

Asteroid Made of Metal

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EDITOR

Most of the time when one hears about an asteroid, the immediate thought would be of a huge object hurtling towards Earth, just what 2020 needs. But thankfully, this asteroid, nicknamed 16 Psyche, is not that.

16 Psyche is considered to be one of the largest objects in the asteroid belt, nearly 140 miles in diameter, which surrounds Mars and Jupiter. What makes this asteroid so unique is the fact that it is made entirely out of metal. Scientists predict that this asteroid could be worth nearly \$10,000 quadrillion, so add about 15 more zeroes and you would have your number.

"We've seen meteorites that are mostly metal, but Psyche could be unique in that it might be an asteroid that is totally made of iron and nickel," Tracy Becker of the Southwest Research Institute revealed. Becker said. "Earth has a

metal core, a mantle, and crust. It's possible that as a Psyche protoplanet was forming, it was struck by another object in our so-

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lar system and lost its mantle and crust." This would mean that this rock is worth more than the entirety of Earth's economy. Tracy Becker's goal is to release a spacecraft also named Psyche, which would investigate the asteroid in hopes to find the

origin of the asteroid. The spacecraft is set to launch in 2022 and will arrive in 2026, according to Swri.org who also exhibits that, "Metal asteroids are relatively rare in the solar system, and scientists believe Psyche could offer a unique opportunity to see inside a planet." Observations of 16 Psyche from the Hubble Space Telescope were recorded on iop-science.iop.org. According to their site, "Psyche is

best matched with the reflectance spectrum of pure iron; however, our intimate mixture models show that small grains of iron may

dominate the reflectance spectrum even if iron only comprises up to 10% of the material on the surface."

However, what makes this asteroid so unique is the possibility that it could be entirely composed of a nickel-iron core, without the crust like a normal plan-

et. This nickel-iron core is what makes the asteroid so valuable. New station usatoday.com suspects that "as the Psyche protoplanet

was forming, it was struck by another object in our solar system and lost its mantle and crust," creating what they call an early planet. A planet that does not bear a mantle and crust.

NASA employees stated that their goal is to learn about planetary formation,

but we are not going to be trying to bring any of this material back and using it for industry. Carol Polansky, a project scientist for the Psyche mission, told CBS that NASA has no plans to bring any part of the actual asteroid material back to study. They conclude that they do not possess the technology that would allow them to mine for the metals it possesses.

This asteroid could be worth more than you could ever imagine, and it's just one of the billions and billions of asteroids out there. We have yet to discover more about our ever-expanding and wondrously vast universe. Every day we discover new things, learning and taking in as much as we can about the universe in which we live. This unique asteroid is just one of the many more to come.



BROKEN IMMUNE SYSTEMS?

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On March 13th, 2020, families across the nation were told to stay home in order to prevent the spread of the emerging coronavirus in the United States.

Due to the orders by the WHO and the federal government, people have been directed to wear masks, wash hands frequently, and stay at least 6 feet away from other citizens when out in public. This has led to other precautionary measures such as people wearing disposable latex gloves. This may not necessarily be an issue as it is protecting everyone from contracting the coronavirus but it will be an issue after this is all over.

Many people believe that their immune systems will not be as strong as they once were when people were able to leave their homes before the quarantine began. This is due to the fact that when people disinfect everything and frequently wash their hands, they are not receiving the

helpful bacteria that strengthen the immune system. This would make it more difficult to fight off the common cold or influenza.

However, this is not at all the case. There is a theory known as "hygiene hypothesis". It is the idea that individuals who are exposed to a variety of germs in their childhood build a better immune system. There are scientific experiments conducted by the doctors at Brigham and Women's Hospital that young children who have early exposure to different types of microbes (germs) are not as likely to develop autoimmune disorders such as asthma and hay fever. By the time you are an adult, you have spent years being exposed to many types of bacteria and viruses. Your body has created a powerful immune system that can respond and fight off these germs.

According to MIT Medical, your immune system remembers viral and bacterial

markers and once these markers show up, your body starts making antibodies, which destroy viruses or bacteria that have entered your body.

Although your body remembers these markers in order to fight off the bacteria that you will get exposed to after the coronavirus pandemic is over, you still might get sick more often than usual. This is due to the social isolation that we have endured for the last eight months and an unknown length of time left.

