

Notorious

Remembering a giant of progressive justice



Graphic courtesy of the editing staff.

Emma Braun
Staff Writer

It is not often that generations of all ages come together to celebrate the elite status of one singular person, much less someone over the age of 80 and who wears a long black robe for their day job. Despite the initial image, this near rock star status has been given to Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg by countless Americans in recent years. The subject of two major films/documentaries and

countless interviews, the “Notorious R.B.G.” was the senior-most member of the Supreme Court and had been taking charge consistently in favor of progressive social issues decided at the supreme court level. After surviving 5 occurrences and treatments of cancer, due to complications from metastatic pancreas cancer, Supreme Court Justice Ginsburg passed away this past Friday at 87 years old.

RBG proved time and time again that she could not be held back from anything she set her mind to in life.

Prior to accepting her position as a Supreme Court Justice, she was an advocate with the American Civil Liberties Union with an extreme focus on gender equality and protection in the workplace for all genders. In order to become a lawyer, RBG attended both Cornell and Columbia where she tied for first in her class. Practicing law in the 1960s as a woman was difficult, but it was a time that allowed her to bring change in America through progressive court cases fighting against personal, professional and social sexism in American at that time. In the 70s, she even fought 6 cases in front of the Supreme Court battling sexism and won five of those. Her unique tactic of fighting for equal rights between genders had not been seen before in the courts – by primarily taking cases where men were treated unfairly due to their gender, RBG was by creating a legal basis for women who had faced discrimination ‘on the basis of sex’ (also the title of a recent film in which her early career in law was depicted). As one of only four women who have ever served as justices for the United States Supreme court, Ruth Bader Ginsburg set a fiery example of her dissenting opinions and dedication to the United States of America and her Constitution.

Beyond the coverage that will likely fill our newsfeeds for the next couple days of RBG’s ‘notorious’ and **Cont’d on Page 4 >>**

News @ A Glance

A Mines student has appealed to the Freshman class president in hopes of changing the name of Mines Market to “The Miner Diner.” The “disgruntled” student expressed a general “disappointment” with the current name. A student on a mission or a inside joke? We’ll have to wait and see.

A Vitamin D3 deficiency may increase the risk of catching COVID-19, a new study from the University of Chicago finds. Consider this a reminder to get outside and enjoy a daily dose of that Colorado sun!.

Colorado’s recent snowstorm almost set the national record for shortest time between 100 degrees and measurable snow. In Denver the weather dropped from 101 degrees to snowing in only three days over Labor Day Weekend. The previous record in the U.S. was five days, and was only beat out by South Dakota’s sporadic Labor Day weather bringing the record to two days.

A vial shortage could threaten distribution of a COVID vaccine... not to mention the beaches and rivers containing the unique angular species sand required for the glass.

While Career Fair definitely had its ups and downs, the good news is that many companies have agreed to return to the virtual forum in October for a second round 🍀



Featured: The Saga of South Table, Pg. 5



Featured: The New Title IX, Pg. 8



Featured: The Band Plays On, Pg. 8



Featured: Men's Golf Season Opener, Pg. 10

In This Issue

Letter from the Editor

Congratulations Kelsey Ferro and Greta Gideon! You are the winners of the Find Blaster and Word Scramble, respectively, from Issue 1. Make sure to watch for an email regarding your prize gift card! Thank you to all those who participated. In this issue, search for tiny Blaster and send your entries to oredig@gmail.com for a chance to win a gift card for a local restaurant.

Since 1920, it has been The Oredigger's goal to, "Represent the Student Voice of Mines." Therefore, we are proud to work with our staff writers and contributors to share their unique perspectives with the Mines community. That being said, as you or may not have seen yet, this issue is without a "Tailings" section on the last page. We recently expanded our staff of student writers and... onboarded several student photographers and graphic artists who are featured throughout Issue 2. This led to an increase in content received such that it was necessary to move the Health and Wellness section to the back page. We found it requisite to move away from stock photos and public images to (almost) all-Mines student-curated art. Thank you to our incredible new student photographers and graphic artists for making The Oredigger an even greater representation of the culture of Mines.

Lastly, as far as new additions go, we are happy to announce the premiere of a "Student Perspectives" column in the Opinion section. Each issue will feature a perspective on Mines from a guest contributor. We hope this gives you a chance to learn

from students from all corners of campus.

On another note, with the release of this issue falling on this year's Autumnal Equinox (the official start of fall), several of our writers featured fall-themed articles that are sure to prepare you for sweater weather.

J. Wilder writes about the origins of the Mabon-Autumn Equinox Celebration and it's relevance in our lives today.

Caleb Pan provides a brief history of the origins of Pumpkin Spice. Just how did it take over so many people's lives every fall?

John Cook gives us a glimpse of the work of a former NASA engineer as well as the interplanetary mechanisms behind the Autumnal Equinox.

Kayl Peck provides a couple of perspectives on the ideal time to year to start decorating for fall and the Halloween season. I usually aim for late-September but to each their own.

As we approach mid-terms and the election, and social distancing persists, remember that you have a community rooting for your academic success and, wholly more important, mental and physical health. I am usually not the most talkative person, but even I can use a good conversation every once and a while with this "hybrid" environment. In the words of Staff Writer Sarah Zaccarine, "Odds are, if you are stressed or lonely, [your friends] are, too."

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Photo of the Week

Snow in September? You never know in Colorado.
It was a nice break from the heat though...

Image courtesy of Kayl Peck.



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Up in Flames: Colorado on Fire

Sarah F. Zaccarine
Staff Writer

Editor's note: The information included in this article is accurate as of Wednesday, September 16th.

Five major wildfires are actively burning through Colorado: Pine Gulch, Grizzly Creek, Cameron Peak, Williams Fork, and Middle Fork. These fires have destroyed a total of 291,019 acres (455 square miles) and firefighting costs reached \$77 million as of September 4. In response to the news that 3 out of the 5 wildfires were human-caused, Colorado Governor Jared Polis issued a statewide fire ban on August 19 in an effort to prevent additional fires. Specific restrictions differ by county, based on proximity to the fires. In Jefferson County, a Stage Two Fire Ban and Stage One Fire Restrictions have been enacted. These measures prohibit many items including bonfires, fireworks, and smoking outdoors. Although solid-fueled devices are explicitly prohibited, some liquid-fueled and gas-fueled devices are still allowed under certain conditions; the general limitation hinges on whether the fire is able to be “turned off” rather than simply “put out.” Further information can be viewed on the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office website.

Pine Gulch:

Ignited by lightning on July 31, the Pine Gulch wildfire is located north of Grand Junction and extends through both Mesa and Garfield Counties. On August 27, Pine Gulch became the largest wildfire in Colorado history, and has currently consumed 139,007 acres (217 square miles) of land, which is larger than the city of Denver (155 square miles). Although environmentally devastating, the fire has not caused as many human fatalities as certain past wildfires due to the fact that it is predominantly burning in remote, rough terrain. Due to effective containment measures, the Pine Gulch fire has been 95% contained and the fire management team is optimistic that the wildfire will not increase or move significantly at this point.

Cameron Peak:

Cameron Peak has burned 102,596 acres (160 square miles) since its inception on August 13 in Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests. The cause is still being investigated but is presumed to be human-caused. This fire has the lowest containment at only 4% to date. It is located west of Fort Collins in Larimer county and has recently reached the timberline in Rawah Wilderness in one direction, which is expected to form a natural barrier and restrict further growth, but it continues to grow on the south and west sides. The fire entered Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) on September 5 and since then has burned 11 square miles in the park. Closures have been enacted in Roosevelt National Forest as well as in the remote northwest portion of RMNP, but all roads through the park remain open. So far, the fire has destroyed 54 buildings, including 25 homes. Colorado Highway 14 has been closed from Rustic to Gould and evacuations of campgrounds and other spaces remain in place.

Grizzly Creek:

This wildfire is burning in Glenwood Canyon in Eagle County and has currently spread to 32,464 acres (51 square miles). Despite lower area damage compared to Pine Gulch, the location has had a larger impact on people as it led to a 2-week closure of Interstate 70 from Glenwood Springs to Gypsum. Additionally, residents in both counties were put under pre-evacuation orders. The Grizzly Creek fire was first reported on August 10, unofficially started by either a popped tire or sparks created from a rim or dragging chains. Since then, it has been 91% contained, and as a result the pre-evacuation orders were lifted for residents in Coulture Creek and Buck Point Drive areas but remain instated for residents in Garfield County as of September 2. The fire has not grown for a few weeks and is expected to improve moving forward.

Williams Fork:

Located in Grand County south of

Fraser, on County Road 30 near Hot Sulphur Springs, this fire is named after the nearby Williams Fork Reservoir. The wildfire was reported on August 14 and was determined to be human-caused. It is burning in both Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and has been 10% contained. Williams Fork is currently the smallest of the major wildfires at 12,157 acres (19 square miles) and there are no active evacuation or pre-evacuation orders in the area as containment measures have been increasingly successful.

