

# THE OREDIGGER

VOLUME 101

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No. 4

## UNITED WE STAND

### *From the Archives: Presidential Elections and the Mines Community*

**Sophia Becker**  
*News Editor*

It doesn't matter whether you are scrolling through your social media feed, getting your mail, or simply opening up an internet browser--you're sure to be confronted with reminders about the profound implications of this election. This informational bombardment got me thinking about whether this is, in fact, the most contentious election in U.S. history and how it might compare to those of the past, particularly through the eyes of past Mines students. We have access to archived copies of *The Oredigger* dating back to its founding in 1921, so I did some digging.

This will be the 38th U.S. presidential election that Mines has been around for and the 25th since the founding of *The Oredigger*. Newspaper records spanning 25 years are a lot to sift through, so I broke it down further by looking only into elections prior to 1980 (because old records are interesting). I eliminated successful re-elections and elections where the victorious candidate won with an overwhelming majority of the popular vote. This left me with seven possibilities, which were forcibly pared down by record availability. So, with-

out further ado, I bring you the highlights of *The Oredigger's* coverage of the 1928 and 1932 U.S. presidential elections.

Abbreviations: Republican (R), Democrat (D), Popular vote (P), Electoral votes (E)

**1928: Herbert Hoover (R) P - 58%, E - 84% vs. Alfred Smith (D) P - 41%, E - 16%**

To set the scene: the U.S. was just coming off of two terms of Republican President Calvin Coolidge in 1928, the year before the Great Depression began. Coolidge's first term lasted only one year, since he took over after the death of Warren Harding (who had been elected with 60% of the popular vote in 1920). Coolidge had been re-elected in the 1924 election with a popular vote margin of 25% (54% to 29%). Based on the popular vote percentages, it's safe to say that a large portion of voters were favoring the Republican platform. Keep in mind, however, that this was during an era of voter suppression for minorities and women had only won the right to vote eight years prior.

*Apr. 3, 1928 "Presidential Possibilities Ballot Before Student Body"*  
Cont'd on Page II >>

### *The Tortoise and the Hare*

**Donovan Keohane**  
*Contributor*

This election has the terrifying stench of a zero-sum game. I'm sure the others in my tent would agree with this sentiment. The choice of the left is either Biden or not Trump, and there's no ground to be lost. I've seen the last four years as a series of superficial headlines of successes and victories. Most of these headlines hail from international affairs. Though there have been numerous meritable achievements from President Trump's actions overseas, the lack of domestic attention and focus on the average American is disheartening. That's what our side is vying for, a focus on the person.

I support Biden specifically due to his extraordinary track record of public service and concern for the individual. Biden is in stark contrast to President Donald Trump, a veteran New York businessman. A businessman running a country like a business would be a gross injustice to public service; A better economy does not guarantee a better standard

Cont'd on Page 8 >>

### *Four More Years*

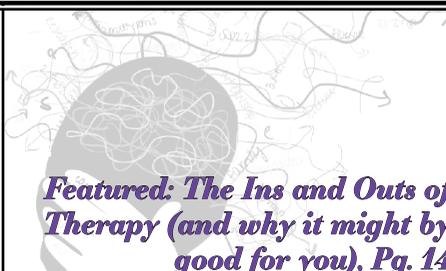
**Malcolm La Force**  
*Contributor*

Donald Trump's election to the Presidency in 2016 was one of the most astounding events in US election history. Such an outsider who spoke bold words of our nation's problems, his solutions to fix them, and a now-iconic promise to "Make America Great Again" was as far from politics as usual as one could get, reminiscent of Ross Perot's presidential bid in 1992.

In the nearly four years that Trump has been president, his accomplishments have been plentiful. To begin, the economy has been performing incredibly well. Before the coronavirus pandemic, we witnessed historic milestones of a booming economy: over seven million jobs created since inauguration, poverty at a 17-year low, a 4.5% income boost to the 25% lowest-paid Americans, single-family home sales up 31.6% - the list goes on. Trump also renegotiated the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) into the United States - Mexico - Canada Agreement (USMCA) which Trump's ri

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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 [oredig@gmail.com](mailto:oredig@gmail.com) for any comments or questions.*



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### Photo of the Week

Winter weather comes to Golden.

Image courtesy of Shannon Keohane.

## Interview with PCJ: Part II

**Caleb Pan**

Staff Writer

With commentary by: **Sophia Becker**

. . . and we're back! The Oredigger presents: Part II of our exclusive interview with Mines President Paul C. Johnson (affectionately known on campus as "PCJ"). The questions we asked in this portion are quite different than those in the last portion (no COVID discussion here!); in this article, we will cover President Johnson's perceptions of and goals for the Mines community in addition to his thoughts on the preservation of Mines's historic President's House.

**We've heard a lot about improving Mines student culture, so we went straight to the source and asked: "How would you describe Mines's culture? Is there anything you would change about it?"**

"It's a very community-centric culture that values hard work and embraces challenge. I always use 'community' and a lot when I talk about Mines. Obviously challenge comes up a lot, and people work very hard here. All of that I really like. I think having a university that values a strong work ethic and where people really do care about each other is really important.

"We really value the wonderful students that come here from the institutional side of things. That's what

keeps a lot of people going, the opportunity to spend 15 minutes with you, or the opportunity to teach in the classroom. So I think those things are all great, all terrific aspects of the culture.

"This is my sixth year and culture change has been a big thing for me. I think when I came in the door, a big part of it was trying to move the university to a little bit more of a student-centric mode. Where the students played a much stronger role in the university as opposed to their only role was to just follow rules. I think we've actually been pretty successful in that part. We can point to a lot of things that are totally the result of students over the last four or five years. So I think that part's going well.

"The part that is always interesting to me is we are an engineering and applied sciences school and we're all going to go work in fields with rapid change and things that are going to happen we can't even imagine yet.

"But our culture is really resistant to change. Moving something this far [PCJ holds hands closely apart] has to generate tons of discussion instead of a "hey, that's cool, let's see what happens" kind of attitude. There's like a tendency to not take risks or try things. That's the other part of the culture that I'm trying to work on. It manifests itself, both in the



Image courtesy of Ashley Potter.

students and in the faculty and the staff. But I think we're getting there. I do think we're much more experimental and open to change than we were. For those of you who will be around for another few years, I think between now and the 150th anniversary [2024], you're going to see a lot of things happen that are just super cool. I think through that we're going to be like, 'Okay, you know what the world didn't fall apart and this was actually fun doing something different.' Some things will crater and go away and some ideas will stick around for a long time. So I think it's that it's that change getting the university as a whole to be more entrepreneurial and more open to experimenting; taking a little bit of risk and embracing that as something that makes life more interesting."

*Innovation and leadership programs have been referenced more and more lately in the Mines Newsroom, which could cause concern among some groups. We asked about it, and PCJ's response was quite informative (and should ease some of that concern).*

**"With the introduction of more programs outside of STEM (the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center, the Grewcock Scholars, etc.), is broadening the focus of the school part of your vision for its future?"**

"I don't know if I characterize it as broadening . . . if you look at where we started, Mines has been an incredibly technically focused university with very strong ties to industries . . . The thing that was valued the most was the incredible technical depth of our graduates with this combination of hands on training made us stand out Cont'd on Page 6 >>

## Pet Shortage

**Rachel Kelley**

Staff Writer

Since the pandemic began, we have had a lot of bad news. Every month something crazy seemed to be taking over the internet—but for some reason there was relatively little coverage on the major increase in pet adoptions. The pandemic and quarantine forced many to start working at home, meaning all those people that never had the time to get a new pet were suddenly home all the time. There was finally time to take dogs out for walks and to houstrain puppies and play with kittens and bond



A cat can be a great companion.  
Image courtesy of Amelia Low.

with cats. Adoptions skyrocketed, but that wasn't all. The number of fostered pets went through the roof too.

When the quarantine hit, many shelters were forced to close their doors. They struggled to take care of the animals without all their volunteers and it made it harder for people to adopt. Luckily, this didn't last too long though. Soon enough adoptions were available online, and people could schedule appointments to meet their furry friends before taking them home. With so many people home from work all day, they decided to start fostering pets—they provided a temporary home for the animals, so they didn't have to sit in the shelter until they were adopted

which reduced the capacity strain on shelters.

So many pets have been adopted, some shelters were concerned there would be a food shortage or possibly an increase in pet surrenders once the quarantine was lifted. But the outcome was heartwarming. There hasn't been a notable increase in pet surrenders since—in fact, increased adoption rates are still much higher than even just last year.

