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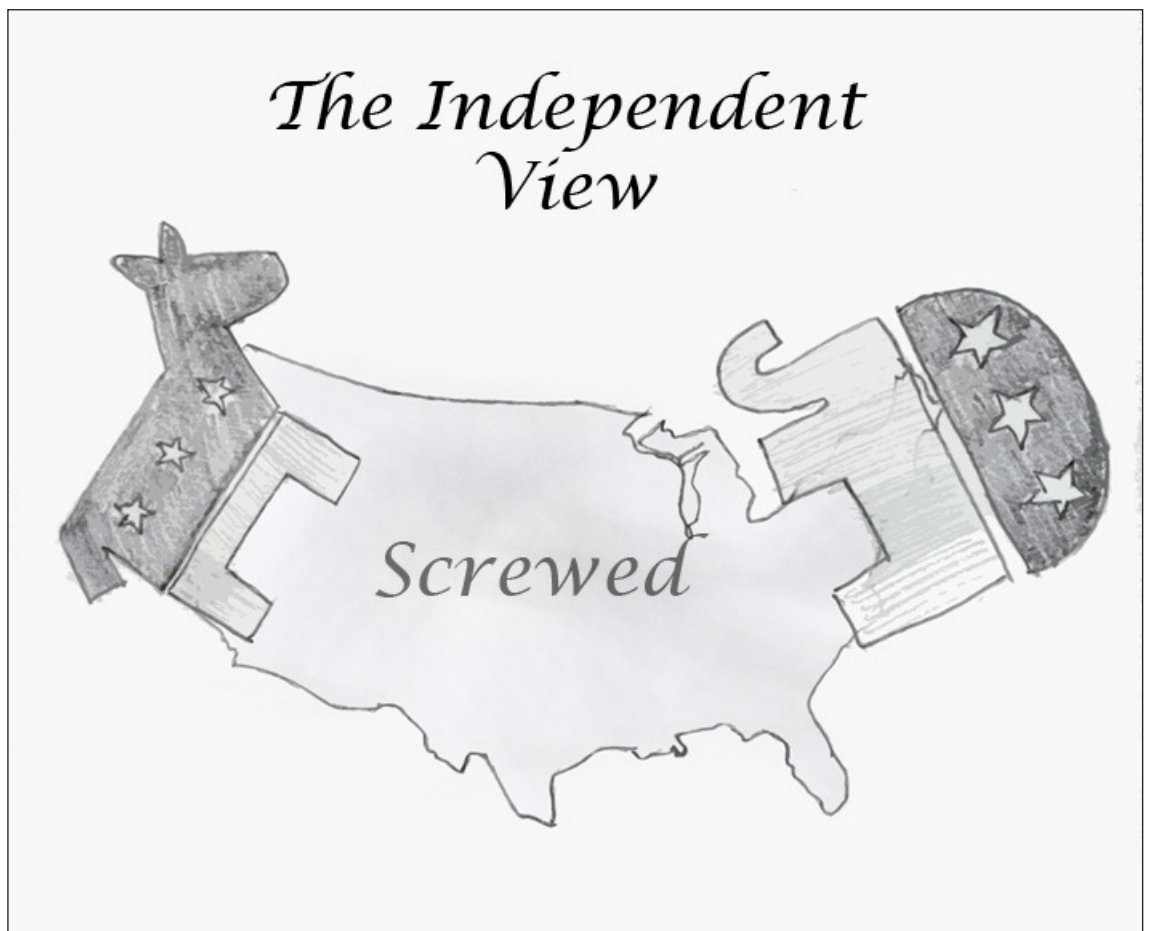


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OPINION

# Meteorites should be news to our society

By **MATTHEW SO**  
*Online editor*

Today's society has an abundance of information. But, what is news and what is garbage? Some incidents are interpreted as minutiae; it's as though they never happened. This is a popular attitude in today's society. And therein lies the problem.

There are so many sources of information on current events and happenings in our society; i.e. the newspaper, news on television, news on radio, news on the internet,

and, if you are a hero, a newsworthy event you might happen to see or bear witness to.

