

THE OREDIGGER

VOLUME 101

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No. 5

What are we eating?

Meet the organizations evolving the food culture of Mines.



Fighting Hunger at Mines, Mines Greenhouse Project, Blaster's Basket. Images courtesy of Fighting Hunger at Mines and Mines Greenhouse team.

Headlights from Hell

Sophia Becker
News Editor

I. Hate. Blue-light LED headlights. They are the absolute worst and nobody will convince me otherwise. Sometimes I'll just be driving along at night in my little two-door Honda Civic, when suddenly I'm blinded from behind by another car (most often a truck with headlights at the exact same height as my rearview mirror). Yes, I use the little flippy thing on my rearview mirror. But I'm still blinded by the reflection in my side mirrors. When I get into this situation, I often angrily wonder who decided that these night-vision wreckers were a good idea? The only person they would make the road safer for would be the person inside

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Shannon Keohane
Editor in Chief

I'm aware of mental health programs on campus and sometimes I hear about physical activity programs, but I haven't seen movement in the realm of healthy, local, even organic food as a part of both our mental and physical wellbeing. That is, the food students are eating and how they are getting that food. For a world-class engineering school, we haven't quite tinkered our way to a sustainable and health-centric food culture but, someday soon, I envision a campus-wide email announcing the opening of a farm-to-table dining concept or even the addition of an agricultural engineering degree to the CEEN department. What gives me confidence in this vision? The answer is the student organizations and movements that are on the rise. Those include Fighting Hunger at Mines (FH@M), the Mines Greenhouse Project, Mines Green Team

(MGT), and EarthWorks. These groups are connected by their desire to provide the Mines community with educational and cultural experiences that convey the ties between our campus food culture, the larger agricultural systems at play, and the ecological and social environments that are affected in the process. They are presenting both traditional and alternative modes of food production, distribution, and preparation.

In this issue, we took a deep dive into FH@M while future issues of The Oredigger will explore the Mines Greenhouse Project, MGT, EarthWorks, as well as introduce the Golden community members of the Hunger Free Golden Community Collaborative such as GoFarm, BGoldN, Golden Backpack Program, and the Christian Action Guild.

FH@M was represented by Estelle Cronmiller, current FH@M president and a PhD candidate studying waste to biofuel conversion, who provided

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November Horoscopes

Zachary Barry
Arts and Culture Editor

I can't believe that it is already the end of 2020. It seems like just yesterday that Prince Harry and Meghan Markle were stepping down as senior Royals. Please note that I don't follow the royals closely. What would a couple of people on the other side of the world have to do with me? It was just the only noteworthy event in January that's not objectively awful in one way or another, and with that, I think now we have all collectively ragged on 2020 enough. Instead, let's try to look forward to better times and keep our spirits up as we switch to a new calendar year. Now let's focus on the signs lightyears away that will undoubtedly affect the last of your 2020.

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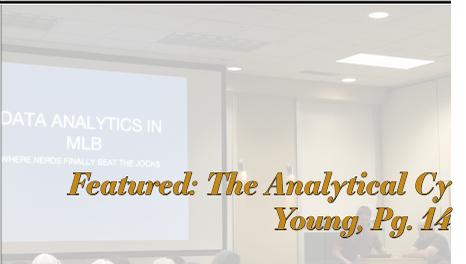
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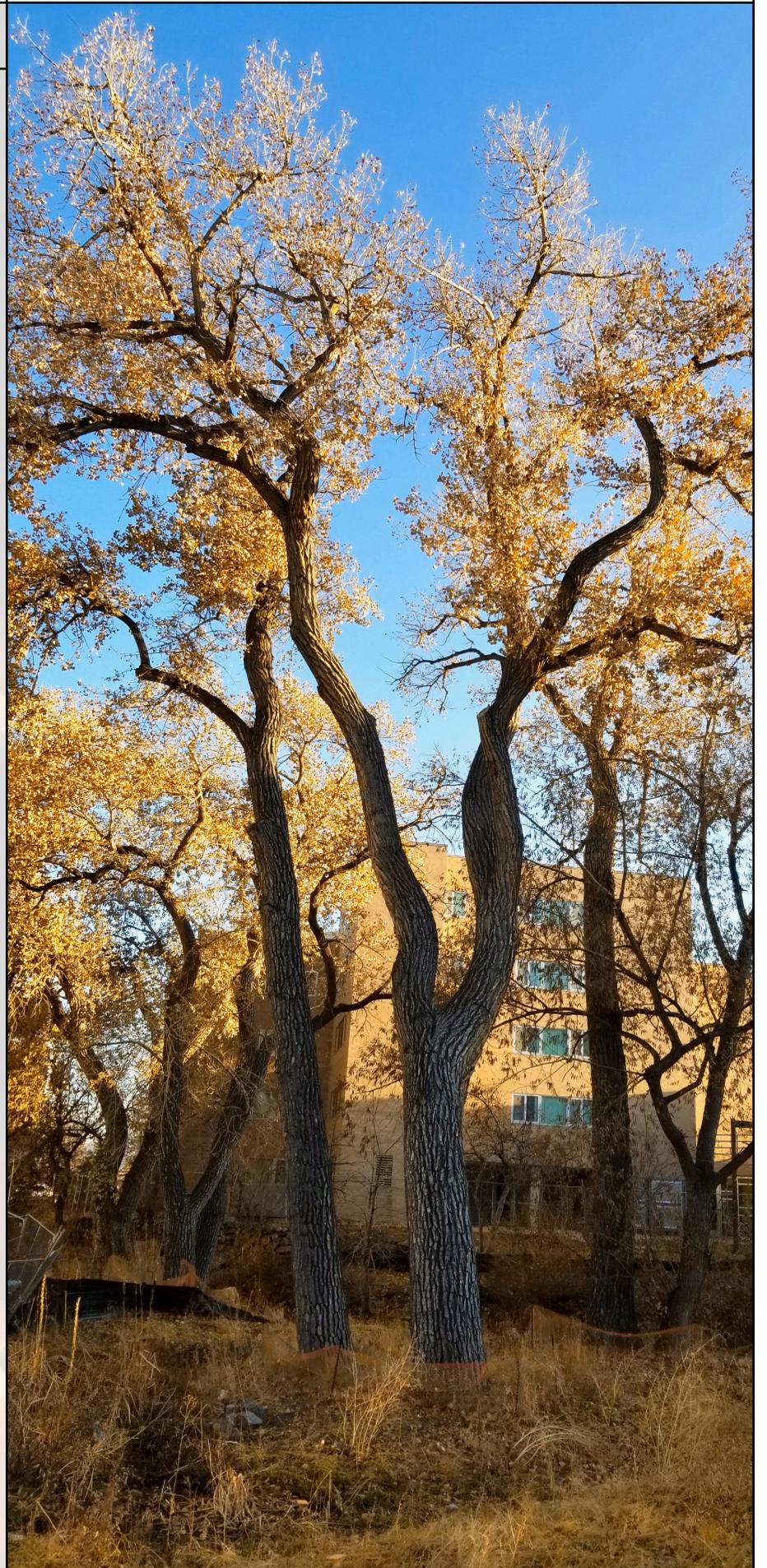


Photo of the Week

Fall on campus.

Image courtesy of Shane Cranor.

Cont'd "Food@Mines" >>

her take on the past, present, and future of the organization. To begin, FH@M is a student run organization that is working to fill the gap between food insecurity and food surplus. Not only are they trying to provide more sustainable methods of obtaining food on-campus, but also more nutritional food options to support student mental health, success in academics as well as their personal life. They collaborate in the community through volunteering and service. Uniquely, they are able to knit together and provide food to members of both the Mines and the Golden community bridging a gap not often discussed.

FH@M was formed in the spring of 2019 by Dylan McClain due to personal experience with food insecurity due to financial reasons. To end their days of dumpster diving, he and roommate turned to the South Golden Co-Op where they began volunteering in exchange for food resources. Dylan had not only stumbled upon an inspiring food assistance program but also the hidden issue of food insecurity throughout the Mines and Golden communities. For shared and dissimilar reasons as low-income families, students can and do struggle with food insecurity whether it be due to financial reasons as was Dylan's case or other personal crises. Mines students are working now towards a future salary, "That doesn't necessarily mean they're able to sustain themselves in similar ways during their education," Estelle clarified. Dylan realized that other students may be interested in this sort of experience for not only their personal benefit, but for the benefit of the community. Thirdly, he had seen firsthand the massive volume of waste that is generated by grocery stores and perceived an opportunity to assist the co-op in diverting local food resources that would otherwise be thrown away. As Estelle noted, "That is just the tip of the iceberg, think of all the food that is wasted before it even gets to the market."