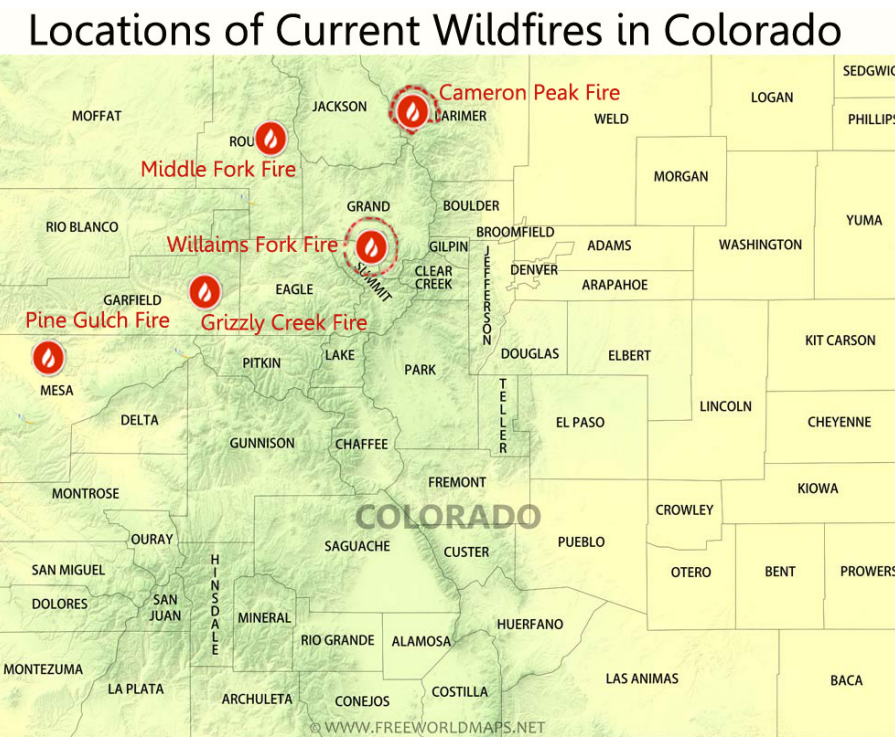
Middle Fork:

Slightly smaller than Williams Fork, Middle Fork Fire has burned 4,795 acres (7 square miles) about 10 miles northeast of Steamboat Springs. It was ignited on September 6 by lightning. At this point, it is 0% contained. Fortunately, natural barriers exist both to the north and the east; an old burn scar and the Continental Divide, respectively. Winds tend to blow the fire in these directions, which could limit the spread. Thus far, no buildings have been damaged, but the fire is still in its early stages. To avoid possible losses, firefighters are identifying at-risk structures and enacting preventative measures. Fire management is hopeful that impending moisture and cooler tempera-

tures will improve conditions and limit damage from this most recent fire.

After the steady rainfall at the end of August, all 4 wildfires remained stable, but increased dryness and wind predicted over the past few weeks caused additional growth. The recent snowfall improved conditions but the fires are expected to burn until there is a consistent weather shift towards increased steady precipitation. It is the responsibility of each individual to practice increased fire safety and obey regulations in order to keep both people and forests as safe as possible. Follow the statewide and county fire restrictions and be observant of conditions around you. As the fires vary in both intensity and containment and conditions can change rapidly, it is recommended to check an updated monitor before traveling to any of the affected areas.

This article was produced using information obtained from the Denver Post, Colorado Public Radio News, 9News, CO Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Jeffco Sheriff’s Office Fire Restriction Bans, CBS Denver, and The Denver Channel, Fox21news.com, Vail Daily. Information was updated as of September 16. 🌸



Map Data Courtesy of Colorado Division of Homeland Security

Image courtesy of Sadie Johnson.

Trying to Maintain Dorm Life in a Time of Social Distancing

Louis Cogan
Staff Writer

It may feel as if the articles of *The Oredigger* Newspaper are all playing off of the same broken record, but this campus must keep continually facing what we wish were more of an elephant in the room. Said topic is obviously the everpresent COVID-19 pandemic, as well as all of the restrictions that have followed it. While online classes and limited campus facilities are not entirely new due to the student body's experiences with them late last semester, the return of occupied dorms has called forth for even more restrictions, some of which more directly affect students' lifestyles because of their existence within the private, student living spaces. Some students have had strong reactions, and some have given little care to the subject, since they accept the new paradigm that has followed with outbreak prevention measures. To gauge a better understanding of Mines' view on the new living conditions, *The Oredigger* has conducted several interviews with students across a variety of buildings to discover the story straight from the masked horse's mouth.

Firstly, Jackson Hall appeared to be a strong introduction to dorm restrictions considering how advanced and open the building's original purpose was. Trevor Jackson, a Sopho-

more majoring in computer science and living on the fourth floor, offered a pleasantly buoyant take on the circumstances. Although he expressed his frustrations with the building's lack of an oreprint station (an issue any Residence Life employee reading this should expeditiously fix), he answered questions concerning what restrictions exist and how they differed from his expectations with,

"There's only a few [restrictions]... COVID has brought mask-related restrictions, and as such, there's less social interaction on the floor. [Because of this], I feel much more comfortable since there are few people, and there's more privacy. Things feel calm and go smoothly."

Such a refreshing opinion of the situation unabashedly calls for more optimism to spread throughout campus, especially when many Mines students have consistently touted their frustrations with the stresses of balancing so many classes with all of the other components of their lives. For now, the conditions of dorm living may be nothing more than a short-term resting period, since Jackson also believes that,

"...dorm living won't change much other than the social bounds. People will likely be more careful in the future."

Next came a group of various students from Weaver Towers, another relatively advanced building here at

Mines. Collectively, Jessica Wollesen, Akshitha Mudupu, Ahondra Bahe-na-Reza, and Brianna Diaz all gave a collective response to our questions.

1. How many restrictions are there and what are they?

"Masks outside our suite, only one outside person can be in the suite at a time and they must be wearing a mask, limit the number of people in common areas (tables downstairs, the kitchen, laundry room, etc.)"

2. How does it compare to what you imagined your first year of college living would be like?

"COVID in itself is definitely not what [we] expected. Despite this, it has been pretty fun to meet people from other suites. Being in a suite, we have a lot more freedom to move around without our masks in comparison to other dorms. Also, since there's 6 other girls in the suite, we definitely had a head start in making friends. When one person meets someone, soon after they meet everyone else in the suite."

3. Are there any improvements you would suggest to make dorm life easier or more efficient?

"We wish that roommates could sit at the same table downstairs to study (of course we'll keep our masks on!)"

4. What do you think the current path of dorm living will be over the next few years?

"As COVID becomes more of a

norm, we will continue to adapt to the circumstances whatever they may be."

5. Any comments you would like to add?

"Bucket the puppy is the best part of living in Weaver. Period."

Similar to Trevor Jackson, this group from Weaver has maintained positivity throughout their time so far on campus, even with a few circumstances they wish they could change to cultivate more social interaction between students in their building. Although they may only interact closely with each other and the other members of their suite, they present an acceptance spreading throughout campus that highlights the rapid maturity many Mines students share (even when they are still figuring out their identities in a new environment away from home).

Last on the list, Aidan Rosprim, a first-year majoring in Mechanical Engineering, kindly offered his opinion as one of the freshest faces at Mines, as well as one of the most honest students in his statement on the meal organization at Mines Market:

"We are advised to finish eating within half an hour so other students can come in. Which would be fine but the food portions are very small and I normally have to go through at least

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Cont'd "Notorious" >>

historical legacy, the issue of selecting a new supreme court justice will be shifted to the front burner as the election season heats up. With under 50 days until election day and ballots already in the mail for some states, the next supreme court pick will bring a larger shift to the demographics of the judicial branch of the US government. With a close republican majority in the Senate, each vote will be critical in the process for both sides and the results of the upcoming election could impact a shift towards more conservative or more progressive values for generations to come. Because supreme court justices are nominated for a life term, the ability to appoint even one in a four-year presidential term is politically advantageous, noting that President Trump has already appointed

Justice Neil Gorsuch in 2017 and Justice Brett Kavanaugh in 2018. While Ruth Bader Ginsburg held her legacy proudly to the world for equality and human rights; the lasting impact of her death has the potential to shift the balance of the supreme court and could install a lasting legitimacy for the Trump presidency during one of the most tumultuous times in modern American history.

While the final weeks of the election loom before us, we cannot forget the amazing woman, judge and American our country has lost this weekend. We all will walk into the voting booth this upcoming November or mail our ballots into our home states and counties, but as we dictate the next four years of our nation, we should remember **the our Notorious RBG and the equality she fought for.** ✨



Signs in the Maple lobby reminding residents to be safe.
Image courtesy of Amelia Low.

The Saga of South Table



South Table could have had an apartment building, a gravel mine, or a Nike campus built on it. Image courtesy of Molly Adams.

Aidan Lewis
Staff Writer

It's a Mines right-of-passage, it's also trespassing. Yes, the famous hike to the top of Castle Rock that so many Mines students, Golden residents, and tourists alike enjoy takes one onto private property. As surprised as I was to realize that I had been a frequent trespasser, it was more surprising that the Castle Rock itself, the symbol of Golden, along with much of the other land on South Table, is privately owned. Would that not leave this place of great natural and cultural significance vulnerable to exploitation? Yes in fact, read on.

I am a city kid and not a native Coloradan. Before I came to Mines I never lived walking distance from a hiking trail so having access now is special to me. It is exciting that I can walk out my front door, down a few streets, then over and up a few more and just like that I can find myself on a dusty hillside home to cactus, lichen, and the occasional rattlesnake. It is a special and beautiful thing to me and I often take advantage. No surprise then that I was excited this summer when I noticed new trail construction happening on South Table. I found a presentation online about the trail projects underway which happened to include a short segment about the history of the park. That is when I discovered how much of it was still privately owned.

Maybe I shouldn't have been sur-

prised. Before 1977 when Jefferson County open space purchased their first land on the Mesa it was like any other land in the Denver Metro Area. If suburban sprawl had eaten up the grasslands and hillsides throughout the rest of the area, why would it spare the Mesa? In fact, in the early 1900s a lively cafe and dance hall was constructed on Castle Rock. After a successful start however, business became slow and prohibition in the 1920s only made things worse. That's when the spot became a popular gathering place for members of the Klu Klux Klan. And then one day in 1927 a fire started in the dance hall and nobody bothered to try to put it out. Supposedly the volunteer fire department stood and watched it burn and Golden residents were happy to have it (and the Klan) off of their mountain.

