



Golden Trident

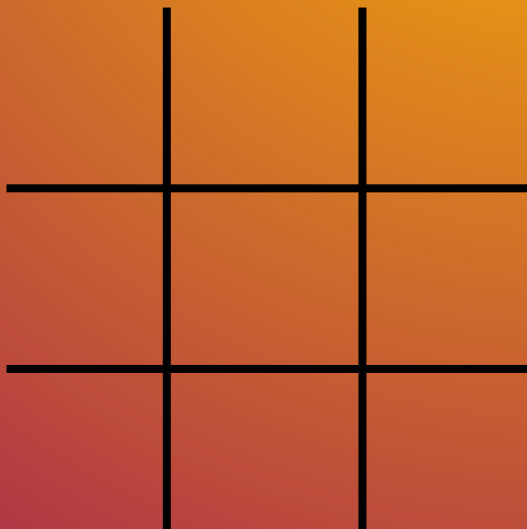
See all the Homecoming
fun! (Pg. 8 & 9)

Check out the new
Demonconnections game (Pg. 2)

November 2024

Demonnections

Alice	Mitch	Republi- can	Coach
Catchi- ng	Parade	Democ- rat	Election
Wood	Parking	Style	Alice
Homeco- ming	Game	Keirns	Dance



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Demon Connections



What Happened to GoCo Hoco?

Story and photo by Lila Qualteri and Lilly Phillips

Is anyone feeling weird about Homecoming this year? You're not alone. There have been some changes made to the long-held traditions of GHS. The most obvious and bothersome change made this year was the obvious schedule change. Traditionally Golden Homecoming has been in late September-early October. This year the dance fell on October 17th, and Golden's fall break.

In an interview with Mitch, he stated that this was because the Colorado School of Mines has an increasingly busy football season and schedule. Because of this, Mines would not be able to host us until the week of the 14th. The Golden administrators wanted to make sure that we were able to accommodate the hoards of people the Homecoming game brings in, and this was the only way to do it.

The dance being on a Thursday was a direct result of this. Because Homecoming was on fall break, our administration decided they should put the dance on Thursday, leaving the weekend free so that we could have somewhat of a fall break.

On top of the strange schedule, some of Golden's favorite traditions have seemingly been lost. Notably the bonfire was canceled and replaced with "Movie Under the Stars." This was unfortunately under the control of our administration. The fire bans in Jeffco this year prevented us from actually being able to have a bonfire. While sometimes Golden can get a specific permit to allow them to hold the bonfire anyway, the fact that Homecoming Week was so late in the year made this hard to do.

Another fun tradition we love is the Homecoming parade. Every year before the football game, different sports teams, and each class make floats that we take down Washington Avenue. However, after a few years of students not putting a lot of work into the class floats, the admin has decided to only do a student body float and not one for each class. The last few years we've had teachers such as Sam Irving and Christian Polo helping with class floats and they've been doing more work than the kids. This year the student body float is being helped by Señor Polo and he's done almost all of the work. Hopefully in the next few years, we can put more effort into those floats and continue that tradition.

Overall we can all agree that Homecoming was different this year. Lots of it was not under our control and the administration had to make sacrifices. There are things that both staff and students can change to make our next Homecoming better and more enjoyable. However, the effort and collaboration put into this cannot be overlooked. "Movie Under the Stars" was a great solution to an unsolvable problem and though it broke tradition, still brought students and staff together. The parade was still successful and both the dance and game had their highlights.

In the future Homecoming will hopefully go back to normal, but not without your help Demons!



How Very Curious: Stage Right's Alice in Wonderland

By Olly Johnson

Photos provided by Allie Matsuo

For their first performance, Stage Right Productions assembled the William Glennon version of “Alice in Wonderland.” This version of “Alice in Wonderland” takes the approach of a theater crew trying to find an Alice actress to continue the show. This is an exciting direction, but it doesn’t get fleshed out enough to change the story drastically. As with most Stage Right productions, the main highlight is the actors. Alice (played by Hope Songer) was absolutely amazing, with most of the lines being full of curiosity and charm. The White Rabbit (played by George McBride) took some time for me to like, but eventually won me over the course of the show with his whimsy, especially in the second act. However, my favorite performance is from the Queen of Hearts (played by Corey Saffer). His performance instantly stole the show with how manic yet prideful the Queen was; it was a real delight to watch. One of the best things about Stage Right’s “Alice in Wonderland” is how many small details are sprinkled throughout the production. From minor characters having silent conversations and doing something in the background while the main characters are talking, to the way Alice’s clothes have various patches sewn in (in fact, most, if not all the costumes are spectacular), to how the White Rabbit jumps off the stage with what can best be described as a flutter. The show is filled with all of these little bits of details that added just a little extra charm to the performance.