Once established, the student organization quickly gained the attention of students, campus administration, and Golden community representa-

tives. Symbolic of their community recognition, FH@M was honored by the Former Mayor of Golden, Marjorie Sloan, with the Golden Mayor's Gold Mine Award for Excellence in the fall of 2019.

As Estelle explained, the team has continued to expand their community impact, form new partnerships, acquire a bus, and most recently began offering cooking classes. Their goal is to "teach people the basics of cooking and the importance of cooking" as a building block of a healthy lifestyle. They are thankful to the Board of Student Organizations (BSO) and Graduate Student Government (GSG) for funding previous and current programming. Their current Golden community partners are the Fresh Food Co-Op in south Golden and BGoldN.

Looking to the future, the FH@M team would like a permanent space on campus that students can come to through the week to provide direct services to the campus community. The vision is a cafe-grocery concept with students preparing hot meals throughout the day alongside a rotating assortment of items for purchase such as vegan butter, gluten free bread, organic produce, or free range eggs. That is, while retaining the free aspect of providing complementary surplus items as they currently do.

Briefly touching on current dining options, Estelle expressed concerns related to Sodexo's presence on the Mines campus as related to their management. Sodexo's misalignment with student interests has been expressed in previous iterations of The Oredigger and rightfully so. For the most part, Sodexo presents itself as a corporate organization that is closed off from student involvement in decision making processes. This aversion to partnerships with student groups and organizations or collaboration with student representatives has left some students wary of their dominance on campus. Estelle spoke to her previous experience with Sodexo and BU Acres, a student-led compost and gardening organization at Binghamton University. In particular, she described Sodexo's involvement in preparing the Acre's harvest at a farm event each fall. This made them more

than financially-driven to students, they were a corporate institution connecting with the students they serve. The moral of that story is that Sodexo-student collaborations "have been done at other schools, so it can happen here," Estelle stated.

The conversation then turned to organization longevity in the collegiate environment and making long term impacts through collaboration. The initial questions were, how do you establish something that is going to last? How do you reach the student population that is here now and organize an idea that is going to be relevant to people down the road? What is the framework that sustains the organization or movement? These are almost always some of the first concerns raised by administration and potential financial investors. Surveys of the Mines community, completed by various organizations throughout the past couple of years, have revealed the food security and nutritional health deficiencies of Orediggers. Student organizations have formed and worked to address these issues from the platform of a student and, now, several of these organizations are at a crossroads. Do they continue operating and iterating as they have (letting group members cycle in and out as is natural in a university setting) or do we collectively pursue a physical space on campus to establish a long term solution? Do we take charge of the sow, harvest, and preparation of foods and address the health and sustainability issues associated with our current dining and food sourcing framework? As Estelle, I, and others are aware, there are campuses around the United States who have incorporated student-sustained agriculture programs and dining options on their campuses (e.g. Binghamton University's Acres project, Haverfarm at Haverford College, The Farm at Davidson College, the Village Center Greenhouse at CU Boulder, and more). At Mines, there are students prepared to invest in such a collaboration organization and facility. Not only does the student body then become emotionally and physically invested in the facility and fight to protect and sustain it, but

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Governing Bodies Update

Compiled by **Sophia Becker**
News Editor

Undergraduate Student Gov. (USG) Nov. 3, 2020

- Continued discussion of student workload with administration.
- USG will write a letter of support for a Money Matters Center at Mines.
 - 3 phases: financial seminars, one-on-one coaching, & financial wellness classes.
- Compost bins: one may be coming to Mines Market, there is one in Periodic Table for staff only.

Oct. 27, 2020

- Parking #: Garage 1, 740 spots; Garage II in planning; 744 more spots than last year total
- Other parking: Commuter now called yellow; General = blue; First years will be able to park on campus (AA and Q lots only); General and garage will be one
- Discussion of expanding rentable appliances on campus (things like coffee & laundry)
- The Mines Discord is open and features "hobby chats"

Graduate Student Gov. (GSG)

Nov. 11, 2020

- Student fee will NOT be changed in the spring, so GSG has a budget surplus.
 - Options discussed include: \$ to Final Friday, "pizza thing", grant funds, and giving \$ to Derek Morgan.
- Funds allocated to make care packages for students
- Spring Break: USG wants to send a message to admin: "keep spring break the same but just test everyone after spring break and have classes online for a bit"
 - Discussion about how this could be dangerous for grad TAs who interact with many undergrads
 - Other schools have split Spring Break into several "mental health" days
 - International students need at least 60% of their classes in person 🌸

Pfizer, BioNTech Announce Potential Covid-19 Vaccine

Sarah F. Zaccarine

Staff Writer

The race for a coronavirus vaccine has had a major breakthrough, with Pfizer and BioNTech the first to achieve a high level of effectiveness in clinical trials. Their vaccine recently reported a 90% efficacy rate in tests on 43,500 people in six countries, with minimal associated safety concerns. Although multiple vaccines have made it to the last stages of testing, this is the first to succeed at this rate in clinical trials. The news is particularly welcome given the recent surge in Covid-19 cases. Pfizer hopes to request FDA approval for Emergency Use Authorization by December, pending finalized safety results expected in mid-November. If these steps are successful, there could be as many as 50 million doses prepared by the end of 2021, with roughly half expected to be provided to the United States. The vaccine requires two doses, which means that this would be enough to vaccinate 12.5 million people, a significant step but still less than 4% of the American population.

With a promising vaccine in sight, the urgent need now is for a distribution plan as well as a communication strategy to get more people committed to getting vaccinated. When surveyed in October, only half of Americans said they would get the coronavirus vaccine. It is un-

Cont'd "Food@Mines" >> the university sees it and respects it as something real that is supporting student life. Is Mines ready?

Even stressed out, overworked, and underslept engineering students want diverse food options, access to healthy, local, organic, and alternative food sources and some of them even want to get their hands in the dirt and take pride in producing their own food. It says something that there are students, undergraduate and graduate, on this campus that, alongside other obligations, are willing to invest extensive time and effort towards these organizations and movements. There are even a few



Image courtesy of Isabelle Goetz.

known what percentage of the population will have to receive the vaccine to make it effective, but it is certain that half of Americans is not nearly enough. Even with a 90% success rate, 10% of those vaccinated are still at risk of catching Covid-19, in addition to those who have not received the vaccine.

Deployment of an approved vaccine is an equally important problem that hasn't seen much of the spotlight. Distributing the vaccine itself on a wide scale is a logistical dilemma, but it is only a piece of the puzzle. It requires efficient collaboration between development and manufacturing companies, federal and state agencies, health workers, and medical facilities to provide syringes, needles, and other supplies and train enough workers to administer the vaccine to patients. There is also the unanswered question of who will have access first, which may largely fall on state governments to decide. Another challenge is that patients must receive both doses three weeks apart. Additionally, the Pfizer vaccines must be stored at -94°F until just before being administered. Both of these conditions are tricky but vital to obtain the 90% success rate. willing to prolong their stay at Mines to see our vision through to fruition.

Food is a pillar of our culture and of our mental and physical wellbeing. It is more than a commodity that the school is investing in. First, Orediggers need the school to be an advocate in this arena and then the school can put funds towards those improved food standards. If we can help build offshore wind turbines or explore microporous crystals, then I'm confident Mines can work towards a healthier and more sustainable food culture. Innovation should start at Mines and investing in food-centric programs is not only investing in today's students but the

There are 9 other vaccines in the final rounds of testing, which are all stored at higher temperatures than the Pfizer vaccine, but assessing how to distribute multiple different vaccines could raise even more questions.

It is also likely that this vaccine may cause flu-like symptoms with each of the two doses, discouraging more people from getting vaccinated. While hesitancy is expected, if there is not widespread adoption of a vaccine, there is little chance it will be effective enough to have a large impact on the global pandemic. A unified, concerted effort to promote vaccination has never been more critical. The CDC has prepared a strategy called "Vaccinate with Confidence" to provide information and spread this message, but it has not received enough funding at this point to make it a reality.

Vaccination will be a tiered process, with the general public unlikely to receive vaccines until Spring 2021 at the earliest. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the leading infectious disease expert in the United States, expressed caution that this step, while vital, is not a cause to let down our guard. Dr. Fauci explained that the virus will take a long time to diminish, and it may never be fully eradicated but instead linger like the seasonal flu. The public is advised to continue wearing masks and social distancing even after a wide distribution of vaccines is available in order to keep everyone safe and give the vaccine its best chance to succeed.

