

Kim Jong-un disappears

Some speculate North Korean leader is dead

By Aia Andonovska
Arts & Life Editor

Since April 15, many questions have been swirling around about where in the world Kim Jong-un could be. The notorious North Korean leader's last public appearance was on April 11, about two weeks ago. He has even missed the country's largest annual celebration, which is the birthday of his grandfather, Kim Il-sung, who has so graciously passed down his militarial state through the generations. If Kim Jong-un is indeed dead, then the power would change from his hands to those of his sister, Kim Joy Young.

This is not the first time Kim Jong-un has receded from the public eye, but for some reason this time, the rumours about his whereabouts are running rampant. One report in the American

news media speculated he was in grave danger after heart surgery, and presumably, dead. Another source said that he might have been injured during his beloved missile tests.

Spy satellites in the past couple of days have spotted a train that probably belongs to Mr. Kim in Wonsan, an eastern coastal town where Mr. Kim's family has a seaside home. A South Korean news report said this past Saturday that the United States had detected preparations for a missile test in Sondeok, farther up the east coast, where North Korea has launched missiles in the leader's presence before.

This past Sunday, South Korean officials told CNN that North Korea's leader is very much alive and doing just fine. "Our government position is firm," Moon Chung-in, South Korean President Moon Jae-in's top foreign policy advisor, told CNN. "Kim Jong Un is alive and well." North Korean state newspaper Rodong Sinmun also reported on this past Sunday that Kim sent thanks to workers who helped remodel the country's city of Samjiyon, but CNN also said it was unable to independently confirm this report. Reuters reported this past Friday that an unnamed South Korean source said intelligence pointed to Kim being alive, and is more than likely to make a public appearance soon.

It is not necessarily unusual that Kim Jong-un has gone MIA these past few weeks, considering that he and North Korean officials occasionally disappear. For example, in 2014 Kim went four days without being seen by anyone. When he re-emerged, he did so with a limp and a cane and North Korea's state media reported that he had an uncomfortable medical condition. Even more recently, Kim wasn't seen in public for about three weeks in February.

It is thought that Kim might be a heavy smoker. He also has gained a lot of weight since he took power in 2011 following the death of his father, Kim Jong II. It is also believed that North Korea's ruling family has a history of heart problems. Reportedly, Kim Jong II and Kim II Sung died from heart attacks, but it is looking like Kim Jong-un might be around for a little while longer.



Courtesy of Mikhail Svetlov

Kim Jong-Un

Response to feedback about the Clarion's 'biased' opinion section

By Zach Dickerson
Editor in Chief

Feedback question:

"Do you try to keep your political articles non-biased? If so, please put more energy into providing facts and data, rather than opinions and emotions. Telling people which candidate they should vote for, like that last article about Biden is very inappropriate for a campus newspaper. Let us read the facts, then make our own decisions based on those. Thank you."

Some background: this question we received is specifically in reference to an article published in the April 15 issue titled "With Sanders out of the race, Democrats must stick together." In the article, it asks for former Sanders supporters to stick with the Democratic Party and vote for Biden in the upcoming presidential election in November.

The first thing that I would like to point out is how the person who asked this question stated the writer of the article shouldn't have put so much energy into "opinions and emotions," but it is important to point out (and anyone can see this) that the article in question is an opinion article.

While opinion articles can, and at times should, have "facts and data," they are pretty much supposed to mostly rely on "opinions and emotions." That's what makes them opinion articles and not news articles. It is very important for one to not make this mistake.

Now, for the comment stating that this type of article is "inappropriate for a campus newspaper." I want to say that I very much disagree with this statement, as it is the responsibility of all newspapers to cover even political news.

See 'Response to feedback' on pg. 2