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# THE MYSTICIAN

VOL. 81 ISSUE 4 BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE BISMARCK, N.D. DECEMBER 5, 2019

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# A MYSTICAL HOMECOMING



**Top: Dr. Larry C. Skogen congratulates the volleyball team on their victories this season. Bottom: The crowd gathered to welcome back the Mystics. (Credits: Robert Mechaley III)**

## Fourth in Division II Return Home

By Robert Mechaley III  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Bismarck State College Mystics Volleyball team began a journey of making school history with their win over North Platt Community College and ended it with returning to Campus as the fourth place champions in the NJCAA second division.

At 1:34 p.m. on Nov. 25, 2019, the bus transporting these history makers returned to campus with an escort by BSC Campus Police. A crowd gathered outside the Armory waving pom poms and signs for the team members and head coach, Jeni Walsh. The lights were bright and the red carpet rolled out for a team that left from Charleston, West Virginia at 5 a.m. earlier that day. BSC Mystic Media and KFYZ reporters stood on scene, capturing these moments to be immortalized.

*Continued on p 6*

# CYBERSECURITY TIPS

Bismarck State College Cybersecurity Professors Talk Protection for Students

By Roger Marks IV  
MYSTIC MEDIA COORDINATOR

Technology has become a large part of human life and has made life a world difference. Cars are able to drive themselves and not hit anything. Homes have the ability to turn lights on and off with only a word. Global cellular communication is more common than writing letters. Surgeries previously thought to be next to impossible are becoming more of a possibility. Video has made ten fold advancements in quality.

We live in an age where technology can do most of our daily work. With this ease comes the vulnerability of attacks. New age technology is young and all the kinks aren't worked out yet. Some people have jobs centered around the purpose of finding these weaknesses. Some do it out of malicious intent. Some do it because the ends justify the means. Whatever it may be, how can the average person protect themselves from an attack?

Nick See, a Bismarck State College Assistant Professor of Computers & Office Technology, gives his tip on the

hardware that can be used.

"You can put great firewalls in place, but all you have to do to get past a lot of those firewalls is send your traffic on port 80 or 443 which are your typical web browsing interfaces."

Firewalls are classically exploited in movies and tv shows. The shows make the hacking process look very intense and lots of typing. When in reality most of the process is automated. Or the hacker already has the user information provided from a website leak.

These leaks allow hackers to gain access to accounts, but hackers don't necessarily need the password. Matt Frohlich, Assistant Professor of Computers & Office Technology give some insight as to how it's done.

"There's tons of cracking programs where you can enter some information about the person you can do a little reconnaissance and you can develop custom password lists against that person" Frohlich said.

The key is to change passwords. "I usually tell people if you have a password under thirteen characters you want to change that every thirty to sixty days."Frohlich said

Don't use the same password for everything. Make different versions of the password to improve security while making it harder for hackers to get access. If at best make a passphrase of five or more random words. Whatever the constraints allow. See said that hackers like "low hanging fruit." which means that the easier the target the better. If possible add two-step verification.

Two-step verification isn't bulletproof but adds an extra step for hackers to take. VPNs are a way of sharing and receiving data privately on a public network as if were private. Closing the door to hackers and the information that they can get to is scrambled and useless. Companies use similar methods when storing user data, called hash generators.

Today's technology is sometimes difficult to navigate. It is by no means perfect. It is exploitable. Armed with a little knowledge and some help, anyone can be reasonably safe and secure.

# THE MYSTICIAN

PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS – FOR THE STUDENTS

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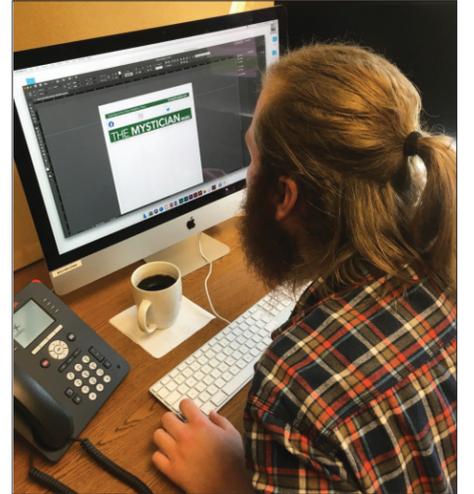
# Letter from the Editor

This entire semester has been absolutely fantastic. I would, first and foremost, like to thank all of my staff members for all of their great work on the Mystician. They have contributed insightful articles and given helpful design tips to help this paper evolve and become better for BSC and the wider community.

It's not just us at the Mystician that are working hard to provide news and entertainment. The people that contribute to MystiCast are all wonderful and are gaining some genuine experience applicable to the industry. The MYX radio station also has dedicated DJ's who make genuinely fun radio shows with diverse selections of music. If you would like, I would recommend listening to my show in particular, The Cheddah Bob Power Hour.