This news was especially good when also looking at the increase in overall stress in the average household. Pets have been proven to reduce anxiety and stress, so it is wonderful to think that in an increasingly stressful time, there are more and more pets around to help ease the difficulties. 🐾

## A Movement Grows in Golden

**Aidan Lewis**

*Staff Writer*

At a school not known for student activism, activism there has been. Yes, at our Colorado School of Mines a small and dedicated group of students has been demonstrating in favor of environmental protection. Starting on September 25th, students and neighbors have gathered each Friday at the corner of Washington Avenue and Tenth Streets in Downtown Golden. Participants hold signs and solicit honks and waves from drivers passing by, mostly affirmative. On the signs are written creative clauses as well as specific ideas advocating for action against climate change and for policy change. Those present often engage in thoughtful conversation on environmental topics including pollution, global warming, and forest fires.

As ideas have been shared and



*Students striking in Golden.*

*Image courtesy of Aidan Lewis.*

largely agreed upon, a sense of community has built among attendees. Attendees have included each other in campus sustainability initiatives including a campaign and petition in favor of more solar power on campus and Green Team initiatives such as a public awareness campaign for water and energy efficiency.

Adam Schwartz is a student in his first year at Mines who is helping lead the campus solar committee and participates in the protests. Adam says that by participating in demonstrations he aims to show his viewpoint, get people talking, and change

minds. In the long term he would like to see more renewable energy, more preserved land, better public transportation, and high speed rail. Through activism he is pushing society to build towards those goals.

The event is registered with Fridays for the Future. Started by climate activist Greta Thurnberg, it is a global movement of students who march and strike for pro environmental action. Lauren O'Sullivan is an energetic organizer of the Golden strike and the person who registered the event. Also a first year student at Mines, she has confidently promoted the events among her friends and in the Daily Blast.

Participants say they intend to continue their activism on the street



*Image courtesy of Amelia Low.*

and within the Mines community while also educating and attracting new people to the cause of environmental protection. At Mines, where people are busy and public displays of activism are uncommon and perhaps uncomfortable for some, this is not without its challenges. Still, Adam has a message for those interested: "Come and let's talk about it."

*Author's Note: The author of this article participates in the demonstrations written about considers himself an environmentalist. However, this article is not intended to be a work of opinion. For more information he can be reached at [ajlewis@mymail.mines.edu](mailto:ajlewis@mymail.mines.edu)*

## How the Internet's New Age Started (with that One Gorilla)

**Louis Cogan**

*Staff Writer*

The internet meme has been repeated thousands, if not millions, of times across the entire internet: "All of this chaos started with that one gorilla in 2016". This infamous saying originates from the unfortunate death of the Cincinnati Zoo's gorilla, Harambe, on May 28th, 2016, which instigated internet outrage over the accidental passing of a beloved animal (if there is anything the internet can agree on in such a divisive present, it is that animals are almost always endearing). While a specific event concerning a zoo animal does not have any actual relation to the supposed "downfall" of modern society, it did mark a turning point--that had been culminating over time--for internet culture. It could be identified as the start of the next step, even as the "New Age" of internet culture.

While memes and meme culture have always been prevalent across the internet, any attempt to

compare the current status of social media to the state as recent as six years ago would be utterly futile. Deep fried filters, bass-boasted videos, and post-post-post-ironic image captions are but a few examples of developments seen in social media's comedy circles (specifically on Instagram, Reddit, and Twitter). Even TikTok, which has possessed immense presence in internet culture over the past year-and-a-half, did not come about as a fully available app until mid-2018. That is evidence alone of just how expeditious the rate of information spreading has become in the last four years, since it has taken most other prior social media a few years of development to gain standing as worldwide phenomena. Although international standing may not be convincing enough to some (since there could easily be assistance from international userbases and awareness from transfers of content to other social media), the money does not lie. Popular camera-based social media app Snapchat was valued at anywhere between \$20-25

billion back in 2017, and this value has only increased since then. Other examples of comprehensive, online monetization include Google's acquisitions of Facebook and YouTube, the rise of influencers as a percentage of the workforce, and the heavier incorporation of media companies on YouTube and Twitter. It all happened under the public's nose, hence why the meme concerning Harambe almost always arrives when attempting to rationalize the New Age's circumstances. It happened to be such an odd occurrence with a response comparable to modern meme culture (originally started by musician Joji Miller under his comedy persona, "Filthy Frank") that it made sense to use it as a semi-ironic scapegoat. Then again, it may have just been because of the infamous 2016 election, since it was the first of its kind to totally consider the generation raised with internet access as a portion of the voting population.

Ignoring anyone's political affiliation, the announcement and subsequent running of Donald Trump's presidential campaign was beyond humorous from 2015 to 2016, for this was a media mogul

attempting to transition to one of the highest positions of power in the sphere of international politics. The fact that Trump then continued on to win that presidency only added to the humor, where jokes did not even have to be made because the historical list of, "George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy... oh, and Donald J. Trump" was more than sufficient. Once his victory had occurred and astonished millions of Americans, there may have also been a subconscious relinquishing of all order in internet culture. To the youth of America that had seen history be made, what else could come next? Well, what resulted was really just more omnipresence of information due to the internet's constantly advancing inclusion in people's daily lives.

Both politics and budgeted media had finally become totally involved in the capabilities of online culture/processes, a series of decisions that would eventually lead to the ubiquitous use of the internet in the present. It does not just stem from visual/auditory media either, since there have been plenty of other

Cont'd on Page 13 >>

## Mining . . . in . . . Space . . . !

**John Cook**

Staff Writer

Full disclosure: the author is a Space Resources Graduate Student.

Colorado School of Mines is leading the way in the new field of Space Resources by developing a curriculum in that area. But the field of Space Resources is highly speculative and requires a wildcatter mindset. In its fledgling stage, the Space Resources program shows much promise.

Space Resources means resources that are found off-earth. Orbital resources might include Microgravity, vacuum, solar power. If you think about it, the earth is a minuscule source of materials in comparison to the vast resources available in the solar system or space. The nearest neighbor, the Moon, has much to offer; a key potential resource is water ice. This can aid the Journey to Mars in the form of oxygen to breathe, water to drink, water for radiation shielding, water to grow plants with, and as rocket fuel.

The following questions and answers were arrived at via email and phone discussion with Dr. Angel Madrid, Director of the Space Resources Program.

Q: *When do you see the field of Space Resources becoming more mainstream, like the Petroleum Industry is now (and even it is being legislated out of the auto industry by California)?*

A: I'd say it will take 10 to 15 years for space resources to become a large enough field to have a noticeable presence on Wall Street. I think if an initial group of corporations were to take the risk in investing in the infrastructure to create an Earth/Moon (cislunar) economy, they could create a niche market and accelerate the exploration and economic development of space.

Q: *Who are the current main corporate players in the field of Space Resources?*

A: There are dozens of small start-up companies that have entered the field in the last couple of years in the various links of the space resources value chain. Their activities include resource identification, excavation, drilling, extraction, and separation, in addition to manufacturing, construction, power, communications, and transportation. Many of these companies have developed terrestrial technologies, which can also be applied to space applications. There are also large equipment manufacturers and resource exploration companies entering the field, in addition to all the rocket launch providers and many other aerospace companies.

Q: *Do you see new corporate players joining in as the field becomes more mainstream?*

A: Yes (see answer from previous question). Large mining, oil & gas, aerospace, and other companies may be waiting for the small ones to take the initial risk. Once the small companies become successful, they will probably be bought out by the large corporations.

Q: *Where do you see CSM Space Resources department to be in 5 years as far as corporate sponsorship, internships, curriculum and enrollment?*

A: The Mines Space Resources program has grown rapidly in just the first two years since it started offering Professional Certificates, MS, and PhD degrees. It currently has more than 100 students from 5 continents, 18 countries, and with professionals from a variety of engineering fields,

## Governing Bodies Update

**Sophia Becker**

News Editor

Ever wondered what's going on with the school? I know I often do! Beginning this issue, The Oredigger will be providing the highlights of the meeting minutes of the Mines governing bodies.

### Undergraduate Student Government

Oct. 13, 2020

- Bipoc is trying to increase meeting attendance. USG recommends their meetings last for an hour after 5:00.
- USG representatives are doing research in response to a "What's Your Beef?" about Blaster's Brew closing.
- Creation of Oredigger Ambassador programs, a way to continue CSM 101 without the educational aspect. Applications will roll out a month from the date of the meeting minutes.
- Discussion of "Carefrontation," a program designed help people feel comfortable with confronting others about COVID-related issues.
- Discussion of setting up a Mines discord server (they are currently working it with the Junior class), which will contain COVID-safe "study spaces."
- Care packages for the 150 quarantined students were scheduled

to be sent in the next week.

- A campus-wide compost collection program would cost too much, but a senior design group is pilot testing one in Mines Park.
- Next semester, faculty are being asked to teach half of their courses in "true face to face format." USG recommended that students want face to face and intend to open up hours for more classrooms to support this format.