Sources: BBC News, NY Times, NBC News, The Hill, Pfizer

future of engineering across its many subdisciplines. The actions these student organizations and movements are taking and the discussion they are having are not only for current Orediggers. The problems they address and the support they have found throughout the Mines community won't fade as classmen cycle through their time at the school. The moment is past due for the administration to be a part of the conversation and take an active role in supporting this shared vision for the future of dining at Mines. Before another residence hall is built on campus, Mines needs to address the alternative modes of food production, distribution, and

Police Blotter

Procured by Staff Writer **Caleb Pan** from the Mines Police Department

Friday 10/16/20:

3:35 pm, Elm Hall: Theft

Disposition: Closed - No Further Investigation At This Time

Tuesday 10/20/20:

11:56 am, Jackson St: Burglary 1st Degree

Disposition: Officer handled

Wednesday 10/21/20:

Pillars Parking Area: AGENCY ASSIST - Outstanding Warrant Exists for Suspect

Disposition: Custodial Arrest

5:54 pm, Kappa Sigma: TRAFFIC CODE - Accident with Damage - Duty to Stop

Disposition: Verbal/Written Warning

Saturday 10/24/20:

3:17 pm, Unspecified Location: CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY - THEFT - 1st Degree Criminal Trespass of a Vehicle

Disposition: Closed - No Further Investigation At This Time

Saturday 10/13/20:

Spruce Hall: LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION - Illegal Possession or Consumption of Alcohol

Disposition: UNDERAGE - Warning: Verbal or Written

Friday 11/06/20:

11:11 am, Marquez Hall: Theft

Disposition: Active

Monday 11/09/20:

1:34 pm, Weaver Towers: Theft

Disposition: Officer handled

Tuesday 11/10/20:

11:37 am, Mines Park: Theft

Disposition: Officer handled

preparation that these student organizations can provide. The school is approaching its sesquicentennial, it's time to talk about food.

To keep up to date with FH@M events and food deliveries visit: FH-Mines on Instagram.

What Election Results Could Mean for Clean Energy

Sarah F. Zaccarine
Staff Writer

Since announcing his ambitious clean energy plan in July, President-Elect Joe Biden has been drawing attention from all sides. Republicans are concerned about expanding federal reach and repercussions for oil and other fossil fuel companies, while Democrats are largely on board, if not pushing for even more aggressive measures. On the flip side, investors on Wall Street have shifted towards renewable energy stocks, especially wind and solar. Despite mixed opinions on implementation, this climate plan has the potential to revitalize the American economy and provide a mechanism to rebuild bipartisan collaboration.

The plan is as detailed and inclusive as it is ambitious. It calls for \$2 trillion in federal spending over four years and encompasses not only clean energy but related issues including environmental justice, protection of biodiversity, and, of course, jobs. Biden said the plan will be partially funded by increased taxes on wealthy Americans and large corporations, a measure that is likely to see backlash. The main selling point of Biden's plan is its intention to use clean energy reform to pull the United States out of the COVID-19 recession, in part by creating 10 million jobs, which could unify support.

The primary goals of the Biden climate plan are to achieve 100% clean energy by 2035 and net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. The approach for accomplishing these targets is wide-reaching and aims to integrate many sectors in an all-inclusive, bold strategy to push the United States to the forefront of climate change mitigation. The first step is to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement, a step which will signal to other countries that the United States hasn't given up on climate change mitigation, but instead intends to

be a global leader. The specific objectives include: expanded and reformed public transportation, more efficient vehicles, and widespread installation of electric vehicle charging stations; limits on methane and other GHG emissions and increased corporate accountability to uphold these standards; stricter building efficiency standards and retrofitting of older facilities; investment in clean energy innovation; and permanent protection of national lands including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

In addition to integrating a wide variety of goals and sectors into the climate action plan, the strategy seeks to be inclusive in terms of who is involved and who benefits from such a system. Specifically, Biden has highlighted the central importance of environmental justice in all federal agencies, and the desire to increase distribution of clean energy technologies to families and businesses throughout the economy. The Biden plan also looks to include the agricultural sector as a major player in areas including the development of biofuels.

Despite criticism that he is simply presenting a modified version of the Green New Deal, the Biden climate

plan has notable differences that offer the opportunity to be much more comprehensive and well-received. Although the Green New Deal was more aggressive, it was a resolution rather than a plan. Biden's proposal offers a concrete plan of action with clear targets. Another notable difference is that he does not intend to end fracking, which is likely to appeal to a wide base of workers in the fracking and natural gas industries. The plan also includes the use of nuclear reactors, whereas the Green New Deal called for an end to nuclear power.

While this clean energy plan has the potential to be a breakthrough for our country, a heavy-handed rollout could cause backlash that would limit the ability of the plan to fulfill its main goals. An unintended consequence of the refusal by President Donald Trump and his administration to take climate change action is that bipartisan support arose as multiple states were forced to improve energy efficiency and infrastructure on their own, with many states already pledging 100% clean energy by 2050 before Biden's targets were announced. Large oil companies including Shell and BP have also invested in renewable energy, along with many

utility companies around the country. Strong federal mandates could restrict this clean energy growth in the business sector. Additionally, Republicans tend to favor consumer choices and incentives and are less likely to support a plan centered around federal mandates. Fortunately, these facts offer the Biden administration a path to achieve approval: provide states with clean energy incentives to help with the COVID-19 recession and maintain momentum, and work with companies who have already developed effective plans for clean energy implementation.

A central claim of the Biden presidential campaign was his promise to serve all Americans, not only those who voted for him. This climate change plan is a platform to deliver on his word and work not only across the aisle but also with industries and states that have already developed successful strategies. Clean energy can fulfill the main principle of the "Build Back Better" campaign; it can revive the American economy and also spark action towards limiting climate change on a global level. If Biden focuses on job creation, economic benefits, and compromise, the climate plan can be an opportunity to truly build a better infrastructure that works for every American as well as the planet. ✨

Cont'd "Headlights" >>

the vehicle with the obnoxious, migraine-inducing headlights--if they were the only person around who had them. Who did this? Why must you blind me?

On that topic -- I don't understand why some cars have red turn signals (instead of the standard yellow). Those fancy Mustangs even go so far as to have a sequence of blinking red lights in an arrow formation. When I'm looking out of the corner of my eye, I register a red light on the back of a car as a brake light and a yellow as a turn signal. You'd think you would want the signalling equipment on your vehicle to be as clear as possible, but car manufacturers like

to get creative with it. Maybe I'm old, but I don't think safety features in a car are the place for creative new design decisions. ✨



Horrific Blue Headlights. Image courtesy of Isabelle Goetz.

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Aerial Firefighting: A Call to Arms

Jackson Crutcher

Staff Writer

As the wildfires go out across the Centennial state, I am left to wonder at the comparative lack of resources deployed against them. 2001 was the last time a foreign enemy was able to directly strike the mainland USA and inflict mass casualties and property damage, but there is a domestic enemy that routinely achieves what no end of terrorists and dictators can: forest fires. Some are human caused, whether by accident or arson, but all inflict the kind of damage that most people can only imagine coming from war. Forest fires have come to be the hurricanes of the west, something that happens during a certain period of the year that nobody can really do anything about. Earlier this semester, we all went to campus choking in the haze and occasionally took Instagram photos of the wild sunsets shining through the smoke plumes. It became normal, and that is what is so terrifying. The fact that humans can adapt to the worst sort of chaos and destruction has really been on display this year. Of course the Federal and state governments try to fight these fires, but their efforts only receive a fraction of the funding that goes towards things like military

projects.

If a Mexican cartel crossed the border and burned a town to the ground, a president would respond with everything the military had, regardless of party affiliation. Is it any less tragic that towns have burned in real life throughout the west? At the hands of things as absurd as gender reveal fireworks? I propose that the western fires be treated with the same kind of fury reserved for ISIS and AL Qaeda; the kind of might which once darkened the skies over Berlin and Tokyo with aircraft. I propose to transfer aerial firefighting responsibility from the overwhelmed Forest Service to the Air Force. This would enable deployment of aerial resources that we cannot imagine here in Colorado. You may have heard of the supertanker, but what about multiple? What about whole formations? The same technology that allowed us to burn foreign cities years ago can today save them at home when there are no other options. I haven't seen many ISIS militants on Colfax lately, but I have seen apocalyptic smoke and even flames on the mountainsides and that scared me a lot more. As climate change proceeds, human change must be effected to ensure the safety of lives and property here at home. ✨



Pyre of flame and smoke from bonfire. Image courtesy of Shane Cranor.

The Election Happened, So What

Now?

Louis Cogan

Staff Writer

The necessity of a sly, oratorical introduction for this article seems exorbitantly paltry, given the current and pressing concerns over the biggest Presidential Election in U.S. history since... well, the 2016 Presidential election. One could prattle on and on about the circumstances that led the nation to this point, or even the how the outcome was influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, but both of these segments would waste the time of both the reader and writer of said article (given that anyone and everyone has been keeping up with the contemporary news to at least some extent). Therefore, for once, let *The Oredigger* take the simpler approach and analyze the two major outcomes that may come from this election: either Biden retains his victory and transitions as the 46th President of the United States, or incumbent President Donald Trump contests the ruling in court, wins, and progresses through a second term.