There was a distinct change between the first and second acts. The second act had more memorable characters such as the Mad Hatter (played by Elliot Martinez) and the Queen of Hearts, and far more fun and interesting scenes like the croquet game and the trial. Other than the scene with the really fun duo of the Dutchess (played by Abby Trapp) and the Cook (played by Jojo Beaber) and the opening scene, most of the first act was extremely confusing (on purpose). An unfortunate lowlight was the falling down the rabbit hole scene. It was ambitious, and I can see where they were going with it. The use of flashlights made it feel chaotic and hectic.

The sound of the footsteps of the people holding the flashlights made it difficult to hear what Alice was saying, which left the audience confused and lost for the following 10 minutes during and after the scene. This can also be due to how the scene starts. The White Rabbit ran on stage, proclaimed he was late, and ran into this hole to the left of the stage. Alice approaches it, but walks away from the hole saying reasons she can’t enter the rabbit hole. But she convinces herself to enter the hole verbally, but never returns back to the hole. What this results in is the chaos of the rabbit hole scene coming out of nowhere, causing far much more confusion as to what is happening.

However, this doesn’t take away from the quality expected from Stage Right Productions. It was still a fun watch and would recommend seeing it if possible on either September 5th-7th. If you missed it, the next big performance is “Hamlet” in October, which is set to be as good as the prior productions. Though there is more to improve on, Stage Right’s “Alice in Wonderland” is a fun production that is full of charm and care.

What is Going on in the GHS parking lot?

Story and photo by Lilly Phillips and Kamryn Casebeer

If you know, you know.

The Golden High School parking lot has been a topic of conversation in recent weeks with the new school year starting and if you're someone who drives to and from school every day, you might understand why. It can take up to 30 minutes just to get out of the parking lot at the end of the day. Students have expressed annoyance about the price of parking passes, and many students don't even get a pass. And we were wondering, what can we do about this? Is there even a solution at all? So, we interviewed our very well-known Community Liaison, Mitch, about this topic.



The first thing that we talked to Mitch about was the prices of the parking passes here at Golden, in which he told us that the Jeffco district sets the price of \$125, and that they have no control over the prices. But, GHS does set the price of the tickets that we receive, which are \$20.

“Golden gets the money from the tickets, it normally goes into the security budget which goes to the security cameras, radios, the golf cart and repairs for that.” Some people have suggested the idea of simply expanding the parking lot which would help with supplying more parking spots, but

with the surroundings of our school, it's hard to do that. We have a creek on one side of our campus, which means we can't expand it on that side. It would also become a flood hazard for the surrounding neighborhood if we filled the creek. “The trees are beautiful, the courtyard has been here since the old school, so everything has been planned here with a purpose.” Mitch stated.

Unfortunately, our parking lot is too small to provide a spot or parking pass to everyone, which is what causes people to park here without a parking pass, or even park in the grass or on a sidewalk. This ends up being a problem when these students get ticketed. As much as kids don't like being ticketed, Mitch and the security guards don't enjoy it either. “We also like when you're here at school so there's that happy balance.” Even though Mitch has to ticket cars sometimes, his main priority is just having us all at school.

However, fortunately for the people who didn't get parking passes, Mitch sent an email which maps out other places students can park near the school. And even though not everyone can get a pass, the school tries to accommodate students as much as possible. He talked about multiple resources such as public transportation like the RTD bus stop right in front of our school, Jeffco school buses, and carpooling with your peers. If you didn't get a pass this year or aren't driving, the school is going to continue the lottery in the following years. Mitch stated that, “This was the first year that we did the lottery, everyone [juniors and seniors] followed directions and filled out the form by 3:15 on the day that it was due, all the seniors were guaranteed a spot and all the juniors were guaranteed the lottery. Around the first 140 people got high school spots, the next 40 people got parking on 24th Street.”

