

## Mines.edu - Not For You

*Why I hope my professors do a terrible job transitioning online*



The Edgare Mine classroom. Image courtesy of Colorado School of Mines.

**Emma Braun**

Opinion Editor

We've seen a lot of changes in the past weeks, and because of that many of us have had to adapt to learning via our computer screens and head-phones. While for some, this was a monumental feat, the idea of online learning has been present for years before the chaos we are now in the middle of. Colorado School of Mines has routinely offered courses online for various topics, but the fact of the matter is, all of the courses typical-

ly taught online, were not ones that required labs or significant hands on learning. Fundamentally, the sciences and engineering as college majors are dependent on this quality. Due to this, Mines has been able to remain a predominately "Campus-Based" education. However, since our transition to online classrooms and education has come and gone for the remainder of the semester, I am left with simply one thought.

I **really** hope my professors do a terrible job with online learning.

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## Colorado School of Minecraft: MC Server recreating the campus

**Caleb Pan**

Staff Writer

As a part of Virtual RealitE-Days, we have a Minecraft server (Minescraft) that has our campus virtually built and landscaped! Events such as the orecart pull, boat race, and Mr. Bigdigger are recreated along with unique offerings like Hunger Games on campus and a trebuchet competition (building a TNT launcher). The entire server is built and operated by Orediggers who pitched in their time and ingenuity to make Minescraft a reality. It's a possibility the server will be used for commencement and prospect student "tours" as well.

Who's the man behind the project? Dryw Wade, a graduating Engineering Physics senior. I had the pleasure of interviewing the server owner! (And also him watching me build Brown Building 280).

**What made you start the server?**

It started when campus closed due to COVID-19, and one of my roommates joked about building the Mines campus in Minecraft so we could still "go to class" during online lectures. I thought it was an interesting idea, and figured it'd be pretty easy for me to set up. We have a spare computer that we've been using to host other Minecraft servers (that computer is a story of its own!), so I started the

server Friday night of when campus closed. I wanted to share it around and make sure everything was 1:1 scale, so I started carving out roads and made the frame of a couple buildings. In the first week, a few dozen people stopped by to see it and some actually helped build. By the time online classes started, enough work had been done such that I could actually sit in classrooms during my online lectures, and it just kept growing from there.

**What's the story of that spare computer?**

My roommates and I have upgraded our computers over the years and ended up collecting spare parts since it's a waste to throw out perfectly function pieces. We realized that all our spare parts could be assembled into a functional computer, however, the only part we were missing was a case to house everything. None of us wanted to buy one, so we instead decided to assemble it all inside the cardboard box my new motherboard came in. Yes, parts that get hot inside a flammable box. We recognized this risk, and dubbed the Frankenstein computer "Fire Hazard." After that important step, we altered the box by cutting vent holes for some case fans, made a properly sized cutout for the IO shield, and duct-taped it

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## Letter from the Editor

Well I don't think any of us thought that the school year would end like this! The past month or so has been a pretty crazy time, and it has taken away a lot of things from a lot of people. Graduation, sports seasons, in-person classes, a chance to say a final "goodbye" before we head our separate ways. But this time has also shown how resilient we are. Professors that hadn't even used Canvas in the last 20 years have learned how to use Zoom. MAC completely reorganized E-Days into something remarkably unique that everyone could be a part of. Students and alumni have donated nearly \$40,000 to the Mines student emergency fund. This whole experience has really put things into perspective and shown what it really means to be an Oredigger.

This is the final issue of *The Oredigger* of the semester, and while it's not the way that we would have wanted to end the year, we're still proud to keep things going during the global pandemic. *The Golddigger* was my final paper as editor, and I still don't think that it has hit me that this stage of my life is over. I'm proud to pass the torch on to Shannon, who I am sure will make the paper better and more impactful than I ever could.

Thank you so much to the writing staff for making this job so fun, and thank you Shannon, Emma, Zach, and Jimmy for making it so easy. We made a pretty good 100th volume of *The Oredigger*, and I am incredibly

grateful to have worked with all of you. I have no doubt that the 101st *Oredigger* will be the best one yet.

-Eli Evers



First and foremost, I want to thank my fellow editors for their hard work this past year [especially Eli who put up with my obsessive formatting ed-its every publishing weekend], and you for your continued loyalty to *The Oredigger*. Throughout the years, decades, and different volumes, *The Oredigger* has been and will continue to be, dedicated to authentically representing the voice of Mines whether in print or online.

I look forward to continuing to write a chapter in life at Mines through involvement in *The Oredigger*. Being welcomed into a community of creative, quirky, and dedicated individuals and artists has sharpened my sense of belonging. I promise to support and advocate for the paper to the best of my abilities. [Even when that means to grin and bear it during budget cuts.]

On another note, you may have noticed a few changes to this issue that will carry forward into the 101st volume of the paper. First, a round of applause to the winner of the 2019/2020 *Oredigger* Header Contest... Kathryn Peck! Her winning design is featured on this issue and

## Your Oredigger Staff

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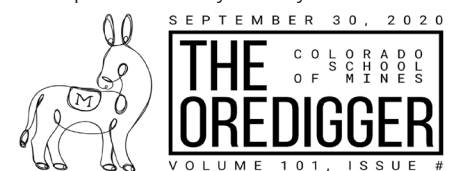
will be displayed on all issues of *The Oredigger* during the 2020/2021 academic year! Thank you to everyone who participated in the contest; several of the other participants' designs are displayed to the right. We are also trying out a system of color coding for the different sections as well as multiple stories on the cover rather than a single large image.

And remember, you, the students, faculty, staff, and alumni of the Mines community are the motivation and key for the sustained operation of *The Oredigger*! I hope you enjoy this "Quarantine Issue," and, whatever the future holds, I look forward to spending another year with all of you.

- Shannon Keohane



Graphic courtesy of Kayla Benson.



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## Photo of the Week

E-days goes online.

Image courtesy of CSM.





## Other things that are happening in the world right now

**Lucy Davis**

Staff Writer

### South Korean Elections

The democratic party, led by incumbent President Moon Jae-In, won their general elections. Additionally, the party won 163 seats in their 300 seat parliament. The landslide victory can be attributed to a strong coronavirus response, as the country was once the second largest outbreak but has gone from reporting 813 new cases a day to only 40. The left leaning party win signifies the first time in the last 16 years that the parliament has had a democratic majority.



### Storms in the Southern US

At least 750,000 people were left without electricity and 30 dead in storms on April 11th, and 12th. These tornadoes, mudslides, severe storms and flooding spread across 10 states from Louisiana to the Appalachian mountains. Tornadoes were confirmed to be at least 50 mph outside of Austin, Texas as well as 45 mph in Louisiana, according to The Independent. After several tornadoes hit Mississippi, the governor of the state declared a state of emergency.

### China's GDP Fell 6.8%

In the first quarter of 2020, China reported a decreased gross domestic product of 6.8%, the first ever reported contraction in a quarterly GDP, according to The Wall Street Journal. China began reporting quarterly GDP in 1992, and has only reported growth since then. China's GDP has grown even through many crises including Tiananmen Square, the SARS outbreak and the worldwide financial crisis. It's quarterly report can help predict the worldwide economic response to dramatic coronavirus measures.

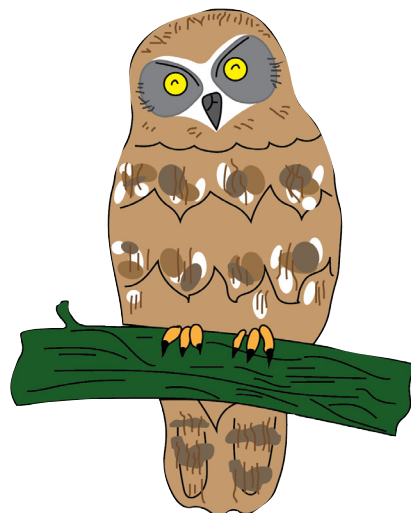
### Bernie Sanders Endorses Joe Biden

### for President

On April 13th, Senator Bernie Sanders announced that he was endorsing Joe Biden as the Democratic candidate for President in the upcoming 2020 election. The announcement came via livestream 5 days after he suspended his own campaign. Since then, former president Barak Obama as well as Sen. Elizabeth Warren and other have also endorsed Biden. All of the endorsements show unification within the Democratic party. Biden and Sanders have discussed and are combining task forces for issues such as health care, climate change, education and the economy, according to Axios.

### Rare Owl Species has Chance of Survival

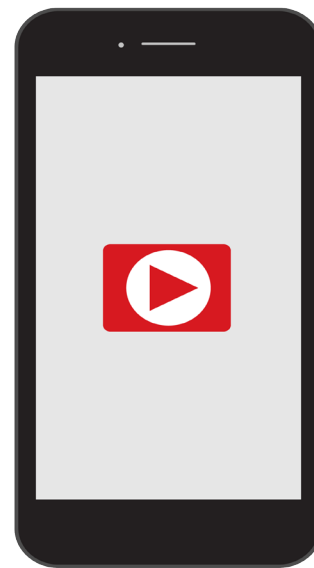
Morepork owls are one of the world's rarest owl species, and a pair of owl chicks that were found in a national park on a remote island off the coast of Australia are the first to survive there in more than a decade. Only about 45-50 of these owls remain in the world, and the breakthrough in research on Norfolk Island will contribute to the repopulation of the bird species. For over 40 years, researchers and community members have worked to help the morepork owl species recover.



### Quibi Streaming Service with 1.7 million Downloads in its First Week

Quibi, released on April 6th, is a new short form streaming service featuring movies and TV, designed for use on phones. Within it's first week the

app had 1.7 million downloads. The app closed with \$1.75 billion in funding, including many celebrity and major Hollywood backings. According to Indiewire, the app had 300,000 downloads within 24 hours and continued the momentum throughout the week. The app has a 90-day free trial. ✂



Graphics courtesy of Lucy Davis.

