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THE MYSTICIAN

VOL. 81 ISSUE 1 BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE BISMARCK, N.D. September 12, 2019

Food and Entertainment Kick Off A New Year



The MYX Program Director Daniel Burbank plays music for the passing students to inaugurate a new year. Live shows are in the Student Union once a month coinciding with release of *The Mystician* with the next scheduled for Oct. 10. (Credit: Robert Mechaley III August 27, 2019)

By Robert Mechaley III
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Bismarck State College Student Union was abundant with activity on August 27 as new and returning students enjoyed the services provided on the first full day of classes for the Fall 2019 semester.

The bookstore saw an influx of students buying textbooks and apparel. Taped arrows on the floor assisted the staff of the bookstore in controlling the crowds going up and down the narrow staircase connecting the merchandise section to the section of textbooks.

At noon the tables and sitting spaces of the Student Union were filling up with student life, exploring all that the building could provide for them.

Burgers and hot dogs were grilled outside of the main dining area and provided to the bustling crowds.

Besides the long table of refreshments, members of CRU advertised their free

pizza event, which was scheduled for that night in the same location.

As students ate their fill, music and voices blared through the building from the level above the dining area.

Mystic Media's radio station, The MYX, jammed out in the corner by the newspaper rack to provide music, event awareness and giveaways to the passing groups.

New members of The MYX were thrown right into the DJ's chair on their first day to introduce themselves and become comfortable with performing live.

Entering college is a challenging and new experience for any student, but when asked about their feelings on a new stage in life, many new students exclaimed excitement over anxiety.

"Excited to meet a lot of new people—

make new friends," said new student Jackson Hellman as he entered his name in Mystic Media's raffle.

Passersby enthusiastically answered trivia questions about the State of North Dakota for a chance to win free drinks at the Student Union coffee shop, Mystic Java.

Aside from a productive first day of classes, the school has made large developments over the summer in terms of sports, infrastructure and degree programs.

The new Health Sciences building along

Varsity Esports team to compete in games such as Fortnite, Overwatch, Hearthstone and League of Legends.

The Cybersecurity program announced in Spring Semester 2019 launches this academic year with almost 150 students enrolled according to BSC President Dr. Larry C. Skogen.

"There's an old saying that you can't be everything to everybody," Dr. Skogen said in response to the school's growth. "We do a pretty darn good job of whatever the community wants here, whatever the students in the community want ... I can't think of an area that a student can say 'This is what I want to do, and Bismarck State College has nothing to offer me in that area.'"

Students can get involved through the course of their time at BSC by regularly checking the event calendar, attending sports games and checking on extracurriculars at the Club Fair on September 18 in the Student Union.

College Drive boasts new opportunities for the program.

In July, the athletic department announced the formation of a Collegiate

"Excited to meet a lot of new people— make new friends"

New student Jackson Hellman

News

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- Tips for a Safe and Successful Year from Campus Security and SGA

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THE MYSTICIAN

PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS – FOR THE STUDENTS

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Letter from the Editor

Summer's end has brought the beginning of a new academic year here at Bismarck State College. Along with the new year comes a new assortment of students to higher education whether they are freshly graduated from high school, returning or transferring. I myself transferred last spring semester and am proud to begin my year-long run as Editor-in-Chief of our school's very own Mystician newspaper. Mystic Media and the Mass Communications program received a significant facelift with a new MYX studio, MystiCast studio and Mystician office. If anybody feels compelled, drop by these improved spaces and join us in using these facilities to bring entertainment to fellow students, faculty, staff and alumni.

I very briefly have introduced myself previously, but my name is Robert Mechaley III but please call me Robbie. My favorite pastimes are watching television, playing video games and cleaning. Video games are my primary passion and I aspire to one day use my knowledge of games and design theory in a professional capacity as a game journalist.

Aside from video games, I'll watch crime shows, and I take great pride in keeping a clean living space. Tabletop Roleplaying Games are another hobby I enjoy, and I have been an active Dungeon Master for "Dungeons and Dragons" for six years now.

The new facilities in the Armory and my own aspirations drive me to promise that this will be a special and productive year for MysticMedia. The staff is handpicked by the advisers of the Mass Communications program meaning they are best suited to their positions. There is some anxiety involved in heading the paper, but the fellow staff members are trustworthy, and the work environment is clean and unrecognizable to previous students. I trust that the BSC student body will support us in our endeavors and that we can in turn waylay any anxieties that the student body has whether they are new to college or a returning student. Welcome to Bismarck State College and have a grand year. Thank you all for your time.