The psychological effects of social isolation can affect your immune system. The cause: loneliness and stress. Research has shown that our antiviral response is suppressed when we feel lonely. Stress has similar effects; when you become stressed out, your body elevates its amount of cortisol (your fight or flight hormone), which interferes with the function of immune cells.

This pandemic has certainly caused an abundance of stress for nearly everyone, including the stress of having to socially distance ourselves. To help control this stress, stay connected with friends and family. To maintain a healthy immune system at home, eat a balanced diet, exercise regularly, and get a good night's rest. Although it is unlikely that you will catch a common cold when you start going out more, it will definitely bring you into contact with plenty of germs. Don't be worried! All will be okay as your immune system is just as strong as it has ever been.

Drug Decriminalization In Oregon

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EDITOR

On Tuesday, November 3rd, Measure 110 was approved with 59% of the vote, decriminalizing personal possession of all drugs in the state of Oregon. The measure would greatly minimize the punishment for personal, non-commercial, drug possession. Possession of methamphetamines and similar drugs formerly have been classified as a Class A misdemeanor, meaning it could have landed you in prison for up to a year and/or cost a fine up to \$6,250. Since the approval of Measure 110 possession of illicit substances is now only a Class E misdemeanor, the punishment

for the possession of methamphetamines now being, at most, a \$100 fine with no chance of imprisonment. Alternatively, violators can choose to participate in a health assessment for drug addiction in place of the fine. Although possession has become decriminalized, the manufacturing and distribution of illicit substances is still a criminal offense. A study from The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission estimates that drug possession convictions would decrease by a whole 90.7%.

Measure 110 would also begin a drug addiction treatment and recovery program funded by the newly established Drug Treatment and Recovery Services

Fund (DTRSF). With reductions in drug enforcement costs, Oregon will have an extra 11.25 million dollars to be directed towards the Drug Treatment and Recovery Services Fund. The DTRSF will be responsible for the funding of establishing addiction recovery programs in Oregon communities if they are capable of meeting certain standards, Ballotpedia writes that “The centers must provide immediate medical or other treatment 24 hours a day, health assessments, intervention plans, case management services, and peer support and outreach.”

Full drug legalization has proven to be effective in curbing drug addiction in other countries such

as Portugal, yet decriminalization is a step forward from the failure that has been the War on Drugs. Policymakers and voters ought to watch Oregon closely, the measure’s success or failure is to be determined and could inspire other states to follow suit in decriminalization, and possibly full legalization.



Will School Sports Make a Comeback?

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As the coronavirus quarantine approaches eight months, schools look to reopen and allow sports to start practicing on campus again. Although MHS is projected to reopen sometime next semester, multiple sports teams are looking to start practicing on campus before then.

Luckily, the California Inter-scholastic Federation, or CIF has announced on October 1st that their schedule for sports will not change. In July, CIF released a new schedule for all sports teams, which moved some sports to different seasons. This was done to help reduce the amount of “overlap” between different sports seasons. As of October 1st, this schedule will not change stating “They remain in place since they were announced on July 20 and will continue to remain in place as we begin October, approach November, and move forward in preparation for the launch of our Fall Sports season in mid-December.” Seeing that CIF has made monthly updates on the state of sports being reopened, we can expect to see another update for November soon.

Now, as fall gets closer, many fall sports athletes at MHS are

eager to get back to practicing on campus. Fortunately, it seems that some sports are getting the “ok” to start practicing on campus. For example, the baseball team has also started practicing on campus, using the baseball field and weight room. Both boys and girls volleyball are going to have their first on campus practice November 6th on the football field. Although volleyball is not able to practice in the gym, it is certainly a step towards practicing indoors. All players are required to wear masks and attempt to maintain six feet distance.

Although we are making progress towards practicing on campus and indoors, it seems that many other schools have already begun practicing indoors. At least for volleyball, multiple schools in our league such as Nordoff have been allowed to practice in their gym, presumably with masks and social distancing.

Hopefully, as the number of covid cases per day drops in California and a safe vaccine is created, all athletes will be able to return to practicing on campus and in the gym.



California’s Disappointing Election Results

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November 3rd didn’t necessarily provide any closure for those following the painful presidential race, however, it did give invaluable insight on the mindset and priorities of California voters. Local elections hold the same, if not more, value to people as presidential elections do, but this consistently fails to be noticed.