Oct. 6, 2020

- Discussion of Proctorio--they know it is invasive. USG wants to work with the Trefny center to give professors guided advice.
- "What's Your Beef?"--workout spaces are too small. Response: workout spaces are being built in new residence halls like Spruce and 1750 Jackson. In addition, there are plans to expand the gym eventually.

### Graduate Student Government

Oct. 26, 2020

- The spring break town hall is being moved, but will not be at the beginning or end of the semester.
- **It was decided that the student fee will stay the same next semester as it did this semester rather than being reduced. Reason cited is "to cover some deficits and pre planning."**

Oct. 12, 2020

- The addition of an MEP representative was discussed and approved unanimously.
- 12 family assistance grants were awarded. 🍀

space agencies, and the military, as well as economists, policy makers, and entrepreneurs. It already has several students under NASA fellowships, internships, and supported by research grants. It also has various projects and students funded by private companies. We expect to see both the number of students and research projects to grow as interest in space exploration and commercial activities beyond Earth continue to increase.

Q: *Are there any job placement strategies to help CSM Space Resources graduates find employment in the*

*field of Space Resources?*

A: Most of the students currently in the program are professionals already working in a variety of industries, space agencies, research groups, and the military who are seeking to gain the necessary skills to start contributing to the rapidly developing field of space resources. The few recent college graduates who have joined the program full-time and graduated with certificates and master's degrees have gone to work to large and small companies, and several have started their own business ventures. Since we have well established rela-

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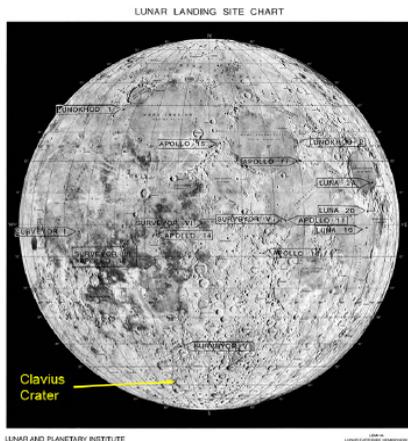


Fig. 1 Lunar Landing Site Chart, annotated by author. Image courtesy of the Lunar and Planetary Institute

Cont'd "PCJ Pt. II" >>

and has served us really well. We're not going to abandon that. But if you look in the future or you spend time talking to leaders of companies, that's not going to be enough.

"What you're seeing is us adding the complimentary things that are going to be really critical to you still being that graduate that stands out no matter where you go in your life. The things that have come up most frequently and discussion is business acumen, leadership, and professional development that goes around your technical skills. If you talk to our alums, many of them are entrepreneurs. They might leave Mines and their first job might be with a large company but they eventually become entrepreneurs and start their own things . . . It's all those skills that you need to really excel once you get into your first job.

"What we were all about before was those 130 or so credit hours that you took and all the argument was about which classes were counted in what majors. Your development at Mines is so much more than that . . . There hasn't always been this formal recognition of [leadership and communication skills] here . . . We've had people graduating who were amazing straight-A students in all the technical courses but they couldn't give a presentation to the CEO of a company.

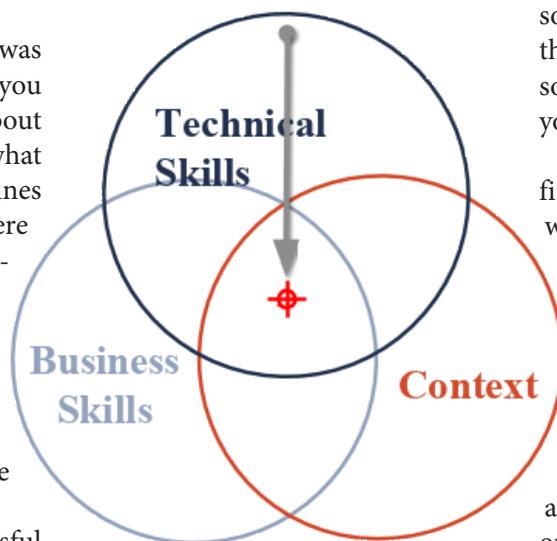
"If you want to really be successful in life, and we want our graduates to be successful in what they do, what do you really need? It's more than just the degree with those classes that you took. We're trying to be much more deliberate about those things and recognizing we have students . . . who have really no interest in going to work for a big company. They want to go work for an NGO or whatever it is, and we got to make sure they're ready for that. That's kind of what's behind all of this. It's certainly adding things to what we were and in some ways, it's shifting the focus a little bit.

"I have this one diagram that sometimes I show to our board of governors or trustees. It's three intersecting circles (and it turns out if you have three identically sized circles and you intersect in the right way it magically

forms the Mines logo): the top circle is what I call the technical circle, the lower left is business skills, and the lower right is context (the why do we do things, the context in which we learn things) . . . We need to be at that intersection of those circles, whereas we started our history way up in the technical circle. [The introductions of these programs outside of STEM are] moving that focus to that spot.

Sophia: "So you're just trying to enhance the engineers, not turn into Boulder?"

PCJ: "Yeah! And when you look at it that way, you start suddenly seeing that all these other things that we do on campus, whether it's the music programs or Mines little theater or athletics, are not just outlets for creative activity but also as platforms for contextual development outside of your technical skills."



Graphic courtesy of Sophia Becker.

*Some are concerned about the erasure of historical parts of campus in the Mines Master Plan, specifically the President's House. Since PCJ is its current resident, we asked what he would like to see happen to it:*

**"Given the historical significance of the President's House, yet extensive soil stability issues, what is your opinion on making it a historic landmark through the City of Golden? [Note: In 2028 the building will be 100 years old.] What are your thoughts on an EDNS/Capstone Design project focused on addressing the structural issues of the house?"**

"I have a personal attraction to the President's House. It is a really interesting quirky building. It started off

as a fraternity and some of that character still remains. Golden itself [has] clay pits so it does sit on soils that expand and contract. It moves and just across the kitchen, it slopes about this much [PCJ holds up about 4 inches] over 10 feet. You can see that with the baseboards and the house as it was necessary to keep the counters level. You can walk around and there might be a new crack that opens up in the ceiling as a result of it, but it's sort of the character of the building.

"I don't know that there's an advantage to being a historical landmark. So it could be that there are downsides to that that might actually get in the way of preserving the house. I don't know that we would go that route. I would love to see this block [on which the President's House sits]--now we actually own the whole block for the first time--really be this sort of row houses that kind of have this character. I'd like that to be the soft introduction to campus when you come in on Illinois.

"It's a great way to have that be the first thing you walk past on the tour when you're visiting as a prospective student. Even though the master plan says it could be a big building at some point on this whole block, I really think the more likely scenario is this row of . . . houses that look more like this one.

"I am open to students' ideas about ways to preserve the house or mitigate the movement of it. I do know that there's a lot of fondness for this house certainly amongst our alumni and I feel that fondness too. We'd have to think through the historical designation thing as to whether that handcuffs us more than we want to. Sometimes those designations will get in the way of you being able to make changes that you need to the house . . . Sometimes those designations make any work that you need to do twice as expensive be-

cause of the hoops that you have to go through so I don't know if that's the answer, but I also hope it's a long-term part of the campus."

**Finally, we were wondering about his vision for the school's future, so we asked: "What do you want your legacy to be at Mines?"**

"I don't think it's important that people remember [school] presidents. I'm not in this to create a legacy. What I hope happens in my time here at Mines is that it is a better place when I leave, that Mines is better positioned for the future than it was when I came.

"We could all have a long discussion on what that would mean specifically but the worst thing that can happen to Mines is it becomes irrelevant. It just becomes this school that nobody really knows about whether or not it exists, it doesn't matter in the world. Mines needs to exist for a purpose, it needs to exist to have an impact on the world. It's this wonderful thing that attracts great students. But if it doesn't change, it will be irrelevant. It has always changed with time at the right times, but that's all I really hope for it.

"I feel like I'm plugged in to help Mines with some things and help it get positioned. Everything is sort of targeted on the year 2024. We pick that as this point in time, our sesquicentennial (and I don't know if you can all spell that or if it rolls off your tongue really easily), to say, hey, let's make sure Mines is still an amazing university that you can point to all sorts of places in the world where it's had an impact and continues to have an impact through the wonderful students that graduate to the research that it does and everything in between. I just want to make sure it's ready." ❄️

Cont'd "Space Resources" >>

tions with many of these companies and organizations, we expect to offer our graduates an increasing number of job opportunities as the space resources field grows.

The recent discovery by the NASA SOFIA 747 based observatory that

water molecules are present in the Clavius crater (please see figure 1), not just the permanently shadowed craters at the poles may bring new interest to the prospect of lunar water and the utility of Space Resources.