As participants in a democratic society with so many freedoms, few restrictions on information, we are not as well informed as we should be. Many of us don't know or care, until something affects us in a personal way.

But it is deserved, because we let it happen to us, be it a bill that passed due to a low voter turnout, or being stuck in traffic because we weren't aware of some big road project causing a five-mile

backup, but was on the traffic news 15 minutes ago, or that they were giving away free donuts at the class president voting booths before you found out a week too late.

It sucks not being in the know, doesn't it? Now, I am not a prime example of the informed individual, although I idealize it. Hypocrisy? Maybe. I'm not clueless, but imagine my surprise when I heard from a friend that a meteor had hit Peru, killing hundreds.

Later, after telling friends and anyone else who would listen to this, and after a bit of research, I

realized the hundreds of fatalities were actually a few nauseated Peruvians, and the meteor was actually a meteorite with an impact crater 19 feet deep and 98 feet wide. A respectable size, but nothing to wet yourself over.

I'll admit to a guilty interest in violent upheavals of earth and nature, not quite apocalyptic doomsday events, but loud and destructive enough to warrant my interest. So you can imagine I was disappointed, thinking a chunk of the moon had fallen out of the sky, when it was only a fairly large rock.

When scientists went to investigate 30 cases of headache and nausea among witnesses, they could not find the cause.

Later, scientists discovered that the meteorite had become superhot from friction with the atmosphere, then landed in arsenic-tainted water, vaporized the water, causing arsenic fumes which made bystanders ill.

Everything was explained away, but I didn't feel disappointed. I knew something I didn't know before, and though this may be a geeky obsession for knowledge, it made me feel better.

# Strange case of Banksy: artist, vandal, pop icon

By **BARRY KEARNS**  
*Staff writer*

You might not know who Banksy is; aside from a disputed photograph of him taken in Brazil, he remains anonymous.

You should, however, know about him. Banksy is a world-famous graffiti artist. Seriously, he does tours. Banksy has painted in his iconic stencil style in a number of places, from his home in England to the United States; his work has even been found on a barrier wall

in Israel. His work contains subversive messages and social commentary on his surroundings.

Banksy has also achieved a fame that surpasses his notoriety. One of the first instances of this occurred when Banksy snuck in a painting he modified and hung it on the wall of a museum in England. Upon detecting the smuggled piece, the museum decided to keep it as part of their permanent collection. Banksy's work has been featured in books and magazines. His spray-painted views on the world

have been placed side-by-side with Warhol, and yes, in case you were wondering, there's a Banksy guide book where you can see the graffiti first-hand in England.

Recently there have been some interesting developments. One of Banksy's works has itself been vandalized; an image of two policemen kissing was marked with homophobic comments. In response to this, an effort was made to restore the graffiti to its original condition and a layer of plexiglass was placed over it to protect it from further graffiti.

Irony aside, this changed the nature of Banksy's work – it's no longer considered vandalism, but instead, a form of public art that people have deemed worth protecting.

Banksy now finds himself in an awkward position as his rebellion seems to be co-opted by the institution he appears to fight.

Banksy now has a merchandise line created in his name, if not by him and there already seems to be the seeds of a public backlash against him.

I've loved Banksy's work, but

I've also loved the spirit of rebellion he's embodied in his work. Now that seems to be gone, as the government has ingratiated itself into his efforts.

I would be furious in this matter and would be tempted to lash out in the public forum of the streets. This was where Banksy started and has never gained from his work on the streets so I believe that he would have that much less to lose.

An act of defiance must remain that, or it will lose all purpose.

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

## What powers would you gain from a meteorite?



**RUTH KRAYNICK**  
Art

"I'd fly."



**JOHN BESS**  
Radiology

"I saw the F.F. movie; having those would be cool."



**KAREN CHAN**  
Business

"Invisibility."



**SUSANA BUMB**  
Physical Therapy

"I would teleport."



**KELLY ROSE**  
Photography

"I would shoot spaghetti out of my fingers."