At this current time, President Elect Joe Biden has already published many plans through both his social media and various political circles to soothe the American public's fears concerning the redundantly referenced COVID-19 pandemic. Before any vaccine may be distributed, his administration has promised to use federal tax finances to expand virus testing sites, invest in faster/more efficient testing methods, provide more personal protective equipment (PPE) to all public organizations and branches of government, and even restructure the guidelines which the nation should follow to navigate the ongoing pandemic. Exactly how he will accomplish all of these ambitious goals when President Trump himself has been blocked by Congress on several plan executions, Biden's pub-

licists have not stated. The concern only arises given Biden's statements during the second Presidential Debate about limited power during the Obama administration due to "a Republican Congress", for the Republican Party still holds in the majority in the--arguably more powerful than the House--Senate. Additionally, Biden may also be overreaching in terms of his current role as the President Elect, not the President. Planning is necessary for one of the world's highest positions of power, of course, but there seems to be a fatuous quality to the term, "Office of the President Elect", when it is nothing more than a man sharing his opinion about what he will eventually accomplish, not what he can start at this very moment. There will certainly be a lot of effort even before he begins; that is, if President Trump does not succeed in contesting the controversial states.

Even before the night of the election arrived, Trump and his legal team have been emphatically announcing their issues with mail-in voting due to the potential risks of voter fraud (which could be accomplished through vote removal, voter fraud, vote additions, etc.). On the night of the election, such fears may have been confirmed with sudden, late-night influxes of votes entirely for Biden in the states of Wisconsin and Michigan, both of which are swing states. [Editor's Note: While claims were made that ballots were being miscounted, lost or duplicated, after investigations in the week post election, there was no confirmable evidence of ballot tampering in the 2020 election.] Trump, knowing the battle would be hard-fought, held rallies in these states the week before the election, though this may have just been an effort to diminish Biden's reported leads. Either way, various Republican figures (and even Democratic ones such as Georgia

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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.



Image courtesy of Architectural Digest.

Cont'd "What Now?">>

State Representative Vernon Jones) have claimed an inability to fairly observe votes throughout several substantial polling places. Counter-arguments soon arose that it was a matter of COVID restrictions and supposed attempts by GOP observers to change votes themselves, but neither arguments has been completely confirmed at this time. Either way, this election has certainly mutated into the definition of political disorder.

Realistically, it does come down to one of two options. One is that Biden will continue on to a rightfully earned presidency, and the other is that Trump will prove fraud and continue on as the nation's unceremoniously used scapegoat for the next four years (that is if legitimate votes still bend in his favor, or that Biden is proven cheating without a doubt and will therefore be disqualified from the race). How does this affect the citizens of the United States? Oddly enough, the only way it can affect

anyone is based on how one chooses to let it affect them. Whether one be registered as Democrat or a Republican, a Biden lover or a Trump supporter, a liberal youth or a MAGA Bro, and any other categorical term that has been developed to often divide more than anything else, recall what the U.S. stands for. A collection of United States that must always work together for the best possible outcome whenever necessary, especially through the beautiful arrangement known as compromise. As many fine high school history teachers once stated, "The best deal is one in which both sides are slightly unsatisfied." With Thanksgiving just on the horizon, all Orediggers should remember these words and how everyone must be heard, even if a certain group labels them as "unacceptable". After all, if citizens were not free to live how they please, then this nation would never have been blessed with the presidential campaign of Kanye West, as well as the subsequent, jocular memes along with it. 🍂

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.

"I found a safe haven."

Anonymous

SASE Representative

I was not born in America. My family and I came from a third world country, escaping war and poverty that had struck it over the years. We came to America with the clothes on our back. My parents risked everything and left so much of their family to try and give their children a better chance at life. I grew up in a low-income household. In my specific area alone, most of the children I went to school with were also considered low-income. Lots of my friends growing up were all minorities. We struggled, fought, but managed to make it out for the most part. I have some friends in jail. I had to watch some friends get buried. It wasn't the easiest, but it's shaped who I am and where I came from. I say this not for any sympathy, but for perspective. I had to go to a community college before I came to Mines because my school did not properly teach and prepare for any STEM related college and majors. Once I completed my time at community college, I transferred to Mines. As I've mentioned before, I grew up with nothing but minorities. So, when I first stepped onto Mines, it was a complete culture shock. A lot of my peers came from some really nice areas, great households, and had amazing education before coming to Mines. Some of my fellow peers had such a jump in terms of engineering skills, so I had to work that much harder just to catch up. I found myself being over-

whelmed, and even alone, because no one else looked like me. I am a dark skinned Asian, and so many of my peers in classes were all white. I came from a low-income area, they did not. I came from an area with mostly minorities, they did not. It was hard to relate. It was hard to fit in. I found myself having imposter syndrome. It took a while, but I finally found a little place where I felt like I belonged. I was blessed to find the Multicultural Engineering Program (MEP) and within it, the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE). I found a place where I was able to relate to others! They looked like me, came from familiar areas like me, and even had similar struggles. I found a safe haven. But even if MEP and SASE felt safe, the rest of campus didn't always feel the same. I've had bad experiences with Mines Police. I've had racist encounters from my white counterparts. I've even felt the burden of being the only minority in a classroom. These experiences aren't isolated. Lots of my friends on campus have felt the same. The stories you've read on the [@csmsurvivors](#) and [@bi-poc_at_mines](#) pages are true. I know, because these people have told me! We still strive to make it happen, and there may be a push to make things better now, but I ask, do not stop! I've never let someone tell me I can't do things, nor have I allowed the multiple obstacles in my life stop me. My friends and I will continue to make things better for the next minority trying to come into Mines and make a change and difference. Lots of initiatives have been made, but again, keep it going! We're not looking to gain an advantage by any means, just set an even playing field. Our numbers for minorities at Mines are not representative of the minority population in Colorado, and the country. Keep trying to make it better. It's a lot right now, and lots of uncomfortable conversations are being held, but they need to be held! Thank you for helping to make it better for us minorities, but again, please don't stop. 🍂

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.

COVID and the Holidays

Lauren D'Ambra

Staff Writer

As the semester draws to a close and the holiday season approaches, it is safe to say that everyone is itching to get back to normal. Yet, as coronavirus cases continue to rise alarmingly across the country, the possibility of normal seems further than ever. Many are focusing on the upcoming holidays as a form of relief from the pressures of living in a COVID-era society. However, after Fall Break and Halloween, we have learned that the holidays are no excuse to let down our guard when it comes to COVID-19.

Many people were able to participate in semi-normal Halloween activities that had been modified to accommodate for social distancing guidelines and rules. Prior to Halloween, the CDC posted a list of activities ranked by how safe they were in terms of adhering to social distancing guidelines. On this list, activities such as virtual zoom par-

ties and movie nights with other members of a household were considered to be low risk, while activities such as normal trick-or-treating and in-person Halloween parties were labeled with the highest risk. The CDC has since modified this list to include other winter holidays along with suggestions on how to celebrate safely. As always, it is highly recommended that everyone avoids large crowds and crowded indoor spaces. After Halloween, a few cities noticed a large spike in cases and were able to trace the spread back to crowded parties with a large attendance rate. Avoiding crowds and keeping our distance is the key to celebrating safely. The CDC also states that wearing an appropriate mask that covers one's mouth and nose while maintaining a minimum six-foot distance from other people is still the best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

So, what does a safe holiday season look like? At the moment, it is not recommended that normal family and friend gatherings take place. Any

and all gatherings that do happen need to be outside or in a well-ventilated area where participants can distance themselves. For gatherings with food, it is recommended that only a limited number of people handle the food and that potluck style dinners should be avoided in order to avoid possible contamination. For those traveling this holiday season, it is highly recommended that all social distancing guidelines are strictly adhered to and that travelers make an extra effort to repeatedly sanitize while traveling. Having virtual gatherings/dinners with family and

friends over Zoom or a similar platform is strongly recommended.

In short: wear an appropriate mask, avoid crowded gatherings, and continue to wash your hands this holiday season. These guidelines are strict, but they truly are the best possible way to stop the rising number of COVID-19 cases and keep everyone safe as we celebrate together (in person or virtually). The holidays will definitely look a bit different this year, but no one can argue that this holiday season won't be one to remember. ❧



Image courtesy of Shane Cranor.

A Holiday Music Debate

Jade Glaister

Staff Writer

So, when is it? After Halloween? When it first snows? After Thanksgiving? Never? Always? We are now at the time of year when the greatest debate about the Holidays takes place! When can you start listening to holiday and Christmas music?