Robert Mechaley III

EDITOR-IN CHIEF

Event Calendar September 2019

<p><u>September 2, 2019</u> -BSC Closed, Labor Day</p> <p><u>September 3, 2019</u> SGA Campaigning Begins -Auditions for the Fall Play (SJL) 6-10 p.m.</p> <p><u>September 4, 2019</u> -Auditions for the Fall Play (SJL) 6-10 p.m. -Volleyball (AR) 7 p.m.</p> <p><u>September 9, 2019</u> -SGA Campaigning Ends</p> <p><u>September 10, 2019</u> -SGA Elections</p> <p><u>September 11, 2019</u> -Pot a Plant (Free, SU) 11a.m.-1 p.m. -Volleyball (AR) 7 p.m. -Yoga in the Student Union, FREE 1 p.m.-2 p.m.</p> <p><u>September 12, 2019</u> -Mystic Media Day (SU) 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.</p> <p><u>September 13, 2019</u> -24 Hour Play Festival (SJL) 7:30p.m.</p>	<p><u>September 14, 2019</u> -24 Hour Play Festival (SJL) 7:30 p.m.</p> <p><u>September 16, 2019</u> -Game Day (Free, SU Game Room) 9 a.m.-3 p.m.</p> <p><u>September 18, 2019</u> -Club Fair (Free, SU) 10 a.m.-2 p.m.</p> <p><u>September 19, 2019</u> -Diversity Speaker, Justin Brown (Free, NECE) 10-11:30 a.m.</p> <p><u>September 22, 2019</u> -Faculty Recital (SJL) 3 p.m.</p> <p><u>September 23, 2019</u> -Oktoberfest Begins</p> <p><u>September 24, 2019</u> -I Heart Cookies (Free, SU) 11 a.m.-1p.m.</p> <p><u>September 25, 2019</u> -I Heart Brats Cookout (Free, SU Patio) 11a.m.-1p.m. -CultureFest (Free, SU) 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. -Volleyball (AR) 7 p.m.</p>
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Come Join Us!

Tune in Live at bscmyx.com



MYSTICAST

Come to Rooms 119 and 123 in The Armory to see our brand new Mystic Media Studio.

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

The next Issue of The Mystician will be published Thursday, Oct. 10.
 Deadline for any copy to be submitted is Tuesday, Sept. 30.
 Stop by Room 125 in The Armory for more information.

Answers to the Crossword Puzzle on page 6

DOWN

1. juxtaposition
 2. dichotomy
 3. halcyon
 8. iconoclast
 10. rescind
 9. clairvoyant
 12. paragon
 14. existential
 16. prudent
 17. banal
 18. binary

ACROSS

4. analogous
 5. vindicate
 6. symbiotic
 7. myriad
 11. monetary
 13. zealot
 15. prudent
 16. quintessential

NEWS

Dr. Skogen Reminisces on Accomplishments



Bismarck State College President Dr. Larry C. Skogen (right) shares a laugh with his former administrative assistant Debbie Van Berkom (center) and her husband Steve (left) in the Bavendick Stateroom during one of the President's Club annual dinners. (Photo: Mystician Archives)

By Robert Mechaley III
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The sun shined and the Missouri River gleamed outside the windows of the Bavendick Stateroom on the fourth floor of the National Energy Center of Excellence. As a crew set up an auxiliary location for a picnic in case of bad weather, President of Bismarck State College Dr. Larry C. Skogen revealed that it is his favorite room on all of campus.

"I would go up and drag a chair up to the windows on the fourth floor and stare out at the river and figure, how I was going to raise four and a half million dollars," he said and chuckled while reminiscing on a familiar view.

Dr. Skogen himself occupies a clean and knickknack-filled office on the third floor of the NECE building. An article was shown to him at the beginning of the interview about his official induction as president of BSC. He was quick to point

to a photo showing all of the collectibles that remained from that time as well as the new ones appropriated since then.

The article had been written by James Kruger in the March 2007 volume of *The Mystician*. A large quote jumped out to

"It's not just me, it's the team"

Dr. Larry C. Skogen

Dr. Skogen from the pages that said "I think my position is to do whatever I can to make sure that people have the best resources to do their jobs the best."