## The 2016 election that never happened

**Louis Cogan**

Staff Writer

The 2016 U.S. Presidential Election stands as, arguably, one of the most controversial if not the most infamous elections in this nation's history. Friend against friend, sibling against sibling, and many other feuds arose from the depths of political riots that often devolved into conflicts over party identity rather than solving pressing issues. Even after the election concluded and President Donald Trump took office, it felt like the campaigns never ended, since both parties tirelessly worked to either remove him from office at all costs or keep his status untarnished regardless of any decision he ever made. Now, almost four years later, the country's population faces a similar trial that will test their civility, but it appears that they are doomed to repeat history rather than learn from it.

Other than the tensions concerning the federal government for this

election cycle, 2020 almost exactly parallels many of the factors seen in 2016. An overabundance of possible candidates, promises of immigration reform on both sides, restructuring of international trade deals, calls for change for an apparently (always) declining America, and even the near-victory of the candidate with the most zealous supporters: Vermont senator Bernie Sanders. While similar topics of contention may not call for alarm, such persistence of blind bipartisan politics does. Considering the lack of concrete, domestic development in the U.S. over the past four years, the calls by both parties for reform to reduce influence by the opposite side have done almost nothing other than swell the ratings of major news broadcasters. When the image of government supersedes the actual actions by government, identity politics preside over all. To allow nearly any action by a politician just because they align with one's broad views, one will certainly reduce the power of and eventually remove dissent from voters' minds. The public needs to realize the danger in placing such an immense value on only one half of the government (or just one section, if one should take the independent parties into consideration). If they do not, the 2016 election will not just repeat in 2020, but also in every election for the foreseeable future.

How should one go about breaking from this cycle of strife? Simply observe every topic as unbiasedly as possible. One should still follow humanitarian guidelines within reason, but there must be a reflection concerning all sides of a topic in order to find the compromise that will assist the most people possible. This article may appear redundant, and it essentially is redundant of the logic any sane individual follows. Then again, modern politics have gotten individuals heated over the simplest of practical jokes, so the occasional reminder does not harm anyone. ✂



Image courtesy of Pixabay.

## USG election preview

**Eli Evers**

Retired Editor-in-Chief

It's election season! And no, I don't mean the presidential primary (which has essentially been decided, you can read about that on page 3). Undergraduate Student Government ballots were sent out to the student body on April 14th, and the election will be open until the 25th, and there are quite a few races to keep an eye on. Here's a crash course on the candidates, but keep in mind to read more about who's running by clicking "view details" on the ballot portal.

Let's start with the presumptive, pending write-in candidates. The Junior class lineup appears to be set, with Hannah Frey as the only candidate for president and Ashley Bruton, Griffin Hampton and Samantha Sharp rounding out the three representative spots. Nicole Cheishvili is the sole runner for the At-Large to the Community role. Cosette McLaughlin, current Freshman Class Representative, is set to take on the At-Large to the Institution position. Hanzelle Kleeman is running unopposed to return as the Student Trustee.

Things get a little bit more interesting for the sophomore and senior class representative races, where there are three spots available for four candidates. For the sophomores, the field includes Connor Voss, Ethan Lewellin, Levi Grenier, and Nathan Commissariat. Voss is the only returning candidate for the position, as Griffin Shaeffer and Cosette McLaughlin have opted to run for other positions. We have two students running for sophomore class president: current Freshman class President Leonardo Aragón, and challenger Aidan Lewis.

The candidates for senior class representative are Sword Dabbour, Nadira Surghani, Shu Ee Ong, and Kat Tomon. Dabbour is currently involved in Blue Key and is majoring in engineering physics. Ong is involved in APO, Mines without Borders, and MEP Surghani currently serves as the USG Communications Director. Tomon is the current At-Large

to the Community. The election for Senior Class President stands as a three horse race, with Torin Johnson, Blaise Sims, and Jordyn Helfrich (current At-Large to the Institution) throwing their hats in the ring. Here are your candidates for Senior Class President:

*"Hi everyone! My name is Jordyn Helfrich and I'm a soon-to-be senior in Petroleum Engineering. I want to be on USG again because my time last year was very rewarding. I helped USG members to participate on and engage with committees related to various campus topics such as dining, parking and the Every Oredigger initiative. As Senior Class President, I would continue to voice the opinions of my fellow students and be working with the senior class representatives to plan fun events for our class such as senior bbq. I look forward to being able to continue to make positive contributions to campus through my work on USG!"*

*"Konnnichi wa! My name is Torin Johnson, and I'm a future robotics engineer and businessman! And currently quarantined in Japan while writing this :) I'm a songwriter, a workaholic, a coffee lover, an adventurer, an old man at heart, and running for the position of senior class president. My reasons: I love the friends I've gone through Mines with and want to create positive impacts on their experience senior year (and the years to follow), to provide new opportunities of leadership growth within USG, and to grow my own leadership skills so I can better impact the world in the future."*

*"Blaise Sims: Being a part of the Mines community these last three years has been an incredible experience. Though I have much to be thankful for in regards to this, it has been the people I have had the opportunity to learn, grow, and form relationships with that have made it especially impactful. By running for president, I hope to give back to those belonging to this class of 2021 who have done so much for me already."*

In an unexpected turn of events, the most heated race of this student government election cycle has turned out to be the At-Large to the Faculty

position. While candidates for the two other At-Large positions, as well as the Student Trustee, are running unopposed, there are four potential candidates for the At-Large to the Faculty. Jackson Crutcher, Danella Bunavi, Griffin Shaeffer (current Freshman Class Representative), and Sydney Marchando (current SAAC representative) make up the field. For those who may not know, the At-Large to the Faculty attends Faculty Senate meetings and acts as a communication bridge between the faculty and student body. Let's meet the candidates:

*"Hello! I'm Griffin Shaeffer, a Civil Engineering major and want to be your At-Large to the Faculty. I'm in ROTC because of my passion to serve the citizens of this great country. This passion partly manifests itself through my desire to represent others to their governing institutions. I enjoyed being a class representative and now strive to increase my role by being the At-Large to the Faculty. I have lots of leadership experience that includes: team leader in ROTC, class representative in USG last year, a captain of two sports in high school, and class treasurer in high school."*

*"Greetings, I am Jackson S. Crutcher, one of your candidates for representative At-Large to the Faculty. I am a rising junior in mining engineering and a transfer student. During these strange times, democracy must go on and I want to serve the campus in a position where I would have the chance to foster a closer relationship between students and faculty. Much happens in the Faculty Senate unseen by the undergraduate students, but it affects many facets of their lives. The work USG does here is vitally important in representing our interests and I want to be the person organizing it."*

*"Hey! My name is Danella, and I will be going into my 3rd year at Mines this fall. On campus, I'm involved with Sigma Kappa and Blue Key. Otherwise, I love exploring new places and hanging out with people. I am running for At Large to the Faculty because I want to serve all the people who make Mines so great to the best of my ability. All the students and faculty I've gotten to meet are so amazing, and*

*I want to make sure that all needs are being heard and met on both sides."*

*"My name is Sydney Marchando and I am a junior in Chemical Engineering. I had the opportunity to serve as the SAAC representative on USG this year and I loved being part of the decisions made on campus. Something I am very passionate about is the student experience and how we can play our part through clubs, organizations, and programs to help build our community and improve this experience. A big part of this is relationships with faculty, and having a student voice among the faculty on issues and decisions is a role I would be excited to fill!"*

One of the more interesting developments in the election has unfolded in the Presidential and Vice Presidential races. Mines has two tickets to choose from: Connor Smith (current junior class representative) with Jaden Zymbaluk, and Joe Whitney (current USG Vice President) with Samie McLeary (current USG President). That's right; Whitney and McLeary are running for the good old fashioned position-swap. Let's meet the challengers:

*"Hello, My name is Jaden Zymbaluk, I'm a junior in MME, and I'm running for Student Body Vice President because I would like to do my part to help make campus as friendly, inviting, and accommodating as possible for all. If elected, I'll work to refine and expand mental health care programs, help make parking easier and more efficient, and promote student engagement both locally and nationally, just to name a few. If any student has ideas, questions, or concerns I would love to hear from them."*

*"Hello! I'm Connor and I am running for the Undergraduate Body President. I am running for the position simply because I seriously love this school. In the few years I have been here I have met so many amazing and talented people that have really made a difference in my life and I hope to do the same for others. The position will be a reason to interact with as many Orediggers as possible and allow me to work with even more awesome people to make our time in college worth it." 🌸*

For the full article, visit [oredigger.net](http://oredigger.net).



## Cont'd from Cover >>

Don't get me wrong, I am a huge advocate for education in general (why else would I be choosing to continue into graduate school?), and I want to finish my senior year with fun and engaging coursework. I have been amazed at how well my professors have adapted to this new situation, and we've been able to modify our learning to best suit this new environment, but I don't want this temporary fix to become permanent by any means. Just because we can, doesn't mean we should. While we might see successes come from this, it will only be because in a time of crisis, we have lowered the bar of learning because there is so much other insanity going on around us. While this "watering down" of our semester might not be recorded in any physical or official sense, we have to remember that this is part of the reason it is succeeding. Most of my classes have lost weeks of material or scraped projects and exams because they simply aren't conducive to online learning, yet these are the building blocks of what makes a Mines education. Senior Design, for instance, a two-semester class that culminates in a design fair where students can

show off their work, will now be a list of links to webpages of each project. This online movement has the potential to become less about the opportunities missed and more about the opportunities that are removable.