❄️

## COVID and the Rise of Project Oriented Classes

Zachary Barry  
Arts and Culture Editor

At a time when it is no longer possible to sit over one hundred students in a single classroom for common hour exams, the dread of the small and squeaky desks of Coolbaugh 209 has mostly been replaced with that of giving any software permission to control the pages you visit and record you in your home. While the topic of remote proctoring merits a discussion of its own, the rise in alternative forms of assessing what a student has learned over a semester, to avoid concerns of privacy invasion and possible academic misconduct, is challenging the age-old idea: exams are always the best way to demonstrate learning. The increase in project-oriented syllabi this semester at Colorado School of Mines is shaking up how students engage with the material that they are learning.

Driven by the challenges associated with administering classic tests in the COVID era, many teachers have decided to use iterative course-long projects to assess what students are learning in class. But, why would COVID make traditional testing less useful? The American Psychological Association (APA) establishes three key criteria for standardized testing. A quick discussion of these criteria, validity, reliability, and normality, reveals why some teachers no longer feel that they can rely on traditional tests to accurately measure what a student has learned. A test is considered valid if it accurately assigns points based on knowledge of the topics it is designed to assess. Writing valid tests has arguably not been compromised by COVID. Likewise, COVID has not had a large impact on whether or not a test can be made normal. A normal test is one that can be compared between individuals within a group. In this context, nor-

mal doesn't necessarily mean a normal distribution, it simply means that individuals that earn the same score have roughly the same understanding of the material, individuals with higher scores understand more than individuals with lower scores, and vice versa. The area where COVID has challenged writing standardized tests is reliability. Reliability is broadly defined as the consistency of scores that can be obtained by a test. More specifically, a reliable test is one in which emotional and environmental factors should not significantly change scores.

In the COVID era when students can no longer be forced to take the exam in the same, or very similar, controlled environments, the reliability of a standardized test is no longer a guarantee. Beyond the obvious and malicious possibility of creating an environment that contains unauthorized resources (cheating), other individual factors such as uncontrollable sources of noise, roommates, time zone differences, and general elevated stress limit how reliable remote exams can be, even with remote proctoring. That begs the question, can an iterative course-long project meet all three of the APA criteria for a standardized test, those being validity, reliability, and normality? If well designed, yes, they could. By making the project relevant through the inclusion of deliverables directly related to the topics covered in the class, a project can be valid. If every student is assigned the same project and given equal time and access to resources to work on a project then it can be normal. And finally, in what might explain their rise in popularity during COVID times, by making the projects iterative and based upon demonstrating a deeper understanding of the material with flexible work schedules, projects can under extenuating circumstances, like COVID, be more reliable than

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## Student Perspectives

If you are interested in sharing your perspective, please reach out to Marisa Macias, *The Oredigger's* DI&A Representative at [macias@mines.edu](mailto:macias@mines.edu).

*"We need to create a more inviting environment on campus where everyone feels included for the way they are."*

Leonard Igberaese  
MEP and NSBE Contributor

During my time at Mines, I've felt uncomfortable and out of place as a Black person. Since I don't see many people who look like me, I've experienced a lot of Imposter Syndrome in my classes and on campus. It just seems like I'm a weird outcast that was only able to get into Mines to fit a quota rather than for my intelligence and skills. This is reinforced whenever people are shocked/surprised that I'm a student here or whenever I get strange/terrified looks from passersby. In addition, racial battle fatigue from microaggressions has been something that I've struggled with ever since my freshman year. I've heard phrases along the lines of "you're the whitest black person I know" or "you're smarter than you look". All of this has negatively im-

pacted my mental and emotional health as well as sometimes made it harder for me to complete my schoolwork. There are even times when I feel extremely angry, hurt, sad, and emotional whenever I see instances of police brutality but I don't have too many people on campus, whether it's students or professors, that I can talk to about it because they don't seem to regard it as significant or they think the brutality was justified. This has made me bottle up a lot of my emotions and stay reserved. The only few spaces where I feel like I can actually be myself are MEP and NSBE.

My experience is not uncommon for many of my fellow Black peers. Hearing from them has made me more apprehensive and frustrated with some of the students and faculty members on campus. A multitude of my friends have had a hard time finding people to be in groups in for projects because no one wants to partner with them; often heard the n-word use by their non-black peers then get dismissed or belittled after confronting that person; dealt with comments of microaggressions from authority figures; etc. I know a lot of my fellow peers have left Mines because they couldn't take it anymore.

I don't think the Mines campus is bad nor do I think all non-POC students/faculty are discriminatory. I do think that we need to do a better job of addressing race-related issues on campus and make it unacceptable to discriminate. I also think we need to create a more inviting environment on campus where everyone feels included for the way they are. We need to start educating the Mines community so that unconscious bias no longer exists. I know that Mines has been working on improving things but we still have a lot of work to do and we need assistance from everybody so that the voices of the small populations on campus can be heard by all. ✨



Image courtesy of NSBE.

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Cont'd "Four More Years" >>

val Joe Biden has publicly stated to be superior to its predecessor that took jobs outside the United States. Possibly one of the greatest things he's overseen as president is the United States achieving energy independence in 2018, surpassing Saudi Arabia and Russia to become the largest producer of crude oil in the world.

Valid objections to this might ask, "What about the present-day economy, in a pandemic?" Everything I just listed happened during "normal times". The point is that these successes indicate a swift recovery which we are, in fact, in the midst of. The GDP is expected to rise by a margin between 25-30 percent this quarter – an all-time record - marking a huge step toward recovery from the 31.4% loss seen in Q2. Trump's track record with the economy is far stronger than Biden's – Trump is the most logical pick for a swift economic recovery.

While the economy is a significant focus of Trump's accomplishments, he has achieved far more. He faced down Iran and undid the disastrous Iran deal, which gave Iran billions of dollars. He is the first US president to visit North Korea and negotiate with Kim Jong-un, who you may notice has not launched a single missile for the entirety of 2020. He created the sixth wing of the United States Armed Forces: the Space Force. He has appointed over 200 federal judges and three Supreme Court justices. He created the White House Veteran Affairs Hotline and dismissed poorly performing VA employees. He signed into law the First Step Act, a bipartisan criminal justice bill that aims to reduce recidivism, creates incentives for early release, and reforms correctional practices. He received the Bipartisan Justice Award from a historically black college as a direct result of it. ISIS has seen the death of its leader and the loss of all its territory under his administration. His outside-the-box negotiation tactics and close working relationship with Benjamin "BB" Netanyahu have helped create peace in the Middle East. Drug prices are declining. There's so much

more to this list, but these are just the highlights.

Perhaps the most important thing his administration has accomplished was raising awareness of China's unscrupulous power gain in the past several decades. He brought our attention to the CCP stealing our country's trade secrets and intellectual property, participating in espionage both virtual and real world, misleading the world about the coronavirus, violating international waters, and most recently bringing an iron fist down onto Hong Kong. The general public was blissfully unaware of such pressing problems until Trump dragged them into the light. His actions to counter China's rise in global dominance are essential if we are to preserve democracy as we know it. Keeping a strong military and a large defense budget is proven to work to maintain peace – Ronald Reagan practiced this with his "Star Wars" program, which despite being a massive bluff, resulted in the tearing down of the Iron Curtain and the fall of the Soviet Union. The point? Strength correlates to intimidation. Our country must remain on top of the world, and Trump is ensuring that this happens. He is often cited as a "bully" – is that not the ideal person to take on a world power?

This election, as many of you (myself included) cast a ballot for the first time, I have a question for you. Will you, in your 40s and 50s as a middle-aged adult, be okay with China dictating military and economic policy in the world? I ask because that's precisely what will happen if we don't have a government that takes a stance against China now.

Trump's hair may be ridiculous. His face looks spray-tanned, and his Tweets are incessant. But in the end, those things don't matter – what matters is results, and that's what the President has delivered. I'll be the first to say that Joe Biden is a strong person after enduring a great deal of adversity in his life. But he doesn't have proven results after over 40 years in politics. Trump has. And that's the difference. 🍷

Cont'd "Tortoise And Hare" >>

of living because the rich can always get richer. That fundamental difference between the candidates is at the heart of my support for Biden.

Across my conversations with individuals who support President Trump, the economic growth under the current administration played an integral role in earning their vote, because "After all, the chief business of the American people is business." To me, it seems more practical for a democracy to grow its economy by increasing the earnings of most people. Alternatively, the everyman can be set aside in the name of big business and breadwinners. I find it perplexing that most individuals who support Trump are okay with the latter approach. For example, in March and April of this year: As stock markets began plunging, the federal government inflated the stock market with 3,000 billion dollars. Yes, the federal reserve could have used any fraction of this money on more quantitative easing or other means of truly rebuilding the economy. While 200,000 Americans were dying, the stock market was breaking records. I might add, for my peers, that 3,000 billion dollars is almost twice the cumulative student loan debt.