"This is true here; I do whatever I can to make sure that people have the resources to do their jobs the best," Dr. Skogen said upon glancing at it.

In 12 years of his time spent at BSC that much has not changed. He would go on to circle those resources on a school map and explain them in detail. Over the

course of his presidency at BSC multiple buildings have been constructed on campus and many existing have received renovations.

"My predecessor actually started this building," he said, referring to the NECE, "When I got here there was a hole dug and a little foundation poured into it. So I got here and then we finished off the project, and then my big part in the project was to find the funding to finish off the fourth floor."

Dr. Skogen speaks fondly of that floor while clearly describing a time before there was even carpet installed. The Bavendick Stateroom and remaining rooms are now carpeted and furnished.

The NECE is not the only point of pride for the BSC President as he speaks to the inclusion of the new Health Sciences building, which finished remodeling in August, and the debut of the Cybersecurity program this semester.

"There's two sides to this equation: one, helping students achieve whatever they individually want to achieve," Dr. Skogen said on the expansion of polytechnic programs. "The other part of the equation is the needs of business and industries here in the state of North Dakota, and what are we doing to help them fill the vacancies that they have in employment."

The BSC president still has time left before his successor is determined and takes office. He exclaims excitement at the prospects that are held in store for the student body of now and the future as BSC continues to expand both physically and in the programs offered.

"I feel that I did everything I could do with the team, and it is a team effort," Dr. Skogen said. "It's not just me, it's the team working with wonderful support from the donors, legislature, the Foundation and business and industry. We've all worked collaboratively to end up with this beautiful, beautiful campus. So I'm very satisfied."

On Safety, Security and Student Involvement

By Roger W Marks IV
MYSTIC MEDIA COORDINATOR

With the school year just kicking off, students are back in the dorms and walking around on campus.

Day and night the campus is safe says Matthew Giddings, Head of Security at Bismarck State College. Giddings cautions that crime can happen anywhere and anytime. His two cents is to always keep your head on a swivel.

"So many of our students, so many of

our staff ... are in their phones," Giddings said. "The more you can tell of your surroundings, the easier it will be to keep yourself out of situations that you may feel uncomfortable."

President of the Student Government Association, RJ Tare, agrees. The main thing is to be aware of your surroundings.

Students walking at night, should plan their route and stay in well-lit areas. Crimes often happen because of an opportunity so the less opportunity given the safer students will be.

The SGA and Campus Security have been in talks since before the school year started on how to improve the safety of students on campus.

Giddings would like to see better signs around the crosswalks to demand more attention from drivers that someone may be crossing. At the corner of LEA Hall and Swenson cross-traffic doesn't stop because in wintertime it becomes difficult to start going again after stopping midway up the hill. Buildings and grounds have been working on the parking lots to make

them smoother and less hazardous to traverse.

Tare would like to see a Blue Phone implemented, in which students could call dispatch during the night when security is not available.

"Unfortunately BSC is not there [big enough] yet," Tare said.

Despite BSC being the third-largest college in the state, the Blue Phone is not yet feasible. Overall the campus is considered safe with only two reported crimes from the previous academic year.

A Primer to Extracurriculars at Bismarck State

Clubs

AG Club

BSC PAS provides opportunities for individual growth, leadership and career preparation in agriculture. BSC PAS members participate in North Dakota and National Postsecondary Agriculture Student Organization (NPAS) conferences and activities. BSC PAS membership is open to all part-time or full-time enrolled BSC students.

Adviser: Marko Davinic, 701-224-5409
Email: Marko.Divinic@bismarckstate.edu

Amateur Radio Club

Amateur Radio Club seeks the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communication, experimentation, and research. The advancement of the radio art and the fostering of education in the field of electronic radio communication are a few of this club's objectives. Enjoy expanding the awareness of BSC through Amateur Radio networks and learn more about communication in the event of disasters and other emergencies.

Adviser: Mike Holman, 701-224-5591
Email: mike.holman@bismarckstate.edu

Art Club

The Student Art Club is a wonderful opportunity to become involved with other students interested in creating art. Network, build your resume, and stretch your creative muscles! All skill levels and major/minors are welcome. Be inspired by your peers during weekly art projects and community outreach.

