



THE VOYAGER

APRIL 2021



A NOTE FROM
THE
NEWSPAPER
STAFF

BACK TO SCHOOL!

THIS ISSUE IS LOADED WITH NEW STORIES, RANGING FROM ISRAEL ELECTIONS TO SPACEX! PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE ISSUE TO FIND OUT!

IN THIS ISSUE....

GENERAL MOTORS → 2

ISRAEL ELECTION 2021 → 3

**SPACEX ROCKET DEBRIS
CREATES A SPECTACLE → 4**

**100 DAYS, 100 MILLION SHOTS →
6**

*On the front cover: Spring sunsets.
Taken by Angela Duszkievicz*

GENERAL MOTORS BY SIDDHI PATEL

General Motors shook up the car industry earlier this month with their announcement that they are aiming to stop selling gasoline-powered cars by 2035. This was surprising as it was much sooner than what Wall Street analysts predicted. With this being said, multiple other automakers have expressed their interest and predictions in other equations. Like stated before, General Motors have their target set at 2035. The CEO of Tesla, Elon Musk, has talked about selling 20 million electric vehicles (EVs) by 2030 and also plans to increase its production volume by 50% a year for the near future. On the other hand, Volkswagen wants 25% of their vehicle sales to come from battery-powered EVs by 2030. Toyota plans to sell 5.5 million electrified vehicles by 2030, which is a figure that includes hybrid electric cars as well as fuel-cell vehicles.

Barron's, which is an American weekly magazine/newspaper and sister publication to The Wall Street Journal, has calculated the publicly announced goals by aligning years and filling in gaps to find an overall estimate. They released that based on company comments, roughly between 15 million and 20 million EVs will be sold by 2025. This implies an average annual growth rate of about 50% between 2020 and 2025. This would account for roughly 15% to 20% of total light-vehicle sales. Another perspective is of Wedbush analyst Dan Ives, who is a Wall Street analyst and knowledgeable about EVs estimates that the EVs' share of the market won't be that high. However, he still assumes that EVs will win about 10% of the global market by 2025. After hearing all of this news, some individuals have also changed their predictions. RBC analyst Joseph Spak is one of these people. In December, before General Motors announced their target, he projected that battery and hybrid-electric vehicles could account for roughly 15% of new-car sales by 2025. Now Spak believes that

his projection may be too low using his math. This is because GM historically has had about 17% total U.S. market share and he expected EVs to account for 40% of U.S. new-car sales by 2035. But for GM to go all-electric by then, assuming it keeps its historic 17% of the market, it would have to win 43% of U.S. EV sales.

With all of these different announcements and calculations, it may be difficult to have an exact vision of EVs and though the 2025 valuation math can't tell investors to buy or sell the stock, it does offer context about the coming golden age of EVs.

ISRAEL ELECTION 2021 BY MEEKA VARDI

In the past two years, Israel has seen four elections, making its government unable to properly aid its people in the midst of a pandemic, with no national budget and complete instability. The political fear that Israelis face at the moment is the tragic possibility of facing a fifth election. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his opponents have not been able to win enough seats in parliament in order to win a majority. Due to this, Israel is faced with the task of voting again, and again, and again. Since the election in 1996, the election that led to Mr. Netanyahu becoming Prime Minister, he has been faced with numerous corruption charges. Though he claims he wants to win this election for the betterment of Israel, many speculate that all he wants is immunity. Mr. Netanyahu began to pique the Israeli law enforcement's interest back in 2016, though he did not have his first trial until 2018. The trial contains three separate cases: Cases 1000, 2000, and 4000. Case 1000 involves Mr. Netanyahu's acceptance of gifts worth over \$300,000 from two businessmen. Case 2000 resulted from when Mr. Netanyahu having possibly discussed a quid pro quo arrangement with the publisher of one of Israel's most popular newspapers. Case 4000 was due to the accusation

of businessman Shaul Elovitch granting favors to Mr. Netanyahu in hopes of reducing the risk of his business falling apart.

Israel has since fallen deep into a political crisis. With no definitive answer as to who will become the next Prime Minister, people are left questioning the ideals and organization of the country. Those who are against Mr. Netanyahu have discussed forming what could be viewed as an alliance in order to ensure his reign is brought to an end.

As of today, March 26, 2021 (9:30 am), there has yet to be a final result of the elections.