The problem I fear occurring after we are allowed outside again is that online learning will become normalized, and people can argue that since it worked, why are we not considering it replacing in-person lectures entirely? Online learning is something that has a very steep learning curve – that is, organizing a class to be converted entirely online, requires a lot of work on the front end. Developing modules and the logistics behind how each assignment is delivered is important and something that requires a fair amount of understanding of the virtual environment that is now a classroom. Once this has happened (and assuming it has happened optimally), then the execution of the course becomes almost machine-like in nature. There is no need for as much instructor support or interaction because "everything we need" is already online. As a Mines student, I think it's safe for me to say that what we need is that interaction. Ignoring the concept of labs,



New Virtual Classrooms, aka our laptops. Image courtesy of Pexels.

even in lecture-based classes, there should always be a dialogue of clarifications and questions that hardly ever happens when there is a computer screen between professor and student. Classrooms don't just hold students; they hold conversations.

My ultimate fear comes down to complacency when it comes to education. During this pandemic, I'll admit it, I have lowered my standards and definitely not felt bad about it. This is a philosophy across the board. My little sister who is a senior in high school has had her entire grading scale redone so that an A is an 85-100, a B is 70-84, and a C is a 50-69. We have to remember that when we go back to the classroom, that bar should return to where it originally was. We cannot compare these the

brick-and-mortar classrooms that have been standard to these shiny, new virtual ones. The two both exist in fundamentally different circumstances. While they each hold their own merit, I cannot imagine a successful future as an engineer if I never stepped foot in a physical classroom.

So, yes, I hope my professors don't succeed and give the impression that online learning is something we should continue to strive for. Even with sufficient preparation, an online class will always be missing that element of interaction that truly is only obtainable from a lecture, a lab, or a recitation. I know my professors can succeed by failing, and I will support them through it all because when it comes down to it, isn't that the Mines way? 🍀

## Can we please also be sanitary when there isn't a pandemic?

**Shane Cranor**  
Staff Writer

Think for a second about the advice given by health organizations and governments regarding the coronavirus. Now, think for a second about lunch before the coronavirus. One of the most important pieces of advice, if not the most important advice coming from experts is to wash your hands. Yet, how many people do you see going to wash their hands before eating at Mines Market or the Periodic Table? It really isn't a surprise to me that the common cold is so common when we all touch the same door handle to enter the building and touch the same tongs when we put food on our plates.



Someone washing their hands. Image courtesy of Pexels.

The lack of sanitation in Mines Market was made particularly apparent after the news that school was going online got out. Mines Market adopted new practices: instead of serving the pizza with shared tongs they put the pizza on plates, all the other "self

serve" stations with tongs that customers touch were operated by employees, and eventually even the soda machines were operated by employees (this I think was a little too far as there is very little contact between customers and the soda fountain and

the cups are stored upside down). While this sudden change was mostly welcome, all of these newly discovered health issues were health issues before the pandemic and will continue to be after the pandemic is over.

So, can we please, even when there isn't a pandemic, be more conscious of the surfaces we touch and the way we interact with community shared places. Also, when spaces are being designed, proper sanitation should be a big consideration. I can't imagine everyone who walks into Mines Market fitting into the tiny Mines Market bathrooms and washing their hands before they eat. Hopefully the coronavirus will serve as a wakeup call and expose our prior general disregard for sanitation so that we can more easily stop the spread of major and minor illnesses. 🍀

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## The day Mines stood still: Oredigger stories from the pandemic

Elijah Evers

Retired Editor-In-Chief

Friday the 13th of March, 2020. This may be the first time in my life that the day lived up to its reputation. Yesterday President Johnson sent out a campus-wide email announcing that all class meetings next week will be cancelled and that all education will be delivered online starting on the 30th.

Walking around campus feels like floating through purgatory. In my walk from A-Lot to the Student Center, I see freshmen loading cars. Huh, I don't think I've seen that outside of move-in and finals week. I hear an eerie mix of morbid jokes about the COVID-19 outbreak and genuine, heart-felt final goodbyes in the conversations on the pedestrian plaza.

Off to meeting number one of the day: figuring out how Blue Key will function for the rest of the semester: How should our membership requirements work? Does this fit our by-laws? Let's add an "acts of God" revision to the by-laws. Can we initiate new members? Probably not in person. Clarification sent out later tonight by SAIL will let us know that we will not have any in-person meetings for the foreseeable future.

Let's go to class. It's a strange mix of urgency in understanding the logistics of online teaching and sincerity of seeing students face-to-face for the last time. My professor has not used Canvas in his previous 20+ years at Mines, so I guess it's time to learn.

Time to run to the machine shop; the blast sent out by the senior design professors was not super clear about whether the shop would be open after today, so we need to work now. Our senior design competition may be suspended, but we've put too much time in to stop now. Frantically drilling, cutting, and welding may not have been the best way to go, but it got the job done.

And.... That's it? That's the last day of my undergraduate time on campus

at Mines? It seems a bit unceremonious for three and three-quarter years of commitment, involvement, and hard work to end so abruptly and with such uncertainty. But that is simply the way it has to be when the World Health Organization declares a pandemic. Safety and health is paramount. All else is secondary. Rightly so.

That does not diminish the heartbreak and disappointment that many of us felt. Last weekend I reached out to students who wished to share how they have been affected by cancellations, and heard from many people who had plans blow up in their face.

To state the obvious, things happened very quickly. The first campus-wide email blast was sent on February 27th, simply answering some frequently asked questions. The following day the university discouraged travel from China and South Korea. The administration continued planning and provided updates. Then at 7:55 in the morning on March 11th, the travel restrictions hit.

"All university-affiliated international travel is suspended until further notice." With that email, the

hard work of many Orediggers went up in smoke. "The news was shocking," said Kayla Hubbard, a senior in environmental engineering. "We all pour so much into our education that it's heartbreaking to have it torn away right when we're all starting to bring ourselves to closure." Hubbard is on the Engineering for Communities Design Studio team for Senior Design, and was set to catch a flight to Nepal to implement her project two days after the email was sent out. "My team had raised almost \$25k to support our travel to Khumbu Valley, Nepal, prototype a sustainable water filter, deliver it to the communities, and gather input while we were there," said Hubbard. Her team is trying their best to potentially reschedule, or deliver the treatment system some other way, but it's impossible to plan with the current state of the world. "My heart really goes out to all the seniors who worked so hard on their projects," said Hubbard. "I hope we all get a chance to showcase our designs and applaud each other's accomplishments."

Between 7:55 in the morning and 5:34 at night, a surprising amount had changed. More cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed in Colorado, Governor Polis issued

a press conference, and the World Health Organization declared the disease a pandemic: "Effective March 30, 2020, Colorado School of Mines will transition to online delivery for all of our courses for the remainder of the semester." At this point, clubs and organizations had not officially suspended their meetings, but the writing was on the wall. That announcement would be made on Friday.

"Overall I would say myself and everyone that I know is extremely overwhelmed," said Desmond Mills, a Junior in Materials and Metallurgical Engineering. "From a student perspective, having your classes cancelled and having your clubs and organizations no longer meet, a lot of those are quintessential to my identity." Along with the logistical challenges of learning online, many are finding it difficult to make ends meet financially. "I'd say the biggest obstacle in terms of the COVID-19 response is [that] I no longer have an ability to work," said Mills. "I was initially hoping to save up some money to have an opportunity at Brown University, but it's kind of up in the air whether or not I'm going to go and now, at the same time, even if I could go I wouldn't be able to afford it necessarily." The decision of whether or not to go home to Utah has been filled with "what-ifs", and there is still a lot of uncertainty in the future. "You've just got to stick to it, and keep strong, and be as independent as you can," said Mills. "But also rely on all of those that you love, and the ones that love you."

For most Mines students, the 'word of the week' has been uncertainty. Nobody knows how long this will last, what it will impact, or what it means for our education. "I have a job lined up for after graduation, but haven't taken field session," said Sara Stonebreaker, a graduating senior in Chemical Engineering. "Since we don't know what will happen, and we aren't allowed to graduate without field session, many people are concerned about losing their job offers."

**Cont'd on Page 8 >>**



Campus emptying out as Mines determines a course of action. Image courtesy of Colorado School of Mines