Adviser: Andrea Fagerstrom, 701-224-5520
Email: andrea.fagerstrom@bismarckstate.edu

BSC Gaming Mystics

The BSC Gaming Mystics seek to provide interested students with the opportunity to play games in a competitive college environment and compete with their friends. We hold tournaments on campus with prizes to win, and we scrimmage against University of Jamestown as well as other North Dakota esports teams. Games are live streamed, and you can learn how to do that from home as well through the Gaming Mystics. All skill levels are welcome, we play Overwatch, Apex Legends, VR games, and whatever you would like to bring with you.

Adviser: Karen Arlien, 701-224-5501
Email: karen.m.arlien@bismarckstate.edu

CRU

Campus Crusade is an internationally affiliated Christian organization geared toward fellowship, worship, and community outreach. Stop by the weekly gathering to relax, meet new people, and fellowship.

Advisers: Neal Brown, 701-391-9293 & Amy Helgeson, 701-224-5616
Emails: neal.brown@cru.org & amy.helgeson@bismarckstate.edu

Clubs manning booths to attract new members at the Fall 2018 Club Fair. The next club fair will take place on September 18. (Photo: Mystician Archives)

Cyber Club

Cyber Club is for students who are interested in Cybersecurity, which includes systems defense and hacking. Club members prepare for and train to compete in cyber competitions such as the CCDC, NCL, and other events around the region.

Adviser: Matthew Frohlich, 701-224-5581
Email: matthew.frohlich@bismarckstate.edu

Energy Club

The Energy Club spreads health, happiness, and prosperity to the college and city community. More than just a club for energy students, members participate in and help organize events on campus, participate in or organize community service projects, such as blood drives on campus, and enhance relationships with the energy field.

Advisers: Colin Trebas, 701-663-8788 & Holly Burch, 701-224-5587
Emails: colin.b.trebas.1@bismarckstate.edu & holly.burch@bismarckstate.edu

Graphic Design and Communications Club

The Graphic Design and Communication Club aims to create and nurture a love for all aspects of GDCC and to assist anyone in need of help in these fields.

Advisers: Jason Lueder, 701-224-2580, Sean Thorenson, 701-224-5564 & Tom Marple, 701-224-5563

Emails: jason.lueder@bismarckstate.edu, sean.thorenson@bismarckstate.edu & thomas.marple@bismarckstate.edu

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship is a multi-ethnic community where you can meet friends, experience God and change the world.

Adviser: Kimberly Gutierrez, 701-224-5521
Email: kimberly.gutierrez@bismarckstate.edu

Intramurals

BSC Intramurals is a fun chance to be active, meet new people, blow off some steam, and have some fun. We are excited to feature a large number of leagues and one-time events. If you want to have fun and blow off some steam, watch for information for upcoming events today!

Adviser: Amanda Morse, 701-224-5460
Email: amanda.morse@bismarckstate.edu

LGBTQIA Club

The LGBTQIA Club provides support, social activities, and education for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, and allied students, faculty, and staff on the BSC campus, in the Bismarck-Mandan community and beyond. Check out their Facebook page.

Adviser: Erin Price, 701-224-5449
Email: erin.price@bismarckstate.edu



Phi Beta Lambda

PBL is the collegiate division of FBLA. PBL's purpose includes leadership, strengthening confidence, developing good working relationships within the community and encouraging community service. Members attend the State Leadership Conference held in the spring and the National Leadership Conference held in June. Students participate in events that are business, computer and other skills.

Advisers: Vickie Volk, 701-224-5505 & Lynette Borjeson Painter, 701-224-5755
Emails: vickie.volk@bismarckstate.edu & lynette.painter@bismarckstate.edu

Phi Theta Kappa

Phi Theta Kappa is the two-year college national honor society. The local BSC chapter is name Kappa Omicron. The purpose is the promotion of scholarship, the development of leadership and service and the cultivation of fellowship among qualified students. Membership is restricted to candidates completing 12 or more credit hours at BSC leading to an associate degree and having a minimum GPA of 3.50.

Advisers: Michael Tomanek, 701-224-5725 & Kevin Cavanagh, 701-224-2611
Email: michael.tomanek@bismarckstate.edu & kevin.cavanagh@bismarckstate.edu

Student Nurses Organization

SNO is an organization for students interested in nursing. This is a talented and caring group interested in service projects, educational programs, and interacting with the community. Club members may participate in God's Child Project and travel to Guatemala. If you are excited about nursing, this is a great opportunity to connect.