SPACEX ROCKET DEBRIS CREATES A SPECTACLE BY SANAYA SINGH

The sky for Pacific Northwest residents was quite a sight to behold on the night of Thursday, March 26. At first thought, the blazing lights streaking across looked as if to be a meteor shower. Meteors tend to move at such a rate that they are often gone in the blink of an eye. These fireballs were taking their time, and as a result, many people were able to take pictures and videos. In fact, it was through several TikToks that I came to hear of this strange incident. The first one was definitely off-putting, and I quickly passed it off as video editing. It was after seeing five TikToks in a row that I knew something was up.

So what were these mysterious not-meteors? There were a wide variety of answers offered throughout social media platforms, ranging from alien invasion to transformers and, “It’s just Iron Man’s suit guys!” While these suggestions were definitely funny, the truth was quickly uncovered by astronomers and other professionals of similar study. This incident was a result of SpaceX’s Falcon 9 rocket. Falcon 9 is the first orbital rocket where much of it is reusable for more flights. SpaceX’s website states that as of current, Falcon 9 has been reflown successfully 54 times. As mentioned previously, not all of Falcon 9 is reusable, only the

costly parts of the rocket are salvaged while the rest is debris. While no official statements have been released from SpaceX, it was concluded that the phenomena witnessed the previous Thursday was Falcon 9 debris burning up in the sky.

Judging from the Pacific Northwest residents' baffled reaction, this occurrence was completely out of place. This is correct as the debris that dazzled the sky was relatively old. It was from a Falcon 9 relaunch much earlier, on March 4. From this, we can conclude that the debris had been stuck in the atmosphere for 22 days. Some people are concerned, as the debris should have burned up on the day of the launch itself. There are concerns over the pollution of the planet’s atmosphere, and the amount of “space junk” (as it is called) continues to grow. It’s not the amount itself that is concerning, but the dangers they pose for satellites in space. Debris orbits the Earth at very fast speeds and there is always the threat of collisions. A National Geographic article explains how, “In 2006, for example, a tiny piece of space junk collided with the International Space Station, taking a chip out of the heavily reinforced window.” Space pollution is a growing problem but there are efforts being made to combat it by many different countries. Even the tiniest particles can be tracked from Earth and monitored to ensure that collisions with man-made objects can be prevented.

It is disappointing to hear that Thursday night’s spectacle turned out to be something entirely mundane. There is on the other hand, an actual meteor shower coming up in April, peaking on the 22nd which is also coincidentally Earth Day. The Lyrids meteor shower is known to produce around 20 to 25 meteors an hour on average, sometimes up to 100 in a luckier year. This shower is easily observable as the radiant point is found near Vega, one of the brightest stars in the spring night sky. For the people out there who are tired of staying at home all the time, it’s a pretty good excuse to go outside and appreciate the much-improved weather and night sky.

100 DAYS, 100 MILLION SHOTS BY SIDDHI SHAH

These dreadful times have been testing everyone's patience. Everyone has wanted to get rid of this virus, so we can move on from this state. That is why when the first vaccines came out, many were excited to get the shot and start a new chapter. Alongside this, the country has welcomed a new president during these times, Joe Biden. People have high expectations for him, especially towards this pandemic, which is why he has created a goal for himself and his government.

After a shorter-than-expected rollout of doses previously, Biden decided to take action and have a new plan. Since taking office, the administration has pumped up the supply of vaccine doses in the United States after states complained that there was a higher demand for shots than supply. This is why he created a goal of delivering 100 million Covid-19 vaccine shots in his first 100 days in office. With this in mind, Biden has reached his goal on Friday, March 19th. This is great news as cases have been rapidly increasing in particular areas. The even greater news is that President Joe Biden has accomplished his goal 42 days early as he was sworn in as the 46th president of the United States on January 20th.

However, his work does not stop here. Last month, the administration had stated it would buy 100 million additional doses of Johnson & Johnson's Covid-19 vaccine, the first single-dose vaccine, thus doubling the nation's supply. They have also continued to work with Pfizer and Moderna for 600 million doses combined (enough for 300 million Americans). He is also directing states to make all adults (18 and up) eligible for a vaccine by May 1st, which is going to be a leap in getting Americans vaccinated.

Even though the administration is working hard and the pace of vaccinations has been increasing recently, there is still one big problem standing in the way, vaccine hesitancy. Clinical trial data show that the vaccines are safe and highly effective, but when surveyed in December,

many were scared to receive the shot. With this fear, there is a new threat of emerging variants and it is unknown how effective the current vaccines will be. The variant, first identified in the U.K., has already become a strain in the U.S. Therefore, top health officials and White House Chief Medical Advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci are encouraging Americans to get vaccinated as quickly as possible.

ADDITIONAL PICTURES BY Angela Duszkievicz



April showers bring May flowers.