Between then and 1977, South Table was considered for many uses including the United Nations Headquarters, NORAD, and an international airport, but little was actually constructed in that time. Some roads were built for a law enforcement training facility, some land was occupied by the US Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Lab, and some of the hillsides on the eastern side were encroached upon by apartments. It was at this time that Jeffco Openspace began its long term plan of purchasing the land on the Mesa top. It was slow going as they had limited funds and owners weren't

always looking to sell but gradually through buying land and conservation easements by the late 90s, the agency was able to acquire much of the Mountain. Of the land left, the vast majority was owned by the Coors Company and pro-development Mines graduate Leo Bradley. According to an article in Westword from March 1998, he along with Peter Coors of the Coors family proposed a variety of development schemes for the mountain over the years including a 14 story apartment building in 1972, a large gravel mine in the 80s, and in 1998, a 5,000 employee Nike office campus.

These plans met fierce resistance from many Golden residents including Judy Denison and Don Parker who founded nonprofit Save The Mestas aiming to push the city government towards rejecting development proposals and the county towards buying the land. Many city officials, intrigued by possible increased tax

revenue from the project, were annoyed at the residents' unwavering opposition to the projects. Tensions ran high at city meetings and on the street. Arguments broke out in the Safeway parking lot. In the end Nike looked to build elsewhere and Coors sold their South Table land to the county in 2004.

Today, after several acquisitions by Open Space from utility companies, Bradley's land under the ownership of the Bear Creek Development Corporation, including Castle Rock, remain the only major private sections of the Mesa. Pending the resolution of a lawsuit regarding access to the land, it is certainly conceivable that Jeffco Open Space, with a five year allocation of \$40 million for land acquisition, could have an opportunity to purchase the land. On the other hand, so long as it stays in private hands, Golden's greatest natural treasure will be in some peril. 🌱

Yet Another Shortage: Poll Workers

Sophia Becker
News Editor

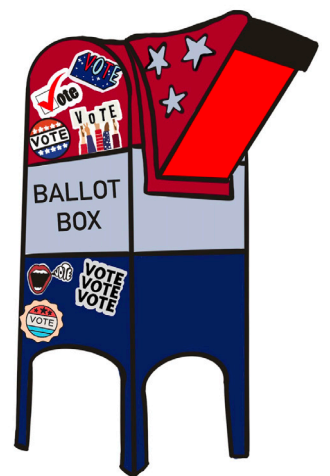
"America is facing a record shortage of poll workers this year due to the coronavirus," declares the Power the Polls initiative. Jefferson County is no exception. According to the Elections Office, they currently have about half the necessary staff.

Employment as a poll worker (yes, employment – these are paid positions) can last anywhere between a month and a day. Polling centers usually have staff working 30 to 40 hours a week, so a student could make a decent chunk of money this election season.

It is important to note that schedules as a student don't always match up with the desires of the JeffCo Elections Office--they prefer people available to work set hours. However, they assured me they welcome anyone and everyone and are more than happy to work with you to find a position that fits.

Being a short-term poll worker certainly seems interesting and somewhat lucrative, but I think Power to the Polls said it best in their statement: "Our democracy depends on

ordinary people who make sure elections run smoothly and everyone's vote is counted. You can make sure we have a safe, fair, efficient election for all."



Graphic courtesy of Molly Adams.

To find out more about becoming a poll worker, check out powerthepolls.org.

If you want to apply to be an Election Judge for Jefferson County, go to jeffco.us/608/Election-Judges. If you have specific questions for the JeffCo Election Staffing department, call (303) 2718101 or email electionstaffing@votejeffco.com. 🌱

Cont'd "Dorms" >>

twice to get everything that I can eat... it has become a balancing act in which I need to keep my food from falling because I am trying to carry a to-go box, a salad, dressing, cup of fruit, and cup of water... Sometimes Mines market will go all take out, so nobody is able to eat in there because they are doing a deep clean for Covid. When this happens there is almost no reason to go get food there because the portions are so small."

He went on to elaborate how his perception of college was warped by this historical shift, detailing and explaining all of the more specific limitations out of the public view that students must still face in their day-to-day living (both in the dorms, as well as other facilities).

"I obviously did not expect Covid to be a part of my first year of college... I feel that it may be unsafe to use [the kitchen] because someone could have Covid and [could have] used the kitchen and end up passing it on to someone else... I've always preferred to do things in person and not online, but with Covid it's impossible to avoid. Now most of my professors and TAs now have office hours online which is good and bad. It is easier for me to get help on some of my work, but it is definitely harder to build up a connection with my professors since I only really get to talk to them during their office hours."

Even with all of the criticism,

Rosprim did what every Oredigger does well and offered his thoughts on how systems could be adjusted to increase efficiency while still maintaining collective health & wellness.

"When we get food [from Mines Market], we should be able to get more food at once instead of being told to come back after we are done; this really just makes it harder for everyone to get their food..."

Looking to the student body, one discovers competency, perseverance, and--most importantly--compassion across many responses to the limitations placed upon campus living in the middle of a pandemic. Even when issues concerning social interaction or accommodations arise, Mines scholars reflect on their experiences as engineers to build solutions that will aid in making it through such an unforeseeable future. Until a relative normalcy returns, those living and attending classes on campus should remember how fortunate they are to still have a university waiting for them. Aidan Rosprim stated it best in a gracious recognition of the constant work by the teaching body and staff:

"[In the future], dorms will be much more capable of dealing with students that end up sick. I can definitely tell that all the professors and staff are doing their best to keep us safe and healthy and that I just want to give them a huge "thank you" for everything that they are doing for us." 🌸



It's not uncommon for water fountains to be out of service, but . . . it's not usually like this. Image courtesy of Amelia Low.

Create48

Group 2 presenting to the judges. Image courtesy of Democratize Creativity.

Caleb Pan

Staff Writer

What happens when you have pandemic restrictions for gatherings, a grand budget of almost zero, and a call for something to do on a weekend? Create48!

So what happened? On September 5th, the organizers (Geoff McIntyre, Summer Jackson, Jessie Fehrenbach, Chris Wilhoite) finished preparations in the evening just as the participants showed up. With everyone wearing masks hiding half their face, an icebreaker was in order: random words were yelled out and written onto a board. Random groups were formed and given two words from the board. Objective: three minutes to brainstorm and thirty seconds to pitch it. Some examples were fire robots, plasma batteries, and steel potatoes.

With everyone warmed up, it was onto the main event. The theme was 'makeshift' and 'lack of resources'. Ideas were pitched onto a sticky note wall. Two top ideas were picked through voting and the two teams were formed. Research and crafting started as everyone headed home for the night. Coming back the next morning, each group met with design mentors (Will Fleckenstein, Summer Jackson) for 30 minutes. Prototyping continued until 2:30 and everyone gathered for the finale.

Group 1, **Dendrite**: use old 3G towers to provide quality internet for improvised and remote neighborhoods. The towers would send highly

directional beams to provide data. The name "Dendrite" comes from brain neurons on the theme of connectivity.

Group 2, **Third-World Manufacturing**: a functioning sterling engine. Using sterling engine technology, generators can be made to produce enough electricity for a small village. By creating electricity outside homes using heat, hazardous utilities can be replaced with safer electric ones.

The judges (Mirna Matjik, Jessie Fehrenbach, Torin Johnson) first looked at the prototype and guessed what it was for. This was to encourage the idea that design should speak for itself. Each group then had five minutes to present their design followed by Q&A with the judges.

Judges and organizers stepped out for deliberation. Judging categories were based on the quality of the idea (novelty, impact, research) and the quality of the presentation (communication of ideas). The big drumroll came and Dendrite won (by a narrow margin)! The winners got a \$150 Target gift card (provided as sponsorship from Target) and both teams received handmade trophies.

Create48 is a unique achievement. Mines students came together to be innovative and creative even during the pandemic – they took something back. It is a testimony of how nothing will stop us from tinkering, problem-solving, and thinking outside-the-box. The event represents the ideas, unity, and ingenuity of our community that ever-persist. It's truly a great victory, for all of us. 🌸

How Soon is Too Soon to Decorate for Fall?

Kayl Peck

Staff Writer

The leaves are starting to change color, there's a slight nip in the air... Oh wait no, it's still 80 degrees out and definitely not sweater weather yet, that's just me yearning. Although Colorado briefly gave us snow, we are now back to summer temps and it's a little disappointing for the fall lover in me.

But sitting within my apartment, where I tend to be most days for class online, I can live in my own bubble

of fall. See, back when September 1st hit, my roommates and I all piled into a car and bought way too many terrible decorations at the local Dollar Tree. Because, of course, it's September, time to decorate for fall. And Halloween for that matter, the next holiday that we would celebrate.

Fortunately for us, there were decorations in stores already. Some places even had them available since before school started! Maybe that's the wishful thinking on their part, maybe Safeway longs for some colder weather as well. (It might keep their

refrigerated section working!) Or, it's just that there weren't many holidays in the late summer months, and something must go in that holiday aisle in the middle of the store.

Here's where the discussion lies. Maybe some of you were confused as to why we were decorating so soon, it was barely September. Or maybe you were contemplating going out and buying some decorations right now. When I posted a picture of our decor, I received mixed responses from my friends. They were quite distinct, one saying, "Wow, that looks so cool & spooky!" and the other was, "bro chill it's barely September".

But what would waiting another couple of weeks to decorate have done for us? Delayed our joy in awaiting fall? I personally can't wait for the start of fall and cool weather; my sweaters have been calling for so long. And decorating, at least for me and the friends I live with, it brought us joy. Marie Condo would be proud.

In times like these, why not live life a little? If you're stuck doing class inside, at least you can enjoy your surroundings. For us, it provided a sense of normalcy, reminiscing back to when life was COVID-free. I know not everyone wants to decorate that early, but if you feel the urge, go for it! Do what makes you happy. I would also recommend to not discourage others from doing things they enjoy. In times like these, it's nice to have a little joy in life. 🍂



A fall spread. Image courtesy of Kayl Peck.

Clear Creek Closure

Leo Mungekar

Staff Writer

8/23/20- It's a blisteringly hot Sunday afternoon, and already, a throng is forming around Clear Creek. Lines of families stretched across the sidewalks bordering the creek, inflatable rubber tubes straddling their waists. There is much jostling, tugging, running, and all seem to be of good cheer. Really, a normal weekend, nothing here to glance at. Well, it would be normal- if it wasn't 2020.

