

The Oredigger

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



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Response From the Board of Trustees

Dear Chase:

Thank you for expressing your concern regarding the growing student population and its potential impacts. You raise several issues that have been concerns of mine as the Student Trustee throughout our strategic planning process.

Please let me underscore the centrality of quality to our School. Our prestigious reputation is no doubt attributable to the School's relentless pursuit of the finest engineering education and strict, rigorous education standards. The Board (most members are themselves CSM alumni) continually reaffirms its commitment to ensuring quality.

In fact, the impetus for the current strategic planning process came from a realization that, to preserve and further develop the School's quality and reputation, certain evolutionary changes may be necessary. The School leadership has concluded that we suffer from a fundamental lack of "horsepower" to achieve the grand vision shared throughout the Mines community; economic and political realities make a strategic decision for growth necessary to maintain and enhance quality in the future.

The strategic planning committee, composed of faculty, students, classified staff, alumni, and administration, has the primary charge for the Plan's development. Be assured the ultimate goal of the planning process is to make CSM better. The current draft of the Strategic Plan directly addresses your concern about neglecting quality in the name of growth. Quality is referenced several times in the Plan's eleven pages. On page 7: "Undergraduate education continues as a strategic priority, undiminished in Mines' value system—even as other, related strategic directions accelerate." And on page 10: "The Mines community recognizes that moderate, planned growth in student enrollment is a necessary element of this resource expansion strategy. However, it also insists that quality of the educational experience not be diluted through such growth."

I have personally raised the quality issue on numerous occasions when speaking with School administration. Two specific areas of my concern were the potential impact of growth on the quality of admitted students and the potential impact of growth on the quality of education delivered to current and future students. I have asked various people in administration numerous times about both of these areas. I have been assured that admission standards have not been relaxed in the least. Also, the administration is making faculty and staffing plans accordingly for enrollment increases. In my opinion, both fears have adequately been allayed.

You are concerned that necessary classes are not available to you because of your large class. Please know the School is legally bound to provide the requisite courses for graduation in four years, given sufficient academic performance. I recently checked available openings in the two classes you mentioned: Physics II and Calculus III. There has apparently been a third section added to the Physics II slate; Calculus

III at this time still has problems. Dean Cheuvront has assured me that all students requiring these core classes will be accommodated.

I would like to point out that, while this year's freshman class is record in size, it is so by only a handful of students. My freshman class, entering in fall 2000, was nearly the same size as yours (763 students in 2000, 771 students in 2003). I have had no problems ultimately enrolling in the classes I needed to graduate in four years. When first considering the growth issue, I asked myself what an extra 30 or 50 students would mean in my entering class. The School would have accommodated the difference by adding another Calculus I section and another Chemistry I recitation section. The administration plans to grow freshman enrollment by thirty students in 2004, then by fifty students each subsequent year for four years, bringing the total freshman enrollment to 1000. Yet during this expansion, faculty size will be expanded proportionately. In fact, financial models of the Strategic Plan project a better student-to-faculty ratio in the future.

While any negative impact will be negligible if properly executed, directed growth will have a distinct and considerable positive effect for Mines. An expanded resource base will allow us to more effectively pursue our research and eminence goals. An expanded alumni base will more effectively promote the virtues and reputation of the School to potential students and the general public throughout the country and the world.

While there have been—and still are—critics of the process and plan, I am pleased with the outcome. I am encouraged and excited by the promise this plan holds for Mines. From my service on the Board, I am convinced that Mines' future will be as preeminent and transcendent as its past.

Kale Franz
Student Trustee
CSM Board of Trustees

For additional information on the Strategic Plan, visit:
http://www.mines.edu/academic/affairs/strategic_plan.htm

Jim In Bold

Heidi Bauer

Two mentions were made about the film "Jim In Bold" in the last issue of the Oredigger. Both were encouraging Mines students to watch the film. I wish to inform readers of the Oredigger that this film is actually on reserve to everyone at the library under "Sigma Lambda." It is available for a two-day check out so you can conveniently watch it at home, or you could opt to watch it in a screening room available in the library as well. Sigma Lambda wishes to thank Equality Forum for the donation of this film.