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# Opinion

## Straws suck, but so does all plastic

**Emma Arterbury**

Kayla Benson

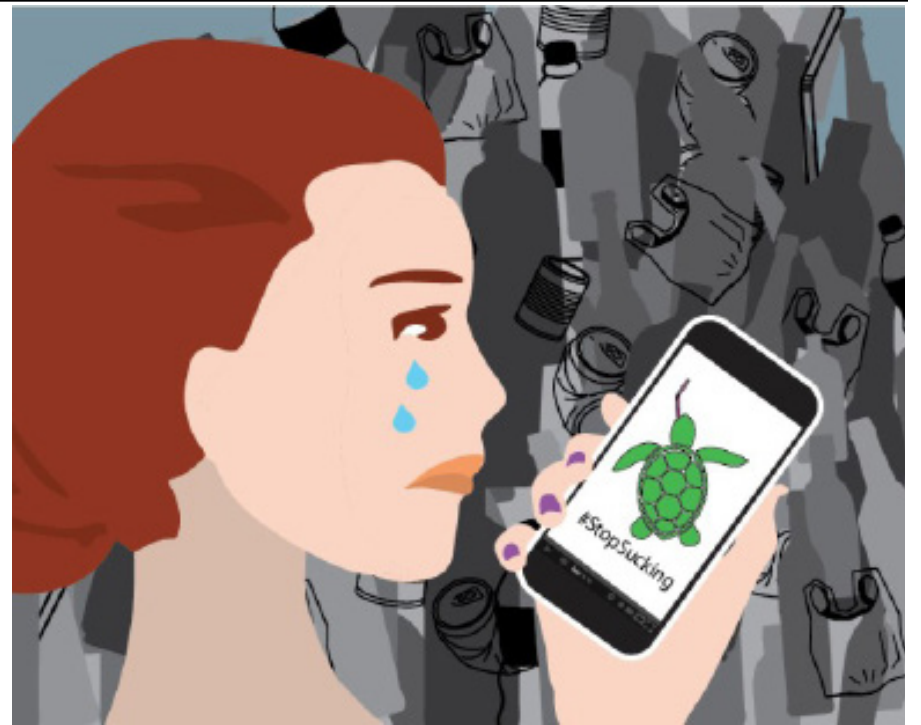
**Parrish Van Ausdall**

Contributors

If we were to rattle off hundreds of facts about the negative ramifications of plastic use, would that impact you to change your behavior? Hundreds of non-governmental organizations in the U.S work to inspire public change through information every year with little luck. Yet, in August 2015, a video of marine biologists removing a plastic straw from a sea turtle's nose went viral, igniting a massive movement to eliminate plastic straws. Enormous corporations like Starbucks and American Airlines began using alternatives and new markets emerged for reusable straws. This movement, which largely occurred on social media through the hashtag #StopSucking, ended up decreasing nationwide plastic straw use. It is clear the video resonated with people's emotions. However, plastic straws only account for 0.025% of plastic in the ocean and cases like the one in the video are rare according to National Geographic. Therefore, the straw elimination movement, while effective, is a horribly insufficient tactic

for fighting global plastic waste. Instead of calling straws "the world's most wasteful commodity", let us also focus on the larger plastic bottles or fishing gear that is creeping towards permanency. While the video of the helpless sea turtle is disturbing, there are statistics about plastic which are even worse. If we let the non-flashy, unemotional signs of plastic waste accumulation pass us by, we will soon be drowned by it. Plastic is not only a problem along coastlines, but recent research shows that many urban rivers, like Clear Creek, contain microplastics. These pieces of everyday plastic broken down over time are harming native biota. Unlike sea turtles wounded by straws, microplastics are hard to visualize and emphasize with, yet they pose big picture problems for the environment.

In a world full of so many issues, people must be indifferent to some. However, we cannot afford to let plastic waste continue at the rate it is going now. As Mines students, who value earth, energy, and the environment, it is important for us to lead the way. According to a recent UN report about single-use plastics, only about 10% of plastic recycling gets recycled so grabbing a reusable



Representation of straw campaigns. Image courtesy of IDEAS Contributor.

water bottle at the next campus event could save hundreds of plastic bottles from the landfill. Starbucks, Habaneros, and Wow Cafe, all accept reusable containers for food and drinks. Even opting to bring your own reusable bag to Safeway could, over time, significantly limit your plastic consumption. The world cannot ban all wasteful products; instead, we must invest in alternatives that can provide for a whole range of people and abilities. With our collective actions, we can address the harms of plastic

waste in the ocean and beyond.

Having this information at hand, we have the opportunity to do better—not only for the sea turtles but for our future. It should not take an animal suffering to spark action because you can start right now to make a difference. You have the power to pass up single-use plastics beyond straws, opt for alternatives, and urge others around you to do the same. At the end of the day—straws suck but so does all plastic waste. 🌱



SnoopaVision from 2016 April Fools Day. Image courtesy of Youtube.

## Helluva Hot Take: Cancelling April fools day was a bad idea

**Shane Cranor**

Staff Writer

Yeah, I know it's a little late to still be salty about April fools day.

However, headlines like "April Fools' Day pranks are not funny right now. Don't do them." or, "Here's Why April Fools' Day Should Be Canceled This Year," really upset me to the

point that I am still thinking about it. I'm not typically a huge fan of April fools' pranks. I don't come up with elaborate pranks on my friends and family, but I do enjoy watching the chaos, especially the typical light-hearted pranks done by big companies.

On April 1st 2016, YouTube added a SnoopaVision mode that allowed users to watch videos with a virtual Snoop Dogg in virtual reality. Last year, Tinder announced a height verification feature. In 1996, Taco Bell claimed to have bought the liberty bell to help the United State reduce the national debt. Dominoes once released an advert for canned pizza. Pranks like these are great and are funny without demeaning anyone or risking lives. If you didn't already know, Google and most other com-

panies cancelled their April fools' day jokes this year due to the whole virus thing.

Sure, obviously it isn't ok to do insensitive corona-related pranks, but year after year, pranks from Google and other companies are consistently thoughtful and funny. This argument that humor should be cancelled because people are dying is the exact opposite of what humanity needs right now. If anything, we need humor now more than ever to distract ourselves from our new reality of isolation and social distancing. The lack of April fools jokes this year was frustrating and I really missed the annual day of comedic lighthearted pranks that could have lightened the mood in this dark and depressing situation. 🌱

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## A review of Zoom classes

Jackson S. Crutcher

Staff Writer

Zoom is a word meant to conjure thoughts of excitement, velocity, and occasionally Mazda automobiles... not the interminable purgatory of online lectures. With so much digital entertainment out there on Netflix, Hulu, and Disney+, nobody who had not already paid tuition would voluntarily stare at zoom classes on their laptop for hours. Alas, we have all paid up for what amounts to the lowest-image quality streaming service on the market. Baby Yoda is shaking his head as of the time this article was written. If it is entertainment you seek, I would suggest *The Mandalorian* and perhaps *The Irishman* if you have the time.

While Mines is an engineering school through and through, engineering professors are not necessarily the IT whizzes that perhaps they should be. Being a world-renowned expert on industrial explosives does

not imply a thorough grasp of Zoom. Beyond the expected frame freezes and other glitches, our faculty have done an amazing job of dropping us into random breakout rooms, delivering whole lectures to empty Zoom meetings, and eating entire bowls of cereal during seminar discussions. Students are no innocents however; my classmates regularly wake up two minutes before lecture, forget to mute their microphones as their mothers yell “dinner is ready,” or stare at their phones with their laptop camera on for the whole fifty minutes.

Digital technology makes distance learning much easier, and we should be grateful for it. That said, classes delivered by Zoom have proven to be meme factories rather than knowledge hubs. It is hard to stay motivated during the greatest pandemic in a century, but I have to say that Zoom classes play their part. They serve as an excellent way to break up a day into manageable chunks rather than a vague haze of video games and Corsairs Light. For this and their ostensible academic value, I have to give one thumb up, with the other too caked in Cheeto dust to move. 🦄



Some of the Mines Administration excitedly trying out some of the features available in Zoom to prepare for online learning. Image courtesy of Colorado School of Mines.

Along with employment anxiety, a ton of Mines students don't know exactly what the next few months of the semester should look like for them. “I also happen to be [an] out of state [student], but haven't been given much guidance on if I should stay in Colorado or go back to Wisconsin,” said Stonebreaker. “I've decided to split the time, mainly because abruptly saying goodbye to everyone has been really difficult.” Stonebreaker echoed a lot of what I had been hearing all over campus these last few days. “I want to go back to class, I want to have E-Days and graduation and field session. I want to see my friends and say proper goodbyes,” said Stonebreaker. “But this time isn't about what any one person wants and I hope we can all recognize that and we need to support each other near or far.”

When the announcement was first made that Mines would be transitioning online, it was understood that on-campus accommodations would still be made available for those who choose to stay. That changed on Friday, when an email blast citing public health standards set by Governor Polis was sent to students living on campus to leave by March 30th “if possible.” For everyone living in residence halls, Mines Park, and Fraternity and Sorority housing, that came as a bit of a shock. Gibson Stone is a senior in Sigma Kappa, and because of these changes her sorority had to move up their alumnae initiation ceremony to Sunday the 15th. “Several seniors as well as other members can't attend because they've already gone home or they don't feel it's healthy for them to be out in public,” said Stone. “Formally ending my time as a collegiate member is bittersweet, and while I'm grateful for the opportunity to still take part in this aspect of our ritual it's much earlier than I was ready for.” The transition from student to alumni can be emotional, but especially when it comes almost two full months before you expect it. “I definitely think the campus administration is doing the right thing, and I know students that are at a greater health risk that are so grateful for the

switch to online classes,” said Stone. “It just feels like taking a crash course in the emotions of senior year. Also, shameless plug for social distancing and flattening the curve!”

First-year students have also started frantically arranging to move out of residence halls as a result of the new housing policy. Sophia Fausy, a freshman in Computer Science, was originally planning on staying in Golden this summer to take classes online and move into a house from the residence halls. “It just makes everything a lot more difficult,” said Fausy. “I have to move everything to a storage unit when I was planning on taking summer classes and moving straight into my house.” Fausy tried to communicate her situation to the Residence Life staff, but her request fell on deaf ears. Her sister recently arrived back home to the Chicago area from Spain and is already exhibiting coronavirus symptoms. But with no other place to go once Randall Hall shuts down, Fausy has opted for a one-way flight to O'Hare. “So now I'm probably gonna get it anyway,” said Fausy. “They're [Mines Residence Life] so difficult to deal with I'm just gonna go with it. I've accepted my fate.”

I don't think anyone could have anticipated the series of events that happened last week. It seems like every student at Mines is losing something: a choir trip to Spain, a chance to compete on the national stage, seeing a project come to fruition, a safe place to stay, a feeling of satisfaction of finishing senior year, a sense of certainty for the future. Ultimately many Mines students feel like they have lost a community, but we can keep our community as tight knit as it has been, albeit it at a safe distance. While it may seem like everything we've worked so hard for is falling apart, we need to keep climbing together. This is bigger than us, and we can do our part now to make this world a better place. 🦄

**You can read the rest of the article online at [oredigger.net](https://oredigger.net).**

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# Arts & Culture



Minecraft aerial view. Image courtesy of Mathew Fryer.