The last person I would like to thank for support so far is you, the dedicated readers and advertisers. Without you picking up our wonderful publication, it would not exist or be possible. Please continue your support of us at Mystic Media, because it genuinely makes us happy to know that we are doing our jobs.

It's the day before Thanksgiving and I've got a turkey to cook. Hopefully I'll see everybody next semester and more of you will join us. For more information on joining us, please drop by our studio and office or, check out the back of this paper.



Robert Mechaley III

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

## Event Calendar December 2019 - January 2020

<p><u>Dec. 6</u> -Elf on the Shelf Trivia (SU) -Women's Basketball (AR) 6 p.m. -Men's Basketball (AR) 8 p.m.</p> <p><u>Dec. 9</u> -Elf on the Shelf Trivia (SU) -Game Day (Free, SU Game Room) 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.</p> <p><u>Dec. 10</u> - Elf on the Shelf Trivia (SU) - Grand Theatre Movie Night (get free tickets at SRL)</p> <p><u>Dec. 11</u> -Elf on the Shelf Trivia (SU) -Hot Chocolate and Christmas Craft (Free, SU) 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.</p> <p><u>Dec. 12</u> -Elf on the Shelf Trivia (SU) -Cookie Walk (SU) 10 a.m. -Winter Play (SJL) 7:30 p.m.</p> <p><u>Dec. 13</u> -Winter Play (SJL) 7:30 p.m. -Women's Basketball (AR) 6 p.m. -Men's Basketball (AR) 8 p.m.</p> <p><u>Dec. 14</u> -Winter Play (SJL) 7:30 p.m. -Women's Basketball (AR) 12 p.m. -Men's Basketball (AR) 2 p.m.</p> <p><u>Dec. 15</u> -Winter Play (SJL) 2:30 p.m.</p> <p><u>Dec. 18</u> -BSC Holiday Concert (SJL) 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><u>Dec. 24</u> -Christmas Eve</p> <p><u>Dec. 25</u> -Christmas Day, BSC closed</p> <p><u>Dec. 31</u> -New Year's Eve</p> <p><u>Jan. 1</u> -New Year's Day, BSC closed</p> <p><u>Jan. 5</u> -Book Talk (LEA 204) 1- 3 p.m.</p> <p><u>Jan. 12</u> -Residence Halls open at 12 p.m.</p> <p><u>Jan. 13</u> -Classes begin at 4 p.m. -Women's Basketball (AR) 5:30 p.m. -Men's Basketball (AR) 7:30 p.m.</p> <p><u>Jan. 14</u> -First full day of classes -BBQ Fountain (Free, SU) 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. -Musical Auditions (SJL) 6- 10 p.m.</p> <p><u>Jan. 15</u> -Wax Hands (Free, SU) 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. -Musical Auditions (SJL) 6- 10 p.m.</p> <p><u>Jan. 16</u> -Musical Auditions (SJL) 6- 10 p.m.</p> <p><u>Jan. 17</u> -Brownie Bar (Free, MM) 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.</p>
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### The Mystician Mission Statement and Disclaimer

The purpose of college media is to serve and give voice to the students. We, as the student-based forum of journalism on the Bismarck State College campus, provide content that is informative, fair, concise and of importance to BSC. With this goal in mind, The Mystician staff is dedicated to accuracy and maintaining ethical journalistic practices. We strive to give a voice to student issues and policies within the local community.

Our goal is to incorporate as many students as possible and be an outlet for student expression. The BSC Mystician strives to be objective and is not affiliated with any outside organization. The Mystician upholds the principles guaranteed by the First Amendment and utilizes these rights to bring diverse, entertaining and thought-provoking material to the college community.

#### Contact:

**Robert Mechaley III, EIC,**  
with letters to the editor

or any concerns/comments regarding this publication.

**E-mail: [bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu](mailto:bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu)**

The next Issue of The Mystician will be published Thursday, Jan. 23.  
Deadline for any copy to be submitted is Tuesday, Jan. 14.  
Stop by Room 125 in The Armory for more information.



**Come Join Us!**  
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**bscmyx.com**



**MYSTICAST**

### Answers to the Crossword Puzzle on page 7

<p><b>Down</b></p> <p>2. antithesis 3. orator 4. discern 5. ubiquitous 6. pragmatic 9. circumspect 12. crude 14. sage 15. amicable</p>	<p><b>Across</b></p> <p>1. melancholy 7. formidable 8. pedagogy 10. e.g. 11. prognosticate 13. nefarious 16. simperton 17. eschew 18. carpe diem 19. leery 20. diatribe</p>
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The Mystician would like to offer a formal apology and retract the misspelling of the following names in Volume 81 Issue 3 of the paper. To Molly Fetzer, I offer my sincerest apology. -Robert Mechaley III, Editor-in-Chief

# RETIRING STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Two Staff Members Reflect on their Time Before Retirement

By **Robert Mechaley III**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Bismarck State College, like any large institution, is kept running by a variety of staff members. All of these people and their professions serve a unique purpose that serves Bismarck State College and the people going to and from it. While a great deal of attention has been placed on the departure of BSC President, Dr. Larry C. Skogen, a number of other figures are leaving before or with him.

