

How Much Will Your Degree be Worth?

Matthew Koenig, Student Representative of the Strategic Planning Committee

What do CU grads use to park in handicapped spaces? The answer illustrates the seriousness of the strategic plan to students on the Mines campus ... CU graduates use their diplomas to park in handicapped spaces (groan!). The reputation of Mines has rested on the abilities of its graduates. Professional engineers who can hit the ground running, solving various complex problems have attracted many companies to recruit from our campus. Yet, in the midst of high times, a terrible monster lurks in the shadows. Last year, the monster showed its horrible face, tearing into the soft underbelly of our wonderful institution. Financial setbacks caused the layoff of many Mines employees, downsized funding to programs, and produced a one million dollar shortfall in the Mines budget. As a state institution, the Colorado School of Mines receives funding for each in-state student. The problem is that Mines has always relied on these funds to continue its normal operating patterns. When the economy takes a turn for the worst, the state looks to cut its spending—higher education is an easy target. The school cannot withstand another attack by this ravenous ogre. Therefore, a Strategic Plan is being devised to relieve our school from the chains of uncertain state spending.

The Strategic Plan should not be considered a 'plan' at this state. Instead, it's a vision of where we should be in the next five to ten years. Nonetheless, the Strategic 'Vision' incorporates short-term goals to help lead our school out of financial instability. "By what magic did this Strategic Vision burst out of thin air?" you may ask. Well, the answer is this: The CSM Board of Trustees (BOT) began work on this subject about two years ago. They brought in the consultant, Eva Klein, whom many believe did not do a fair job in gathering input from the Mines community. As a result, her recommendations and the BOT's forceful push to get CSM rolling put the community in arms. Like a scene in Frankenstein, faculty, students, staff, even the Alumni Association, revolted with torches and pitchforks in their hands. Which brings us to the present.

A Strategic Planning Commit-

tee, embracing administration, faculty, staff, campus constituencies, and **students**, has been formed to advance and refine the work done thus far. The committee has been empowered to organize and synthesize the major planning elements in terms of strategy, tactics, and timing of progressive implementation. So far, the committee has used input from the campus community—including both undergraduate and graduate student contributions—to develop five high level goals for which to strive.

Goal 1: Become a World-Class Research Institution.

Goal 2: Add Value to the Curriculum.

Goal 3: Increase and Restructure the Revenue Base, and Use Resources More Efficiently.

Goal 4: Modify Student Demographics.

Goal 5: Expand Partnerships. A lot of you are now asking yourselves, "Well that sounds just fine and dandy, but how do they expect to do this?" The answer, my friend, is not here ... yet. This is where you can decide where the future of Mines shall be. The Strategic Planning Committee is clear that it should interface and communicate with Institution-wide constituencies that are affected by the proposed strategic directions, to analyze and refine the direction of the plan and anticipate the consequences of implementation. We also strive to educate the community on our progress. Student concerns are of the utmost importance. Ask not what the Mines reputation can do for you, but what input you can provide to keep the reputation flying. It will make the difference of getting a \$50,000/year job, or a management position at your favorite fast food restaurant. We, the students, need to make sure the direction of the Mines reputation stays on a course for the better.

If you have questions, concerns, comments, want to know if what you heard is actually true, or would like to know how you can help impact the Strategic Planning Process, contact your Student Representatives of the Strategic Planning Committee. We want to know what you have to say. Let us have it!

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We will be holding Strategic Plan Focus Meetings through next semester so students can voice their concerns, become educated about the Strategic Plan, and eat pizza. We are also happy to come speak to any campus group.

The Oredigger

THE VOICE OF COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES, A SUPERIOR EDUCATION IN APPLIED SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING



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Coughing in a Winter Wonderland

**The Duke
(aka Andrew Gonzales)**

Wow, I can hardly believe it's that time of the year again. Kids are frolicking in the abundant snow, strangers are being kinder on the streets...hell is freezing over... What a great time to step into the fresh, wintry, beer-smelling air outside and inhale deeply... if you can even stop coughing for long enough to attempt a labored breath through your stuffy nose. That's right, it's cold and flu season again!

Now I can see your bitter beer faces of disgust forming, but for your sake I hope it's for whatever Mike Devloo has written this week; we should appreciate a disease with such a rich history. You see, the flu first sprung up back in the Dark Ages (also known as the "In Between Ages") under its appellation of the time: "The Black Death." After killing one third of Europe's population, the flu decided to join the Witness Protection Program and hideout in a quaint border town in the Alps. There it remained happily until some jackass (Jonas Salk) decided to stick it in a needle and

put up signs saying "Come Get Poked With a Needle AND Injected with a Nasty Disease!" And that's where we are today.

I know many of you are eager to finish reading this so you can go back to playing Halo, but my first duty as an editorialist is education, so just hold on a little longer. I want to give you some little-known facts about the flu shot:

1)Did you know that when you receive an influenza vaccination, you are in effect sleeping with everyone your nurse has ever slept with? That's an easy way to catch a nasty disease (like the flu!) so be careful.

2)Oh, and also, they don't work.

Now that we've cleared up some of the common misconceptions, I would like to give you some well-tested methods for fighting the flu or the cold:

1) Drink lots of fluids (alcohol). If there's one thing a virus can't stand, it's swimming, so just drown those suckers out. (By the way, this is also an excellent remedy for depression)

2) If you aren't old enough, just get alcohol's cheap, legal cousin from over the counter: NyQuil. This little love potion is 190 proof, so just one shot will make the virus forget it's there for a few hours so you can go back to your busy schedule of watching Strong Bad.

3) Stay away from the kid down the hall that's always touching his crotch. You should probably do this even outside of flu season.

4) Don't get a flu shot.

I would write more, but I obviously don't know much about fighting these diseases; I've been sick for almost three weeks now. Also, I'm a little out of it from having a constant stream of DayQuil and NyQuil flowing into my veins (I recommend mixing the two to form "Quil", a highly addictive hallucinogen). Until next time, I'm out.

Email The Duke at TheDukeOfMines@hotmail.com Feel free to send him whatever questions/comments/complaints/suggestions/viral infections you may have.

The Editor's Corner

The undergrad-stu mailing list.

I mean, seriously, does EVERY organization on campus get spam rights to this list? Maybe it's just me being anal, but it annoys me having pointless ads and announcements on this list. There should be two lists, an undergrad-announcements and then the undergrad-stu lists. The undergrad-stu list should have things that are actually pertinent to all our lives, such as the closure of Illinois for a few days. Things that are utilitarian. The undergrad-announce should have all the rest of the stuff that you may or may not care about, the announcements of events, gatherings, riots, dances, possums crossing the street, or whatever else you may think of. But not things that might directly impact my life and are terribly important for me to know.

It's probably me being anal, though.

Alright. I hate to say it, but everyone here at Mines sucks. EVERYONE. I mean, I go out of my way to find an article where someone ridicules and flat out denies ALL advances made in physics since Newton, and no one here bats an eye. In a school that has a good portion of it's students majoring in physics. The apathy is just baffling. I mean, what, it takes you all of five whole minutes to sit down and type out an email to oredig@mines.edu? I'll even put it larger here, so you don't have to think as hard.

OREDIG@MINES.EDU

Now, quit being a bunch of caluminous half-faced measles (apologies to all fans and foes of old english) and write something. Care about something. Stop being a typical fat, lazy, stupid American and let your opinions be known.

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