## Cont'd "Minecraft">>

all together, complete with the power supply and breadboard power button on top. It booted on the first try and actually has really good airflow, though we added some mesh to the fans to prevent it from becoming Finger Hazard. We set it up with a couple Minecraft servers for a group of friends, and to this day it still has yet to catch fire!

### What's the story of the server becoming a part of E-Days?

There seemed to be a snowball effect as people were building campus over the last month, word spread around of campus being built in Minecraft. Eventually, word got out to MAC, who were having to completely redo their schedule of events due to physical E-Days being canceled. A mutual friend connected me with a MAC member, and the whole council was super excited to have the Minecraft server part of the virtual E-Days. I figured that neither the Fire Hazard server nor my Internet would be capable of handling so many people and events, so MAC agreed to rent a much beefier server for the weekend. Several E-Days events had to be completely canceled, such as the trebuchet competition and fireworks display, however, we could instead do them in Minecraft! We really didn't

have a lot of time to prep for them all so some have been a bit rocky, but we still at least got to do them! The admin and moderation team has been super helpful in making all these events possible, never would have happened without them!

### How has it been managing the server?

It's been a huge learning experience for me. My prior server hosting experience was very limited, usually

just some small servers with a close group of friends. Then I became in charge of managing a much larger public server that had so many requirements, there was no way I could do it on my own. I have a lot of prior leadership experience, and one of the most important things I've learned is to hire people smarter than yourself. I reached out for help and got a great group of admins and moderators to

help me set up and manage everything, they've been awesome! This last week has been crazy busy trying to finish everything we could to be ready for all the events planned. A couple of us stayed up until 5am the night before launch to finish debugging some plugins, but got just about everything working in time.

### What's your favorite build?

There are so many good ones! We didn't have time to finish every building, but we made the exterior of almost all of them at least. I think roughly half of the buildings have interiors full of decorations, all of which are so fun to walk through. Some notable buildings are the Library, the Student Center, and some of the Greek houses; they all have incredible detail inside! I'm also a fan of Spruce Hall; it's currently under construction in real life, so it was built as a construction site in Minecraft too. The most polished areas have such good attention to detail, even going so far as to name the items in Haba-neros which most people probably don't even notice.

### What was your least favorite/most frustrating build?

One of the most difficult jobs was landscaping everything. Mines is built on a hill, whereas I set the ini

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Minecraft Guggenheim. Image courtesy of Mathew Fryer.

## Quarantine and stream: what to watch on your coronacation

**Louis Cogan**

Staff Writer

In the seemingly unending time in quarantine, there is only one struggle worse than isolation away from one's usual social interactions: boredom. While the best path to take to counter this issue could be attempting a new hobby, focusing on self-improvement, or even just actually completing the work that has been assigned from Mines professors since this epidemic has begun, series and films available on streaming services have come to the public's aid. But what to watch with so many options available? To guarantee readers do not become aimless zombies scavenging through category after category for the impossible-to-find best option to watch, here are some recommendations to start with.

*Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem, and Madness* (Netflix): If anyone has not heard of the infamous documentary series *Tiger King* by this point in time, they most likely do not own a Netflix account (or use their generous friend's password). Following the larger-than-life exploits of former Oklahoma zoo owner, Joe "Exotic" Schrieboegel, and those that surrounded him, *Tiger King* is a

docuseries so rarely seen in the present day, both because of its--quite literally--insane subject matter and astonishing progression throughout the investigation. One could watch *Tiger King* twice in a row and still find themselves agape at just how many details could be unraveled about one crazy animal lover.

*Ozark* (Netflix): While *Ozark* began its life as a spiritual sequel to AMC's *Breaking Bad*, distinctive performances and a darker tone have proven its growth into an independent identity. Said identity is one of the best crime shows currently airing. In a simple synopsis, Marty Byrd, a talented yet unconfident accountant for the cartel, must figure out a way to launder hundreds of millions of dollars through the rural Ozarks of Missouri in order to retain his and his family's lives. From there, the story builds with unique character after unique character that all bring a somewhat respectable motivation for the wrong reasons. Then again, who would not have to do some dirty things when trapped in the crime underworld? Thankfully, the viewer does not have to do anything but attentively watch that delicious danger unfold.

*Fleabag* (Amazon Prime Video): Yes,

almost no audiences talked about *Fleabag* after its U.S. release onto streaming. At least, no one other than a few Emmy award ceremony viewers. That problem may lie in its acquired sensibilities to cynicism and brashful, British wit, but it most likely relates back to a lack of awareness. After almost no advertisement to a target demographic, *Fleabag* completely flew under the radar in the summer of last year; quarantine has given it the chance to finally thrive. If one enjoys fourth wall breaks, fast wit, and realistic introspection following relapse, *Fleabag* will poetically eat up a sensible chunk of one's malaise.

*The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* (Amazon Prime Video): Admittedly, the third season of *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* proved underwhelming in following through on plotlines established in season two, but that does not stop the overwhelming charm that oozes with every second of the production design and character direction. From the very first episode, joy pulsates from the screen only in the ways a story set in 1950's New York could; the American dream is alive, and any character can reach it with just a little bit of buzz around town and boost through the subway. The amiability does not stop there, since each actor, with the energetic presence of a stage actor, constantly engages the viewer in back-and-forth exchanges

that feel like arguments everyone's eccentric friends would have. As the first season progresses, one will find themselves laughing more and more as they come to know these engaging yet layered characters.

*Unorthodox* (Netflix): When a show unbiasedly analyzing religion comes along (which is every once in a blue moon in the present), one should devote at least a little time to paying attention to its voice. If it gains this respect for no other reason than its fair and constructed argument, *Unorthodox* still earns the viewer's interest with its candid tone and sincere direction, presenting events with no fancy dressing or sugar coating of any kind.

*Community* (Netflix or Hulu): Ignoring all of the production issues, run-ins with cancellation, and drops in quality over the last two seasons, *Community* is still--at least for the first three seasons--one of the most creative sitcoms to ever grace television. So very rarely have actors on network television possessed such natural talent and detailed performances that consistently highlight the cores of their characters, and the continuity across episodes assist in maintaining running gags and wholesome character development. Even with everything working against it, *Community* provided a style and story that will not soon be replicated by anything else. 🍷

## Will the film industry survive the coronavirus epidemic?

**Louis Cogan**

Staff Writer

When businesses across the United States proceeded to close one-by-one in mid-March due to coronavirus concerns, the movie theaters were one of the first major outlets to be disbanded. This was majoritively due to the crowded spaces theaters utilize to maximize potential ticket sales, but some are now voicing concerns over whether the film industry will take a bigger hit than expected in the coming year. Although venues will eventually reopen once the virus dies off or a vaccine is produced, the concern

results from the extra finances middle class Americans will then have, or lack thereof.

By the end of this crisis, many citizens could be working for months to recover from the financial burden of being trapped within their homes with no source of income or, even worse, facing an outside world in which they have no job to return to. In the worst case scenario, many industries will face major setbacks and even closures. Realistically, entertainment will fall later than others because of the public's enjoyment of short-term escapism in times of

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Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



## A shifting perception of time

**Anonymous**

Contributor

I don't believe I am alone in detecting a recent shift in my perception of the passage of time. With references to Alan Lightman's modern classic *Einstein's Dreams*, the following vignette encompasses my perspective of time during coronavirus. I hope you relate or otherwise enjoy this delve into creative writing...

Sitting. No, standing. Hands hang loosely. Bits of dirt lose grip, fall off, return to the earth. The sweet smell of wisteria clings to the thick spring air. A stout bumble bee whizzes past, almost too close. Wind whistles softly through the quivering dry pasture grass. Burly vines hang heavy with the fruits of their labor. Clouds drift lazily across the ocean blue sky, the sun a distant memory. Lenses transition from light to dark, dark to light autonomously. A haze distorts the oaks, maples, sweetgum, the red of the redbud, and the white of the dogwood. The weathered pine fence creaks, straining under the weight of its metal gate. In the world in which father time has been dipped in molasses, every handshake, every breath, every blink, every word, will be experienced lastingly.

A worn leather-band watch ticks on a wrist. Accounts full, filling, emptying, void as a tidal pool. Some few people carry on with business as usual, their usual. The others sense containment, a mental block. The flow of time has not been displaced, no cosmic disturbance has taken place, no tributary diverges from the mainstream. A world with memory is the world of the present. Persons who have processed reality are easy to identify. They distance themselves from others, trying not to share a single breath, trying not to touch a single surface. For they fear that any contact they make in the present could have drastic consequences for the future. From time to time they envy the men and women who live in their own heads. They savor the precise placement of belongings, no, of family members in a fleeting moment. They are living moment to moment, day to day, week to week. They can see but cannot envision.

In time, people will forget the reason why slower is better. Roadways will be congested with vehicles, campgrounds loaded with refuse, parks filled with rambunctious children, teenagers brimming with self-loathing, garages teeming with boxes, theaters stuffed with sweets, preachers bursting with pride, stores



Image courtesy of Christian WeidingerFollow via Flickr.

packed with lines, trees crammed with brick and mortar, students saturated with standardization, foods covered with plastic, luggage jammed with suits and ties, restaurants overflowing with locals and strangers. Sharing, sharing, sharing. Using, using, using. Buying, selling, rejoicing, regretting. What will have become of the figure contemplating the garden? No, not the garden but a bed. Not a bed, but the rightmost plot. Something contained inside or, more exactly, emerging from within the bleached mulch surface. "A petty green sprout," many will say. "A sign of life," a few will think.