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the Sheriff of Golden issued a ban on all activities and water sports within the creek. No more kayaking, rafting, tubing- nada, nothing, zilch. But this really doesn't seem to have stopped anyone from using the Creek. As I type this, a line of tubers floats past me, shouting with excitement. Not many people are wearing masks either (but seriously, who would want to go tubing with a mask on?).

The whole situation feels pretty humorous. It almost feels a little funny to watch people disregard the rules so brazenly. What's the point of

the law if nobody regards it? At best, the system is a farce, a circus begging to be openly mocked. Lawmakers are supposed to be competent. They're the adults holding our hands, the ones who pet us for following their rules, and the ones who give us a tight slap when we disobey.

Problem is, nobody really seems to care about the law anymore. The media has pedalled and backpedalled so many times on coronavirus that the entire stadium is covered with tread marks. There aren't many public officials who look competent anymore, and this is the result.

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Student Perspectives

Beginning in this issue, Volume 101 of *The Oredigger* will include a column featuring a perspective on Mines from a guest contributor. We hope this gives you a chance to learn from students from all corners of campus.

If you are interested in sharing your perspective, please reach out to Marisa Macias, The Oredigger's DII&A Representative at macias@mines.edu.

"I am tired. We are tired."

Charlie Garza

Student Contributor

Colorado School of Mines is the most diverse school I have attended in my life. Let that phrase sink in. We all know that Mines is not the most diverse school by any means or standards.

My first experience with the public school system was my kindergarten teacher, who physically abused me. Spanish was my first language, and I went to an upper middle class majority white school. My older brother had the same teacher but got lucky in the worst sort of way because there was a black girl in his class that incurred her wrath more. It's important to note that this woman got away with everything she ever did to me and other students.

I have met very few people I can converse animatedly with in Spanish on campus and I can count with the fingers of one hand, the number of queer students of color that attend oSTEM. Representation matters. If there's anything that I want my peers to know- it's that I am here. I am tired of shouting to be heard but I will continue to do so until those that I love feel safe. The most important thing that you can do is amplify the voice of the marginalized and stop those that

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The opinions expressed in the Opinion section 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 for any comments or questions.

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aim to cut us down.

In November my friends and I sighed a breath of relief because the Supreme Court finally ruled discrimination based on sexual and gender identity illegal. Last semester, I fought to stay in my study abroad program when my transphobic roommate with connections did his best to get rid of me. I am strong- but I shouldn't always have to be. Yes, 2020 has been an enormously difficult year, but it has been difficult for much longer.

I am tired. We are tired.

We've seen the brutality against our black brothers and sisters.

Every November 20th we mourn our dead transgender sisters- hundreds killed for daring to be themselves.

My people are locked up and dying in cages, a product of a system that aims to eliminate us.

I need others to know that I am one of the lucky ones. I spent 6 out of 12 months homeless last year, and moved 8 different times, but I never once lived on the street. I am so proud to say that my community supported me in my time of need. My friends let me couch surf, gave me resources, helped me get healthcare, and was there when I needed them most. I want to honor that by extending that support network to everyone that I can. I am strong. We are strong. But we cannot do it alone. I can no longer do it alone.

Colorado School of Mines may not be the most diverse, but I know that despite everything, the Mines administration has defended and supported me time and time again. This year I am the Vice President of Advocacy for oSTEM which means that not only is it my passion to advocate for my peers but it is my job.

To those not only experiencing the rigor of Mines, but continue to thrive in a world that does not want to make space for us, I see you. I stand with you. You are strong, you are powerful, you are loved. 🌸

Cont'd "Clear Creek" >>

Still, the tuber's actions remind me of jaywalkers. Technically, jaywalking is illegal, but that hasn't stopped anyone from doing it. And I don't see anyone getting arrested for jaywalking. It's something that's illegal in theory, but rarely enforced in practice.

Yet the comparison feels completely wrong. After all, jaywalking never put anybody at risk except the jaywalker. But the gatherings of people at Clear Creek are likely to spread the virus further. In the end, I'm not sure how I feel about all this.

One week later- I'm back at Clear Creek now and they've erected barriers around the place. They've also put up a sign saying "ALL ACCESS TO CLEAR CREEK CLOSED: NO TRESPASSING".

I look at the barrier they put up a bit more closely. It's a bunch of wooden fence posts tied together with some faded steel wire. There are noticeable gaps between the posts, maybe large enough to stick your hand through. The fence sags under its own weight.

Eventually, I tire of the creek. I try to interview a few people about their opinions on the closure- invariably, I end up interviewing my friends. Nobody seems bothered by the shut-down. Attitudes range from oblivious ("Clear Creek is closed?"), to accusatory ("It's all the governor's fault"), to indifferent ("Whatever, man").

Why is Clear Creek important?

I'm trying to think of a good reason, but I really can't. The Golden website promotes it as a place of "scenic beauty, recreation, and a valuable natural resource". Okay, that's great and all, but you'd have to be rather undiscerning to swallow all that down. Standing right here, looking at the creek, there's nothing particularly spectacular about it. It looks completely ordinary. Sure, it's nice, but it's hard to believe that this is one of the main attractions of Golden.

Perhaps Wikipedia will offer something more tangible. But after looking through, I still can't find anything interesting about Clear Creek. It played a role in the Gold Rush- but that's it. After that, nothing historically significant has happened here.

Maybe it's not the big historical picture that matters. Maybe the importance of Clear Creek isn't measured in large events, but in the small, anecdotal ones. Like the time you were out late, then, in a drunken fit of reasoning, decided to spend the night at the creek, wandering aimlessly like some homeless bum before falling asleep in a bush, then waking up at 2:00 AM and wondering what just happened to you before you just shrug your shoulders and head back home. Stuff like that never gets reported, but you always remember it.

Another Sunday and I'm back at the creek. What am I doing here? I already have the material for my article. Why don't I actually live my life instead of spending it here? Never

mind that, the barriers seem to be effective; I don't see anyone wandering around within the creek.

But there is still activity around here. High school seniors are taking their photos for the yearbook. The camerawomen seem enthusiastic, snapping photos left and right. A boy with reddish hair is vetted by his mother, and though he is nothing like me, he reminds me of myself, of a time that feels so close and yet so far away. The truth is, I feel like an old man; I feel like I'm being eaten away from the insides.

The sun is setting. It's time to leave. A cloud of mosquitoes hangs in the air above me, an ill-omened swarm. The first chill of winter is here, and it's not just in the air, but in the people surrounding me. The masks, those eyes, a tickling. Cold feet, slow breaths, an inkling. The dark, the past, the trickling. And still, Clear Creek flows onwards, oblivious to our desires. (UPDATE: As of 9/14/20, Clear Creek is now open for public use. It will likely remain this way for the foreseeable future.) 🌸



Image courtesy of Kayl Peck.

The New Title IX

Anonymous
Staff Writer

On August 14th, rights of students were taken away. The United States Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced new federal Title IX regulations several months ago and required schools receiving federal funding to implement the changes on August 14th. DeVos rolled back protections and created a lot of red tape, triggering a plethora of petitions and lawsuits from across the

nation in the middle of a global pandemic. Experts and advocates have condemned these changes since they were announced, speaking of the negative impact the new regulations will have on survivors.

These changes are unacceptable and are just another example showing that Secretary DeVos is anti-student and anti-survivor. Overall, the new regulations make it more difficult for survivors to report cases of sexual misconduct and receive the support they need. Recovering from a sexual assault is already extremely emotional and difficult for survivors,

and DeVos is making the process even more difficult. The federal government should not be limiting the responsibility and liability of schools when it comes to sexual misconduct. The regulations are 2,033 pages, but here are a few of the changes:

- Schools are now obligated to act in fewer (and mainly more extreme) cases. This will limit the amount of cases they undertake and the number of students they help.
- Schools must now dismiss complaints of sexual misconduct that oc-

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cur off campus (like house parties).

- Schools can claim a religious exemption from Title IX. Students at all educational institutions should feel safe and supported, regardless of religious affiliation.
- The 60 day timeline has been removed, allowing schools to put survivors through lengthy investigations. This also allows for more emotional stress. Last summer, Colorado legislation was passed requiring investigations to be completed in 60 to 90 days (unless there are extenuating circumstances). Fortunately, this change will not impact Mines that much thanks to the Colorado legislation, but this is still unacceptable for other states and students that do not

have the same luck that we have.

- After an investigation, a hearing must take place, including cross-examinations by a representative of each party's choosing. Reporting sexual violence and going through an investigation is already an emotionally draining process for the survivor, and this change will just cause more emotional stress from the survivor.

In July, the Title IX office at Mines held a public forum to discuss the new changes. Over 100 campus community members were present for the hour long forum, asking many questions about what the changes meant and how the Title IX office was handling them. It was clear that the Title IX staff was not happy about

the changes either, sounding stressed and upset when having to further explain the limitations they now have.

These times we are living in are full of stress and uncertainty. There is a global pandemic, a civil rights movement, a climate crisis, and more going on right outside our doors. We should not be having to fear for our safety and support and campus as well.

To learn more about the regulations and what Mines is doing, check out <https://www.mines.edu/title-ix/title-ix-regulations/> or reach out to the Title IX staff. For more information on what the changes mean and what you can do, check out <https://www.knowyourix.org/>. 🌱



Image courtesy of Mines.

Coping with COVID: The Importance of Maintaining a Routine - Part 1

Sarah Zaccarine

Staff Writer

As students, it is easy to feel like we are perpetually on-call, and this is for good reason. There is always an email to send, something we can work on or be stressed about. In order to remain productive (and happy), it is essential to create boundaries. This has never been more important than now, when WFH (working from home) means we work, sleep, eat, and live mostly within the same four walls. For me, it has helped to follow a routine and perform a physical transition from work to relaxation and vice-versa. While our jobs inherently exist both within and outside of normal work hours, WFH offers unique opportunities to have a more consistent structure to stay focused and productive while also keeping work and life separate, even though they exist in the same space.