Conversely to growing the mid-

dle class, President Trump plans to continue tax cuts; According to the Tax Policy Center's predictions, 83% of tax cuts made under the Trump administration will end up in the pockets of the 1%. Under Biden's economic plan, the economy can flourish by growing the middle class, concurrently increasing the average standard of living. By raising taxes only on those who earn over 400,000 dollars a year (which is roughly the 1% according to the EPI) and reversing corporate tax cuts, it's feasible to grow the middle class by shrinking the lower class. Funneling these funds into the Biden plan for education, health care, unions, and more levels the playing field for the average American. With roughly 65% of new jobs requiring further education, 8.5% of Americans going uninsured in 2018, and union membership on a steady decline, I don't believe the "Radical Left" evening the odds would be too uncanny.

Joe Biden's plans are focused on building equal and sustainable infrastructure, not crafting veils. Biden is poised to make the success of our nation a product of the well-being of its people. To me, that sounds like a much better way of keeping America great. 🍷



Mail-In Ballot for Arapahoe County. Image courtesy of Emma Braun.

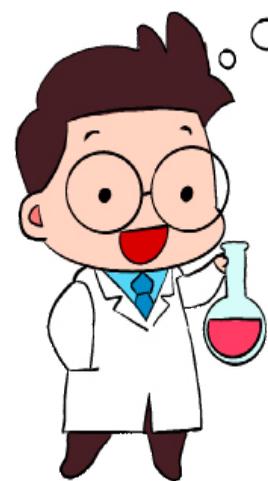
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## Life At Mines As A Closeted Liberal Arts Major

Caleb Pan  
Staff Writer

Back in the 10th grade before I was violated by calculus, I visited Mines because my parents told me I had to as a Colorado resident. I had no interest in being an engineer but fine. I had a nice tour and on the drive back I thought, “Amazing, what sad nerds.” So I’m here now. How did I screw up so badly? The fastest answer is money. At a national ceremony for an arts award, I awkwardly answered in a Q&A that I was spending my ten grand scholarship at an engineering school. The reality was my passion for the arts, history, and classics would probably starve me if I pursued them as a degree. Many variables (\*cough\* wanting a job \*cough\*) landed me at Mines, but I ultimately came for the reckoning of a challenge.

I considered majoring in economics to get by studying “social science”. However, I heard Mines econ students not only get bullied but also do not exist. I enjoyed programming so job security with computer science it was. Selling out is an occasional necessity for pragmatism. To be fair, there’s little difference between writing and



A scientist who not only thinks scientifically, but also with a liberal arts focus. Image courtesy of Molly Adams.

coding when you’re crying in front of your laptop.

I have never been surrounded by so many people who enjoy math. I despise you all for that. This is not to say I’m a fish out of water at Mines. Although I don’t remotely consider myself an engineer, I make-do quite well. (Knowing that, I think, makes me more forgiving of myself when I tank an exam.) Being a STEM student has given me a valuable perspective as one does behind enemy lines. I am continuously amazed and inspired by the talent and ingenuity I see across campus. I may be unable to identify the same inventiveness in myself, but I appreciate having such peers enrich my life. The personal challenge of Mines has redefined how I approach and evaluate the world, catalyzing me to participate and apply both paths I have carved out for myself.

Even if Mines appears as an unforgiving STEM hellscape, the closeness of the Mines community still holds true for a vagrant like me. I find belonging among technical-minded research groups, the creative staff of *The Oredigger*, and the in-between interdisciplinary exploration of the McBride Honors Program. Surprisingly, even to myself, I have never felt like an outsider at Mines, and I suspect it is because we fit well together as try-hard challenge seekers.

Will I ever need or enjoy using Maxwell’s equations or performing Laplace transforms by hand? No. Did it meaninglessly take time from my life that I will never get back? Unfortunately. Mines was never meant to be a perfect fit, nor is it a perfect engineering school either. But I’m proud not just to call it home, but somewhere I’ve more than earned my place.

Now excuse me as I go back banging my head against a class assignment that makes me regret my existence. ❄️



The emphasis of presentations compared to traditional exams. Image courtesy of Lauren D’Ambra.

Cont’d “Project Oriented Classes” >> some standardized tests.

To get the input of a professor on the rise of project orientated syllabi, *The Oredigger* interviewed Professor Tracy Q. Gardner. Professor Gardner has been studying and testing strategies to develop engaging and high success rate Chemical and Biochemical Engineering, CBEN, courses to be delivered online since before the onset of the COVID epidemic. In a paper she wrote based on her finding from offering an inaugural online version of Materials and Energy Balances, MEB, Professor Gardner commented on how flexibility in learning is beneficial to students, “[it] allows them to explore the content in a variety of ways, at their own pace, and at a time and place that may be more amenable to their learning than in a classroom full of other students at a set time. These advantages address multiple levels of diversity amongst learners”. In the Fluid Mechanics class she is teaching this semester, Professor Gardner has implemented an iterative semester-long project alongside traditional tests. According to Professor Gardner, the semester-long project was an idea that she had been formulating for a while and was, in part, hastened in development by COVID. From her perspective, semester long-projects are beneficial as they can create student involvement in the material to a higher degree than test do. This increased involvement is directly related to higher success rates in the

course, as students are more likely to remember and understand concepts that they can individualize through work on iterative projects. While discussing projects, Professor Gardner also mentioned that they can be ‘more authentic forms of assessment,’ which means that they, more than a sixty-minute closed book test, resemble the problems and assignments Orediggers can expect in our professional careers. When given a prompt for a project with specific deliverables, the process of having to investigate, iterate, and develop a professional-looking final product to meet those deliverables is a close mirror to many STEM careers. Professor Gardner’s Fluid Mechanics class still has traditional exams, as she views them as an important tool to assess student’s learning. Having spent several years studying how to write good tests and deliver them efficiently in person or online, Professor Gardner feels well equipped to design tests that meet the challenges of the COVID era. She also cited concerns with the turnaround time on project grading and how to create projects that can be graded objectively as to reasons why projects are not, in her eyes, the silver bullet in teaching during COVID. But, what about teachers who have made the switch to only projects? How does the student body feel about project-based classes? Look forward to part two of this article, in issue five of *The Oredigger*, where I try to answer these questions. ❄️

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# Arts & Culture

## Staff Spotlight: Meet a Staff Writers

**Lauren D'Ambra**  
Staff Writer

The *Oredigger* staff features an impressive array of writers, graphic designers, photographers, and artists. Each one of our members are vital in bringing every issue of *The Oredigger* to life and giving the Mines community something exciting to read about.

This week we met up with one of our talented writers to share a little bit more about the work that goes into each issue of *The Oredigger*. Jade Glaister is one of our many enthusiastic writers. She is currently a freshman majoring in mechanical engineering and considering a minor in renewable energy. Here is a little bit of our interview, and we'd like to give a special thanks to Jade for giving us a glimpse behind the scenes of *The Oredigger*!

**Q:** When did you join *The Oredigger* Staff and what made you want to be a part of *The Oredigger's* staff?

"This is my first year at the paper. I

wanted to join because I missed writing in general, I don't really have any classes here where I get to do it. The idea of writing about whatever I'd like and getting it published is awesome too!"

**Q:** How long have you been writing? Have you always written informative articles or do you prefer creative pieces?

"I've really been writing just this year. I wasn't a part of any writing clubs in high school; I wanted to join my high school's newspaper but didn't get the chance to. I definitely like writing informative pieces and adding more of a voice to informative texts."

**Q:** What have you written about so far and is there anything you're excited to write about in the future?

"I haven't written that much because I've only just joined, but for the first issue I wrote an article about athletes, because I live in the athletic dorm, so it was pretty easy to do. For the last issue, I wrote an article about quarantine and an article about vot-



Meet Jade Glaister. Image courtesy of Lauren D'Ambra.

ing. The voting piece was really important to me, I felt like I had a lot to say in it and I really hope it encouraged voter turnout across campus."

**Q:** What is your favorite piece of writing that you've done for *The Oredigger* so far?

"My favorite piece so far has been the quarantine piece because I got to interview and add a little bit of personality to it. I also found out I had to be quarantined the night I published that article, I feel like there's a little bit of humor in there!"

## Composting on the Mines Campus



Image courtesy of Sadie Jonson.