Every year, we get more freshmen in the school and these past few years the freshmen classes have gotten exceedingly big, so as these students turn 16 and start driving, there's not enough space in the parking lot for everyone. This is why it is important to follow the rules that GHS has set in place in order to keep it fair for the students who got a pass. When sophomores, and even juniors start driving and couldn't get a pass, they still want to park at school so that they can go to lunch with their friends, and leave school for things like sports and work without getting picked up by their parents, which is understandable, but it then becomes a problem because there isn't enough parking space for everyone, even the students with passes.



What Would Wood Think?

By Jax Mckinnon

Photo curtesy of Jax Mckinnon

If you've ever found yourself in the English hallway and heard a voice yelling in some sort of accent about something that seems completely irrelevant to an English class, you probably heard Samuel Wood, Golden's longest-standing English teacher.

Wood is a self-proclaimed "Navy brat," born in Beaufort, South Carolina, who has lived in a plethora of places throughout his life, including Maine, Virginia, Scotland, and England. He graduated from Elon University in North Carolina, majoring in philosophy, theater, and English Lit.

Wood didn't decide to become a teacher until much later in his career.

"I went and got a string of terrible jobs that had nothing to do with philosophy, theater, or English Lit. Like for years I was an accounts receivable manager, and I had never taken an accounting class in my life."



In 2008, Wood was laid off along with millions of others during the recession while he was living with his now-wife. He was collecting unemployment for a while and "looking for a new crappy corporate gig, and she [Wood's wife] went 'Why are you looking for another terrible job that you hate? You should do something you might like doing.'" Suggesting he'd be good at teaching, Wood took her advice and went back to school to get his master's in education at Regis University.

His varied background allows him to take English classes from a different approach. He says he loves teaching freshmen that Shakespeare "is not pretentious love stories" and that it's "dirty jokes and terrible decisions and usually pretty funny." Wood teaches both freshman grade level English and AP English Literature to juniors and seniors.

The choice between Lit and Lang can be difficult. A lot of the time it comes down to choosing between a surplus of homework from Paul Evans, another one of Golden's English teachers, or harsh critiques from Wood. Wood's comments on the side of his student's writing often start with "No," which is a jarring experience, especially if you're one of the many students coming from Evan's class. Wood noted that he grades harsher than the people who grade the AP tests, "so if you do well in my class you're going to kick butt on the exam, and even if you don't do super red hot in my class you're still probably going to kick butt on the exam."

Regardless of his harsh criticism, Wood cares deeply about his student's success and about them as individuals. He has told his classes before that his grading isn't personal and is merely a tool to help them become better writers for this particular exam. He doesn't hold many hard and fast philosophies as he explains, "I got a degree in Western philosophy and basically what that taught me is that I am not a huge fan of Western philosophy." He chooses to simply try and make life a more enjoyable place for everyone, encouraging people to reflect on themselves as individuals regarding how they interact with the world.

His beliefs are evident in his boisterous and loud teaching style. Wood can talk about something inherently boring, yet be endlessly entertaining, and more importantly engaging, with his impressions and accents, making everything relevant to the modern teenager. He mentioned he loves reading "Of Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck with his freshman. "Every character's got their own voice. That thing's like a frickin' radio play at this point."

Coach Sterbick: Leading Mines Football to Continued Success

By Aidan Owens

Photo courtesy of Colorado School of Mines Athletics

Pete Sterbick is no stranger to being a football coach. Since graduating from Augustana University in South Dakota, where he played as a punter and wide receiver, Sterbick has been coaching all levels all around the country. From being an offensive graduate assistant at Washington State to the head coach at McPherson College and finally ending up as an offensive coordinator at Colorado School of Mines in 2019.

The previous head coach at Mines, Brandon More, during his one-year tenure, led them to the National Championship game. The head coach before that, Gregg Brandon, coached at Mines for six years leading them to four RMAC titles and one national championship semifinal before his departure in 2021. Sterbick related the success of the program to the foundation that Brandon had built. Becoming the offensive coordinator at Mines in 2019, Sterbick benefited from being at Mines for four years before becoming head coach. Being within the program and the familiarity with the recent success of the program gave him the upper hand when taking over the job.



“It was definitely beneficial but mainly because I had been here, and was a part of what we’ve done. If I were coming in from the outside, I think that would’ve made it more challenging. I knew what I was getting myself into. The familiarity that I had with all the players, the recent success, and the reasons why were hugely important to have first-hand knowledge of.” This ability to know how to perform at a high level allowed him to keep moving in the right direction and keep the culture of winning.