A strict routine, however, can feel confining and also have a negative impact on productivity, so it is also necessary to have some unscheduled time and be open to spontaneity. After all, one of the perks of being a student is the flexibility, so maintaining a routine that is structured yet flexible is crucial. This bal-

ance looks different for everyone, but here are some simple tips that have worked for me:

Sleep consistent hours: Waking up at the same time every day is more important than going to bed at the same time when it comes to your Circadian rhythm. Extra sleep is definitely a benefit of WFH but waking up late can make it harder to convince yourself that it's a workday. I wake up about 30 minutes later than I normally would, which still gets my day started at a similar time or even earlier than pre-COVID. My body clock adapted months ago and I have maintained a much more consistent sleep schedule during COVID than normal. It has also led to my longest stretch in graduate school without getting sick, which is a benefit at any time, but particularly during a global pandemic.

Get dressed: Wearing pajama pants to meetings can seem like a fun benefit of working from home. While the group may never know, I will. Wearing those PJ pants is a constant reminder that my bed is right there, which blurs the line between work and home, thereby creating more stress. This doesn't mean wearing

formal clothing every day but putting on a different outfit for work versus relaxation puts space between work responsibilities and the time to unwind.

Follow a morning routine: Have breakfast! Enjoy some coffee or tea in the morning. In my opinion it's not actually the caffeine; having a special breakfast drink each day signals to my mind that it's time to go into work mode and focus.

Create a workspace: Carve out a physical area that functions as your place of work. Ideally, this is a separate space or room where you do not spend time outside of work. A desk in an office is best, but that is not an option for most students. I am lucky to live in a 2-bedroom apartment with my partner, so I feel comfortable in the entirety of our space. He works at a desk in the second bedroom while I work at the kitchen table. This setup has allowed us to have separate physical spaces during the day to keep us focused and create alone time. Since I work and eat at the same table, I find it useful to set up my work area at the beginning of the day and put all of these materials away into a closed space after I am finished. This sim-

ple act has been effective at getting me into and out of my mental workspace. It can also be enough to sit in a different chair when you work versus when you eat.

Meal prep anyway: Working at home felt like a huge time saver because I no longer had to meal prep; I was eating every meal at home. I quickly realized that figuring out what to eat three times a day was not a luxury but rather an additional micro-stressor. It can also easily devolve into a time sink or lead to lots of cereal consumption. Having meals prepared feels just as good for lunch at home and reduces the urge to snack and sit on the couch.

Schedule time in appropriate blocks: I learned early in graduate school that priorities can shift 180° in a minute, so scheduling my day to the minute can backfire. Instead, I like to have a list of To-do's for the week and I try to work on one task for 2-4 hours when I can. Any longer or shorter and my concentration ebbs, but this sweet spot allows me to actually finish tasks and check things off my list.

Part 2 will be featured in the Opinion Section of Issue 3. 🌱

The opinions expressed in the Opinion section 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 for any comments or questions.

The Origin of Pumpkin Spice

Caleb Pan

Staff Writer

Ah, pumpkin spice. If a leaf falls onto the ground and teenage girls don't go rabid at Starbucks, is it even autumn? Today, pumpkin spice products generate \$500 million in annual sales. Love it, hate it, great whatever. But where did it come from exactly...?

We need to take a step back first: what is pumpkin spice? Massive spoiler, not pumpkin. It is generally a blend of ground cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, cloves, and allspice. An interesting side fact: archaeologists in Indonesia found ancient nutmeg residue on ceramic pottery shards estimated to be 3,500 years old.

Early American settlers may have made pumpkin pies that contained similar spices as early as 1620 by making stewed pumpkins with milk, honey, spices, and then baking it in

hot ashes. A "Pompkin" recipe calling for a similar spice mix (mace, nutmeg, and ginger) can be found in 1796 in the first known published American cookbook (*American Cookery* by Amelia Simmons).

In 1936, the *Washington Post* published an article titled: "Spice Cake Of Pumpkin Newest Dish: Delicacy Tempting to All Appetites and Easy to Prepare. Ideal Dessert for Family Dinner, Healthful for Children." In the 1950s, spice companies began selling blends labeled "pumpkin pie spice" which was simplified to "pumpkin spice" in the 1960s. While the flavor had been frequent in pumpkin pies for a while, cooks more recently began using the blend in other dishes with squashes or sweet potatoes.

It is an easy assumption Starbucks began the modern pumpkin spice craze but not entirely accurate. A candle company in New Mexico re-

leased a pumpkin spice candle in 1995. Soon after, coffee shops around the country become interested in the

spice blend. Finally, in 2004, Starbucks released the pumpkin spice latte. The rest is history. 🍂



Image courtesy of Kathryn Peck.

The Band Plays On

Lauren D'Ambra

Staff Writer

Without a doubt, 2020 has brought on more delays, reschedules, and cancellations than most of us would like to acknowledge. These inconveniences have become the new normal as schools reopen and the world braces itself for what has yet to come. Organizations, clubs, and universities across the country have modified their normal plans of operation to account for the new social distancing guidelines.

One group here at Mines, however, has worked against the odds to be able to operate in person and as normally as the new restrictions will allow. The Mines Concert and Marching Band, a staple in the Oredigger and Golden community for over fifty years, continues to perform amidst the chaotic backdrop 2020 has provided. Renowned for their unusual uniform of flannel and hard hats, the band continues to practice and work on new ways of bringing the joy of music to the Mines community.

This year, band director Robert

Klimek is embracing the true Oredigger problem-solving spirit and adapting the band to work in this challenging environment. The concert band is currently practicing outdoors in a grid set up, allowing for the social distancing rules to be followed. The group began working on their usual stand tunes and concert pieces back in late August. These full band practices truly are remarkable given that other band programs across the state have been forced to divide into smaller ensembles and/or stop performing altogether.

While the band may not be able to perform their iconic splitting of the atom routine to the tune of Zarathustra on the football field this year, the group has been busy coming up with new performance alternatives. The concert band is currently working on an array of holiday tunes and, with them, tentative plans to record and schedule virtual performances. The marching band is prepping stand tunes for the spring sports season, should the occasion for music arise. The rest of the year may bring on a whole new set of challenges, but one

thing is for certain: the Mines band will keep on playing through it all. 🎵



Graphic courtesy of Lauren D' Ambra.

Mabon: How an Ancient Holiday can Impact us Today

J. Wilder

Staff Writer

The Autumn Equinox is upon us, when the Sun crosses the celestial equator from North to South, day and night are equal in length, and the darker half of the year begins. This day has been celebrated throughout history by a plethora of different societies, peoples, and religions. Cultural traditions across the world observe equinoxes, solstices, and cross-quarter days. These days were important for agricultural purposes and therefore were important to a society's survival. Some, we are fa-

miliar with. Our modern Christmas holiday, for example, is derived from Yule, traditionally held on the Winter Solstice. However, celebrations of the Autumn Equinox have lost popularity. The most common celebration of the Equinox in the modern Western World is the harvest festival of Mabon.

Humanity has celebrated harvests for millennia. Oschophoria was a festival held in Ancient Greece to celebrate the harvesting of grapes for wine. China's Mid-Autumn festival honoring family unity falls on the night of the Harvest Moon. Oktoberfest started in the 1700s, is a time of

great feasting and merriment.

Mabon originated in the Welsh countryside, dedicated to a sun god of the same name. Today, it's been adopted by neopagans all over the world. In fact, you've probably participated in Mabon without even realizing it! There's evidence suggesting that the American holiday of Thanksgiving was inspired by Mabon, since the original Thanksgiving was held on October 3rd. A proclamation by Abraham Lincoln in 1863, then another by FDR in 1939, changed when we hold Thanksgiving. The British holiday of Michaelmas is also directly born from Mabon.

As mentioned, modern-day Mabon festivals are usually held by pagans, but the holiday is no longer tied to any specific religious beliefs. Rath-

er, celebrations of Mabon focus on the themes of many harvest festivals: gratitude, generosity, community, and, of course, lots of food.

There are many traditions and activities associated with Mabon that everyone can enjoy. It's a day to spend time in nature—the autumnal season is a beautiful and spiritually uplifting time to be outside. Changes in the air signify nature's approach to a wintry slumber. Mabon is also a time of preparation, when people would fortify their hearts, minds, and homes for the colder times of winter ahead. The most notable way to celebrate Mabon is with food. A feast brings people together to enjoy the changing of the season. As with most

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The Exuinox in Geometric Terms

John Cook

Opinion Editor

I was studying celestial mechanics one day. I pictured the International Space Station ([ISS] - that I helped build) orbiting the earth every 90 minutes. It orbits in a plane inclined 51.6° to the equator. It orbits there instead of the originally planned 28.5° latitude of Kennedy Space Center so we could include the Russians in a joint space effort (similar to Apollo/Soyuz) but on a much larger scale. My initial work on ISS began by leading a team called Digital PreAssembly (DPA). The task was to take precise measurements of the Space Station module to module (known as element) interface surfaces. The goal was to ensure fit of the elements since very few real-world ground fit checks occurred. We verified this using 3D CAD models. My role morphed into leading a team called Assembly Analysis, which was an evolution of the digital CAD static fit checks of DPA and performed a kinematic simulation of the berthing process (assembly using either the Space Shuttle robotic arm, or the Space Station robotic arm) to ensure all surfaces in the berthing corridor were designed for contact or could withstand contact. If not, we had to have an operational workaround, re-

design, or modify the hardware. In one instance, we had to do a spacewalk and remove a piece of hardware to clear the way for berthing.

The ISS + X axis typically points in the direction of travel; the + Y axis points starboard and the + Z axis points towards Earth. Beneath it, the Earth rotates once every 24 hours (approximately). So when the Space Station has returned 90 minutes later to cross the equator, the earth has rotated beneath it and the ISS passes over a different point on earth.

The Earth is orbiting the Sun (which is also spinning) approxi-

mately every 365 days (Hence Leap Years). The plane the Earth orbits the Sun in is called the ecliptic.