**Caitlin Short**  
Staff Writer

At a town hall on October 23rd, Mines Sustainability and members of the Mines community addressed campus-wide efforts to reduce campus environmental impact, promote sustainable campus development, and reduce campus greenhouse gas emissions. One exciting project involves introducing and improving

composting throughout campus. In a landfill, food waste produces methane gas as it breaks down and carbon dioxide when allowed to decompose with other compostable materials. According to the EPA, our landfills contain up to 20% discarded food, and considering that methane is 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas, accurate waste diversion is vital to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, food waste becomes valuable,

nutrient-rich soil when turned into compost and can be used to grow high-quality food. In 2019, Mines utilized the company EcoCycle for large events and achieved an impressive 3,907 lbs of waste diversion and prevented 9,118 lbs of greenhouse gas emissions during E-Days, I-Days, and summer barbecues.

Now, a large organic dumpster sits behind the Student Center that is picked up by the recycling and composting provider for Golden, Green for Life International (GFL), and is part of the food audit being conducted on Mines Market. Only back-of-the-house scraps are diverted currently, but Sustainability Coordinator Lauren Poole hopes that front-of-the-house scraps can start being diverted as well starting in the spring. College campuses across the country struggle with composting due to a lack of education among their student bodies on what is compostable and what is not, leading to poorly-sorted waste that providers are hesitant to take. The issue of contamination has been exacerbated by traces of COVID-19 that can linger on materials and po-

tentially endanger the people who process compost and recycling. Providers have also been hesitant to take compost from us since some of the compostable cups, plates, and other materials used in Mines Market and around campus do not seem to break down as well as would be preferred.

There are multiple groups of students who have researched or are currently researching composting-related topics. One group in the Sustainability/Smart Environmental Design Studio (SEDS) working with Dr. Leslie Light is researching composting in Mines Park, partnering with another team designing a greenhouse for a plot there that could potentially help feed the Mines community and use some of the produced compost. Groups working with Dr. Amy Landis are researching food waste here and on other college campuses, and the feasibility of anaerobic digestion for energy production from food waste. Despite the intricacies and challenges surrounding composting, plans to improve waste division across campus push on.

Cont'd "Elections and Mines" >>

This article is certainly an entertaining one. The opening paragraph states as fact that the Mines "student body is on[e] of the most cosmopolitan in this region and represents almost every section of the country," which I find amusing, since, according to "A Century of Women at Mines," there were no women attending the school in this time period (the third woman to graduate from Mines had done so in 1920 and the next would not graduate until 1949) and, according to the research shown on bipoc\_at\_mines Instagram account, the first African-American student was not accepted until 1948. Anyway, because of the declared diversity of viewpoints at the school, the article goes on to declare that "the staff of the Oredigger has decided that a straw vote taken on the campus will closely approximate the returns of the election to be held in November."

After encouraging participation of the entire student body, the author poses a series of questions regarding the election, a few that could be considered prophetic, though they were written over 90 years ago: "What chances have the two leading parties of preserving their integrity? Will radical elements break off and will these elements be powerful enough to injure the chances of the mother party? Who will be president and why?"

Oct. 30, 1928 "Hoover Wins Straw Vote by Big Margin"

This article relays the results of a separate, country-wide "straw poll" of collegiates, organized and compiled by College Humor (which apparently existed in 1928 as a magazine - who knew?). According to the poll, college students favored Hoover in 38 states. The article further broke down the results by region, but more interesting were the exclusive statements obtained from the candidates directed to "the college world." Hoover's statement, written in third person, was a story about his past and how he supported himself during college and came to get a degree in mining engineering from Stanford (likely a hit with Mines students). Smith chose to address students directly in

a much briefer statement focusing on the "humor" in College Humor, stating, in essence, that a sense of humor is important to keep one grounded and in touch with others (particularly "youth" in his case) and he is conducting his campaign with this in mind.

Nov. 27, 1928 "Mr. Hoover's Victory"

The Oredigger's coverage of the 1928 election culminates in a short article declaring the results of the U.S. presidential election. It begins with a sentence that makes me long for a time of less divisive politics (which will hopefully be in our future): "November has almost gone and with it the arguments, the discussions, the bets, and all the enthusiasms that characterise a year of a presidential election." It goes on to express confusion about the margin by which Hoover won; he had eight times as many electoral votes as his opponent, but the "popular vote of the country was less than two to one plurality for Hoover."

Despite the "puzzling" nature of this margin, the author quickly pivots to discussing Hoover's "excellent record since the day he graduated from Stanford"--apparently he was earning \$15,000 a year at age 26 (which translates to a whopping \$465K today). Interestingly, the article goes on to examine Hoover's campaign "from a non-partisan point of view," declaring it "not totally satisfactory." Says the author "[i]ssues such as prohibition that needed to be debated were passed up and the general effect given by the Republican campaign was that Hoover is committed to continue with Coolidge's policies." It is then suggested that a South American tour intending to establish "more friendly international relationships with the Latin American countries" would be a smart non-partisan move.

The author closes with an acknowledgement that Hoover's victory was not due solely to his merit; "[i]t cannot be denied that Hoover was aided by the vote polled against his rival's personality, his New York accent, and greatest of all, his religion," all observations that provide interesting insight into the social culture of the time. Immediately following these observations, the author poses



Image courtesy of Ashley Potter.

a poignant question that is extremely relevant today: "Will Hoover become president of all the fourteen million who voted for Smith as well as the twenty million who voted for him?" 1932: FDR (D) P - 57%, E - 89% vs. Hoover (R) P - 40%, E - 11%

This election took place at the height of the Great Depression (and during the tail end of prohibition). Despite the public's lost faith in Hoover as president (hence the term "Hoovervilles" for homeless camps), results of a nationwide straw poll of collegiates (discussed in "Young Politicians Cast 29,000 Votes in Favor of Hoovers [sic] Re-Election", published Nov. 1, 1932) indicated a strong preference for Hoover, who received half of the 58,686 votes as opposed to Roosevelt, who received only 31% of the poll votes.

Interestingly, a straw poll conducted at only Mines showed a different

result--34.4% of students preferred a Socialist party candidate, covered in an article entitled "Thomas Leads Hoover in Mines Presidential Vote," also published on November 1, 1932. The author states that this is not unexpected, since across the nation "university students [were] becoming more and more radical." The article goes on to say that this trend is not limited to the U.S., referring to the political environment in Germany at the time: "the Nazis and Communists are recruiting their men amongst the students and the same occurs in France and England," a rather chilling observation (Hitler was appointed the chancellor of Germany in 1933).

The author pivots to a discussion of the reasons behind the trend towards radical viewpoints: "This widespread

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## The Music Industry and Elections

Jade Glaister  
Staff Writer

Music has continuously been played to accompany a variety of moods. If you're happy, listen to music! If you're sad, listen to music! If it's three in the morning, and you still do not understand that one stubborn homework problem... listen to music! Along with its connections to every state of mind, music adds to significant events and holidays. Even in elections, music has consistently played a role throughout time.

To give you a brief history lesson, the majority of popular musicians used to solely create music that was pro-war and pro-government in order to increase patriotism. However, this all changed when an incredible man by the name of Woody Guthrie came along and started to sing music that rallied his listeners. After him, other artists began to sneak their own opinions about civil rights and other less patriotic issues into their music. Over time, musicians have significantly increased the display of their beliefs in their songs. Now, especially during election season, the political and personal ideas of each artist is widely known by the public.

Not only is this exhibited in their music, but also throughout the media. In 2016, many popular artists such as Adele, Neil Young, and Aerosmith asked Donald Trump to stop using their music at his campaign

Cont'd "Elections and Mines">>  
radicalism amongst university youth is due to the fact that graduates have such a hard time finding jobs in proportion to the effort and money expended in getting their degrees. It is due to the dissatisfaction caused by the political ballyhoo which constitutes the party platform of the moderate parties. This tendency is an expression of the discontent of youth at the bungling ways of their elders. They may not be able to do any better, but at least they know when things are not as they should be," a sentiment that certainly resonates with the current generation of



Image courtesy of Zachary Barry.

rallies. Throughout the campaign process of the 2020 election, popular artists have voiced their opinions even more through magazine articles, talk shows, and social media. This involves many of them endorsing their preferred candidate and influencing listeners to vote. One example illustrating this are various Latin American singers have given their music to Joe Biden for ads to encourage the voting of Spanish speakers.

As interesting as the opinions of individual artists may be, the music industry's techniques of increasing college students in the face of crises like global warming and a worldwide pandemic.