However, sustaining a culture of success is no small feat especially when the revolving door of the roster changes every year. Having the same philosophy and schemes presents challenges with new kids coming into the school every year. But coaching at a school as academically challenging as Mines presents an entirely more difficult process. Verifying the academic side of the potential return is the first task when looking into a player. Once that is verified every recruit is looked at, invited to camps, and made sure that they are “Mines Guys”.

“We want them and their parents to fully understand what it means to come to college here and play football. This place is not for everyone, it’s hard, but it truly is a great opportunity for the recruits that end up here,” said Sterbick. Mines is a place where people should want to play because of the unique opportunity that these players are given for later life. It should not be something taken for granted.

Furthermore, Sterbick wholeheartedly believes that college athletics is a people-driven business. The people on the staff play a big role in the recruiting and building of a high-level football program. The importance of these coaches wanting to continue building the success that Mines has had is what allows for the football program to keep growing. No matter how great the success has been in the the past there needs to be continued work towards more and more or eventually a program will become complacent and forgotten. “Programs that get complacent get left behind,” Sterbick exclaimed, making it clear that this was the only wa to lead and continue on such great success. Everyone needs to be driven and intelligent and love the game of football in order for this to happen.

Sterbick’s understanding of all of these crucial parts of building a team is what has made Mines so successful, as well as leading to his own personal success. All of these aspects build a program that’s main is built around winning. Not only have they built a program to win, they are executing it. When Sterbick went over what his goals for this season were, he emphasized, “simply put, we want to win each game and find out how good this group can be.” Judging by their early success, it seems like they are well on their way.

Hoco Recap

Senior Homecoming Royalty:
Jack Dixon and Nevaeh Martinez



Demon Style



McKenna Merz 12



Kiara Palmer 11



Evie Martinez 10



Brigitta Niedringhaus Schultz 12

Addressing the Golden High School Population

By Morgan Cranford and Lila Qualteri

You have most likely noticed that Golden High School has been taking on more and more students and teachers each year. We are the most crowded we have been in a long time, and there have been some noticeable changes.

For one, not all teachers have permanent classrooms and many of them move around a lot. At the First Day Assembly, we saw more students sitting on the ground and having to squish uncomfortably into the bleachers than ever. There have even been rumors of rat traps and ant prevalence increasing due to the amount of students entering Golden's doors. However, not all of these instances are as they seem, and after speaking with Principal John Graham, he has cleared up some of the prevailing rumors.

One of the most common things you will hear among the Golden student population is that the school is simply not allowed to stop accepting students, by district order. In his response to this rumor, Graham says that generally speaking, principals have the power to decline applications from students who do not live within the designated area for Golden High School. However, they must accept everyone who lives within the Golden area. As of right now, Golden has 1,480 students. Of those students, 311 are transfers (students who don't live in the Golden area), making up 21% of our student population.

Graham stated, "the last time I looked, we had almost as many [students] transferring in, as we did transferring out." Graham also talked about how students are accepted into Golden saying, "It's hard for me to say no to a student that maybe their sibling already goes here and other reasons like that. And so there were some transfer students let in this year, but very few." For the most part, in response to the rapidly growing Golden student population,

Graham has cut off the number of students he is allowed to enroll at the school who do not have Golden as their home school. As for the rest of the student population, contrary to popular belief, this year's freshman class is not the largest class at Golden. The school's freshman class has 377 students, the junior class has 355 students, the senior class has 353, and coming in at number one with the largest class at Golden is the sophomore class of 2027 with 395 students. It seems that our population grows dramatically every year which is true to an extent, but it isn't as substantial as it has been made out to be. As of 2024, there are six high schools in Jefferson County with populations greater than Golden's, making GHS the seventh largest high school (population-wise) out of thirty-six Jefferson County high schools.



These pieces of data make it seem as though Golden is growing out of control in a way we cannot compensate for. However, when Graham was asked if he was concerned about this, he said that he feels completely comfortable and safe with where the population is. Many people have expressed concern about the school being too physically small. Graham addresses this by saying we are nowhere close to having to build an addition to our school. Adding to the physical space of the building is a huge project and would take several years along with being incredibly disruptive to the learning environment we have established here at Golden. Graham is working hard to keep the population under control by managing the amount of transfer students, hiring new staff members to accommodate the numbers, and also keeping the Golden environment true to what it has always been.