The Moon orbits the Earth every 28 days (approximately). The plane it orbits the Earth in is inclined $\sim 5^\circ$ to the ecliptic (which is why we don't have a Solar and Lunar eclipse each Month). The Moon's X axis points towards Earth. The Z axis points normal to the 5° inclination to the ecliptic.

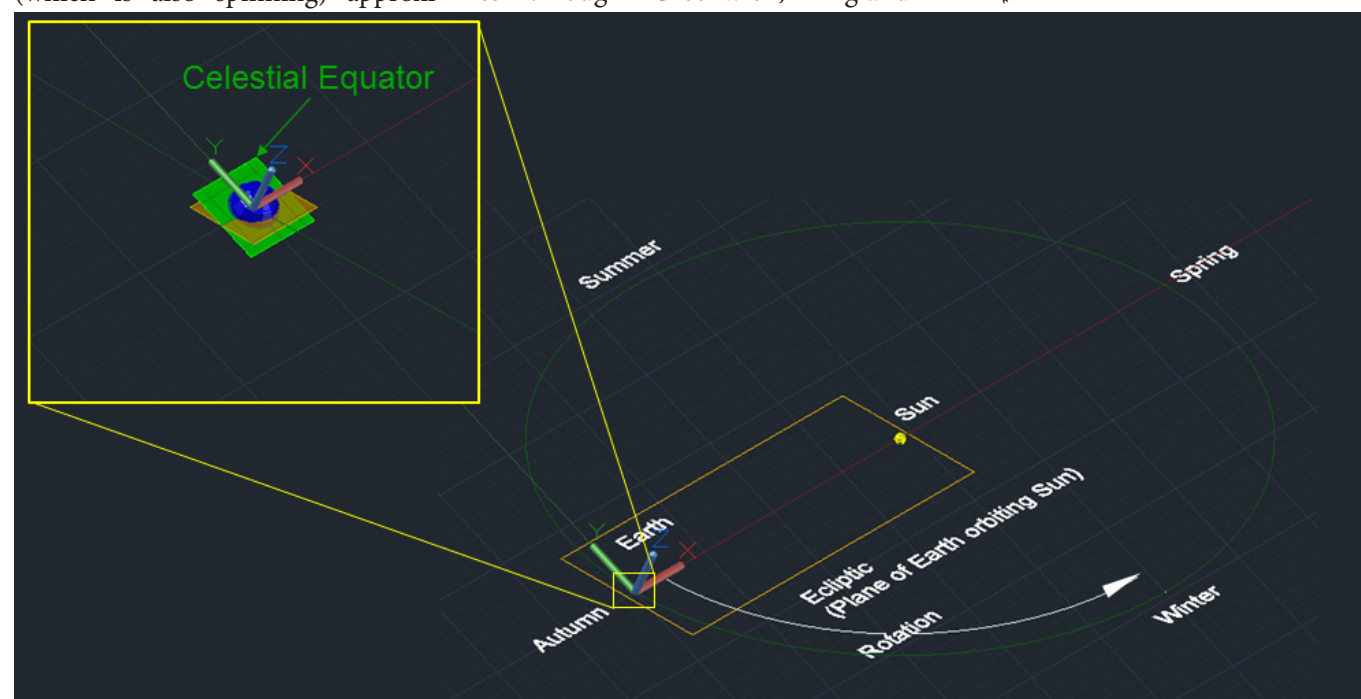
Once I was able to visualize these spinning coordinate systems, my head began to spin.

The Earth's XZ plane passes through Greenwich, England

(GMT). The Earth's North Pole is rotated 23.5° relative to the ecliptic. The equator projects out in a plane called the Celestial Plane.

Gentle reader, please visualize the solar system as an analog clock dial, with the 12 o'clock position being Summer. The Earth North Pole would be tilted towards the 6 o'clock position 23.5 degrees. The center of the clock dial would be the Sun. This would be Summer in the Northern Hemisphere.

The Autumn Equinox would be the 9 o'clock position. Please see the figure that appears with this article. ☼



Graphic courtesy of John Cook.

Filmmaking that Moves Forwards and Backwards: Tenet Review

By Louis Cogan

Staff Writer

For a full article including visit orediger.net

In a tumultuous time where visual media has done everything humanly possible--expect for implanting computer chips in consumers' skulls--to provide itself for in-home viewing, theater chains' unhurried efforts to return to business in the United States have officially received their first potential money-maker in the form of Warner Bros. Pictures' *Tenet*. Advertisements across all platforms in Colorado have touted the buzz-worthy phrase, "Big Movies are Back in Denver," as if the risk of visiting a theater is outweighed by the film's enjoyment. Therefore, there appears to be one question on potential moviegoers' minds: is it any good? When answering the question, one may contemplate and find it humorous that the quality of the film is like the premise itself, since it proves to be working forwards and backwards in almost every aspect.

When the film commences, and that familiar, rich sound of deep bass and percussion made popular by the *Inception* soundtrack starts, the screen almost immediately engrosses the viewer into the high-stakes world of espionage. Many moving parts commence, and the audience races against the clock with The Protagonist (yes, the main character does adopt the codename, "The Protagonist") in an exhilarating mission of many moving, well-executed elements. It is these same elements that also admittedly overwhelm the audience, since so many pieces working at once makes the overall introduction somewhat difficult to follow. After only ten minutes, one may be leaning over to their friend--with social distancing, of course--and asking if they understood the exact information delivered in the phlegmatic yet hasty dialogue. To make things worse, this dialogue is often overshadowed by the intensity of Ludwig Göransson's

soundtrack, which, while successful in keeping with the energy and pace of the action, also intrudes on important information in a story where the audience already must pay full attention to understand everything occurring. It boggles the mind as to why the post-production team did not triple check their sound mixing before release.

Tenet's story, while not possessing the most perspicacious themes, stands as another strong example of working for both the betterment and detriment of the film. To tell a constantly developing plot concerning time inversion is a feat within itself, but to tell it with careful attention to detail in large-scale set pieces, that are represented in different ways in different scenes, makes for immensely successful audience engagement (and enjoyment). Such fantastically executed scenes than, unintentionally, highlight how boring and/or pretentious the scenes comprised majoritively of dialogue are. Characters, who all possess serious, steely demeanors, speak in hushed tones and philosophical objectives, leading

to cyclical, redundant conversations that do not enhance the given story in any way. Whether or not these were intended to subtly emphasize the themes of human nature struggling against chronological progression, one would most likely not be able to determine after only one viewing. Nolan truly desires to stimulate his audience when all is said and done, his efforts come across as retaining focus on seeming "deep" and "skeptical" without actually recognizing the necessity of natural character interactions. Without those, one has displayed nothing more than a cast of robots systematically walking along a track to the finish line.

Unsurprisingly, the direction and writing of said characters limits the performances by almost everyone in the cast, even with how fun the less serious, Bond-esque exchanges are. The fight choreography and scenes of meticulous, militarized planning are both well-thought-out and successfully promote the larger set-pieces to come, but all of the characters feel flat when not working toward immediate goals. John-David Washington and Elizabeth Debicki have such little charisma on-screen despite their previous track records, and Kenneth Branagh, a Shakespearean actor,

phones in his character so much that the cheese almost literally spews from the theater screen. The best performance by far is Robert Pattinson--in his official return to Hollywood--as the independent agent, Neil, for he presents a wily charm that blends well with his mysterious origins. When the performances lack, at least the crisp visuals and elaborate, chic production design make up for it by immersing the audience into the film's world of stylized, elegant spy games.

Among the many flaws of *Tenet*, there stands an undeniable quality of production and exciting energy across the plot--mostly in the second half--that only studio productions can achieve (and streaming services may closely imitate). The character-driven scenes may bore those who stay awake for their full duration, and the sound-mixing may be overbearing at times, but when the action set pieces and time inversion premise excel, they *excel*. With or without flaws, *Tenet* is a fun outing to the movies, though one will have to decide for themselves whether or not they will work backwards to a time when they felt safe sitting in a theater. Rating: 3 out of 5 Stars. 🍿



Image courtesy of Amelia Low.

Public Art Spotlight- Energy

Zachary Barry
Arts & Culture Editor

This issue, the public art spotlight will be focused on one of the pieces that inspired the last arts and culture section editor to start this column. It's a mysterious piece, that depending on which parts of the building it's housed in you frequent, you may not even have seen all of it yet. Even finding out the piece's real name was no trivial task, as it doesn't appear on any list of art on the Colorado School

of Mines campus.

The piece is most recognizable by the large stone frieze that separates the outer loop and inner loop of the southwest side of Arthur Lakes Library. The only place where I could find a name for the frieze was the mobile app Pokemon Go, which proclaimed it is named "The Human Unconformity". The piece's actual name appears handwritten by the artist on one of two stain-glassed panels currently hanging in the Boettcher room. According to the



Image courtesy of Amelia Low.

Cont'd "Mabon" >>

harvest festivals, these feasts could be quite extravagant. If you wish to celebrate, have a homecooked meal with your friends or family—from a responsible 6 feet, of course! The sharing of food is an act of love and a demonstration of community, something we all sorely need during social distancing. If you don't feel comfortable sharing a meal with others right now, consider donating to or volunteering at a food drive. By incorporating these activities into your day, you can make this time of year a time to eagerly anticipate.

Regardless of whether you celebrate Mabon this year, reflect on the fruits of your labor. Take time to be grateful for your blessings, and consider how you might extend those bless-

ings to others. Reach out to the people in your life, finding ways to safely socialize with them, and build your community. In whatever way possible, it's important to stay connected with each other. Our bonds with one another help to bear difficulties life may throw at us, and they are needed now more than ever.