"I started here on August 2, 1978 working for a vice president," said Rita Lindgren, Chief Human Resources Officer. "He was the vice president over Building and Grounds, um, the Foundation and back then it was smaller."

Lindgren began her career at BSC as the Administrative Assistant for former Vice President, Herb Schimmelpfennig. The way she describes herself taking the position is, in her own words, ironic. Lindgren had two interviews scheduled on the same day for both Bismarck State and the University of Mary. She was offered the position at BSC first which she accepted immediately, only to get a call from UMary two hours after. She accepted the job at Bismarck State and will retire from Bismarck State.

Her role moved from office support to dealing with personnel almost exclusively. She serves currently in the Human Resources Department as its chief. During her work at BSC, she

received her masters degree and grew the department she now heads. Though she does not work closely with students in her profession, she does enjoy meeting them.

"I got to see us grow and develop over the years and be a part of that. From student growth to program growth and buildings," said Lindgren. "It's been a great journey."

The head of human resources though is just one of many critical figures to leave the staff. Carla Hixson, The Dean of Current and Emerging Technologies is set to retire as well.

"A lot of what I've been doing is focusing in on our technical programs that we have, all of them that aren't energy," said Hixson.

Hixson works to ensure that programs such as welding, cybersecurity, nursing and others, receive the proper equipment and resources to teach the students. While she is retiring from her role as dean, she hopes to continue to work, particularly with the 2020 census.

Both of these integral staff members are most excited to spend time vacationing with their respective families. Amongst the staff, other retiring members include: Anselm Ternes, Carpentry (Residential) Lab Assistant, Jean Berger, Custodian Supervisor and Mary Eisenbraum, Director of Student Financial Services. The next generation of BSC Staff have large roles to fill ahead of them.



**Left: Rita Lindgren, Chief Human Resources Officer for Bismarck State College. (Submitted by: Rita Lindgren)**



**Right: Carla Hixson, Dean of Current and Emerging Technologies. (Submitted by: Carla Hixson)**

## CHANGING CLASSES

Transitioning into a New Semester and Schedule

By **Haylee Hebdon**  
REPORTER

Edited by **Robert Mechaley III**

With finals coming up and students maintaining their classes, the stress of signing up for the new semester and keeping up grades at the same time can seem difficult. One of the best things about Bismarck State College is its resources. An adviser is a great resource for students attending BSC as they exist to help the student achieve their end goal.

"They can help you pick out classes for the upcoming semester and they can help students look into future internships and job opportunities after they graduate from here at BSC," said Sarah Olson, Bismarck State College Adviser Coordinator.

The number of hours and credits all depend on the individual student and their priorities. The average amount of credits per semester would be 15. Some programs will require more credits per semester, but advisers here at BSC encourage students to take the average number of credits. The credits do change based on a student's degree of choice, along with different classes based on their respective program. When applying for a new semester, Olson suggests you keep your end goal in sight.

"The best thing to keep in mind when registering is making sure the student is keeping in mind the total picture in regards to how many credits they're taking in one semester," Olson said.

Some students have priorities outside of school, whether it be family, personal or job-related. Olson mentions how common it is for students to enroll part-time.

"We like to help the students keep in mind, 'Can I balance work with school, with personal commitments' we want students to think of the total picture so that they can be successful," Olson said.

The advisers here at BSC encourage students to apply for the next semester classes as soon as registration is available. Normally registration for the next semester is open before the current semester has even ended. Some information that stresses some students out is how they can determine their classes for the next semester if they don't know whether they'll pass the ones they're already taking.

"When registering for classes for the new semester we encourage students to sit down their advisors and register for those new classes during our student registration time and that takes place before the final grades are posted," said Olson.

The advisers here at BSC just want students to have a rough draft of their new semester schedule. Students can meet with their advisers and change any classes as many times as they need before the actual semester starts and encourage students to start out with a layout instead of coming in right before the start of the new semester with nothing.



**Inside BSC Bookstore**

**Monday - Friday**

**December 16th - 20th**

**8:30 am - 3:30 pm**

**Student ID Required**

**Last Day for Rental Return is Friday, December 20th**

## FINAL COUNTDOWN

Properly Dealing with the Pressure

By **Travis Askerooth**  
REPORTER

Finals are a stressful time of a student's school life. It is a big, comprehensive test that covers what a student learns throughout the semester. Not only that, they are worth a significant amount of points. If a student fails a final test, it could drop them an entire grade. This can lead to many students becoming stressed. They panic, overstudy, not get enough sleep, and become unhealthy as they try to study for the big test.

Mandi Talbacka, Counselor at Bismarck State College, expressed a general outlook of why a student could be stressed about finals. She points out that finals can be stressful for a student who feels as if they haven't studied or prepared for the test. The student second guesses whether they're prepared or not.