Chappell Roan, Stan Culture, and the Consequences of Expecting Intimacy from Strangers

By Nyah Marquez-Dean

Photos courtesy of Justin Higuchi and Jason Martin

Only months after her rapid rise to fame, singer-songwriter, drag performer, and queer icon Chappell Roan has been facing an onslaught of social media criticism, mostly in response to her requests for respect and privacy from her “fans.”

Most recently, Roan has been facing extreme backlash after dropping out of her set for the All Things Go music festival in late September. Festival-goers who had already purchased their tickets and made travel arrangements to see Roan accused her of thoughtlessness, and a lack of regard for her fans. However, in the face of near-constant verbal, online, and even physical harassment, it goes beyond inconvenience and becomes a violation of humanity.



The harassment Roan has faced is not new. We’ve seen this story play out many times. Britney Spears, Amy Winehouse, and many other figures have been pushed to the edge by the treatment of their self-proclaimed fans. Can these artists “not handle fame,” or is the way that we have been taught to treat celebrities inhumane? Why are we so comfortable treating celebrities like their careers invite us into their personal lives?

In a time increasingly defined by isolation and loneliness, we seek intimacy and friendships in celebrities, and often, we take it too far. “Stan Culture” is a notable population of the internet, most prominent on X, formerly known as Twitter, and with a large population of queer-identifying teenagers and young adults. “Stans,” a term derived from the 2000 Eminem song of the same name, can be defined as die-hard fans of popular musicians and actors, who will blindly defend their favorite fully-grown adults at any cost. What starts as love and adoration can quickly turn into a suffocating and obsessive presence. Doxxing, harassment, threats, and blatantly bigoted tweets, anything to maintain their one-sided, obsessive relationships with pop superstars and the biggest names in Hollywood. This community is built on being artificial, and Roan has become one of the most recent victims of it.

In an Instagram post shared in late August, Roan addressed the continual harassment that she had been facing from “fans,” writing, “I chose this career path because I love music and art and honoring my inner child, I do not accept harassment of any kind because I chose this path, nor do I deserve it. [...] Please stop touching me. Please stop being weird to my family and friends. Please stop assuming things about me. [...] I feel more love than I ever have in my life. I feel the most unsafe I have ever felt in my life.”

Roan’s situation is made even more difficult by her identity as a queer artist in a world still struggling with acceptance and representation. For many queer people, artists like Roan are crucial figures of representation, but the constant pressure to fit an ideal set by their fans can overshadow the essence of who these artists are. Amidst historical increases in anti-LGBTQ+ legislation, young queer people across the world are more desperate for role models than ever, and if we continue treating the ones we have like their privacy and humanity are irrelevant, we risk losing a vital part of our community.

How Corruption and Pressure Can Lead Athletes to the Edge

By Rowan Watkins

Photos from Katie's Save website

Athletics can be a great outlet for teens to express energy and emotions, but sometimes the systems in place don't support athletes' mental health. In the past 20 years, the suicide rate for college athletes has doubled, according to US News. The main reasons that athletes struggle are as follows: putting pressure on themselves, injuries, burnout, and problems with identity. Athletes are known to set expectations on themselves but at some point, it can become detrimental to their physical and mental health. Student-athletes also have to balance their practices and games with their studies which causes burnout and feeling overwhelmed. Similarly, athletes often put so much into a sport that they don't know who they are outside of it.



Many years ago when I sat down to watch the 2019 NCAA Women's Soccer Championship, I had no idea what would end up happening to Stanford goalie Katie Meyer. Katie Meyer was Stanford's starting goalie and team captain, and she most notably made two vital saves during a penalty shootout against the University of North Carolina in 2019. Her friends and family described Meyer as full of life and laughter, and this was always reflected in her game. By watching just one of her games you could see Meyer's personality. She celebrated every save like it was her last, she put everything on the line for her team

and her school. And yet when it came down to it, the school didn't support her when she needed it.

On March 1, 2022, Katie Meyer was sent a six-page email regarding Stanford's community standards. She was sent a disciplinary letter after she had been accused of spilling coffee on a fellow Stanford athlete in defense of one of her teammates who he had allegedly sexually assaulted. In this letter, she was threatened with possible expulsion from Stanford or sanctions on her playing on the women's soccer team. Meyer's parents claimed that these actions from administrators caused the rapid change in Meyer's mental state. On that same night, Katie Meyer was found dead in her dorm room.