Be What You Are: Smart

It has always bothered me that women hide their intelligence as much as they do. Having talked to many women about this phenomenon, I have learned that women hide their intelligence so that men are not scared off, and will find them attractive. Women who show their intelligence tend to be shunned by men. This bothers me greatly.

I know one woman in particular who is proud of her intelligence, and has no qualms about showing it to the world. She does not do this in a boastful manner, but simply uses complicated words in her speech and expresses complicated ideas in her conversation. She isn't afraid to answer a question in class and she isn't hesitant to respond "A" when asked what grade she got on an exam. Yet this woman has been asked out only once in the last three years, and, when asked, men cite the reason as being her show of intelligence.

I myself find intelligence the most attractive feature a woman can have, but I understand that many men would disagree with me. Be that as it may, I find it disturbing, even disgusting, that men as a group shun and down-trodden intelligent women to the point that they are forced to hide their intelligence to even be considered by the majority of men. What does that say about us as a gender?

One of my biggest hopes when first coming to CSM was that here, amongst a conglomeration of all forms of geeks, women could show how intelligent they were without fear of being left alone by the opposite sex.

Here I hoped to find other men

who could appreciate intelligence in a woman.

I look around, and it seems to me that either this is not the case, or that (thanks to previous schools and previous experiences) it is so ingrained in women that to have brains is to be undesirable that, even here, they dare not show their true selves.

Let's face it men. To a great many of us, intelligent women are undesirable. This could be for any one of numerous reasons: we are intimidated by them, we prefer those less capable than us, there's an evolutionary reason in-born within us that says the ideal mate is the one who we know will always look up to us...for whatever reason, to most men, intelligence in a woman is a turn-off. This does not make sense. Isn't intelligence a desirable attribute? Wouldn't we all like to be smarter? Why are we not attracted to THIS desirable attribute, when we are plenty attracted to the desirable physical attributes?

I am writing this in an attempt to convince you all of two things.

Men: Intelligent women are treasures. They will see things you don't, they will have perspectives you won't, they will think of things you won't, and your life will be better for it. When forming a partnership, you try to find someone who is either equal to you or better, so that your partnership has the best chance of succeeding. Why should this be any different?

Women: The men who will treasure your intelligence find that intelligence attractive. Don't hide it! Dazzle the world with the brilliance you keep hidden! While some men may then ignore you, an entirely different group of men will start paying you much more attention. Over the long run, you want to be appreciated for who you are, not for an act you portray. Why portray the act in the short run?

Every person in this school is intelligent; else they would not be here. Let's all show our full intelligence, let's all exhibit the powers of our brains, let's all really be what we are: damn smart.

- wrote best credo ever to trr

Poetry Corner

Requiem for an Unknown Note

Requiem for an Unknown Note

Where in life is there well-known
everything you've done in life?
Where in life does there exist
proof that you did live a life?

-
There is one place this exists
Inside your own fragile head
Cherish these, your precious past
A life-important treasure

-
Without memories there is no existence

You cannot show existence exists
Should your memories disappear
Your life disappears

-
Should you not remember your favorite toy

Should you not remember your favorite game

Should you not remember your favorite place

Your favorites disappear

-
Should you not remember your first love

Should you not remember your first hate

Should you not remember your first kiss

Your firsts disappear

-
Should you not remember your own past

Should you not remember your own being

Should you not remember your own existence

Your life disappears

-
And you would be as I now am
Destined to be desisted
And you will be as I will be
A note no one knew existed

-
Treasure your memories, and treasure them well

For once they are gone, no more will they dwell

No more are you there, you will hear the bell

Tolling your death, in memory as well

- wrote best credo ever to trr

The Editor's Corner

Next year y'all. I'm out bitches!

Andrew Gonzales
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