With this year's nebulous and stressful challenges, we all could benefit from remembering Mabon. Whether or not we choose to celebrate the festival, its core purpose may resonate deeply with many of us. We feel unprepared and isolated, which is exactly why we need to reach out to each other for support. We can climb this mountain together. Stay safe, and have a happy Mabon. 🍂

stain-glass, the name of the piece is actually "Energy" and it was made by Thomas Hölzer in 1988. With a name like "Energy," one might assume that it was dedicated to the petroleum or mining department, but it was donated to Mines by Two United Bank Center. This information, which Lisa Dunn helped uncover, only seemed to add another twist to the rabbit hole that was "Energy". Fortunately, when I reached out to him, Thomas Hölzer was able to provide a clearer picture of "Energy's" history.

"Energy" was commissioned for the Two United Bank Center in Denver, Colorado, which itself is famous for the curved design of its uppermost floors as well as being the third tallest building in Denver. The real estate agent who owned Two United Bank center commissioned "Energy" as part of general improvements to the lobby area. In addition to United Bank, several offices in the United Bank Center were leased by fossil fuel corporations, who inspired the name "Energy". The stained glass portion of the piece was manufactured in Hölzer's studio in Boulder, Colorado. Hölzer originally studied art in his home country of Germany and later at the Pilchuck glass school in Washington. The Stone Frieze was manufactured in the studios of Franz Mayer of Munich in their overseas facility in New Jersey. FM of M, as the Frieze is emblazoned, is a world-class studio that creates stunning works

in the mediums of mosaic, architectural glass, gold leaf, and more. Their work is predominantly featured in different churches around the globe, but as in the case of "Energy", they also help artists to create public and private art. Together Hölzer and FM of M's top mosaicist in New Jersey, Hannes Sellner, worked to create a single unified piece that spans across two different mediums. With a casual look, the frieze and stain glass appear chaotic and almost random. Upon further inspection, they reflect a feature common in Colorado's landscape. When asked, Hölzer said, "the design as a whole was a take off on the magnificent strata so readily available to observe and experience in Colorado. [A] prime example, the I-70 cut-thru south of Golden". It's worth noting that in geology an unconformity is a portion of the earth's crust where two different strata meet. Perhaps some rogue geologists unaware of the piece's real name called it "The Human Unconformity".

Despite being made for a Banking building in Denver and then being donated to Colorado School of Mines, "Energy" fits well on campus. Between still being frequently passed by petroleum engineers and now residing even closer to the strata that inspired it, it seems that "energy" has ended up somewhere it can call home. Now we all need to do our part to make it feel at home by recognizing it. 🍂

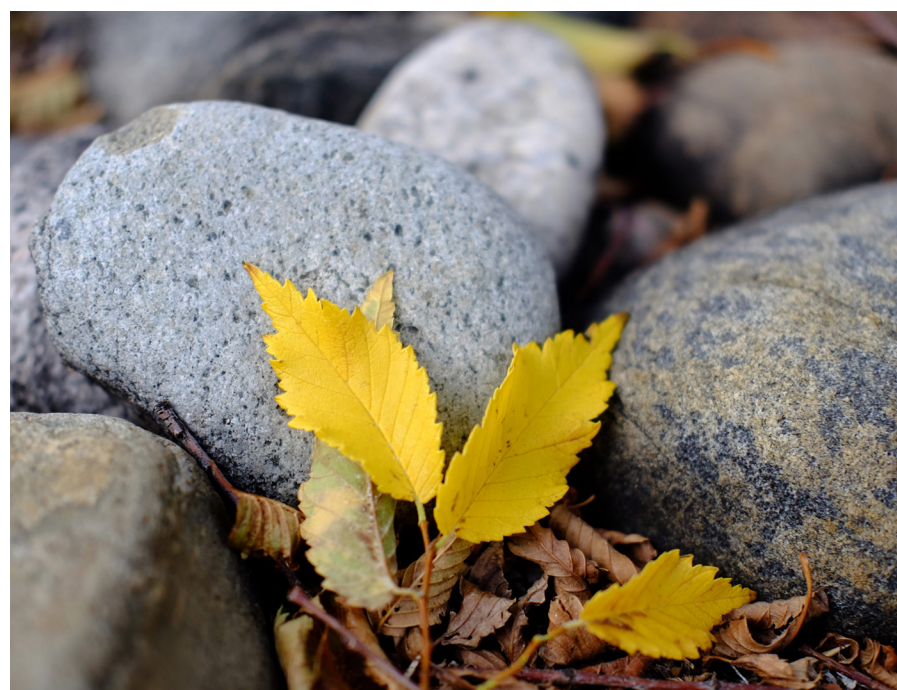


Image courtesy of Amelia Low.

Men's Golf Wins Season Opener to Debut Mines Athletics



Bradley Vu lines up a putt. Image courtesy of Ashley Potter.

Jeremiah Vaille

Staff Writer

Colorado School of Mines' Men's Golf Team made the athletic debut for the school last Monday and Tuesday at the Mile High Shootout in Thornton, Colorado. This is the first competition any Mines team has seen since the cancellation of all NCAA sports in mid-March. All-American, Tim Amundson's first place

in the tournament led Mines to the team title. Amundson was followed by freshman Bradley Vu, who represented Mines with the top freshman debut in head coach Tyler Kimble's memory. Kimble notes that freshmen do not make the top five players on the team often, and "as a freshman, to shoot under par at the first tournament, it's fantastic for Bradley."

Vu says he felt nervous over the weekend leading up to the tournament.

During the first two games, he says, he "shook out the nerves." Vu continued to focus on what he needed to do for his best performance, and even while he and the team started over par, they brought their scores back down during the first game and throughout the tournament. Vu notes that he "certainly wasn't expecting [how well he did]." During the tournament, he kept his excitement and adrenaline down to focus on his strategy, including positioning himself for the "up and down" shots to sink the ball. Reflecting on the tournament, Vu's humble attitude shows he knows he can improve in specific areas including putts and swing techniques, but he says "it's a pretty good start."

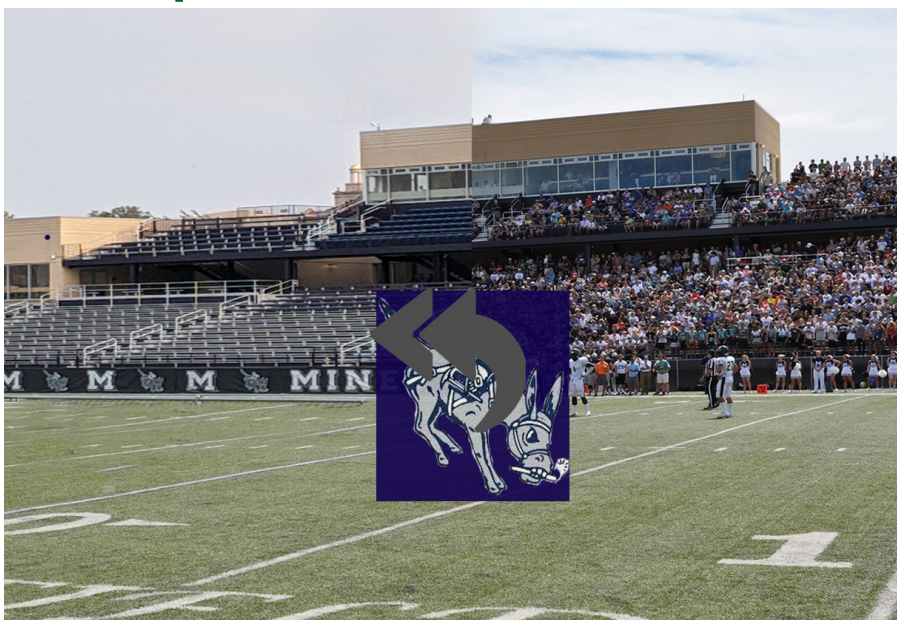
With golf being the only sport in which Mines students are currently competing, Coach Kimble knows "the athletes are in the spotlight." Reduced college sports has seemed to lead to more attention focused on golf. Kimble knows it's new to have that much attention, and the team

agrees the extra attention is weird. Kimble also says, "It's good to be back. It's been a long time." Although he continues to focus on the health of the athletes, he appreciates the additional "bonus" of a tournament win.

After Colorado State University-Pueblo was unable to attend, Mines was fortunate to receive their entry for an additional team so all 10 of Mines' men could compete. The first five athletes from Mines made up the tournament winning team with a team score of one-under-par. Colorado Mesa University followed with a team score of 16 over par. Colorado School of Mines' next five were still able to make up the sixth-place team and finish ahead of South Dakota School of Mines.

The Men's Golf Team plans to compete once more this fall and six times in the spring while hoping for an appearance at nationals. The team's next competition takes place on October 5th and 6th in Pueblo, Colorado. The Orediggers will be cheering them on from Golden. 🍀

The Top Mines Athletics Moments of Last Year



We'll look back at some top moments. Image courtesy of Sadie Johnson.

Jimmy Betsill

Sports Editor

This past Saturday, September 19th, should have been the opening home weekend for Mines Football. Marv Kay should have been rocking with 4000 fans as Mines looked to go 3-0 against Fort Lewis. That is not

happening but, signs are becoming more and more promising that we will be back in athletic competition soon. The golf team got underway with a huge win (read Jeremiah's article for more), practices have begun in the past couple of weeks (read Jade's article for more), and the NCAA has tentatively given the green light for

winter sports including basketball. Combine this with the fact that more testing options are available, several conferences have reversed their stance on not playing, and that the RMAC only postponed (not canceled) fall sports things are looking good. However, we still have to wait a little longer before we get closer to a full return of Mines athletics so in the meantime here are the top moments last year in Mines athletics.