The answers to this question are extremely varied, and almost everyone is very passionate about their opinion. The dates designated as the appropriate times to initiate these festive tunes have strong points to support them. Arguments for setting deadlines for Christmas music are extremely necessary, as it is really hard to argue against constantly listening to Mariah Carey's classic "All I Want for Christmas Is You" and the beauty of Taylor Swift's "Last Christmas." Not only do these artists' Christmas music highlight their incredible voices, but the tunes bring joy to all those listening. The holly jolly spirit is definitely a fun mindset

to be in, so it is understandable that people want to experience it for longer than the short holiday season. Especially during these stressful times, a lovely serotonin boost from holiday music is nice to have. Even with the acknowledgment that festive music can be listened to for longer than December, when is the exact start date?

First off, a time period for Halloween music must be taken into account. Looking through the musical archives for this holiday reveals many masterpieces. "Monster Mash," "This is Halloween," and "Ghostbusters" are just a few of the incredible pieces of music that come from Halloween. Listening to Christmas music before October 31st may be dishonoring these songs. But, if you are looking for the cheer of the Christmas season, do spooky tunes have the effect that you are looking for? If not, holiday music may be acceptable even before Halloween, which is immensely controversial. Moving the date farther along, how about after Halloween? Now the two most popular sides of

the debate are introduced: can you listen to music right after Halloween or only once Thanksgiving is over?

This does bring in several arguments about Thanksgiving music and if Thanksgiving qualifies as a festive holiday. Although it is a lot less common, Thanksgiving music does exist. It may not be as plentiful or popular as Christmas music, but its existence should be acknowledged, especially "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" because lyric-less music is still amazing music. If Thanksgiving music gives you the same amazing feeling that Christmas music does, then you can save the holly jolly tunes for after Thanksgiving. This makes Christmas

music more special and less overplayed, causing the holiday serotonin boost to last longer. Regardless of many Thanksgiving music masterpieces, it does not provide enough holiday joy for everyone. Therefore, Christmas music may have to be played before Thanksgiving.

To conclude the debate, the decision may be that as long as you can strongly argue your choice to listen to Christmas and holiday music at a certain time, then it is the appropriate time. Now with that debate discussed... is the Nightmare Before Christmas a Halloween or a Christmas movie? ❧



Image courtesy of Molly Adams.

Staff Spotlight

Lauren D'Ambra

Staff Writer

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*. Louis Cogan is one of our many spectacular writers. He is currently a sophomore majoring in Civil Engineering and a member of the McBride Honors Program. Here is a little bit of our interview, and we'd like to give a special thanks to Louis for giving us a glimpse behind the scenes of *The Oredigger* (and reminding us to get outside and move around)!

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

"I joined in January of my freshman year. Initially, I had seen various flyers about it around campus, but I was getting used to Mines and I kind of figured, 'Well, I don't think I can really take much on my plate right now.' Then, January struck and I saw an opening in my schedule. I thought it would be good, not only to keep practicing writing because it's a hobby I like to do, but I also felt I was

definitely lacking a creative outlet. Since then, it's very much just been a fun continual exercise to practice my writing or if I feel there's really something I want to tell the public."

Q: How long have you been writing? Do you have a preferred style?

"It's kind of hard to tell because I feel like I've been sort of obsessed with storytelling my whole life. I was very much the kid who was glued to the TV, more so because I was really interested in what was going on, rather than the outside world. I would say I've been writing since maybe eighth grade when we had a lot of creative writing exercises in my English class. Since then, it's just been building and learning. I would definitely say my writing style is very informative with a little bit of levity or humor. I like to be light and slightly satirical to where the reader will get it."

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

"This year has been a little slow, at least for me, because last year I didn't dip my toes into the standard news as much. I mostly wrote articles concerning campus or what was going on in the media industry, but I can do only so much of that with the fact

luminated, something that I recognized in those wavering lines, like a truth recalled in a half-fiction that is barely remembered before being forgotten. It was one of those lazy, hazy, mist-coated summer nights-in truth, I was going mad, beset by the heat and my own boredom; the ennui was scraping away at me like chalk at a dry-erase board, the noise boiling away my brain which roiled and seethed as I paced back and forth over the bridge like a tiger locked within its cage. My heart was pounding thud, thud and thud, thud I had already come to the conclusion that you- sorry, she-would never thud, thud, arrive; this was all a cruel trick played by fate, thud, thud, that I had foolishly made her my queen and she in turn had made me her jester, thud, thud, and so I cursed her.

An hour passed, although it felt like four. I called her so many times and she never responded, so I stood there, inclined slightly over the railing, feeling that my mood would improve

that everything's getting delayed or just stopped entirely. I will say that this year the most interesting thing to cover has been the election, even though I haven't directly written about it. It seems like no matter what you have to have an awareness of that context. When I wrote the last article about the new internet age, I found myself sort of indirectly saying Trump was part of the catalyst because he's a memorable figure regardless of what you think about him. He just has an insane presence and he sped up the rate at which we understand things and current events because he helped translate it into a more humorous identity for Gen Z and younger millennials to understand.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to share?



Meet Louis Cogan. Image courtesy of Lauren D'Ambra

if I jumped over. In the dim light, I saw an ant crawl over the stark white bones sticking out of my fist, a lone astronaut exploring the forbidden maze of a vengeful giant, but just as soon as I raised my hand did he rush back to his nest, where his Queen waited. It was summer-I'm sure of it- but then why were there so many dead leaves everywhere? The footpath to the bridge was full of them, and they were everywhere; they encroached on the edges of the creek, running over the footpath and onto the pavement, they stuck to my windshield and made little crackling noises as I stepped on them.

Then I heard a thud, thud, but this time it was from behind me. She looked at me and in the moonlight it seemed as if there was a corona surrounding her body; her aura seemed to gleam and shimmer in the darkness. I was the ship whose hull breached the surface of the sea, and she was the corposant that lit my mast. We embraced under the

"If I can advocate for something: everyone exercise with everything that's going on! It's great for your mental health. Once I started exercising at the very beginning of last semester, I started feeling a little better because I was doing things every day. That's that, I just want to advocate for anyone reading, please do something physical."

(Louis Cogan is also working on his first novel, "Void", a science fiction story about a man coming to terms with his past in the 19th century. Any inquiries may be sent to his most frequently used email: lcogan@mymail.mines.edu)

For more from Lauren's interview with Louis check out the full store at <http://oredigger.net>

Creative Writing

Leo Mungekar

Staff Writer

Most of the time I was searching; searching for what, I don't know. We'd take the car and drive, sometimes to escape, but mostly to forget. I'd press the accelerator down and we'd be going 20, 40, 60 MPH, faster and faster, without any regard to the law or any officer or any damn pedestrian. The lines of houses would shift and blur, then turn into one big grey smudge that fell away into open country. I'd let out a little whoop, a holler, as I lurched forward, hurtling towards an uncertain death that I care little to describe, let alone articulate.

But no, that's not the beginning. Let's go back a couple months, perhaps to the night I was waiting for her at the creek. Yes, I was waiting on that rusted iron railing, looking for some form inscribed in those murky waters that the lamplights barely il-

Moon's gaze, speaking in a forgotten language that smelled like sex and magic and mystery. Yet underneath it all was a hint of a foul odor, a trace of damp and rotting leaves.

Time seems to bend on itself as I recollect more and more. My memories wind back like the hawsers pulling back an anchor, except the weight of my recollections holds the cables in gridlock while the ship burns and burns. That night we committed sacred acts, deranged acts; she convinced me to rob those paintings, then in the same breath commanded me to tear them to shreds; we played childish games such as tag and hopscotch in the park, then, later, we lay in a church that we had broken into and defiled; she convinced me to empty my wallet into the reservoir while I lay still laughing, watching the current pull the green bills under.

It's over. Finished. Done. ✨

Cont'd "Horoscopes">>

Scorpio: With us all shrinking our bubble to keep the rise in COVID cases down, at least we all have a reason to not invite that one uncle to Thanksgiving this year. No, uncle Sherman, it has nothing to do with the fact that you tell the same story every year about when you almost met Scarlet Johansson, it's the socially responsible thing to do.

Sagittarius: Has anyone else ever sneezed so loud that a Zoom dialogue box popped up to remind you that you are muted, or was it just me?

Capricorn: The holiday season is upon us, and you know what that means, the portion of the year when we all spend way more time than it should take to find the end of the roll of scotch tape.

Aquarius: I wish I could tell you your horoscope for this month, but Aquarius says that you failed the perception check.

Pisces: No joke here, Pisces just wanted to remind you to thank those who have helped you through this year. From teachers who were accommodating to friends and family who helped you stay sane, let those whose help made this year less unbearable know it.

