



Point of View

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Liberal Party Wins Federal Election, Carney Elected as PM

by SEJIN TENNANT



Image Source: The Economist

Following the resignation of former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on January 6th, 2025, the Canadian Liberal Party had to elect a new leader, who was decided to be Mark Carney on January 16, 2025. As the position of PM was vacant, Carney proposed a “snap election”, or an election that takes place much earlier than regularly scheduled, which would eventually take place on April 28, 2025. When election day came and went, the Liberal Party took the most seats, although they fell short of a majority at 169 seats, with the Conservative Party, led by Pierre Poilievre, right behind at 144 seats won, with 172 seats needed for a majority.

Canada's balance of power

Leading seats by party, counting under way

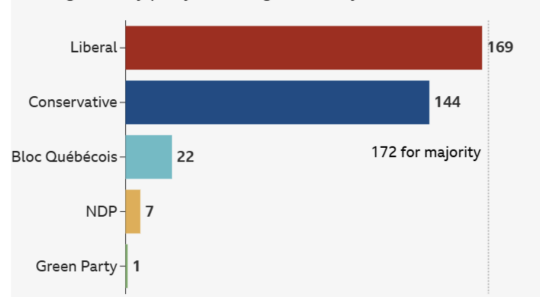


Image Source: BBC

Although this election appears to be relatively normal at first glance, some may not realize how important this was to many Canadians, as back in 2022, the conservative approval rating surpassed that of the Liberal Party, mostly due to the way

many Canadians viewed former PM Trudeau's economy. This trend continued, as the Liberal Party's approval rating plummeted while the Conservative Party's rating increased, with the disparity reaching its peak at President Trump's inauguration on January 20, 2025. However, because of the election of the new Liberal Party leader, the threats of high tariffs on Canada, and comments to make Canada the US's "51st state", the approval rate for the Liberal Party increased, reaching an approval rating above the Conservative Party, whose rating had dropped.

Foreign Group Caught Distributing Dangerous 'Zombie Drug' in Korea

by YEJI LIM

Recently, a foreign drug trafficking group was arrested in South Korea for selling a dangerous drug known as the “zombie drug.” The drug, officially called mephedrone, is an artificial stimulant that can cause extremely aggressive and uncontrollable behavior. People who have used this reported that it can make you act violent, or scream, and even bite others like it is said in the nickname.

According to the police, the group was already accused of drug distribution on Telegram and selling marijuana and mephedrone to Russians and Asian foreigners in their country. The group had been bringing the drug into South Korea and planned to spread it in places open at night like clubs and bars. Fortunately with a fast investigation and surveillance, the police was able to catch the suspects before the drug was sold to more people.

The use of mephedrone is very risky. It can cause hallucinations and a complete loss in sense of reality. In some cases abroad people who have consumed this drug have harmed themselves or others. Not only is it dangerous for the person using it, it puts everyone around them in danger.

This case made concerns among many Koreans, especially parents and teachers. For students it is fearful that a drug this dangerous could be spreading in the country. Thankfully, the police were able to stop this group before more people were affected. Just in case, to prevent further negative causes, I think it's very important for young people to understand how serious this drug use can be, and that it's something to take seriously.

U.S.A Trump Increased Reciprocal Tariffs

by ISABELLE JANG

Asian stocks were mostly lower and US stock futures tumbled Wednesday after President Donald Trump's enormous reciprocal tariff went to effect, upending global trade.

The traffic, America's largest in a century, places massive across the board import taxes, some as high as 50% on a dozen nations. Many people are concerned about US tariffs, consumers and businesses will end up footing those massive tariff bills.

The reciprocal rates, which aren't exactly reciprocal, were calculated by dividing a country's trade deficit with the US by its exports to the country and multiplying by $\frac{1}{2}$. They range from 11% to a whopping 50%. Barring Mexico and Canada, America's other top trading partners were hardly spared in this round. The EU was hit with a 20% reciprocal tariffs, Japan at 24%. For South Korea, benchmark Kospi index (short for Korea Composite Stock Price Index) headed into bear market territory on Wednesday, decline of 20% from a recent peak, after the country announced 1.3 billion US dollars in emergency support measure for its auto industry as it seeks to mitigate the blow of Trump administration's tariff.