Still. No, nodding. The faint sound of barking several fences over. A bird feeder hanging half empty, or half full. Discomfort through a sole, a rock posed precariously underfoot. A bead of perspiration clutching to a brow, eyes stinging with brine. The glare of headlights reflecting off a window. A hose holding back the force of a hammer. An earworm looping through a mind. Hands brush past, a thread catches in a nail. A neck radiates, a reminder of the days' passing rays. A reminder sitting on a screen. Not a care in the world for this moment was mine. ✨

### Cont'd "Minescraft">>

tial Minecraft world to be completely flat. Many of the campus buildings have entrances on different floors, so they didn't work too well in Minecraft without changing the terrain. I installed a plugin for the server that gives very powerful editing tools, which made the job much easier. We could create or delete entire regions of land in a couple clicks, then copy/paste the buildings into place. Still took a long time to get it done, but was several orders faster than breaking/placing every block by hand. As for the buildings themselves, Google Maps, Street View, and Images were extremely helpful in building everything to scale, at least for the exterior. The interiors were a different story, since we couldn't find floor plans for many of the buildings and often had

to work from memory. It's amazing how much you can't remember from a place you visit daily!

#### What are you proudest of the server?

All of the amazing builders who took their time to help recreate campus! Over 100 people have helped build, their work is extremely appreciated! I had originally thought no one would be interested and the idea would die from lack of contribution, but it just kept on growing! Every day I could log onto the server and find someone who was working on something, so great to see the dedication from these builders. The final product has turned out so beautifully, it's instantly recognizable for anyone who's been on campus before. It's especially pretty with shaders enabled, there are some good pictures around that are just gorgeous!

#### Is the final product what you envisioned?

It's so much more! There are so many cool things you can find from just exploring around, the attention to detail and accuracy has been incredible. The Brown machine shop has all the machines in it, the rock climbing wall was turning into a parkour course, the Mines fight song plays when you walk into the Lockridge Arena, and so many more cool details that just have to be seen. We even used maps to create custom 128x128 pixel images, such as Blaster, the periodic table, and whiteboards with mutual inductance equations. The creativity of the builders has impressed me, I never imagined it would turn out as well as it has.

#### Any future plans for the server and yourself?

Plans for myself are to sleep! I've been pouring so much of my time into this server for the last week to get everything ready, and it's really taken a toll on me. In the days leading up to launch, I was in this constant state of excited and nervous for launch, so I wasn't sleeping too well. Now I'm just tired and need to recover. As for the Minecraft stuff, we'll be sharing the world files for download for anyone who wants it. I also think the CSM Minecraft club will continue hosting it on a server of their own, I'd love to see it complete one day!

Instructions to join the server can be found at: <https://www.minesactivitycouncil.com/virtual-realite-days>



## April Horoscopes

**Zachary Barry**

Arts & Culture Editor

Dear faithful Horoscopes reader, I know you were all worried that with the switch to online school and online-only editions of the paper you wouldn't get your last horoscopes for the year. I could practically hear some of you saying, "but what if there is something the stars have to tell me before finals or graduation"? As an Astrologer/Chemical Engineering student there is nothing like going from writing horoscopes in a physically published newspaper to writing horoscopes that are published online to reassure you that at least one of your choices is a smart career move. Anyway, I've stalled for enough time given the excellent advice that the stars wanted me to pass on to you.

**Aries:** If you click on the minimize zoom window 32094 times you unlock secret options. These secret options allow you to do fun things like hire a professional sports announcer to narrate all your professor technical malfunctions. What? It's not like they are doing a whole lot right now anyway.

**Taurus:** The stars predict that your bread making prowess will reach their zenith in the coming week. Now is the perfect time to tackle that recipe for no-beak no-knead gluten-free bread that you aren't sure how any ingredients are actually in it.

**Gemini:** You are by your very nature a great negotiator and in this time that will prove extra useful. With several everyday items becoming hard to find people in your community might soon be turning you to

help organize trades of rare Italian sports cars for toilet paper, signed lithographs by Andy Warhol for toilet paper, basically anything for toilet paper. Would you be able to find someone to trade a few rolls for personalized horoscopes every day for the next two months, I'm asking for a friend?

**Cancer:** Did you know that you can rotate your camera in the zoom settings so that you appear upside down? Cancer assures me this was added because nothing livens up business meetings like a little forced perspective humor.

**Leo:** Has being confined by isolation made you crave for a change of scenery? Well, Leo would like me to remind you that you are never too old to make a pillow fort. Some spare sheets and a few hours well spent away from a computer might just be enough to make the same space you have been working in for weeks now feel new and exciting.

**Virgo:** The end of the semester is closing in fast. This year the grind for finals and the exams themselves are sure to be different than anything that you've experienced at Mines so far. Don't forget that no matter what happens there are still you are still an Oredigger. Well except for the people who aren't students or staff that are reading this, to whom I'd like to ask, why?

**Libra:** Please wait the astrological sign will let you in soon.

**Scorpio:** Have you stopped to consider all the unique circumstances that online school across the country is creating? For example, now that Colorado School of Mines has gone digital there are now smaller 'campuses' where ever Mines students are hard at work learning online. These smaller campuses might represent the highest female to male ratio that Mines will ever see.

**Sagittarius:** Looking for something interesting to do with all the spare time you totally have now that school has switched to online classes? Why not make a supercut of all the best

moments from your prerecorded lectures? Who knows, maybe combing through the lectures to find the funniest parts will also help you learn the material.

**Capricorn:** Wow, this is the last time for the next couple of months that I'll be communing with the stars, I hope that Capricorn has some great advice. They seem to be trying to tell me "Don't take any wooden nickels", so it would seem that they don't.

**Aquarius:** Virtual RealitE-Days must have been one helluva party. I personally don't get too into the festivities but my computer sure does have a hangover this morning. In light of this Aquarius suggest that it might be best to work time into your schedule for the next few weeks to handle computer troubles.

**Pisces:** You might be finding it incurably difficult to focus when all your work is online and a few clicks away can have you doing something that isn't related to school at all. One sure-fire solution to keep yourself focused is (Note to self; Remember to finish this one once you're done looking at photos of cute dogs). 🐶



Okay, so I might have forgotten to finish that last horoscope until I was doing section editing. Does this photo of a cute dog make up for it? Image courtesy of ElfinFox via pixabay.

### Cont'd "Film Industry">>

struggle, as seen with the cinema spike in the 1930's, during the Great Depression, and the blockbuster rush of the late 2000's, during the last major recession. Then again, this fall may be harder than any seen before with larger destruction to follow, since digital entertainment mediums have become more ingrained

in daily life than ever seen before in the past. Expectations have grown to the point of having almost every weekend across the nation harbor at least one major movie release; so many different companies competing in the same medium may not survive when pitted up against getting customers with limited resources to buy their products. As a result, the indus-

try will survive, but in a much more condensed form.

If only the inordinate companies survive, consumers could witness a film industry down the road that resembles more of a monopoly rather than its current oligopoly. The original six studios may all eventually be purchased by Disney, for the profitability of Marvel characters and

their respective cinematic universe will most likely be least affected by the pandemic overall. Whichever studio owns and markets the right individual properties will survive, and it will certainly be darwinistic to see who adapts and who dies off. 🐶



## The lost generation of Mines athletes

**Jimmy Betsill**

Sports Editor

This article sucks. The fact that I even have to write about this situation that is unfolding before our eyes is a real horrible moment. Other than that this is the absolute lowest point of my Mines career.

I have been the sports editor here at *The Oredigger* since the October break and am a sophomore here at Mines in geological engineering. I also work in the best job on campus with the athletic department, which I have done since my first day of school at Mines. Some of you may know me as Mop Guy, have had me scan your Blastercard, or seen me sprinting along the sidelines to keep up with Michael Zeman as he is running the length of the field for a touchdown. So in other words, I am very passionate about our athletes here. I love sports and Mines Athletics. Eli and I frequently argue in *The Oredigger* office about who the bigger Mines sports fan is. So what has transpired over the past few weeks really has hit me hard and made this article even harder to write.

It seems like something out of a horror movie that has just happened. The Sunday night before the decision was made to shutter in-person classes and most of the campus I was finishing up an article that would preview the NCAA Division II Wrestling Championships with some quotes from the wrestlers who were competing. This was in addition to a preview for the NCAA Division II Track and Field National Championships and the NCAA Division II Basketball Tournament that were about to happen (Our swimmers were also competing this week.) There was also a short health article about you know what. The articles turned out really good and I was so excited to see how the athletes performed at their respective champions from Mines. All those articles turned out to be for nothing.

To give a one sentence summary about what happened just like at Mines the NCAA and RMAC restrictions went from 0 to 100 in a span of a few days. More specifically, the NCAA and then Mines limited attendance on all their events on March 11th as hundreds of conference and national championships were getting underway, but the plan was to still complete all the events that year. However, less than 24 hours later the NCAA announced that all national championship events would be cancelled. This was followed by the RMAC joining the NCAA in announcing that all athletic competitions for the remainder of the academic year would be cancelled. The next Mines athletic event will not take place for almost six months when Mines football kicks off their season at Angelo State on September 3rd at 6 pm.