Not unlike our struggles with COVID-19, the timing of the Great Depression ensured increased pressure on the 1932 presidential election. This pressure was evident in the Nov. 1, 1932 issue of *The Oredigger*, which featured one of my favorite entries--a variety of poems and short jokes pertaining to the election. Some of my favorite snippets are below:

From "Who Gets this Relief?": "Relief for this, Relief for that,/Is now our cry of woe./But speaking of Relief, here's one/Thing I would like to know./Since farmers, bankers, facto-

voter turnout and education are fascinating. Adding to your lovely history lesson, in 1990, Rock the Vote was founded as a non-partisan and non-profit organization to increase youth voter registration. The number of organizations similar to this has immensely increased, causing many events (primarily virtual of course) to occur over the past few months to educate new voters. In addition to this, entertainment and music groups such as Universal Music Group, Warner Music Group, and Atlantis Records have organized and partnered

ries get/Their share without a stall./Where's mine? Where's yours? For we both are/The poorest guys of all."  
From "He Who Laughs Last": "Your ears get tired of listening, to campaign speech and talk,/They drive you nuts and goofey [sic], 'till you can scarcely walk./But it won't be long, dear reader, until there comes a day,/When candidates will shush their mouths, they will have had their say./November eighth you'll get your chance, at ballot box and booth;/Then yell aloud and sing it out: 'A tooth for someone's tooth!'/Your days of hearing bunk are o'er. They'll listen to you now./Your chance comes with the ballot, then. You get your revenge,

with popular artists for the same cause. This even includes Spotify, our beloved streaming service, who has created a collection of news podcasts called "Play Your Part" to encourage first-time voters to get engaged. Further efforts have been made by Sony Music Entertainment, which has largely advertised that they will give their voters a paid day off on Election Day. So, I hope you listened to your music and voiced your opinions with your ballot. ✨

and how!

"A news ditpatch [sic] tells us they're going to introduce Bull Fighting in Bulgaria with a star cast of Spanish matadors. If that's what they want, why not import some of our political speakers?"

While this election certainly ranks among the most contentious, it seems that it has a kindred spirit in elections surrounding other crises--like the Great Depression. Hopefully that knowledge doesn't freak this election out, but lets it know that it is not alone and that things will get better eventually. ✨

## Orediggers Win Cross Country Conference Championships!



*The Men's Cross Country Team celebrates their 2020 RMAC Championship. Image courtesy of Mines Athletics.*

### Jeremiah Vaile

Staff Writer

At the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships on October 24th, Colorado School of Mines took home several titles. In the men's race, the Orediggers took home the team title with only 22 points. Western Colorado University followed in second with 60 points, and Colorado Christian University rounded out the podium with a 6 point victory over the historic cross country powerhouse of Adams State University. Dylan Ko of Mines received the individual title in the 8-kilometer race with a time of 24 minutes and 18 seconds: A four-second victory over Adam State's Isaiah Rodarte. Dylan said "[The race] seemed to start off a bit slow," because the grass was slippery for racers fol-

lowing a cold foggy day. Dylan also said that he picked up the pace a few times during the race by taking the lead for short periods. Through the first half of the race, several of Mines' men were part of the first pack, where Kyle Moran of Mines, also took the lead for a while after about three kilometers. After the final hill with about one and a half kilometers left, Rodarte took the lead and pushed Ko and Moran to second and third. When Ko and Moran passed Coach Chris Siemers, they were pushed to catch Rodarte in the last gradual downhill. Dylan Ko again took the lead and finished ahead, while Kyle Moran kept his pace with Rodarte and finished just behind his shoulder in 24 minutes and 23 seconds.

The rest of Mines' men finished in the top 14 to receive First Team All-RMAC honors. Chris Cathcart

finished in fourth place with a time of 24:27 and redshirt freshman Loic Scomparin followed in 6th (24:32). As the first freshman to finish, Loic Scomparin received the title of RMAC Freshman of the Year. Luke Julian, Dillon Powell, Bo Raadm, and Max Sevcik rounded out the Orediggers placing 8th (24:40), 10th (24:42), 12th (25:01), and 13th (25:13) respectively.

In the women's race, the Orediggers also took home a slew of awards. Mines' Zoe Baker took the individual title in the women's 6-kilometer race as the first woman from Mines to ever win the conference championships. Baker also mentioned after the start the leaders slowed to a pace that she knew she had gone for longer workouts than the distance she was racing. Baker stuck with the lead group until her shoelace came untied only about a half-mile in. With a positive mindset, Baker stayed encouraged and hoped to not be tripped by her flopping shoelace. She decided to get some distance from the large group of runners to reduce the chances of someone stepping on her shoelace and tripping her. After about four kilometers, Baker started pushing the pace again and put distance in between herself and the rest of the runners. Even though she was running with an untied shoe, Baker sprinted into the finish so she would not be passed and won the race with an impressive time of 21

minutes and 11 seconds. 8 seconds later, Metropolitan State University's Erin Norton finished in second place. Zoe Baker also received the Summit Award for her academic standing as the student-athlete with the highest GPA competing in the conference championship. In the women's 6k, Western Colorado University finished first with 44 points. Colorado School of Mines finished second with 63 points and Metropolitan State University finished third only 5 points ahead of Adams State University. Melina Endsley finished 12th (22:24), and Heather Keniry finished 13th (22:27) to earn the Orediggers two more First Team All-RMAC honors. Morgan Molesworth finished 15th (22:30), and Peyton Solheim finished 22nd (22:49) with Second Team All-RMAC honors. Alex Raichart finished 47th (23:45), Holly Moser finished in 61st (24:17), and Sydney Williams finished 76th (24:42) to wrap up the Oredigger's results.

Next fall, the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships will be hosted by the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado. The Orediggers look to defend their titles of Men's 2020 Conference Champions and Men's 2019 National Champions next fall.

The Orediggers also look to win their first women's cross country conference championship on home turf next year. 🏆

Cont'd "New Internet Age" >>

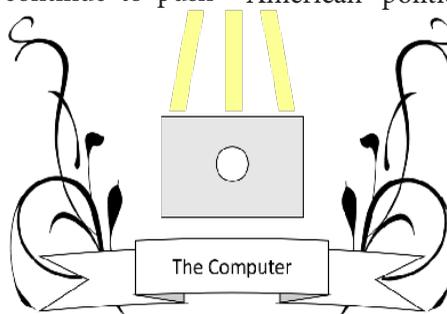
types of businesses utilizing online connections during the COVID-19 pandemic. These include food delivery/pickup services, niche-based subscription services, and, most apparently, more accessibility for educational resources over the immensely successful communication software, Zoom. These businesses did exist before the occurrence of the pandemic, but it was the quarantine itself that catalyzed their importance and made their availability so much more unmistakable. Mines students, assumedly know this very well due to consistent employment of the internet for research & project

completion, and they will only continue as they progress further and further into a future that aims to revolutionize engineering in almost every aspect. This may not necessarily correlate with the rise of memes or politics in the online space, but these matters will only continue to push

the internet's presence and therefore its ability to assist almost every other field of modern civilization.

With the pressing Presidential Election coming this Tuesday (the day this issue will release), there is quite possibly more awareness of American politics than there has

ever been in the entirety of American history. This makes utter and total sense, when one remembers that American politics has been one of the leading forces in the internet's New Age (this includes both comedic and serious affairs, since they stem from awareness of the same subject). Aside from politics, there still stands the omnipresence of the internet that has developed over the past few years for the sake of information networks, business dealings, and--especially--the entertainment of its users. We understand how it happened, and how we have been employing it for specific purposes. Only one question remains: how will the internet pro-



*Graphic courtesy of Zachary Barry.*

## The Ins and Outs of Therapy (and why it might be good for you)

**Caitlin Short**  
Staff Writer

I think the stigma surrounding therapy is stupid. I think the attitude a lot of people have towards it – that it's stupid, a waste of time, or that you're paying someone to tell you what you want to hear – causes a massive loss to individuals.

I got really lucky. I had supportive friends and family when I got a concussion sophomore year of high school and ended up having headaches almost 24/7 for close to three months. The concussion was enough on its own to make my start to high school rough and make me feel incredibly behind, but the constant pain wore on me. I was stressed, sad, and sleep-deprived.

Eventually, I went to my doctor who put me on a medication often used to treat nerve pain and insomnia. It helped me sleep and helped improve my mood, but I was groggy in the mornings. After about a year, when I was a junior in high school, I realized being groggy to the point that I could barely get out of bed and was at constant risk of falling asleep in class was no longer acceptable. I went back to my doctor and she sent me to a therapist she knew.

My therapist was a small young

woman who was a great match for me. That's the most important thing about making therapy work for you – finding someone you're comfortable with. I feel more comfortable with female health providers and people closer to my age, and she was logical and pragmatic, like me, so we got on well. She'd tell me a lot about psychology, using science to connect, which worked on my little nerd brain. She always talked to me like an academic and human equal, putting into perspective just how much I was doing and how high my standards of success were. It felt like chatting most of the time, talking about school, as well as my relations with other people. I never cried and never felt the need to. I left feeling lighter, and that was what was important to me.

