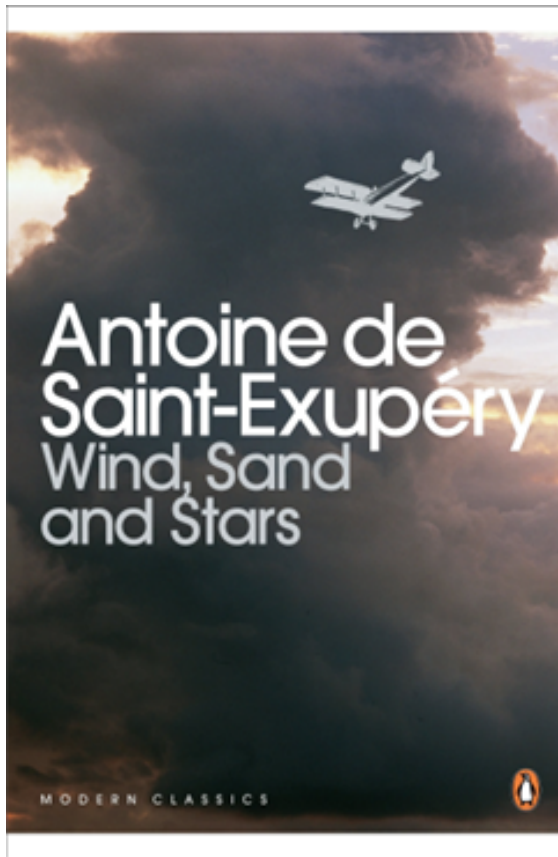
Some additional information: each season has seven books, and there are seven seasons. Also, there are more of these books, such as super additions, manga series, novellas, and field guides.

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## BOOK REVIEW: *Wind, Sand, and Stars* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

by JIYONG SIM

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“I know what I love. It is life.” Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, the author of *The Little Prince*, receives a mission of flying. However, due to an airplane accident, he and his colleagues get captured in the Saharan Desert. He worries at first but gradually adapts to the desert and Saharan life. A few years later, when he and his colleagues gain the opportunity of a flight, they attempt to escape the desert. Can they escape safely? This memoir artistically illustrates the vast landscape of the Sahara and shares the lessons of life and its importance to the author in the desert. Like other books by the author, it is short and page-turning. While reading, you can experience a philosophical question, “What is life?”, but also fun, fiction-like moments.

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## BOOK REVIEW: *The Spiderwick Chronicles* by Tony DiTerlizzi & Holly Black

by JENO SEONG

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The chronicle begins with the family of Grace coming to an old, worn-off house in the middle of a forest. As Jared, his little brother, and his sister live in the house many events happen that seem to be done by not them but by someone like a ghost, they start to investigate for the ghost or monster that is suspected to be the cause of the mischief. But as they begin to investigate, they find more and more of the mystery the forest beholds.

This chronicle has stories not just about the investigation but also about how they coped with the life-threatening events. It is also unique in how all the characters are very creative and differ from other monster stories. You can also see the creativity of the author in how detailed each monster is drawn and explained.

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# Klara and the Sun

By Kazuo Ishiguro

**SEP  22**