Meyer was full of potential. Her teammates Sophia Smith and Naomi Girma, play on the United States Women's National Team. No one knows what Katie Meyer could have achieved and never will, because the systems in place to support student-athletes are lousy and unbecome. Teams spend so much time, energy, and money towards fueling and supporting them physically but the second they need help mentally, they are nowhere to be found. Since their daughter's death, her parents have pushed for universities to prioritize the mental health of all students, including the athletes.

The Katie Meyer Law was passed in January of 2024, the law legally binds schools to prioritize the mental health of all students. The schools are required to have an outside advisor available for students when dealing with disciplinary actions. The idea behind this law is that students facing disciplinary action don't have to face the panel or board full of people in power alone. Oftentimes the people who decide punishments are very intimidating and make it hard for you to make your point, so having someone with you who understands what is going on makes it easier to maneuver the environment. The law has been passed in California and they are working on passing it in other states. According to the Katie's Save website If you want to support the cause or learn more please visit Katie's Save website run by her family.

Catching Up With Mr. Evans

Story and photo by Astrid Fabinski and Nyah Marquez-Dean

If you've ever had an eerie, almost haunting feeling walking down the English hallway, you have most likely felt the presence of Paul Evans. Evans, 35, the sole AP English Language and Composition teacher in the recent absence of Milo Carpenter, is one of the biggest supporters of English students across the school. Evans has been teaching for almost 11 years, with this year marking his seventh at Golden High School. At the previous schools Evans had worked, he was the only English teacher for his grade level in his team. Golden's English department was a welcome change, as the new environment proved much more gratifying to him.

"It's just a really good department because every teacher kind of has a different style, and they bring their own personality to the room, and generally seem to be excited about the content," Evans said of his colleagues.

Originally, Evans had taught English 9 and 11. But, as Mr. Carpenter— the then-sole-AP Lang teacher— approached his eventual retirement from Golden, he asked Evans to take over and he did. For a while, Evans and Carpenter taught Lang in tandem with one another, with Evans learning the ways of Lang.

"The first year after COVID, I took the class, so I was a student in the class remotely. So, every day for my planning period, I logged into Mr. Carpenter's AP Lang class, so I got a feel for kind of the rhythms of it and the workload and how it kind of runs to prepare me as much as it could to then teach it. So, then I taught it alongside him for two years and then kind of took it on full force this year. So, it's kind of been a slow release. I started as a student, moved as a teacher, which maybe is a good format for anybody."

As the teacher of the notoriously work-heavy AP Lang class, Evans navigates the conflict between classwork and the ability to think for oneself.

"If the goal of the class is to encourage students to find their own voice as a thinker and a writer and a reader and just a general human, there's a lot of work that has to be done, and there's a lot of corners that can be cut when it comes to entering the world of ideas," Evans posits about the workload. "So in order to do that, in order to find a voice as a writer you have to write a lot. You have to read a lot, and you have to talk a lot."

Often, this workload is overwhelming for students and a common complaint about Lang is the sheer amount of homework; but, as Evans stated, the workload is necessary. Evans' rigorous teaching is a result of his passion for education, not just for the sake of work. Every assignment he gives is planned out to develop the skills of his students and encourage their intrigue in the content.

"I believe in everything that I say in AP Lang and I believe in it being a college-level course because that's what it should be," Evans explained. "This is a college-level writing course, and if you get through it you'll be working towards getting college credit. So I kind of hold myself to that standard in a weird Mike Rose (an American scholar and educator with a focus on literacy, and a staple author in AP Lang homework) kind of way."

Though you can often find his students in despair and heavily deprived of sleep, Evans has maintained his position as one of the most beloved teachers in the building. He can often be found in the halls of the English wing giving his students literary support and life advice, and this support goes both ways.

"I tell my students frequently, I didn't learn to read until I was 26," Evans shared, "I knew how to follow words on a page, but I didn't really understand what reading was. So to say that I've been dedicated to literature would be a lie. I think I'm a late bloomer when it comes to literature and reading and even the world of ideas. Which is why I talk so fast. I have a lot of catching up to do."