Although Trump escalated against China, by far the biggest target, they are now subject to at least a 104% tariff and also China hit with a 100% tariff to the USA. Trump tacked on even higher tariffs than initially announced after Beijing didn't back off its promise to impose 34% retaliatory tariffs.

Some researchers suggest that the Durupinar Formation's shape and size closely match the dimensions of Noah's Ark, which could indicate a link to these ancient legends. However, many geologists disagree, arguing that the formation is likely a natural geological feature created by erosion and landslide debris. Experts also point out that wood takes millions of years to fossilize, making it unlikely for a 5,000-year-old wooden ship to turn to stone.

Despite differing opinions, the research team plans to continue studies at the site and hopes to establish a visitor centre to share future findings with the public.

Who Will Be the Future Pope?

by IDAM SUH

On April 21st 2025, Pope Francis passed away because of a stroke followed by a coma and heart failure at the age of 88. Recently, he encountered pneumonia, which affected his health. Pope Francis was pope for 12 years, from 2013 to 2025, and promoted peace in the world. The day before his death, he emphasized the hope of peace despite violence and conflicts around the world. He mentioned that he wants the truce for wars and peace on earth. While he is well known for the peacebuilding and climate actions, Pope Francis' achievements includes interfaith dialogues, peace building, climate action, advocacy for the poor and marginalized, and many others. He reformed the church governance and finance and softened the church's stance on some gender issues. These achievements show his value on humanity.

As the pope passed away, the candidates for a new pope were revealed. The new pope will be determined among the candidates by the strictly confidential gathering of Roman Catholic cardinals called conclave, which is the word from the Latin con(together) and clavis(key), which dates back centuries. They are Pietro Parolin(Italy), Luis Antonio Gokim Tagle(Philippine), Fridolin Ambongo Besungu (Democratic Republic of the Congo), and Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson(Ghana). Cardinal Parolin seems to emphasize diplomacy and a global outlook more than the purity of Catholic theories and Cardinal Tagle was nicknamed as Asian Francis based on his characteristics and perspective. Additionally, Ambongo and Turkson candidates expressed their opinion not to want to be a pope but still they are leading candidates. Currently, there are 135 cardinals who can participate in conclave.

Is Noah's Ark Found in Real Life?

by SALLY HUH

An international team of researchers is investigating a boat-shaped geological formation in eastern Turkey that some believe could be linked to the ark of Noah in the Bible. Known as the Durupinar Formation, the 163-metre-long mound is located about 30 kilometers south of Mount Ararat, Turkey's highest peak. Its distinct shape and size drew attention since it was first discovered.

Since 2021, a collaborative team from Istanbul Technical University, Agri Ibrahim Cecen University, and Andrews University in the United States has been studying the site. Recent tests on soil and rock samples taken from the formation revealed traces of clay-like materials, marine deposits, and remnants of ancient marine life such as molluscs (a type of invertebrate animal). These materials are assumed to be between 3,500 and 5,000 years old, suggesting that the region experienced significant flooding in ancient times.

The Rodent That Sniffs Out Landmines

by ALEX KIM



Image Source: CNN

Ronin, an African giant pouched rat, is making headlines for setting a new world record. From August 2021 to February 2025, detecting 109 landmines and 15 unexploded ordnances in Cambodia earned recognition from the Guinness World Records. Trained by the Belgian nonprofit APOPO (Anti-Personnel Landmines Detection Product Development), Ronin is part of a special group of rats that use their incredible sense of smell to locate landmines, helping save lives in some of the world's most dangerous post-conflict zones. Ronin was born in Tanzania and later deployed to Cambodia's Preah Vihear province, a region with one of the highest concentrations of landmines globally. The country is still dealing with the aftermath of decades of war, including the Khmer Rouge regime and the massive U.S. bombing campaign during the Vietnam War. It's estimated that between 4 and 6 million landmines remain buried in Cambodia, and more than 65,000 people have been killed or injured by them since 1979. That's where rats like Ronin come in. Despite their bad reputation, these large rodents are incredibly smart, fast, and light enough to walk over landmines without triggering them. They are trained to detect the scent of explosives and alert their handlers, making them a safe and efficient alternative to traditional demining tools. While a human with a metal detector might take days to clear a small area, Ronin can search a space the size of a tennis court in just 30 minutes.