November 23rd, 2019: This might be the greatest day in Mines athletics history. On this day less than a year ago the men's cross country team won Mines' second national championship, the women's cross country team got a third-place finish at the national championship, multiple Mines individual records were set at the national championship, Mines football knocked off the University of Sioux Falls on a late field goal to win in the first round of the NCAA Division II playoffs, Mines volleyball won the RMAC Championship in a

wild game, and finally Mines men's soccer team knocked off the number 1 team in the country to advance to the sweet sixteen. If you would like to read more about this great day in Mines history go to our website and read Eli Ever's article "What a Day to be an Oredigger Fan"

Mines Men's soccer RMAC title game win: Eight Days before men's soccer got its historic win against #1 Azusa Pacific it had an even more epic win in the RMAC Championship. Mines was paired against Regis University in the RMAC Championship at Stermole Stadium. After a back and forth but, scoreless first half Mines opened the scoring with a goal in the 70th minute by Ian Kugler. However, the momentum lasted only 106 seconds as Regis equalized and things stayed even through regulation and extra time to lead to a penalty shoot-out. The teams went into a nine-round shootout (five rounds is standard) and then Drew Johnson made one of the greatest saves of his

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Sports

Mines Freshman Athletes Face COVID Seasons



Members of the Mines Women's Track and Field Team are experiencing one of their first practices of the year with new COVID-19 protocols in place. Image courtesy of Mines Athletics.

Jade Glaister

Staff Writer

With the many unknowns of COVID, constantly changing rules and regulations have been troublesome for all of us to navigate. Notably, athletes have been dealing with the stress of not knowing what season will look like. With frequent zooms from coaches communicating new plans and accommodations for each sport, it's difficult to figure out a solid schedule. My empathy goes to freshman athletes, who have to navigate the typical craziness of handling their college academic and athletic life for the first time under the nonsense of a pandemic. To better understand the situation that they're facing, I interviewed a few freshman athletes from various sports.

What has been decided about your sport's season? Has it been stressful with constantly changing plans?

Cont'd "Mines Moments" >>

Mines career in the ninth round of the shootout to get Mines the RMAC title.

Mines Women's soccer team RMAC Stunner:

One day after the men's RMAC title game the women's soccer team made sure that they got in on the excitement. After suffering a narrow defeat to #1 UCCS in front of a huge crowd on homecoming weekend the women got their revenge in the RMAC title game. A pair of late

Due to the different conditions and timing of each sport, decisions about season differ. In sports scheduled to take place sooner, such as swim and volleyball, dates have been proposed for meets and matches. However, it is a possibility that these dates may be changed and pushed back. As for softball, a spring sport, less has been said about what season will look like. A commonality between the interviewed athletes is that it is difficult to not have a set, laid-out schedule to prepare for, especially since they don't know when they have to be ready for the season. Additionally, Sara Larson, a freshman in softball, noted that she doesn't have prior knowledge of how the season is supposed to be so it doesn't seem abnormal right now.

Have practices started? What has been done to accommodate COVID?

first-half goals by Chaney Brugman and Eliot Edwards at UCCS gave them the 2-0 stunner for the women's RMAC soccer crown.

Volleyball's post-season run:

While Mines had an epic RMAC championship win on November 23rd it was just one of several amazing postseason wins for the team. Before reaching the RMAC Championship they knocked off Colorado Mesa in the quarterfinals in a five set shootout and upset #5 Regis University in the

For each of the athletes interviewed, practices have started within the past few weeks for their sports. To ensure safety, many precautions are enforced within these practices, including sanitizing all shared equipment. Masks are required at all times except swimming, where athletes wear a mask until getting in the water. Along with this, there are fewer swimmers per lane and only a limited number of swimmers can practice at once.

What were you most looking forward to about being a college student-athlete? Do you feel like you are still experiencing this?

Every athlete that I interviewed had the same answer for what they were most looking forward to: being part of a team. Some elaborated more on how nice it is to have a built-in group of people that share a common interest, especially when it comes to entering college. Fortunately, everyone also agreed that they are still able to experience the closeness of a team even during a pandemic. One of the freshmen on the men's swim team, Maximus Mitchell, mentioned how he wanted the feeling of everyone supporting one another and that he has been experiencing this as his teammates are always there for each other.

What has been the hardest part about being a student-athlete during COVID?

The hardest part for each athlete

semifinals. After winning the RMAC title the magic only continued as they swept Tarleton State in the first round and knocked off #12 Angelo State to reach the Sweet 16 before losing to Regis to end their year.

Basketball RMAC Championship:

While we, unfortunately, did not get to see our winter and spring teams complete their season basketball did have one last memorable moment. After losing to South Dakota Mines in their final regular-season home

differed between physical and social aspects. As a freshman on the volleyball team, Shannon Perna stated how it's physically hard to focus on both workouts and COVID restrictions at the same time. While both subjects require a good deal of focus individually, it's very intense to worry about both simultaneously. Regarding the social difficulties, many athletes mentioned that they have to limit themselves from others as much as possible, restricting their ability to meet and spend time with students other than their teammates.

Do you feel like you're missing out on the college student-athlete experience?

While none of the athletes felt like they were completely missing out on the experience, answers still varied. Jules Hays, a freshman on the women's swim team, did not feel like she was missing out due to the plethora of meets, practices, and team activities that allow the team to bond while still being safe. Other athletes also felt similarly, however, a few noted that the reduced number of people allowed to be in one group causes them to miss some of the experience. Since entire teams cannot spend time together all at once and athletes cannot interact with athletes from other sports, qualities that are acknowledged as a big part of being a student-athlete, they feel as if they are missing out on the normal student-athlete adventure. 🐾

game, CSM went on to get their revenge and routed SDSMT 76-59 to secure a bid in the RMAC Championship game. They wound up losing the conference championship but, did manage to receive a bid to the NCAA tournament that never happened.

To see the some more top Mines moments go to <http://oredigger.net> 🐾

Autumn Recipes



Some fall recipes to get you excited. Image courtesy of Lauren D'Ambra.

Jeneve Wilder
Staff Writer

As we plow forward through the unexpected snowfalls and the drastic changes of this year, it's more important than ever to keep our health and morale up. My mother always told me that there's value in a home-cooked meal. Food brings comfort and raises spirits. In that spirit, here are some hearty and healthy recipes, perfect for the chilly autumn weather. Please be careful about allergies. If you don't have all the ingredients or can't eat some of them, feel free to make substitutions and adjust the recipes to your needs!

Recipe #1: Roasted Butternut Squash Soup

Butternut squash soup can be many ways, but my mom's recipe is simple, even for the most inexperienced chefs. Peeling and chopping raw squash is a lot of work, so this recipe allows you to cheat a little. Just roast the whole thing and then scoop

out the inside for the soup. Let's get started!

Ingredients:

1 large butternut squash (available from the grocery store or the local farmer's market)
4 Tbsp Butter
1 onion
2 -3 cloves garlic, minced
2 C vegetable broth
1 C applesauce
1 C water
1 C heavy cream
Rosemary

Directions:

Preheat your oven to 375 and cut the squash longways down the middle. Scoop out the seeds and strings. This will leave little hollows in the meat, where you'll put the butter. Put the two halves in a dish and bake for about 45 minutes.

While your squash is roasting away, start the rest of your soup. Place a pot on the stovetop, setting your burner to low. Dice the onion, adding it, the garlic, the broth, applesauce, and

cream to the pot. Cover it with a lid and let it simmer.

When your squash is done, let it cool a bit and scoop the meat out of the center – it should be tender. If not, let it cook some more. Place the squash into a blender or chopper and puree it until it has a creamy texture. Add it into the soup pot and lightly stir.

Leave your soup simmering for as long as you want, stirring regularly to prevent it from burning. Stir in some fresh rosemary about half an hour before you're ready to eat. Salt and pepper to taste. I use half a tablespoon of salt and a teaspoon of pepper because it brings out the flavor of the squash.

If you like, garnish with a small dollop of sour cream and some chopped green onions. Serve with a big chunk of crusty bread, your favorite side, or anything else you can think of! Butternut squash is low in calories but packed with important nutrients like Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Magnesium, and Potassium.

Recipe #2: Baked Apples with an Optional Salted Caramel Sauce

Now for dessert! This recipe is a completely shameless homage to my love of caramel apples. It was inspired by Bratapfel, a traditional German Christmas dish.

Preheat your oven to 375 and gather your ingredients! Here's what you're going to need:

For the Apples:

6 of your favorite apples (I suggest Fujis or Granny Smith)
½ C brown sugar
½ C chopped walnuts or pecans
¼ C golden raisins
¼ C honey
1 Tbsp cinnamon
1 tsp nutmeg
1 tsp ground ginger
3 Tbsp. butter softened
Water

For the Sauce (optional):

1 cup brown sugar, packed
4 Tbsp unsalted butter
1/2 C heavy cream
1 Tbsp pure vanilla extract
1 tsp kosher salt

Directions:

Core the apples and hollow them out. Make sure to leave the bottom half-inch of the apple intact! Start with an apple corer to remove the center, and widen the hollow with a paring knife. Ideally, you'll want to make this 1-2 inches wide, because you're going to stuff that apple with delicacies. Place the hollowed apples in a baking dish with a little bit of water in the bottom. You can also use apple juice or cider to give your apples a bit of zest.

Combine the brown sugar, chopped nuts, raisins, honey, cinnamon, nutmeg, and ginger in a bowl and mix well. Scoop the mixture into the center of your apples, and top each with a half tablespoon of butter. Place in the oven, and bake for at least 30-45 minutes. The apples should be tender, not mushy. Start checking them after 30 minutes to prevent overcooking. While the apples are baking, you can start on the salted caramel sauce. This step is optional. Serve the apples with some vanilla ice cream, and they'll be fantastic. If you want to be a little extra, however, melt the butter and brown sugar together over medium heat in a saucepan. Add the cream and vanilla, stirring often. After about 7 minutes, the mixture should start to thicken. Add the salt, reduce the heat, and stir for another minute or two. It will thicken more when removed from the heat, so try to time this to about when the apples will be ready.

Once the apples are done, pull them out and let them cool for ten minutes. Top them with salted caramel sauce, a dollop of vanilla ice cream, or both if you're feeling daring!

Although sweet, the apples make this a slightly healthier twist on a dessert.

Of course, these recipes are just the tip of the iceberg for delicious and healthy autumn food. Hopefully, you'll take some inspiration from these and get busy in the kitchen. Stay safe and well-fed! 🍂