According to The Butler Collegian, they found that more than 80 percent of college students are stressed out about finals per semester. Even though their academic performance may not be

affected, they'll still be anxious. There are solutions to relieve that stress.

The campus offers yoga in the Union once per semester, usually near finals week. If students can't go, they can YouTube search videos about meditation and look up 5-minute mindfulness activities. Students looking for resources can also pick up a Mystic Advising & Counseling Center (MACC) Resource Guide located in the MACC. There is a section that covers test anxiety, organization, time management and stress management. There are also the tutor rooms located in the Sykes Student Success Center, which are open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, contact SSSC Coordinator Lonna Meier by phone (701-224-5671) or visit her office in room 022.

Finals are a stressful time for a college student, but can be eased. By doing activities, conversing with peers and taking advantage of the opportunities here at BSC, a student can mitigate their stress and feel better going into the classroom, ready to take the final.

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# WINTER WEATHER PREPARATIONS

## What is Expected to Come and How to Properly Prepare

By **Kyleigh Hilbert**  
REPORTER

As the fall semester continues further into the year, there is the cold winter that comes along with it and usually overstays its welcome for most of the spring semester as well. Students must prepare and embrace for a winter that will soon be here.

According to the USA today website, four of North Dakota's cities are included in the top 10 coldest cities in the United States, having Grand Forks in second place and Bismarck number eight.

US News website and the Farmers' Almanac predict that winter 2019-2020 may be the most harsh winter yet. It is predicted to be at its coldest temperatures in the final weeks of January 2020. The thermometer will continually rise and fall, referring to this as the Polar Coaster.

Meteorologist Daniel Brothers said, "The 'Polar Coaster' is a term that Farmers' Almanac made up this year. I've never heard the term in previous years. (I'd imagine because it makes for catchy headlines.) They are forecasting a lot of back and forth between warm periods and cold periods, which frankly happens to an extent just about every year."

Along with this will be some of the most frigid temperatures taking over the Midwest regions.

"Average snowfall for the Winter in Bismarck is just over 51 inches of snow, total. Since last February was the 2nd coldest on record for Bismarck, we should still be warmer than last winter this year." says Brothers.

North Dakota seems to be the coldest place in the country at times, and it often makes people wonder why.

"North Dakota has highly variable weather from season to season because

for two reasons. Number one, we live in a northern latitude. This means our hours of daylight fluctuate a lot! In the summer, we get close to 16 hours of sun each day. In the winter, only closer to 8 hours!" Meteorologist Hutch Johnson said. "Number two reason for cold weather is the fact that we are located in the center of the North American continent. That means we are as far away from the ocean as you can get! This means that we are pretty dry here, and that leads to more temperature extremes in both summer and winter."

Staying warm during the winter here in the north is key. The best way to do this is wearing layers when going out into the cold and adding extra clothing such as hats, gloves, and scarves. This can also add up in price in the long run, but it is worth it.

Another important factor of winter and the cold weather coming is preparing for the worst case scenarios. Buying flashlights, stocking up on batteries, and having shelves full of non-perishable food items are just some ways that people are able to prepare. These precautions can be taken in case of power outages or in the event of being trapped.

Hesser Toyota's website also gives steps and ideas on how to survive while being trapped in a car during a winter storm. This includes having cat litter or sand to use as emergency traction for the tires. It also includes keeping extra blankets and clothes packed in the vehicle to keep warm. Along with giving facts such as don't abandon the vehicle and to stay where you are, this is because the car is considered a good shelter during these sorts of events.

As winter makes its way toward North Dakota, take into consideration all of these tips and ways to stay safe. Because whether we like it or not, the cold weather is coming and is going to be here for quite a while.



The snow covered roads of Bismarck. Local drivers are advised to drive slow in hazardous weather.. (Credit: Daniel Burbank)

# THE CONSTANT CHANGING OF TIME

## The Truth and Arguments Regarding Daylight Savings

By **Molly Fetzer**  
REPORTER

It's that time of year again when people have to set the clocks back an hour. Many people have an opinion on time change yet, it has been a federal law since 1966. Most people also have guesses as to why daylight savings exists but, what is the true meaning behind it?

**"I can't really tell that I lost an hour of sleep or gained one."**

**-Bailee Anderson, BSC Student**

Daylight savings first started with Benjamin Franklin by setting the clocks an hour ahead in order to take advantage of the daylight in the evenings. If the clocks are set an hour ahead in the springtime, they must be set an hour back in the fall.

One of the more common purposes of daylight savings, is energy savings. In the summertime people tend to stay

up later and need light later on in the day, so setting the clocks an hour ahead would allow for more natural light and require less electricity. However during the fall and winter months, people generally need more light in the mornings, so setting the clocks back an hour would allow for better use of daylight.

"The time change does not majorly change my life," Bailee Anderson, a student at BSC said. "I can't really tell that I lost an hour of sleep or gained one."