Aries: I don't know how to break it to you, but Aries says that one of you will break up with your significant other at a white elephant party. He also said that it will hurt at the time, but later you'll realize it's better to have loved and been gifted lobster claw oven mitts than to never have loved at all.

Taurus: Help, I'm stuck in a horoscope factory.

Gemini: Gemini would like your help constructing a sanctuary for all the endangered jokes that no-one will understand in a generation if we don't take action now. If nothing

is done due to the closure of Toys-R-Us, no one will understand why older people refer to specialty stores as _____-R-Us. Similarly, one day soon, because of allergies, no one will understand why Peanuts would be associated with air travel.

Cancer: Today I noticed that the alternating tile pattern on one of the steps in the library is off, and now I can't focus on my school work while I'm trying to study there. Did it just slip the contractor's mind at 4 o'clock on a Friday, or is there buried treasure under that step?

Leo: Looking for something fun to do that doesn't require a big group of people? Since Sagittarius, Leo, and Aries are the fire signs if you get set up a time to play a round of Dungeons and Dragons with a couple of friends you can plan a Fire Nation attack.

Virgo: 2020 could still earn some major points if we make it through the (than necessary). Overall, I was pretty happy with what I chose to take!

Two of the courses I took are widely considered the "fun" courses; HASS 407: Science in Literature and HASS 415: Mass Media Studies. Unfortunately, it appears that Science in Literature is, unfortunately, no longer offered. However, I must say, I really enjoyed these classes. Both were fun, informative, and allowed me to learn interesting things about non-STEM related topics. Mass Media Studies, in particular, provided me with some valuable context for how media operates in the current day and age. Did you know that the news used to be considered a necessary public service? There was even a policy called the Fairness Doctrine that required the news to fairly cover both sides of an issue. The Fairness Doctrine was repealed in the '80s in favor of the "entertainment" news that we have today... but that's a topic for another article. I highly recommend taking at least one "fun" HASS course at Mines--it's nice to be obligated to devote some of your time to something created by society rather than by the laws of physics.

The other two courses I took were

year without 'ugly Charismas sweater inspired face masks' trending.

Libra: I asked Libra if they would consider updating from an analog scale to a digital scale. They proceeded to launch into a rant about 'how the measurement quality just isn't the same.' I guess even signs can be hipsters. ♀♁



Ack, I just had it! Image courtesy of Isabelle Goetz.

The Tale of Two HASS Pathways

Sophia Becker

News Editor

Shannon Keohane

Editor in Chief

As you all know, Mines students can choose one of two paths when it comes to liberal arts education: the McBride Honors program, or simply taking the foundational and elective courses required by their degree. In the following article, News Editor Sophia Becker and Editor-in-Chief Shannon Keohane discuss their experiences taking the traditional and McBride routes, respectively.

Traditional:

Choosing upper-level Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) electives might be one of the most daunting tasks in the eyes of a Mines underclassmen. Because these courses can be so hard to get into, especially as a younger student, it's not uncommon for sophomore students to panic and try to enroll in any course that has seats left post-junior/senior registration. As a recent Mines grad-

uate, I'm writing to tell you that there are definitely some courses that are worth the wait.

The Mines HASS department has been working hard to improve the liberal arts courses offered to the general Mines undergraduate population, introducing new and creative courses despite their limited staff. This is not to say that their consistent offerings are unsatisfactory, just that they have been putting in an admirable effort towards expanding their offerings to appeal to the interests and requests of more students.

At the time that I took HASS200, it was still called Human Systems and was not divided into multiple topics, so I won't be able to provide any advice along those lines--my apologies. Instead, my recommendations will focus on the more exciting HASS courses: the electives.

As a Chemical Engineering student, my bulletin recommended that I take upper-level HASS electives in my last three semesters. I (mostly) followed that recommendation, taking two each during the Spring of both my junior and senior years (one more

to satisfy the more serious student in me, relating to some potential future careers. The first of these courses was a 300-level special topics course called Research, Values, and Communication. It allowed me the opportunity to explore research methods and science communication at a time I was considering getting a PhD. The course featured a term project designed to get students to get a head start in research for their Senior Design project using tools and skills learned in the course. Though I wasn't able to use my research for my actual Senior Design project, I still use some of the tools they showed me in the course (the source-sorting and citation-generating application Zotero is a gift from the heavens). The other course, HASS 491: Energy Politics, was structured more like a typical course. It covered various topics from oil & gas to nuclear power to renewable energy. It was certainly interesting to learn more about the energy sector from a political perspective, since politics have a huge impact on the state of energy in the U.S. Both of these courses are more niche, but I recommend Research, Cont'd on page 11>>

Cont'd "two HASS pathways">>

Values, and Communication to anyone interested in how research ties in with science communication and Energy Politics especially to anyone interested in the politics of the energy industry, especially the politics of renewable energy.

In closing, my advice would be to choose whatever piques your interest! If a course seems like it would provide valuable information for your career, sign up for it! But, at the same time, don't stifle yourself by insisting that you must take only serious courses--if a course covers something you've always been intrigued by, but seems "unproductive", take it anyway! I encourage you to register for at least one "fun" HASS elective during your time here. You'll be glad you did.

McBride:

The most simplistic question to ask oneself before applying to the McBride Honors Program is, "Do I like to read and write (in copious amounts)?" If you pass this first check (or teeter between yes and maybe) then consider its benefits and lesser benefits (which some may perceive as drawbacks). First and foremost, being a McBride means being a member of a micro-community at Mines. Each and every McBride's personality, passion, and perspective weave together to form a diverse and thriving humanities-centric program. Then, there are the professors from Melanie Brandt to Toni Lefton to Justin Latici who have a zealous (if not bordering on devout) commitment to your holistic well-being and development. Further, the program and its curricula are not about cramming content and acing (or otherwise-ing) exams, McBride courses are based on discussion and critical thinking. The goal is to ponder complex issues from an array of perspectives while making obvious and serendipitous connections between topics of conversation and your fellow McBriders. I encourage Orediggers of all walks of life to explore the McBride Honors Program and consider applying during your freshman year for the chance to join Mines' unofficial liberal arts college. Note: Upperclassmen and transfer students can also apply

but should consult with the program director beforehand to figure out the best course of action.

A snapshot of previous course offerings, the following two courses were taught during the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 academic years. Other than the first two foundational courses, which every McBride takes, course offerings evolve from year to year along with the teaching staff. All courses fall within one of four categories: (1) Explorations in Politics, Policy, and Leadership, (2) Explorations in Ideas, Ethics, and Religion, (3) Explorations in Culture, Society, and Creative Arts, (4) Explorations in Science, Technology, and Society.

HNRS 450: EXPLORATIONS IN EARTH, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT

Course Theme: Environmental Film
Instructor: Shannon Mancus

In short, "This class explore[d] the ways in which films convey competing narratives about the relationship between humans and the environment." Shannon Mancus, apart from being a wonderful human being, teaches what she preaches. As far as I am aware, she continues to serve as the Hennebach Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Humanities and the interim director for the Hennebach Program at Mines. She devotes her time not only to fosters a healthy learning environment, but to crafting her own papers on the varied approaches with which writers weave environmental narratives into novel, movie, etc. plot. Of her pieces I have had the pleasure of reading, *Mother earth tied to the train tracks: The scriptive implications of melodrama in climate change discourse* is a gem. A line from the abstract: The essay examines the tropes of melodrama – which include Manichaeic dichotomies of good and evil, the implication that suffering is a marker of virtue, and the imperative of a dialectic of pathos and action – in order to analyse their implications for the potential to solve the impending tragedy of devastating climate change. To read the full-paper, students can use their Mines login for Academia.edu or search in the Arthur Lakes Library database.

We watched films ranging from *The Lorax* to *Mother!*, read various papers, and wrote reports analyzing literary and cinematic pieces with environment themes. For instance, my final paper entitled *Because I'm a wild animal: The Wild and Civilized of Mr. Fox*, was a deep delve into the film *Fantastic Mr. Fox*. Here's a snippet from the report: *Fantastic Mr. Fox* delves into the misconceived dichotomy between the "wild" and the "civilized," prodding viewers to introspect about their own sense of self and the interplay with their fellow animals that results. The animal characters are the other to the human farmers, and universal primitive instincts are the other to the civilized stature of each of the film's characters.

HNRS 445: EXPLORATIONS IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY

Course Theme: Thermo Human Dynamics – Heat, Energy, and Time
Instructors: Eliza Buhner and Rachel Morrish

Once again in short, "This course examine[d] the history of thermodynamics, from the discovery of energy conservation and entropy in the mid-nineteenth century, to its impact on 20th century science." The teaching staff of this course fused the perspectives of a medical science historian and thermodynamics professor to create a unique humanities-esque

experience. It's always an interesting conversation when entropy is discussed in the realms of science, philosophy, and religion or when thermodynamics is observed in science fiction and popular culture. No the spinning top in *Inception* would not go on forever (that is, unless they are still in a dream).