Ronin follows in the footsteps of Magawa, another APOPO-trained rat who held the detection record before passing away in 2022. Their work is vital—over 110 million landmines remain buried in more than 60 countries, and in 2023 alone, nearly 5,800 people were injured or killed, over a third of them children. Unlike slow and risky traditional methods, these rats can safely scan areas, covering a tennis court in 30 minutes compared to days for a human deminer. Their light weight and sharp sense of smell make them a powerful tool in making former war zones safe again.

Measles Outbreak in America

by ANNA PARK

Recently, the United States faced one of its worst measles outbreaks in decades. Cases were reported from multiple states, totaling nearly 600 cases as of April 8, 2025, according to the report. The outbreak is primarily concentrated in western areas,

particularly in Texas. As of April 8, 2025, Texas reported 505 measles cases, 56 in New Mexico, 24 in Kansas, and 10 in Oklahoma. The primary reason for this outbreak is the increasing number of unvaccinated people, particularly young children and teens, in these areas. Nearly all cases in Texas were due to unvaccinated people, who had 70% of young children and teens. (Based on the health department).

Measles, also called rubeola, is a highly contagious disease that caused millions of deaths around the world before the vaccination was invented. A high fever, rash, cough, and red eyes are all symptoms of measles. It can result in potentially fatal side effects like pneumonia and inflammation of the brain. There are no specific cures or treatments for measles; therefore, the best way to prevent the disease is to get vaccinated. However, some people refuse to get vaccinated, which can lead to outbreaks, such as the one we are currently experiencing. This is why it's not just about individual protection, but also about protecting the community. When a large percentage of the population is vaccinated, it creates a 'herd immunity' that helps protect those who cannot be vaccinated, such as infants or people with weakened immune systems. Recent reports show a severely concerning number of unvaccinated people, also considering that many of them go unreported. U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. emphasized the importance of getting the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine to prevent the spread of measles. One dose of the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccination provides 93% protection against measles; a second dose increases that protection to 97%. It is recommended that children receive the first dose between 12 and 15 months of age and the second dose between 4 and 6 months after the first dose. The reports show another concern: the divide between rural and urban areas. In a recent report, the disparity in childhood vaccination rates between urban and rural areas is another key finding from the Truveta research. In urban areas, 75% of children had received an MMR dosage by the time they were 15 months old, while in rural areas, only 65.5% had received the injection. The primary reasons expected are the scarcity of medical facilities and increased vulnerability to misinformation in rural areas.

Farming in Space?

by IRENE KIM

Food has always been a crucial topic regarding life in space, with various improvements being made throughout the space-journeying years. Frankly, the history of food consumed by astronauts in space started with toothpaste-like tubes, often filled with pureed (*Foods that are processed until smooth and thick and no texture) beef or liver paste or—for dessert—chocolate paste. This is the exact recorded meal that was ever consumed in space by Soviet astronaut Yuri Gagarin. And if liquified beef toothpaste sounds distasteful, you are most certainly right. Most astronauts described the food as 'unpleasant' and 'tasteless',

and this leads to the major changes in space food production. Listening to the complaints, NASA gradually responded by improving food quality, even managing to send solid foods for consumption in space, with various techniques like freeze-drying.

Now research has taken another step regarding space food, as now the main endeavor is to generate and create food—in space itself. Specifically speaking, these foods will be produced in labs. Lab-grown foods include components like carbohydrates, protein and fat, initially made in test tubes, which are then processed to look and taste indifferent to the actual foods. With the convenient way these foods are made, multiple lab-grown foods are on sale too, such as lab-grown chicken which is commonly sold in the US. With the European Space Agency (ESA) providing sufficient funding, this research will serve valuable to cutting down the significant costs of feeding an astronaut, which reaches prices up to 20,000pounds per day.

Other than simply cutting down costs, but many scientists also point out its benefits to when humans may settle down on outer space, this provides a proficient solution to issues regarding food. Hence, with research on space foods improving more and more with time, a space farm that produces space suited foods is not too far in the future!