For most people, having light in the morning helps them wake up and start their day easier. Our bodies tend to function better when there is light outside.

"I prefer to have light in the morning," said Anderson. "I am more likely to get up."

In America, all states except Arizona and Hawaii observe daylight savings. Arizona and Hawaii both get enough light year round which would make daylight savings unnecessary. Other states such as Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas have talked about opting out of daylight savings but were unsuccessful.

Americans get to enjoy having light a little bit longer in the mornings until Sunday, March 8, when clocks get set an hour ahead again.

## Life Importance of Learning Languages

# LEARNING SECOND LANGUAGES

By **Jon Fettig and Robert Mechaley III**  
REPORTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**"People can get many different jobs, basically most jobs when being fluent in another language, especially the tech industry."**

**-Ryan Pitcher, Associate Professor of Spanish**

Learning a second language can improve a person's life and also present opportunities to

broaden a person's world.

Learning a foreign language changes lives, helps one meet new people and develop unique friendships that broaden the imagination.

"It certainly did for me," said Ryan Pitcher, Associate Professor of Spanish at Bismarck State College. "It allows you to communicate with a more diverse group of people."

A person can understand these things even through an outsider's perspective of the native culture of that person.

"It helps you understand different viewpoints of other people, makes you less judgmental as a person," Pitcher said. "Because to learn a foreign language, especially as an adult, it can be a humbling experience, therefore you have to kind of humble yourself. You're not too proud to try something

new that's a difficult thing for a lot of people."

Learning a foreign language makes a person look good, and it helps with learning new ways of being more presentable through different cultures. It also makes a person more confident in the ability to communicate and to relate to one another.

It certainly helps set job applicants apart from other applicants, if the job applicant can say they know another language.

"Specifically Spanish in this country, it will set you apart from different job applications," said Pitcher. "People can get many different jobs, basically most jobs when being fluent in another language, especially the tech industry."

Knowing a foreign language helps people be more confident in their own ability. It helps you get in the door into other countries when being an expat or just traveling.

Pitcher, himself is from Canada,

which is a bilingual country with both English and French. However instead of teaching French, he teaches Spanish at BSC.

"I served in a mission from church to Puerto Rico from 1990 to 92, so I learned Spanish quickly being immersed in that culture," Pitcher said. "My French helped as well, being from Canada. Canada is a bilingual country by law, it was required that I take French. I took it as a child, so I took eight years of French."

When it comes to traveling, learning a foreign language can change the whole experience as a tourist. It will make traveling places a lot easier. People knowing the language of the place they are traveling to takes the experience to a whole new level. Knowing that country's language could bring the tourist together with the locals from that place, making new cross culture friends which presents new opportunities possibly new skills.

## STAFF ED

## Students Find A Valuable Education

Education value is something colleges should not only promote but consistently hold as one of the most important factors in running a college. The students on the staff of the Mystician feel as though their education value at Bismarck State College is very high. The most notable contributors to this are the smaller class sizes and the ability to form personal relationships with professors. Because of the size of our college, classes are generally smaller than those you'd find in a larger university. This allows students the chance to feel connected not only to their peers but also to their professors. Strong relationships with professors seem to be the biggest contributor to a high education

value. When a student can easily approach their teacher, and ask questions, it promotes a healthy learning environment. One on one conversations are common, whereas in a larger university, students may have to find time to speak with their professors outside of class. One student on staff noted that the education level at BSC, compared to a larger university previously attended, was exceedingly higher. Even while being a smaller college, BSC can compete and even outweigh other universities when it comes to how programs are run and how much effort is put into furthering students' education by BSC faculty. It is not only the staff of the Mystician

who seem to feel this way about our college. A recent poll conducted in the BSC Student Union reinforces and portrays other student's similar views about the education value on campus. On a scale from one to five, five being very good, one being poor, a majority of students ranked their education value a five. Similarly, students felt that their professors cared about their future and that their knowledge acquired here at BSC will help them in their future careers. Suggestions from students, for improving the campus include more hands-on opportunities, health programs, a football team, and expansions of certain programs. These ideas certainly would need time

and money to be implemented, but even so, no suggestions were aimed at changing anything significant about BSC. Many wrote comments expressing their love for our college, notably one individual wrote "... change nothing! I just miss my mom :)."

Students, both on staff at the Mystician and those not, have expressed their love for the campus. Relationships with professors are promoted, and people feel as though they are being prepared for their future careers. While being a small school, BSC is still able to successfully provide an environment where the education value is unmatched.

## MALARD'S MUSINGS

### Instagram Likes: Useful or Just a Source Of Validation?

By **Brenna Malard**  
EDITOR

Instagram has recently announced that they are taking away the like display on some users' photos. Individuals will still be able to see their like amount, however other viewers will not.

The desire to fit in is deeply embedded in every single person, specifically in younger adults and teenagers. People feel pressured to fit in, and the number of likes on an Instagram post seems to correlate with a feeling of validation from others.

