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Everybody's Talking

Rock story: A young Canadian girl who likes to collect pretty rocks almost lost one of her favourites, but got it back. Georgia LeMasurier, from New Brunswick on the country's east coast, was visiting her grandmother in British Columbia on the west coast. As usual, she was carrying her favourite rock, but lost it on the airplane. Unfortunately, by the time she and her family realized the rock was missing, the plane had already taken off for London, England. Although the loss may have seemed trivial, LeMasurier's mom reported the loss to the airline. About a week later, they got a phone call. Someone had found the rock, after it took several trips to different cities.

Bird brains: If you have a pet macaw, don't let it fly free. A Taiwanese man discovered this after he took his two macaws to a local park. He set the birds free to fly around but one approached a jogger from behind, landing on his back. The startled jogger, who turned out to be a doctor, fell and hurt himself. While recovering, he had to miss work so he lost income. Not surprisingly, he sued the birds' owner. The owner, whom the court ruled should have better supervised the birds, received a short prison term and a fine of NT\$3.04 million. Hopefully, a responsible person will look after his macaws while he's serving time!

Shop crazy: Those who love shopping might want to try Gekås Ullared. This giant Swedish department store is said to be the biggest in the world. Larger than five football fields, it is located in the small town of Ullared, in the southern part of the country not far from Gothenburg. Opened in 1963, Gekås Ullared has made its namesake town famous, with millions of shoppers a year elbowing their way through the store. The mall-style store has departments for everything from toys to food to technology, along with home décor, clothing and much more. There's even a hotel for those who want to spend multiple days shopping for deals to their hearts' content.

Shhhh! Two of the quietest rooms in the world are found in the United States: one at Orfield Labs in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the other at Microsoft's Audio Lab in Redmond, Washington. Both rooms are known as anechoic chambers, which are built to stop any outside noise from getting inside. Apparently, visiting one of these chambers is quite an eerie experience, as the only audible sounds are produced inside the room, such as a visitor's heartbeat, breathing, and stomach gurgles. Even extremely faint sounds seem loud because there is no background sound to muffle them. Most people can only stay in an anechoic chamber for a short time as it's disorienting and odd.

Quoteable Quotes
 "Faith in oneself is the best and safest course." ~ Michelangelo
 "Proper listening is the foundation of proper living." ~ Plutarch

What's Happening

Non profit organizations and charities – promote your upcoming event here free of charge! Complete our event submission page at www.centralalbertacoffeenews.com.
 Please allow three to four weeks' notice.

☛ **Coats for Kids** is back, and we need your help to make Winter warmer for kids! Visit www.lacombefcss.net to apply for new coats for kids or, if you're feeling extra kind, consider making a donation to keep the program going. Let's wrap our community in kindness, one coat at a time.

☛ Are you a volunteer, or an organization that works with volunteers? Check out the **Online Volunteer Handbook** at www.lacombe.ca/volunteer for great resources.

Where's Newman?

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Trivia

1. *The Nutcracker* ballet is based on a book by this writer.
2. Dalmatian puppies are born without spots – T/F?
3. The Tour de France bicycle race began in 1903, 1933, or 1973?
4. What is the largest lake in the world?
5. An early, wooden ancestor of the tuba was called a serpent, frog, or duck?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)
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