“The Tortured Poets Department”

Taylor Swift

2024



Over the last year, Taylor Swift has been everywhere, her tour selling over 4 million tickets and earning more than a billion dollars. With that she also released multiple rerecords of her albums at the same time. And after all of this, she released “The Tortured Poets Department” in April, her eleventh studio album. This was her first new album since “Midnights” in October of 2022 and people have loved the album. “The Tortured Poets Department” included 16 tracks and then an extended double album called “Anthology”, which included an extra 15 songs. Some of the most popular songs on this album are Fortnight, getting over 500 million streams and I Can Do It With a Broken Heart, with over 300 million streams. Swift’s songs had very personal themes and talked about her past relationships, her struggles, and her career. She wrote this album following the breakup of her longtime boyfriend Joe

Alwyn and how it affected her. Many people felt that this album was a really a full circle moment for her and a really meaningful album for all her fans. – **Lilly Phillips**

“Some Things I Still Can’t Tell You: Poems”

Misha Collins

2021

“Some Things I Still Can’t Tell You” is a debut poetry collection by actor, activist, and social media presence Misha Collins. The book is a New York Times best seller, reflecting the huge following that Collins has from his previous endeavors in the spotlight. The poems in this collection are extremely personal and emotional and highlight the things the author feels he still can’t outright say to the people in his life including his now ex-wife, friends, and children. While some poems stand out with beautiful language and skillful prose, on the whole it’s almost like reading a diary. It’s clear that Collins does have some writing talent that he could grow into, but at this point in his career the majority of the collection falls short, being almost too vulnerable and leading the reader to just feel uncomfortable. Personally, I felt I was being told secrets I wasn’t supposed to know and that I was somehow invading his privacy. Collins showers his readers with his deepest,



darkest emotions and provides an experience that is quite personal and reads awkwardly. That being said, Collins’ debut collection and entrance into the book writing world could have been significantly worse. – **Morgan Cranford**
Read, watch, listen! **More Trident reviews here!**



Bob's Atomic Burgers: Golden Spirit

Story and photos by Olly Johnson

Despite working for the Golden Trident and (quite obviously) attending Golden High School, I haven't been to downtown Golden. The only time I've been was for a short while to attend the Golden Homecoming Parade with a friend. However, even though I only went very recently, I was acutely aware of one local establishment, Bob's Atomic Burgers.



Bob's Atomic Burgers is a restaurant that opened in 2012 and is run by Bob and Jennifer Toohill. The Toohills, trying to find something to do in Golden in 2010, noticed this always open lot. So, inspired by the burger joints of his childhood city, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Noting the lack of restaurants in Golden back in the early 2010s, the Toohills decided to try the pipedream idea of opening up their own restaurant.

As with most of these types of establishments, the first few years were rough, to say the least. Jennifer on the matter stated, "It was hell... it was slow, we get busy on the weekends, we had the Coors tour that helped a little bit, but yeah. I had to get help from friends and it was really rough for three years." But eventually, the joint caught on due to the quality of the burgers served there.

This led to word of mouth being spread about the restaurant, which led to something really interesting about Bob's Atomic Burgers: They don't advertise. At all. They instead cater fundraisers and support charity. Toohill puts it as "instead of putting \$700 into fliers and advertisements, we donate \$700 into a local elementary school." But one of their most important values is actually about staff. Toohill stated, "The key is treating your staff well and they'll stick around... because we are family." The staff has a long history with the restaurant, with some working there for over a decade. For example, the cashier the day that I arrived started working there when she was 16 and is now 27 years old. The moment I walked into Bob's Atomic Burgers the first word I thought was charm.

From the way that you self-order food from a bag to give to the cashier, to the doo-dads and knick-knacks lining every wall. Instead of taking your name, they give you a pop culture character to hear to know when your orders are ready. The doors and the fridge are covered in community stickers. So much so that they refuse to remove the broken fridge because of how many memories are stuck to the front of it.

Bob's Atomic Burgers feels lived in, like it couldn't exist anywhere else. In this way, Bob's Atomic Burgers is a perfect reflection of Golden itself. A town that resembles no other that has a community stronger than gold, housing a burger

joint that mirrors the town's spirit to a tee. They even have good food to boot. Bob's Atomic Burgers is a staple of Golden's community and a must-visit for everybody.



The Golden Trident Staff



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“It’s not even journalism, it’s just articles.”