Each student was assigned a scientist to research and report on in the form of a paper and presentation. The topic, "How did history and culture impact the life and discoveries of your scientist?" My scientist of choice, Antoine Laurent Lavoisier, the Father of Modern Chemistry, was keenly aware of his times and fell victim to its inequities. Here's a glimpse into his conflicting pursuits: While fascinated by the sciences, Lavoisier was aware of the security intrinsic to inheriting his family's social status, especially in a society built on hierarchical stratification. Therefore, he pleased his family by first pursuing a stable and respectable profession in law. Meanwhile, he attended to his scientific interests by studying through public and private lectures on chemistry and physics and working under the apprenticeship of leading naturalists.

For even more enthralling course offered in the McBride Honors Program check out mcbride.mines.edu



Image courtesy of Molly Adams.

A Little Bit Homesick, A Little Bit Hungry



Some Delicious Broccoli Casserole for the holiday season. Images courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Caitlin Short
Staff Writer

I've never missed Thanksgiving at home before and adding to my list of firsts this year is bitter-sweet. I'm excited to stay here with my bubble of friends and make the best of it, but this is the longest I've been away from home.

My family is very tight-knit; my house is usually where both sets of grandparents as well as aunts, uncles, and cousins, meet up to eat and celebrate holidays, birthdays, and life events. Our house is cozy and always bursting with warmth, decorated for the season, with pictures of us on the walls and just a little bit of evidence of the cats that are hiding in other rooms. My family has been through a lot in recent years, and while the pandemic has made it harder to gather and celebrate, there's still a lot of love between us all, and a huge way we show our love is with good food.

My mom and grandma are awesome cooks, so the house always

smells amazing this time of year. My mom's apple pie and my grandma's rolls are my all-time favorites, but part of why they're so special is because they made them. I can help, sure, and one day I'll try to make them as well as they do, but it'll never be quite the same. That's why I've found another recipe in the last few years that I like - broccoli casserole. It's mostly just broccoli and cheese, two things I love, but I've helped make it for years and have recently taken it over as my own. It's a great recipe because it is simple and delicious and, most importantly, makes it easy for me to contribute to the full, warm house that bursts with family and chatter.

I'm 1,008 miles away from home but I can see what a party at my house looks like, smells like, and feels like. The dining room table is full of appetizers and my mom is bustling around the kitchen, worrying that there won't be enough food despite the covered counters, my brother is getting people drinks while my uncle passes out the one he made,

my dad is bustling around trying to be helpful, I'm just getting underfoot, and people are chatting and snacking in every available place.

The nostalgia hits like nothing else. I'm here doing what I need to do and being supported by my family and though I want to go home, I want to keep my family safe, too, and right now one outweighs the other. I can wait a while longer to go home - my mom promised me apple pie. So, without any more nostalgia, here's my family's broccoli casserole recipe.

Grandma's Broccoli Casserole

Ingredients:

- 1 bunch broccoli
- 1 can cream of broccoli/cheese soup
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese (measure with your heart)

- 1/3 cup breadcrumbs

- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine

Instructions:

1. Steam broccoli
2. Mix steamed broccoli with cream of broccoli/cheese soup
3. Add milk to thin
4. Pour mixture into 9 x 9 casserole dish and even out
5. Sprinkle grated cheddar cheese over top
6. Mix breadcrumbs with melted butter and over top of the casserole
7. Bake for about 15 minutes at 350 degrees

Thanksgiving is going to look a lot different for me this year, but the one thing that is going to stay the same is this recipe. I'm going to make this and eat it on a Zoom call with my family while they eat what they've made, and while it won't be nearly as good as our normal full spread, it'll still be a little piece of home. At any rate, my roommate and I might start a new tradition this year: Chinese takeout and A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving, just to feel like a kid again, and I think it'll still feel pretty special. 🍁



A Collection of Thanksgiving-esque Recipes

Below are a couple of recipe favorites from our Issue 5 content contributor Estelle Cronmiller, current Fighting Hunger at Mines President and Shannon Keohane, Editor in Chief.

Vegan Mushroom Gravy

Courtesy of NY Times Cooking

“This excellent vegan gravy features caramelized mushrooms and a little soy sauce for depth of flavor, making it good enough to serve to your meat-eating guests, too. Just be sure to use a good-quality vegetable stock, preferably one you’ve made yourself. You can simmer the gravy up to five days ahead and store it in the fridge. Reheat just before serving.”

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup EVOO
- 1/2 small onion, finely chopped
- 4 ounces baby portobello mushrooms



Images courtesy of NY Times Cooking.

Zucchini Bread

Courtesy of Southern Living

“This gratin is awesome with prime rib or beef tenderloin. Rosemary is a bossy herb that can take over a dish, so use it sparingly. We call for only 1 Tbsp. to season the entire gratin.”

Ingredients

- 1 (14.1-oz) package refrigerated piecrusts
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh rosemary
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

- rooms
- 1/2 cup AP flour
- 4 to 5 cups vegetable stock
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper

Preparation

1. In a large skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add onion and mushrooms; cook, stirring, until well browned, 8 to 10 minutes.
2. Sprinkle in flour and cook, stirring, until golden brown, 3 to 5 minutes. Slowly whisk in vegetable stock, a little at a time, until a smooth sauce forms. Simmer 2 to 3 minutes until thickened. Season with soy sauce, salt and pepper. Serve as is, or pass it through a fine mesh strainer.

- 2 cups (16 oz) shredded Gruyere cheese, divided

- 1 1/2 pounds sweet potatoes
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2/3 cup heavy cream
- 1 garlic clove, minced

- Garnish: fresh rosemary sprigs

Preparation

1. Preheat oven to 450°. Unroll piecrusts on a lightly floured surface. Sprinkle rosemary, pepper, and 1/2 cup cheese over 1 piecrust; top with

Zucchini Bread

Courtesy of All Recipes with modifications

This recipe is an all-time favorite, especially when Zucchini are in-season. The recipe doubles, and even triples, well. Use a toothpick to check for doneness. After the recommended amount of baking time, check each fifteen minutes with a toothpick for doneness. I pull it the first time a toothpick emerges clean and then warp with foil to keep it extra moist in the center.

Ingredients

- 3 cups Einkorn Flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3 flaxseed eggs (1 tbsp water and 3 tbsp water combined ahead of time)
- 1 cup vegetable oil (may be substituted with sunflower oil, apple sauce, or if you enjoy coconut then coconut oil)
- 2 1/4 cups sugar (may be substituted with coconut sugar or apple sauce)

remaining piecrust. Roll into a 13-inch circle. Press on bottom and up sides of a 9-inch springform pan; fold edges under. Chill.

2. Meanwhile, peel and thinly slice Yukon gold and sweet potatoes.

3. Layer one-third each of Yukon gold potatoes, sweet potatoes, and salt in prepared crust. Sprinkle with 1/4 cup cheese. Repeat layers twice, pressing layers down slightly to fit.

4. Microwave cream and garlic in a 1-cup microwave-safe measuring cup at HIGH 45 seconds; pour over potato layers in pan. Sprinkle with remaining 3/4 cup cheese. Cover

- 3 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 cups grated zucchini
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

Preparation

1. Grease two 8 x 4” pans. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F.
2. Mix liquid and dry ingredients (except zucchini and walnuts) in separate bowls and then combine. Stir in the zucchini and walnuts and then pour into the prepared pans (I suggest sprinkling some nuts on top of the batter as well).
3. Bake for 40 to 60 minutes with a foil teepee cover (remove after an hour). Test with a toothpick until doneness. Cool and remove bread from pan.



Images courtesy of All Recipes.

pan with heavy-duty aluminum foil. Place on a baking sheet.

5. Bake at 450° for 1 hour. Uncover and bake 25 minutes or until potatoes are done and crust is richly browned. Let stand 10 to 15 minutes. Carefully transfer to a serving plate, and remove sides of pan. If desired, carefully slide gratin off bottom of pan using a long knife or narrow spatula. Garnish, if desired.



Images courtesy of Southern Living.

Recipes cont'd on Pg. 14>>

The Analytical Cy Young



Jimmy Betsill
Sports Editor

About one year ago I wrote an article and interview with at the time MLB All-Star Trevor Bauer, along with his father and Mines Alum Warren, when he made an appear-

ance at Mines to make a presentation for the Mines Sports Analytics Club. The title of his presentation was Data Analytics in MLB Where Nerds finally beat the Jocks. It was a great presentation and you should go back and read that article if you didn't.