Instagram's theory with this method is that it will help decrease mental health issues created by people comparing themselves to others. Low self-esteem and a lack of approval from peers are side effects of a toxic mentality that the app currently promotes. While I do not think it is a magic cure for mental health issues, I do think it creates a narrative that Instagram's like button is not a measure of success.

It is hypocritical as a society to condemn the use of popular platforms for attention and value based on likes, but then riot against change when the change aims to fix that exact issue. If it can provide a route for those to start feeling better about themselves why shouldn't everyone want to do it? Answer: a majority of those in opposition to it feel superior to others when their posts do better and don't want their only measurement of popularity to be taken away. This may not be true for everybody, but it's

undeniable that popularity is based on social standing, and how do you measure that? I'm sure you can already guess.

If you're truly stressed about people not being able to see your amount of likes, then I think it's time you took a break from social media and try to find value in something other than what others think of you.

The other argument people make against this movement is that it will harm influencers who make money off their content. In a society that condemns these individuals and finds most influencers work to be "basic" or "cringy," it's pretty hypocritical to care about their work now.

Online influencers will still have access to their statistics and likes and can use them to share with brands too. If they can still access their statistics, share them with brands, and then promote a product, then there is no argument claiming that taking away a like display will decrease their popularity. Even if it did, it would just indicate that a creator is not popular for their content but only because a large quantity of others follow them.

Instagram is taking a brave, but commendable, step toward bettering society as a whole. Although highly controversial, it is refreshing to see such a large platform go against the narrative that we've all become so accustomed to. Instagram is launching a new way of thinking and taking back its original purpose which was to share photos with others not serve as a twisted measure of success.

### POLL RESULTS: EDUCATION

The Mystic Media poll for the month of November was about whether or not students of BSC felt they were receiving a worthwhile education. In total, there were 37 responses from students with largely positive feedback. For our thoughts about this, check out the above Staff Editorial.

The winner of this raffle is Kiley. You didn't leave a last name, but if you're reading this, please drop by our office in Armory 125 to claim a Mystic Media shirt.

Otherwise, here are the results:

"You are getting a lot of value out of your education" 1=2 votes 2=1 vote 3=5 votes 4=6 votes 5=23 votes

"You feel that the school, staff and faculty all care about your education" 1=1 vote 2=1 vote 3=6 votes 4=12 votes 5=17 votes

"You feel that the school, staff and faculty care about your future careers and professions" 1=1 vote 2=No votes 3=3 votes 4=8 votes 5=25 votes

Thank you for participating and please participate again for a chance to win the raffle.

## LETTERS TO PETRA

Advice To:  
Hometown Lover

By **Petra Davidson**  
MYSTICAST EXECUTIVE  
PRODUCER

Dear Petra,

I am in need of love advice. There is a boy from my hometown that I'm deeply in love with. We used to talk frequently and he has asked me to go hot tubbing a few times, but we never had the chance. We live an hour apart and sometimes still talk, but I wish he would love me back. I am going home this weekend and need advice on how to connect with him. Please help.

Thank you so much.  
Hometown Lover

Dearest Hometown Lover,

Even though that specific weekend may have passed, your question is extremely relevant to yours, and others, lives. My advice to you would be to tell him how you are feeling.

## SHOWER THOUGHT

Should We Have a  
School Dance?

By **Daniel Burbank**  
THE MYX PRODUCTION MANAGER

Since the late 1800s, schools across the country have had annual school dances as a way for students to enjoy themselves. The modern day dances are much different from the ballroom style, high class standard from the previous century. But are educational boards restricting students too much, not only at a high school level, but in college as well?

It's my understanding that it's been almost five years since the last dance on Bismarck State College's campus was because of an alcohol related incident.



Love is a tricky subject and heartbreak is one of the most painful things a person can go through. However, if you don't tell him the desires of your heart, you will never know if he feels the same way or if he could see himself falling in love with you in the future. The worst thing that could happen would be rejection.

I personally have had this happen to me multiple times, and it isn't the most pleasant thing in the world, but eventually you get over it and realize he wasn't worth the heartache. Connecting with him should come naturally if he is the right man for you.

All my love,  
Petra

Song Suggestion: Never Forget You by  
Noisettes



Yes, you read that correctly, BSC used to have dances. But we're a part of a growing list of administration across the country that are banning dances. In Ohio, students were banned from "grinding," a dance move thought to simulate sex on the dance floor. Although some behavior is obviously unacceptable, should all students have to suffer because a percentage is still trying to find themselves? After all, isn't that what college is about? Making mistakes and self discovery.

It's been too many years without a non-sport related activity to look forward to, at an already quiet college campus.



**Above: The Women's Basketball team make a free throw in a game against the team from Little Big Horn College.**

**Below: The Mystics Volleyball players sitting before a crowd of cheering fans. (Credit: Robert Mechaley III)**



## A MYSTICAL HOMECOMING (Continued from p 1)

Inside the gym, the BSC Mystic Volleyball team took their seats in front of the bleachers and were personally congratulated by a speech from Dr. Larry C. Skogen, President of Bismarck State College. The team received their due praises in speeches by Skogen and Walsh.