AI Art– Theft in the Name of Revolution

by HANNAH YI

Recently, many controversies regarding AI Art have sparked among artists. You see– AI art is not ‘created’, it is generated from already existing art all over the internet. Many artists complain that AI is stealing their unique art style. In addition, some people generate art from AI, revise it, and upload it online, claiming that they drew it. This is disrespectful to the artists, who put their effort into creating an art, just for AI to generate the same image within a few seconds.

Just a few weeks ago, there was a trend on social media to create Ghibli-style art of themselves using AI. This raised copyright concerns and many artists realized that AI is copying their art styles and ideas. They voiced that AI is not producing art or creativity; it is just a blatant theft of their hard work. It is astonishing that AI can generate images– no one can deny that. However, it is problematic as AI is just combining different artworks of other people.

AI can also generate misleading images. Facebook, a social media platform that mostly older people enjoy using, has been a haven for AI content. Many people have exploited the payment system in Facebook by using AI art to fool elderly people into engaging in them. AI content has also been used to create clickbait advertisements and thumbnails that trick thousands, if not millions of people into falling for the bait.

AI art, a creation of human revolution, is raising debate all over the world. It is amazing that AI can even create an artwork that resembles human art– there’s no doubt in that. However, it is problematic that there are

Bringing Back Dire Wolves and Woolly Mammoths: Do We Really Need Them?

by JIHOON CHOI

Colossal, a company that promotes de-extinction, has just released their new project of bringing back dire wolves. According to them, they were able to successfully nurture this long-lost species, making headlines everywhere. This project is similar to their previous project of creating a woolly-mouse, which had also sent a ripple across the world. However, before we expect real-life Jurassic Parks, we should answer an important question: do we really need them?

Colossal’s dire wolf is actually not the real “dire wolf”- it is actually gray wolves whose genes were modified, and was inserted into a surrogate dog mother. Their dire wolf is white-furred, unlike scientists who suggest that their real fur color may be different - their depiction of them as white-furred was merely a continuity from a video game that popularized dire wolves. Also, the concept of de-extinction itself may be flawed. What makes a species bona-fide is not only whether it looks the same, but also includes their behaviour, interactions, and the ecosystem around them. It is impossible to replicate all these factors in a human-made lab. However, colossal continues to misleadingly label their projects as “de-extinction” of previously lost species.

One of the main goals of Colossal’s projects is to promote biodiversity. When biodiversity is harmed by unnatural forces, such as global warming, and deforestation, this can lead to extinction of species, which may further lead to collapse in the food chain. Biodiversity conservation is a sought-after goal by many scientists. Although the goal of Colossal’s projects are helpful, the realistic outcome of their projects is questioned by many scientists. One of the reasons for creating dire wolves was to help the survival of Red wolves, whose genetic pool is challenged by road collisions and human activities. Even if dire wolves are released to the wild - how would they fix the fundamental problem of wolves being killed, which comes from human activities? Another example is the woolly mammoth project. Colossal’s aim is to use woolly mammoths to go further than just promoting biodiversity. By sending them to the arctic to use their foraging actions to lock carbon on the soil, they hope to slow global warming. But scientists say that this action could actually accelerate the global warming process instead of slowing it down. Thus, many goals that Colossal is trying to achieve - conserving biodiversity, slowing global warming - are shrouded with uncertainty.

While Colossal may be helping spread awareness about sustainability, we should be looking at its realistic effects. Yes, bringing back these creatures would be cool - but would that slow global warming? Would it promote biodiversity? While we awe at “dire wolves” and “woolly mammoths”, we could be missing something. Maybe it’s time to stop watching the show - and instead really protect the ecosystem we have.