Now thankfully the NCAA has done something and has enacted several pieces of legislation to help college athletes through this difficult time. They have granted an extra year of eligibility for all athletes in spring sports, waived scholarship restrictions, and have also waived most academic requirements. However, while this has helped lessen the blow for many athletes, there are still a ton of shortcomings with these pieces of legislation. First of all there will be no additional eligibility for winter sport athletes. This means the athletes who were days or even a couple hours away from competing for a national championship will not get a second chance for that title. It also means the likes of all the athletes at Mines who have exhausted their eligibility in winter sports have finished their athletic careers here. That means people like Luke Golter, Ben Topper, Robert Gambrell, Mia Wood, and all the other Seniors and Redshirt Seniors in winter sports have lost their last chance at becoming a bigger part of Mines athletics history. Mines athletics as a whole has also lost a chance

at history. Entering the winter sports season Mines has a massive lead in the Learfield IMG College Director's Cup, which is the award for the best athletic program as a whole in each division of college athletics. Mines led Western Washington with a score of 416 points to 299 points and the athletic program certainly had a chance of being named the best athletic program in Division II for the first time in history.

Another problem with some of these relief programs is that some athletes might not be able to take advantage of them. This is because some of these reforms are up to the choice of each school's athletic department and don't have to be used. While this is almost guaranteed to not be a problem here, as Mines' athletic department has shown it will do whatever it can to help athletes, some athletes will not be as lucky. The University of Wisconsin-Madison for example has announced that it will not grant additional eligibility to any of its spring athletes this year and more programs might not elect to take some of the relief legislation due to what will likely be a major financial crisis in the NCAA as a result of lawsuits, potential player compensation, and a slew of other issues in addition to the COVID-19 crisis. While this was going to be a problematic scenario the next few years of college athletics it has turned a small burden into a catastrophic situation that could change college sports forever. A problem that is more likely here is that some Mines athletes will not take the relief as they will have very high paying jobs lined up for them after their senior academic year of school and will just go into the workforce which would be a more comfortable situation for them compared to spending another year as an athlete.

However, the biggest loss of all will be the chance at history these 2019-2020 teams had. The swimming team had already begun it's national championship competition Mia Wood and Daphne Williams were less than two hours away from becoming Mines'

first individual female swimming national champion when the decision was made to cancel the events. Our wrestling and indoor track and field teams had already arrived at their respective national championships and were nearing the end of their two days of practice prior to their national championships. There were several #2 seeded teams and individuals for both of these teams in their respective competitions that would have had a chance at becoming national champions. The men's basketball team was enroute to Texas for the first round of the NCAA tournament and was looking to win three games over the weekend to win the region and advance to the elite eight after just losing the conference championship game the week before. All our spring sports athletes had their seasons end just as they were beginning. The emotions expressed by the athletes in Eli's article last month are likely going to be the tip of the iceberg. I could not and will not try to capture the emotions of the athletes affected by this because it would be wrong and impossible for me to do this. I will say though that I understand their hurt more than most though. Why? Because every team is special.

While most of the athletes who still have eligibility will return to Mines, the fact of the matter is that each team is special. Each year you walk onto the field, track, court, etc. long before the season's events begin with a chance to be a part of something great. While there might be a lot of similarities with the team from the year before, you become a part of a team that has never been together before and will never come together again. In the case of our athletes they become a part of THE 2019-2020 Orediggers. It is a team they had one chance to make the most of and most members of the Oredigger athletics had that chance taken away from them through no fault of their own.

It is understandable that the governing bodies came to the conclusion that they did. 🍀

For the full article, visit [oredigger.net](http://oredigger.net).

**The opinions expressed in this article strictly reflect the author's beliefs. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions held by our staff or the campus at-large. Contact us at [orediggerstories@gmail.com](mailto:orediggerstories@gmail.com) for any comments or questions.**

## Stay-at-home and cook your heart out

**Recipes courtesy of your section editors**

### *Dinner: Coconut Chickpea Curry*

A quick and flavorful dinner recipe. Makes enough to serve 4 to 6. My personal preference is to pair this with chickpea or lentil pasta.

- Ingredients:
- 1 large onion, diced
  - 3 cloves garlic, pressed or minced
  - 2 teaspoons garam masala (or additional curry powder)
  - 1 tablespoon curry powder
  - ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper (optional)
  - 2 cans chickpeas, drained
  - 1 can crushed tomatoes
  - 1 can coconut cream or coconut milk
  - 1 tbsp maple syrup or agave nectar
  - Dash of salt
  - Juice of 1 lime
  - ½ cup cilantro, chopped (fresh or dry)

Directions:

Add the onion and garlic and saute with a splash of water until translucent.

Add the spices and cook, stirring constantly, until fragrant, about 1 to 2 minutes.

Add the drained chickpeas and crushed tomatoes. Simmer for 5 minutes.

Add in the coconut cream, maple syrup, and salt. Simmer for 5 minutes. Stir in the lime juice and cilantro. Serve over steamed cauliflower, rice, or pasta.



Image courtesy of JessiceintheKitchen.

### *Lunch (or dinner or both): Chickpea Tuna Salad*

Well, this editor definitely enjoys chickpeas. This recipe is a go-to as a topper for sandwiches, salads, and pasta. It is amazing.

- Ingredients:
- 1 ~15 oz. can chickpeas or roughly 1½ cups cooked chickpeas
  - ¼ cup vegan mayo (or regular based on your preference)
  - 2 tablespoons red onion, chopped
  - 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, dill, or carrot tops
  - ¼ cup pickles, chopped (or relish)
  - Squeeze of lime
  - ½ teaspoon old bay seasoning
  - ½ teaspoon dijon mustard
  - Dash of salt and pepper
  - 1 teaspoons capers

Directions:

Add all of the ingredients into the food processor and pulse a few times until combined. You don't want to over mix, just process until all the ingredients are incorporated. Scrape down the sides with a spatula and adjust the seasonings to your liking. Pulse again once or twice to combine.

Dig in! Note: This recipe is also good (maybe even better) once chilled for 30 minutes or so.



Image courtesy of EatWithClarity.

### *Dessert: Good Old-Fashioned Apple Pie*

As a native Washingtonian, there's nothing quite like a good old-fashioned apple pie.

- Ingredients:
- ½ cup sugar
  - ½ cup packed brown sugar
  - 3 tablespoons flour
  - 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
  - ¼ teaspoon ground ginger
  - ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
  - 6-7 cups of sliced Granny Smith apples
  - 1 tablespoon lemon juice
  - 1 tablespoon of butter
  - 1 large egg white
  - Pastry for double pie crust

Directions:

Combine sugars, flour, and spices in a small bowl. In a large bowl, toss sliced apples in lemon juice. Add sugar/spices and toss to coat. Line a 9-inch pie plate with bottom crust and trim. Fill with apple mixture and dot with butter. Roll the rest of the crust over top in any super-fun pattern you wish. Make sure there are some openings so the pie doesn't explode. Cover edges with foil loosely.

Beat egg white until foamy and brush over the crust, sprinkle with extra sugar if you wish.

Bake at 375 degrees for 25 minutes. Remove foil and bake for an additional 20-25 minutes. Cool on a wire rack.

Serve with vanilla ice cream and a healthy dose of nostalgia.



Image courtesy of TasteofHome.

### *Side Dish: Spinach, Caramelized Onion, and Muenster Au Gratin Potatoes*

This recipe is one of my favorites to bring to potluck dinners with the family. It's a very hearty dish and makes many servings so keep that in mind if you decide to make it for a smaller group in the times ahead. Recipe originally from allrecipes.com <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/214162/spinach-caramelized-onion-and-muenster-au-gratin-potatoes/>

- Ingredients:
- 8 red potatoes cubed
  - 5 oz of fresh spinach leaves
  - ¼ cup butter
  - 1 onion, sliced
  - 1 teaspoon minced garlic
  - 3 tablespoons All purpose flour
  - ½ teaspoon salt
  - 1 cup milk
  - 1 cup heavy cream
  - 2 cups of shredded muenster cheese

Directions

Preheat an oven to 400°F. Combine the potatoes and fresh spinach leaves in a 9" by 13"

Melt 3 tablespoons of butter in a saucepan over medium-low heat. Stir in the onion, and cook until dark brown, about 15 minutes. Stir in the garlic and flour; cook 1 minute more. Season with salt, and stir in the milk and cream. Bring to a simmer over medium heat; cook and stir until the sauce has thickened, about 10 minutes. Stir in ¾ of the Muenster cheese until melted, and pour over the potatoes.

Cover the potatoes with aluminum foil, and bake in the preheated oven for 30 minutes. Uncover, and cook for 20 minutes more, then sprinkle with the remaining Muenster cheese, return to the oven, and bake until the potatoes are tender and the cheese is bubbly, about 10 minutes more.



Image courtesy of AllRecipes.



Meal Prep Hacks: Sweet Sriracha Meatballs

Your Opinion section editor does a fair amount of meal prepping (or at least did when she actually was going to campus everyday). This recipe for both the meatballs and the glaze (that works well on things other than spherical meat too!). I like adding rice and some veggies too for a full meal-on-the-go!

**Meatball Ingredients:**  
2 lb Ground Turkey (or whatever you have available)  
1 cup Breadcrumbs  
2 Eggs  
¼ cup Green Onions  
Garlic powder, salt, black pepper (approximately ½ tspn, but I never really measure it)

**Sauce Ingredients:**  
¼ cup Sriracha (I always add more though...)  
3 Tbsp Soy Sauce  
3 Tbsp Rice Vinegar  
3 Tbsp Honey  
4 Cloves of Minced Garlic  
½ Tsp Sesame Oil

**Directions:**  
Preheat oven to 375°F  
Mix all of your meatball ingredients together in a large bowl and shape into balls (1-2”) and place on a greased baking sheet  
Bake meatballs for 20-25 minutes (or until they look done-ish)  
Mix all of your sauce ingredients together in a saucepan and bring to a boil while whisking continuously. Once boiling, reduce heat and simmer for approximately 10 minutes.  
Mix sauce in over meatballs and divide up into your tupperware (after taste testing them obviously).