The captains of this team: Alie

Glaser, Amy Jacobson and Bailee Otterness stood before the crowd and congratulated their team on all the hard work, with tears in their eyes and cracking voices.

Once the ceremony was concluded, they left triumphant to sleep after an early morning flight and celebrate with loved ones.



**Amy Jacobson, a Captain of the Mystic Volleyball Team, shares a number of hugs with the people who turned up to welcome the team back. Emotions of the players and their loved ones were running high as a number of other players embraced each other and were pulled aside for interviews by the various news agencies. (Credit: Robert Mechaley III)**

# MYSTIC SPORTS UPDATE

## Women's Team Looks to Run it Back

By **Caden Shean**  
REPORTER

The Bismarck State College Women's Basketball team fell just shy of a Mon-Dak Conference title a year ago. This season the girls want to claim that championship as their own.

Freshman newcomer Karsyn Hager might not have the experience at this level but she knows what the team needs to in order to make it where they want to go.

Hager said, "The key to success on this team is the communication on the court. If we work well as a team, I believe that we can't be stopped."

Trae Murray, a sophomore forward who is currently averaging 16.4 points, 5 rebounds and 2 steals per game, is not looking to feel that pain of last year again.

"I definitely think it's a revenge season." Murray said, "we felt the heavy weight of losing that championship game and I know it's something we don't want to experience again."

The women's team only lost three

sophomores due to graduation but the majority of the teams production returns. The main thing now is for the girls to run it back, and see how far they can go.

The Lady Mystics have quickly jumped out to a 5-0 record this season and they are not looking to slow down yet.

"I think winning the preseason tournament was a huge wave of momentum for us." Murray said, "we feel we gave out a message to the teams in our conference that we are ready to make it all the way this year."

Lauren Koski, a sophomore who is currently averaging 7.8 points, 4.6 rebounds and 3 steals a game so far, is the point guard running the show for the Mystics.

"I think the key for our fast start is the chemistry between the five returning sophomores." Koski said, "just knowing the way one another plays and all our strengths really allows us to gel well together."

The Lady Mystics are looking to ride this momentum throughout the course of the season and find a trip to nationals.

### Sports Calendar

#### December 2019 - January 2020

**Dec. 6**  
Women's Basketball vs Stone Child College 6:00 PM

Men's Basketball vs Stone Child College 8:00 PM

**Dec. 13**  
Women's Basketball vs Northwest College 6:00 PM

Men's Basketball vs Northwest College 8:00 PM

**Dec. 14**  
Women's Basketball vs Gillette College 12:00 PM

Men's Basketball vs Gillette College 2:00 PM

**Dec. 20**  
Men's Basketball vs Rochester Community and Technical College @ Coon Rapids, MN

**Dec. 21**  
Women's Basketball at Anoka-Ramsey Community College 5:00 PM

Men's Basketball at Anoka-Ramsey Community College 7:00 PM

**Dec. 22**  
Women's Basketball vs Western Technical College @ Anoka Ramsey CC 10:00 AM

**Dec. 29**  
Women's Basketball at Phoenix College 6:00 PM

Men's Basketball at Phoenix College 8:00 PM

**Dec. 30**  
Women's Basketball vs South Plains College @ Phoenix, AZ 2:00 PM

Men's Basketball vs South Mountain Community College @ Phoenix College 4:00 PM

**Jan. 9**  
Women's Basketball at Miles Community College 6:30 PM

Men's Basketball at Miles Community College 8:30 PM

**Jan. 13**  
Women's Basketball vs Dakota College at Bottineau 5:30 PM

Men's Basketball vs Dakota College at Bottineau 7:30 PM

**Jan. 16**  
Women's Basketball at Williston State College 5:30 PM

Men's Basketball at Williston State College 7:30 PM

**Jan. 20**  
Women's Basketball vs Lake Region State College - ND 5:30 PM

Men's Basketball vs Lake Region State College - ND 7:30 PM

**Jan. 23**  
Women's Basketball at North Dakota State College of Science 5:30 PM

Men's Basketball at North Dakota State College of Science 7:30 PM

# THE KING

By Roger Marks IV  
MYSTIC MEDIA COORDINATOR

The King (2019) is by no means a standout movie, but there is something to be said about how it conducts itself. The Netflix original has a colorful cast of very talented actors, which is refreshing from seeing the Disney paid actors that are seeming to dominate the market right now. Timothee Chalamet “Hal and King Henry V”, Joel Edgerton “John Falstaff”, Robert Pattinson “the Dauphin”, Sean Harris “William”, Dean-Charles Chapman “Prince Thomas”, and Ben Mendelsohn “King Henry IV” to name a few. These actors alone have been in various blockbusters before from Star Wars to Mission Impossible to Game of Thrones. All of the actors seem to lose themselves in their roles, making the movie better as a whole. Never are you pulled away because an actor just

## Netflix’s Original Film Does Some Things Right

doesn’t fit into the story.