I guess that title was only fitting

considering the amazing performances by Trevor this year which lead to him being named the 2020 NL Cy Young Award winner (given to the best pitcher in MLB's National League). Trevor was entering a contract year along with his first full season (if you consider 60 games a full season) with the Cincinnati Reds and he performed unbelievably well. Trevor finished 5-4 with a 1.73 Earned Run Average over 11 games. His ERA was the third-lowest amongst NL Cy Young winners and the fifth-lowest among all Cy Young Winners in the 21st century. He pitched for 73 innings only allowing an astoundingly low 41 hits and 17 runs (only 14 of which were earned).

He also helped lead Cincinnati to their first playoff appearance since 2013 where they lost two consecutive games to the Atlanta Braves in the National League Wild Card Series. This was despite him shutting out At-

lanta for 7 2/3 innings, with two hits allowed, no walks, and 12 strikeouts. Trevor's start looks even more impressive considering it was against fellow NL Cy Young contender Max Fried (who had 7 shutout innings in the game) and against what was considered by many the best offense in the MLB that included NL MVP winner Freddie Freeman along with an MLB leading four Silver Sluggers. It was one of the best pitching performances of the season and a summary of his season-long performance as he became the first Red to win a Cy Young.

The outspoken pitcher turned his analytics into the most prestigious individual pitching award in baseball and silenced many critics in the process. We were very grateful for the time Trevor was willing to give us last year for our interview and all of us at The Oredigger would like to congratulate him on winning the NL Cy Young Award. 🍀

Cont'd "Recipes">>

Vegan Mushroom Gravy

Courtesy of feasting at home

"Chinese Eggplant with Szechuan Sauce with chilies and peanuts- a tasty, easy vegan dinner recipe! Serve with Rice, black rice, cauliflower rice, quinoa or rice noodles."

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 lbs Japanese Eggplant (about 4 x 10 inch eggplants)
- 2 teaspoons salt
- bowl of water
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2-4 tablespoons peanut oil (or wok oil)
- 4 cloves garlic, rough chopped
- 2 teaspoons ginger, finely minced
- 5-10 dried red chilies

Szechuan Sauce:

- 1 teaspoon Szechuan peppercorns (or sub regular peppercorns)

- 1/4 cup soy sauce or low sodium soy sauce

- 1 tablespoon garlic chili paste (or sub 1 teaspoon chili flakes)

- 1 tablespoon sesame oil

- 1 tablespoon rice vinegar

- 1 tablespoon Chinese cooking wine (or mirin)

- 3 tablespoons sugar, brown sugar, coconut sugar, maple syrup or alternative

- 1/2 teaspoon five spice

Garnish with scallions and roasted peanuts or this Peanut Chili crunch

Instructions

1. Cut eggplant into 1/2 inch thick half-moons or into bite-sized pieces (see photos). Place in a big bowl covered with water and stir in 2 teaspoons salt. Cover with a plate and let stand 20-30 minutes.

2. In the meantime, chop the garlic and ginger and make the Szechuan Sauce.

3. To make the Szechuan Sauce: Toast the Szechuan peppercorns in a dry skillet over medium heat for 1-2 minutes. Crush. Place these along with the remaining ingredients (soy, chili paste, sesame oil, rice vinegar, Chinese cooking wine, sugar, and five spice) in a small bowl and whisk. Set by the stove.

4. Drain and rinse the eggplant and pat dry with a towel. Toss with the corn starch.

5. Working in 2 batches, heat 1 -2 tablespoons oil in an extra-large skillet over medium heat. Add half the eggplant spreading them out. You want to get both sides nice and golden, and the insides cooked through -so take your time here and dont rush this step. Let one side brown then turn them over using tongs. This will take about 10 minutes for each batch. (If in a hurry sometimes I'll use 2 pans.) Set the eggplant aside.

6. Add 1 more tablespoon oil to the skillet, and over medium heat, add the garlic and ginger, stirring for 2 minutes. Turn the fan on, add the dried chilis and stir one minute. Pour the Szechuan sauce into the pan and bring to a simmer for 20 seconds.

Add the eggplant back into the skillet, tossing gently for about 1 minute. If it seems dry add a tablespoon of water to loosen.

7. Place in a serving dish and top with scallions and optional peanuts.

8. Serve with rice, cauliflower rice, black rice or rice noodles.

Notes

Be patient browning each side of the eggplant. This will take a little time but reward you greatly.

I've found that the flat surface of a skillet, verses using a wok is much easier to use to get those sides golden.

Feel free to sub cashews for the peanuts, or leave off completely.



Images courtesy of feasting at home.

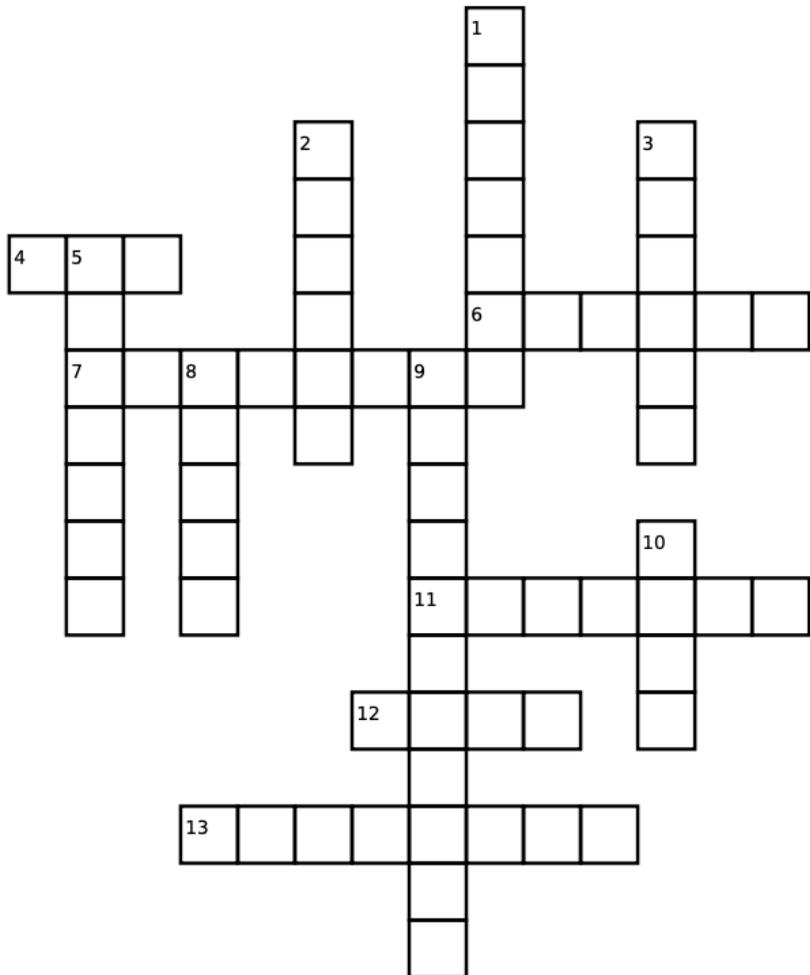
Issue 5 Crossword

Down:

1. _____ the burro
2. _____ the miner
3. _____ on (veggie pun)
5. in the kitchen _____
8. soil
9. habitat
10. pick up _____ grade

Across:

4. mines jedi master
6. power
7. students giving back
11. _____ calm (veggie pun)
12. no _____ days
13. mines traingle



												1
											2	3
			4				5					
				1								
					3			6				
			7					5	8			
					6	7						
							4					
5	2											



Origami Yoda

Try out your hand at this origami craft and share your results with oredig@gmail for a change to win a Domino's gift card.

How TO Fold

YODA!

BY EvilEwok

1. Start with a SQUARE.
(Green side up)



2. Fold corners in



3. Flip over



4. Let folds from step 2 unfold.



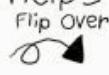
5. fold down



6. tuck inside



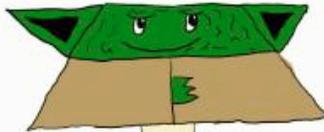
7. Pssst... tape helps here



8. crinkle ears



decorate:
draw face
+ wrinkles
+ hand



IT'S YODA!



Tailings

Congratulations to Maisy Ryan for finding Blaster the Burro and Marvin the Miner hidden in Issue 4! She correctly guessed that Marvin the Miner dressed as Bob Ross and Blaster the Burro dressed as a "Wheel-burro" for Halloween! Watch for an email to claim your gift certificate.

Admire the comic below and then check our Page 15 for another chance to win a Domino's gift certificate. Email oredig@gmail.com with your entry.



Comic courtesy of Lauren D'Ambra.

To become a graphic artist or photographer for the paper, email oredigvisuals@gmail.com.