What sticks with me now is how my thinking changed. I'm so much more reasonable about my thinking now. I'm better about stopping my thoughts when I start to get anxious, backing up, finding the source of the worry, and asking myself if it's reasonable (it rarely is).

My therapist referred me to a psychiatric nurse practitioner to get me off the medication that was making me so drowsy. We tried several medications before I finally decided I was done experimenting the summer af-



*The Counseling Center provides many services. Image courtesy of Sadie Jonson.*

ter junior year, and I went into senior year unmedicated. I stopped going to therapy right before winter break. Senior year was the best because I had considerably healthier coping skills than before and was kinder, more open, and overall more affectionate with people I cared about, which helped strengthen my relationships. I got another concussion last fall during my freshman year. Needless to say, it was not a good time, but I managed okay despite school suddenly becoming dramatically harder for a month. The headaches went away this time, and I only get one occasionally now.

COVID has been a lot, though, so I went onto the counseling center's website about a month ago and am now seeing one of their counselors. It's been nice being able to work through things with someone and be reassured that what I'm feeling is normal and to get some help coping with it all.

What helps me the most is having someone who isn't a friend or family member to keep me accountable. Having someone make goals with me and ask me how they're going is helpful. Self-care is built into my schedule now and going to therapy keeps it on my radar as something to keep up with.

I wish everyone was able to spend the kind of time I have developing as a person. I've always been very academically driven and have placed a lot of my self-worth on that, but ther-

apy has helped me understand and remember that I'm a person first and I need to develop myself that way, too. It's impossible to excel academically when you're mentally and emotionally falling apart.

I'm more empathetic towards myself and others, and I think I understand them better. I know myself, my limits, what I need to do to take of myself, and when I need to get help. You don't need a traumatic experience or a bad childhood or anything to go, and I hope very soon no one will think that. Sometimes life is a lot and talking it out with someone whose literal job is to help you is just what you need. Healing isn't linear and it certainly isn't comfortable.

My message is this: the stigma around therapy is nonsense. If you're able to find a good fit and you're willing to be honest, open, and put a bit of effort in, it can seriously make a difference. I was in a bad place and it was exactly what I needed. The Mines counseling center offers a lot of services and is easy to get a hold of on the school's website. They can help get you to the services you think will help you the most. Especially now, we could all use a little support - I'm grateful I reached out.

Life is hard enough. A little bit of support can go a long way towards reaching your goals. Being open and honest about my mental health has helped me and it might help you. So let's talk. 🌸



*Life can be overwhelming but you are not alone. Sometimes all you need to do is talk it out. Graphic courtesy of a fellow Oredigger.*

## Keeping Your Sanity Through Election Season



*Taking care of mental health is very important. Image courtesy of Molly Adams.*

**Jessica Gregory**  
Staff Writer

We all have to face one aspect of the world right now; it is crazy. This year could be classified as a dumpster fire. There were World War III rumors, deaths, quarantine, murder hornets, earthquakes, fires, more COVID, more deaths, and more fires. On top of all of that, it is an election year, and I do not know about you, but the future can seem bleak during this strange point in history. There are days that someone can turn on the news or scroll through any app and be bombarded with death, destruction, and arguments about politics. A lot of people ask themselves what they can do with this country we are inheriting when at the moment it seems like there will not be a lot of any of the country left to inherit. This is the point that a person needs to take a step back and take a look at themselves and the world around them. The world is crazy, and so are politics, but here are some tips to make it through the election season any year, but especially today.

### **Do Not Read Too Much News**

There are hundreds of newspapers and articles published daily. All of them have their views, their opinions, and their information infused, no matter how unbiased they try to be. A lot of news, however, is fake news, and even when it is not fake, there is a lot of it. Reading too much news, especially on the same topic with different extreme views, can cause a lot of confusion and despair. When a person reads or watches too

much news, it can cause hopelessness at all the evil in the world. That is why no one should spend all their time on the news. I try to not watch more than an hour's worth of news if I watch any, and only read a few articles on topics that interest me. This tactic of not taking in a lot of news is especially important during an election season as there is so much information about who supports what that it can become confusing. The important consideration that needs to be made is the amount of news that you should watch because no matter what, a person should stay in touch with current topics and news in the world.

### **Research Issues That Interest You**

While one should not watch or absorb too much news, they need to be aware of issues that will come up in an election, especially those that interest them. In every election, there is a broad range of issues from taxes to abortion to civil rights. From that slue of topics, there are going to be some that seem inconsequential and those that are of more importance to a person. It is easier to know what you care about if you look into the issues they care about and form complete ideas and opinions towards those issues. Not only will that help when talking to other people who want to know your opinions, but will also help you to look at candidates for offices, like the president, and find a person who embodies all the ideals that you want to see in the world. So, staying away from the news is a good strategy, but a person should always know and understand their opinions

on the issues important to them.

### **Do Not Go Into Any Issues Blind**

In the last point, the fact that there is a broad array of topics. Now all of them might not seem important or that it applies to your life currently, but if it is an issue that enough people care about to vote on it is important. You should be up to date on all the issues presented to you. Now this does not mean go extremely in-depth about each issue, but at least know what an issue is about, means, and how it might affect you now or in the future. This does not mean that you have to watch the presidential debates if you do not want to, because we all know that those can sometimes get out of hand.

### **Listen to Others' Opinions**

Now this point might be strange, but I am not saying argue with others, or talk about politics all the time. All I am suggesting is that if someone brings up their opinion on a topic of debate, listen to them because they may have a good point that you had not thought of. You do not have to debate, I do not think you should, maybe discuss and say each opinion out loud as it will clear up your thoughts, but the debate is usually between two or more people who believe their opinions are the right ones and bring nothing out of them. Listening to others, however, gives both parties a place to discuss and understand their thoughts better leading to a better result for everyone.

### **Take a Break**

This is a tip for any point in life, but is very prevalent during an election. When everything gets too overwhelming, whether it is politics or friends or homework, or when it seems like the future is pointless, take a break. Sometimes what we need is a moment to reset one's mind and thoughts. Taking a break can mean anything from taking a walk, hanging out with friends without talking about what is wrong, going for a run or working out, watching a movie or show that you love, or reading a book. Honestly, it can be anything that calms you down. The key to staying sane during any time, but especially an election, is taking a break, a moment to yourself. Once you have

taken a break and are calm, then go back to what you were doing or look at the news or discuss it with your friends. Just do not be afraid to take a break when everything feels like a lot.

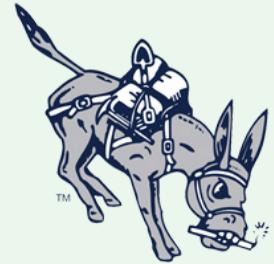
### **Vote**

Now for a lot of you this last point is unimportant for this election, but keep it in mind for the future. A very wise man once said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." For a lot of people, this might seem daunting or something that you cannot possibly do, but even if you can't go save the world, you can try to push your ideas through by casting your vote. Now you can not know if what you vote for will win, but your vote could be the one that wins it. The world may seem confusing and the future pointless, but if you do not take any steps to change that then the world and future will continue to be just as overwhelming. So, if you are reading this on November 3, I remind you to vote, and if you are not then vote in the future. No matter what, your vote does matter. Your opinions are important. And you can be the change this country needs.

Every election is a crazy season full of news, arguments, debates, and people who only want to be right all the time. This election has proved to be even crazier, simply because this is a crazy year. So, although none of the above suggestions are required, I recommend that you consider them whether you read this during the 2020 election season or not, these are all important points. And a couple of the points, such as not reading too much news and taking a break works at all times during a year and both during and not during elections. No matter what, The last aspect is important, because we are on the brink of inheriting this country and world, and what happens to it depends on us. For a lot of college students, this will be the first election they vote in. During childhood, all the laws and many decisions were made for us, and now we have the right to fight for change ourselves, so we need to vote. During this election season, stay calm, pay attention, and vote what you believe, but make sure to take care of yourself and take breaks when you need them. ✨

## Our mascots dressed up for Halloween! Can you find them?

Find them hidden somewhere in Issue 4 for the chance to win a **DOMINO'S** gift certificate! Note: If you correctly guess their costume you'll get an extra entry (you may need the digital edition to zoom in ;)). Send entries to [oredig@gmail.com](mailto:oredig@gmail.com) to be entered into the raffle.



Note: They will be smaller versions of the graphics above.  
*Images courtesy of tokyodachi and Mines Athletics.*

Congratulations to Ryan Fidel who found Marvin the Miner on the Moon, Anna Chandler for completing the Autumn Wordsearch, and Allison Groves for making an origami hummingbird. Watch your inboxes for prize notifications!



*Comic courtesy of Lauren D'Ambra.  
To become a graphic artist for the paper, email [orediggervisuals@gmail.com](mailto:orediggervisuals@gmail.com).*