BOOK REVIEW: *The Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger

by GEON GO

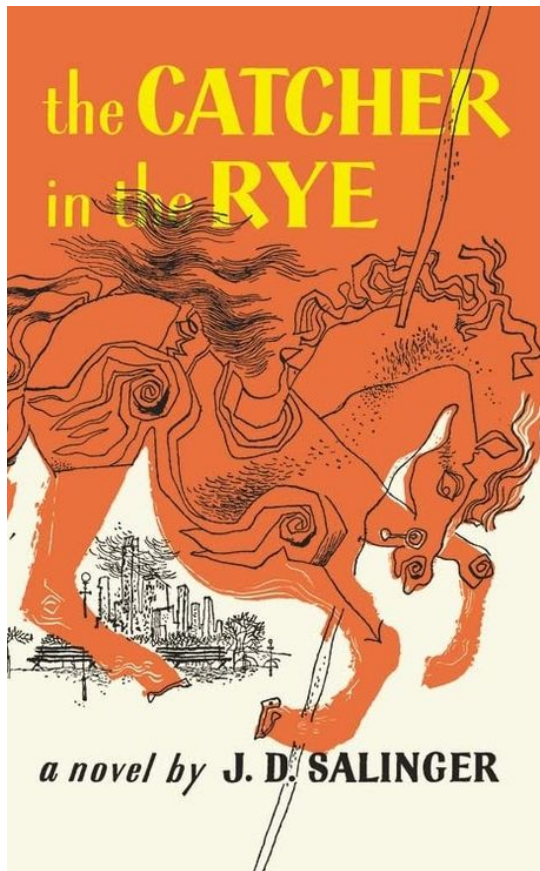


Image Source: 교보문고

The Catcher in the Rye starts with a sixteen-year-old boy named Holden receiving and despairing at the notice of expulsion from his school, which is Pencey Prep School in Agerstown. Holden’s sudden failing of the fourth school, by failure of four out of five classes, did not allow Holden to ride back to his home. Holden was not supposed to leave until the scheduled Wednesday. He visited Spencer, the history teacher, to give his last farewell, but came back annoyed by his reprimand for his poor grade. Coming back to his dormitory, Holden meets another despairing situation. Holden notices that his roommate

Stradlater is going out on a date with Jane Gallagher, who was Holden’s last girlfriend. Holden shivers his two hands and waits patiently until Stradlater comes back. When Stradlater returns, Holden immediately asks him if he had any intercourse with her. Stradlater teases him, and Holden immediately rages at him and gets knocked down. Holden gets sick of Pencey and decides to leave three days early. *The Catcher in the Rye* is a first-person narrative novel written by J.D. Salinger, published on July 16, 1951. *The Catcher in the Rye* is written based on the author’s true story, teenagers’ lost identity, hopeless life, and failure in everything. The author has blended these hardships and adversities very well in the book. *The Catcher in the Rye* was treated with amazement, and it was finally included in Time’s 2005 list.

Father in 40s Gets Probation for Hitting Daughter

by YUJU HONG

A man in his 40s received a suspended prison sentence for beating his two young daughters badly enough to leave bruises because they did not obey him. On May 3rd, Judge Shin Yoon-joo of the Cheongju District Court’s Criminal Division 2 sentenced a 41-year-old man (referred to as A) to one year in prison, suspended for two years, for violating the Child Welfare Act (child abuse). The court also ordered him to perform 80 hours of community service and complete 40 hours of a child abuse prevention education program.

A was brought to trial for beating his daughter, B (who was 12 years old at the time), more than 10 times with a clothes hanger on her buttocks at their home in Cheongwon-gu, Cheongju, in May 2020, because she came home late after playing with a friend.

In October of the following year, when A asked, “Who made the house messy?” and B and her younger sister C (then 11 years old) denied responsibility, he said, “I’ll keep hitting until someone admits it,” and struck both daughters with a wooden sword.

After B, unable to bear the beating, confessed that she was responsible, A hit her around 20 more times. In another incident in 2022, A allegedly kicked B out of the house, saying, “Why did I buy you glasses if you’re not going to wear them? If you’re not going to wear them, then leave the house.”

The court stated, “Although the defendant had a duty to protect and care for the victims, he inflicted physical and psychological harm through violence and threatening remarks. However, considering that he committed the offenses while raising the children alone after divorce and has no prior criminal record, the sentence was determined accordingly.” This case is very heartbreaking and upsetting. Children are physically and emotionally vulnerable, so it was especially shocking that their own guardian became the perpetrator of violence.

I believe that stricter punishment is needed for cases of child abuse. A suspended sentence means the offender avoids prison if no further crimes are committed for a certain period, but the children have already suffered deep emotional and physical scars. In that sense, it does not feel like true justice was served.

Also, even if a parent feels stressed from raising children, violence can never be justified. I think the government and local communities should strengthen support systems for single-parent families and build better monitoring systems to protect children's safety.