There were several ballot measures a part of this year’s general election for California, which had strong significance for the working class, homeless, and marginalized communities. California tends to pride itself on being one of the most progressive states, however when it comes down to the choice for people to instill protective measures and propositions, California fails to do so.

Proposition 15, was one of these measure results that exemplified California’s lack of concern for public funding, and further protected corporate hoarding of wealth. This measure was an initiative to close the tax loophole which allowed commercial property owners along with investors to keep billions of dollars through avoidance of corporate real estate taxation. These billions of dollars would have been reallocated to funding public K-12 education, along with community colleges and libraries.

The results of proposition 15 are still trailing, however there is a clear margin against passing this measure, which is an extreme disappointment. With an initiative such as proposition 15 failing, which would have provided much needed support for the vast majority of Californians, it is evident that California has a

long way to go in terms of truly progressive policy and concern for public institutions.

Proposition 21 was another ballot measure that failed to push through, with nearly 60% of voters in opposition to the measure. Proposition 21 would have modified the ‘Costa Hawkins’ state law, essentially eliminating the rule that properties built after 1995 could not have applied rent control. Both of California’s major cities, Los Angeles and San Francisco, have pressing housing crises, and propositions that provide rent protection can mitigate these issues and protect

this election, proposition 22 ended up passing with a nearly 60% margin, being a huge victory for silicon valley. Proposition 22 was written up by tech companies to change their workers’ classification from employees to independent contractors. This meant that these companies were no longer responsible for providing basic worker ‘benefits’ such as minimum wage and healthcare.

This measure was a clear attempt for these companies to further exploit their workers and their labor to the fullest extent imaginable, all under the weak mask of protecting gig-workers.



more people.

Proposition 16, which would have ended the ban on affirmative action, was an initiative to overturn the “California Civil Right Initiative” set forth by wealthy white California Republicans in the mid 90s. Again, California voters took a firm opposition to this measure, proving that a lot of the activism and strong support for people and communities of color in recent months were merely actions to gain social capital, rather than real change.

In what became one of the most controversial measures of

Rideshare and service apps such as Uber, Lyft, and DoorDash all spent a record 200 million dollars on promoting Proposition 22, making this the most expensive measure campaign to date.

Unfortunately, a clear majority of California voters were influenced by this expensive campaign, leading to the passing of this measure. This was a pitiful blow to the rights of workers, emboldening the very prevalent neoliberalism of California.

Fall Covid-19 Surge

Luis Berg

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Coronavirus daily infections have reached 90,000 cases in the United States alone. While many scientists predicted a second wave during the fall season, hospitals are overwhelmed, running low on beds and medical supplies they are also extremely understaffed. With Halloween weekend seeing a lot of people going out and enjoying the holiday. We can only wait for the cases to spike, putting more pressure on big city hospitals that are already struggling. The University of Utah Health System, one of the largest hospitals in the state, reported its ICU is 95 percent filled, and health systems in other parts of the country have been forced to relocate patients because of bed and staffing

shortages.

All around Europe countries such as Spain, France, Austria, Italy and Czech have put in place a second lockdown with strict social distancing rules and curfews and all shops closed. In other countries like Germany and Ireland, they are just having partial lockdowns. Spain declared a state of emergency yet they are having less than twenty thousand cases a day. Although they have a much smaller population than the U.S. we are still experiencing cases at

The United States also expects to find out who the new president is going

cases. This surge could potentially cause another lockdown and a big

erings, so it is difficult to imagine how the U.S. would respond well to a second lockdown.

With 18 million Americans out of work to close more stores and factories might not be economically viable. People need to bring money home to provide for their families.

While most schools are closed kids are learning from home, not getting school lunches

and keeping parents who can find a job from being able to go because there's no one to watch their kids. People do not know how to make ends' meat and Congress is not able to come to an agreement on a relief plan. This fall surge could bring the U.S. economy to a breaking point, only time will tell. Hopefully, we can improve testing and find a way to live with COVID-19 as a cure doesn't



to be for the next four years and stores and buildings were boarding up their

question is: will Americans adhere to the next lockdown? Many people



the same rate and we are taking little to no precaution compared to Spain.

windows fearing of riots after the election which would cause an even bigger surge in COVID-19

are already fighting against wearing masks in public and not being allowed to have large gath-

seem to be in the near future, at least not a cure that is tested and available for everyone.