Image courtesy of ADishofDailyLife.

Dessert (Snack!?!): Lemon Poppy Seed Bread

Light, moist, and deliciously lemony.

**Batter Ingredients:**  
2⅓ cup self rising flour (you can make this at home with regular flour, baking soda, and salt)  
1 tsp baking powder  
¾ cup sugar  
2 tbsp poppy seeds (or 1 tbsp chia seeds)  
½ cup neutral oil (rapeseed, canola, or sunflower)  
1 cup milk (your choice here)  
Juice of 4 lemons (about ½ cup)  
Zest of 3 lemons (about 3 tbsp)  
1 tsp vanilla extract

**Drizzle Ingredients:**  
¾ cup powdered sugar  
2 tbsp lemon juice

**Directions:**  
Preheat the oven to 350F. Line and grease a standard bread loaf tin (approx. 9”x5”).  
Mix all dry ingredients in a bowl.  
Mix all wet ingredients in a separate bowl.  
Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and mix until just combined.  
Pour the batter into the loaf tin and bake for 45 to 60 minutes until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.  
Make the icing by whisking the powdered sugar and lemon juice. Additional powdered sugar may be necessary to end up with a thick icing.  
Drizzle the icing onto the bread once completely cool and enjoy!



Image courtesy of CupfulofKale.

Appetizer: [Vegan] Jalapeno Poppers

A favorite for the plant-based and more carnivorous members of my family. A recipe with a kick that has simple ingredients and a quick turnaround time.

**Ingredients:**  
¾ cup raw cashews (soak for 4-6 hours then drain)  
½ medium onion (diced)  
2 cloves garlic (diced)  
2 tbsp nutritional yeast  
1 tsp cumin  
½ cup vegetable broth  
10 medium jalapenos (halved and seeds, stems removed)  
Dash of red pepper flakes (optional for garnish)  
Tortilla chips (crushed, optional for garnish)

**Directions:**  
Preheat the oven to 400F.  
To a small saucepan over medium heat, add the onion and garlic with a splash of oil and cook under translucent (about 5 minutes). Set aside.  
Add the soaked cashews, garlic, onion, nutritional yeast, cumin, and broth to a food processor or blender and pulse under creamy and smooth. Additional broth may be necessary to thin the mixture or a handful of cashews to thicken the mixture.  
Spoon the cheese mixture into the lightly oiled jalapenos halves and place on a lined baking sheet.  
Add the red pepper flakes and/ or crushed tortilla chips as you like.  
Bake for 15 minutes and then broil for 1 minute.  
Serve immediately.



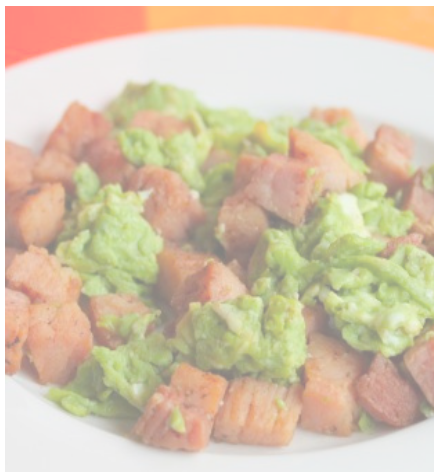
Image courtesy of MinimalistBaker.

Breakfast: Green Eggs and Ham

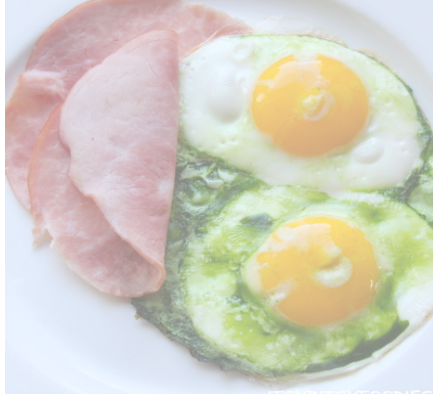
Looking to change it up? Your search is over. Whip up some green eggs and ham and add a special twist to your morning routine.

**Ingredients:**  
2 eggs  
1 tbsp milk  
¼ cup cubed ham  
2 tbsp spinach juice  
Dash of salt  
Sprinkle of mozzarella or monterey jack cheese (optional)

**Directions:**  
Beat the eggs in a bowl.  
Stir in the milk, spinach juice, and salt.  
Mix in the shredded cheese.  
Light coat a pan with butter or oil and heat over medium.  
Pour the egg mixture into the pan and cook until the eggs are scrambled, stirring constantly.  
Heat another pan over medium heat and lightly brown the chopped ham.  
Serve the ham and eggs as desired.



Note: Alternatively, you can cook the eggs sunny side up over wilted greens.



Images courtesy of ItsyBitsyFoodies.



## For your amusement

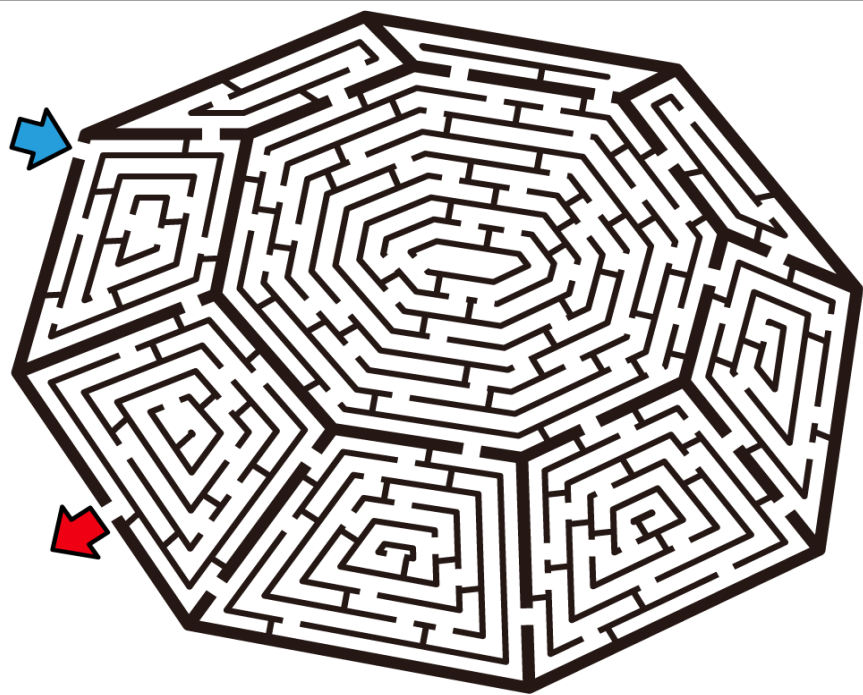


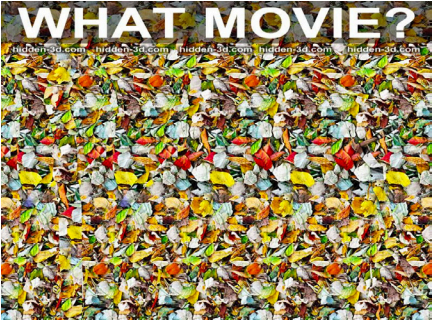
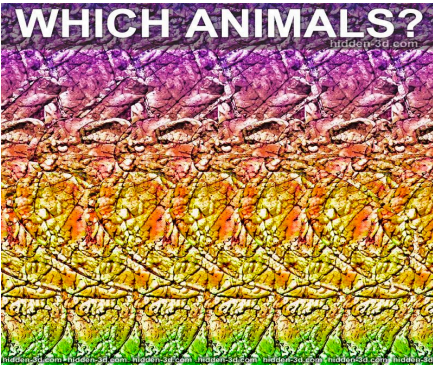
Image courtesy of BestColoringPages.

## Quarantine Word Scramble

- 1. rsou chapt dsik
- 2. elroca kabsni
- 3. u’oeyr dumte
- 4. aietcnsmfr
- 5. Keam rmcaeia xoicet gniala
- 6. Brmlae girnca
- 7. Gnbie githacw
- 8. Tktouae ziieoopks

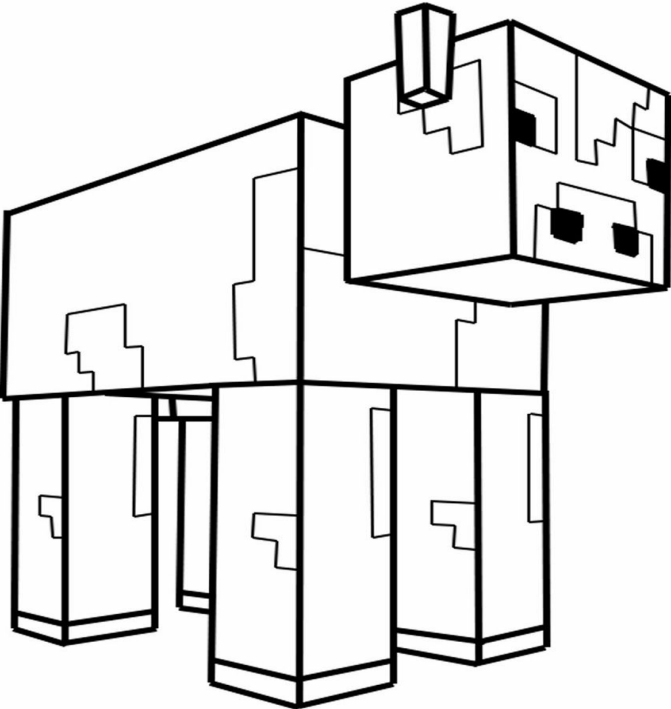


Image courtesy of SeriousEats.



## Hidden 3D Stereograms

## MINECRAFT COLORING



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