Something that I only noticed an hour into the movie is that it is shot in widescreen. The thick black bars serve to bring the viewers’ attention into the shot and not let them wander. There is another notable detail, the R rating is there and makes you think that it will be an overly violent movie but at no point does the movie feel that way. In fact, the movie almost seems like an edgy PG-13. The farthest that the movie ventures into R are the use of blood when depicting violence and very brief nudity that anybody watching would have no problem with nowadays.

The story is a historical drama which is part of the reason that I was so ingrained. The movie is dramatized for entertainment purposes but mostly sticks to the events. There is a scene that seems oddly familiar to a certain

Game of Thrones moment which is not slight, but can be spotted by someone looking. The thing that I think the movie does well is to make a real event more personal and engrossing. This is no longer a fake event but a synopsisized version of history.

Among the excellent performances and the shot composition is an important message. Throughout the film, Hal advocates for peace. He holds his tongue and brushes off insults to stave of senseless violence that his father had a reputation for. Hal offered less damaging ways of solving the conflict at any turn he could. Yet, he saw suffering bring about the peace he wanted from the start. The ending of the film is what ties the whole thing together, but you will have to watch for yourself to see what I mean.

# ENTERTAINMENT MATTERS

By Robert Mechaley III  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

“Death Stranding” is one of the most memorable games I have played in the last four years. It was very strange to see a number of people online outright dismiss it or give it bad reviews over a single aspect of the overarching experience. This kind of easy review is fine, but it is sad to see so little critical effort being placed into a game I adored. So what makes “Death Stranding” such a profound title worth time and money?

“Death Stranding” is directed by Hideo Kojima, developed by Kojima Productions and produced by Sony Interactive Entertainment. The player character is Sam Porter Bridges, played by Norman Reedus, a delivery person tasked with saving a post-apocalyptic

## Beauty in a Broken World That Some Refer to as a Broken Game

America from falling apart. In perfect honesty, the story only stands out for the visual storytelling. There are genuine moments where paying attention to the plot gives genuine emotional payoff, but the gameplay shines more.

The game consists of walking, or later driving, from point A to point B across a largely unpopulated world while avoiding terrain hazards and enemies. The two enemy types are the human Mules, a cult of former delivery people obsessed with stealing cargo, and the “BT’s”, ghosts that devour the living to cause nuclear explosions.

“Death Stranding”, on paper, makes very little sense and sounds like a ludicrous waste of time. However, there is so much value in this game, that some are either not noticing, or deliberately refusing to notice.

It’s not easy to properly convey

what makes “Death Stranding” a masterpiece. It’s obviously not the story. The breathtaking and terrifying world is very different from the one poorly conveyed by the actors. The gameplay is mostly walking, but the deliberate movements done by the character model elevate world traversal to a new level. Just seeing all the forms of walking that can be motion captured is a technical marvel. The quiet moments of being left alone with your thoughts in a dying world and the adrenaline of running away is an amazing gameplay dissonance that delivers every time.

Taking time to smell the roses and appreciate the journey is time well spent. It has faults and can never be truly perfect, but it is not worth anybody’s time or critical ability to write off this game as broken or a failure.

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# MYSTIC MEDIA CROSSWORD

### Across

1. A feeling of sadness
7. Something that inspires fear or respect
8. The method and practice of teaching in education
10. For example
11. To forecast the future
13. Extremely wicked and evil
16. A foolish or gullible person
17. Deliberately avoid using something
18. The idea of living in the moment and not worrying about the future (translates to ‘seize the day’)
19. Cautious based on suspicions
20. Abusive and bitter attack through speech or writing

### Down

2. The exact opposite of someone, something, or some idea
3. One who excels at speaking in public
4. To perceive or recognize something
5. Seen nearly everywhere you go
6. Concentrating on practical results and facts instead of opinion
9. Carefully thinking about all the possible consequences and effects before doing something
12. In a natural or raw state
14. A very wise person
15. Friendly and agreeable spirit



The Mystic Volleyball team holding high the trophy received from Dan Leingang, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Bismarck State College, upon their victory against North Platt Community College. This victory solidified their ability to go to Charleston, West Virginia for the NJCAA Division II Champions. They would go on to place fourth in the national championships on Nov. 23, 2019, placing further than any previous team in Bismarck State College history. (Credit: MystiCast)

# COME JOIN US NOW! MYSTIC MEDIA WANTS YOU!

The Mystician: Tuesday and Thursday at 12 p.m. MystiCast: Tuesday and Thursday at 2:30 p.m. and The MYX: Tuesday and Thursday at 11 a.m.

Friendly faces, great times and quality entertainment. Come see us in Armory Room 125 for more information. Visit us on social media.