Adviser: Deb Cave, 701-224-2431
Email: deborah.cave@bismarckstate.edu

STEM Club

STEM Club is an organization for students interested in the pursuit of sciences. Mathematics, natural sciences, engineering, computer and information sciences, as well as, the social and behavioral sciences are all areas of interest for peers participating in this club. This club provides members with other views of STEM sciences that may not be provided in classroom lecture or labs.

Adviser: Jennifer Kessler, 701-224-5680
Email: jennifer.l.kessler@bismarckstate.edu

WiSEST

WiSEST is an organization that supports women in STEM and Skilled Trades, as well as inspires the next generation of students while giving back to our community.

Advisers: Ginni Saiki, 701-224-2632 & Hailie Pelka, 701-224-5426
Emails: virginia.saiki@bismarckstate.edu & hailie.pelka@bismarckstate.edu

Theater/Music

Concert Band

Concert Band fulfills the enrichment requirement for graduation and is open to all students. Performance groups include Jazz Ensemble, as well as, Brass and Woodwind Ensembles. Students may elect private study or to pursue their interest in music education. Band presents a concert each semester and travels during the second semester to designated schools in the surrounding area.

Adviser: Dr. John Darling, 701-224-5444
Email: john.darling@bismarckstate.edu

Concert/Chamber Choir

An experience for music students interested in choir. Concert choir fulfills an enrichment requirement for graduation, is open to all students. Students audition to join Chamber Choir; auditions are held for sections placement. In December, the choir participates in the BSC Choir concert and in spring, the college's musical. Each year, the choir tours local high schools and may plan a larger bit.

Adviser: Dr. Jeff Stone, 701-224-5438
Email: jeffrey.c.stone@bismarckstate.edu

Drama Club

Drama Club offers students a creative outlet, theatrical, and social involvement. This is a great organization for students interested in working in the production of theatre, acting, and directing. Students present and direct their own dramatic productions. A highlight for club members includes an annual trip to the week-long American College Theatre Festival in January, and the student-directed spring plays.

Adviser: Dean Bellin, 701-224-5627
Email: dean.bellin@bismarckstate.edu

Government

Student Government Association

The Student Government Association is the officially recognized voice of students at Bismarck State College. Elected representatives of the student body work with BSC administration to meet student needs. SGA serves on a variety of committees and represents students at the meetings of the North Dakota Student Association. Members participate in and lead service projects and help at campus activities. They are the designated body to oversee SGA fees collection and distribution. Be a part of the campus experience through a legacy at SGA.

Adviser: Norman Betland, 701-224-2554 & 701-224-5635
Email: bsc.sga@bismarckstate.edu

MYSTIC MEDIA

BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE STUDENT PRODUCTIONS

The Mystician

The Mystician is the Bismarck State College student news publication. The editors and staff collaborate on stories, photos, graphics and page design to produce the monthly newspaper, which they distribute on campus and to the community. All students are welcome to join the staff, submit articles, ideas, and photographs. Students may earn an enrichment credit by joining as a class. Stop by the Armory, Room 119, and visit their office.

Adviser: karen Bauer, 701-224-5522
Email: karen.bauer@bismarckstate.edu

MystiCast

MystiCast is a student created video show documenting newsworthy campus and community events. Students produce and direct every episode, which includes filming news and entertainment pieces, preparing studio equipment, anchoring the show and finalizing the production for broadcast. Students may earn credit by joining MystiCast as a class. Stop by the NECE and visit the studio!

Adviser: Dusty Anderson, 701-224-5674
Email: dustin.e.anderson@bismarckstate.edu

The MYX

The MYX is the Bismarck State College Internet radio broadcast. Students produce both talk and music radio shows. The MYX students also provide entertainment at many campus events iwth live remotes where they interview students, faculty, staff and visitors to campus. Several shows are currently featured on the Bismarck community radio station KDAK at 102.5 FM. Requests can be phoned in at 701-224-5572. The MYX is open to any student, staff or faculty member at BSC.

Adviser: Cole Bernhardt, 701-224-2679
Email: cole.bernhardt@bismarckstate.edu

A Message from Student Government

Hello, freshmen, returning, and transferee students of Bismarck State College. My name is RJ Tare, president of the Student Senate of BSC, and I welcome you all to our beautiful campus. The Student Senate mapped out plenty of plans for this school year which entails to our main goals. Our main goals are promoting diversity, improving mental health and wellness, advocating for student needs, and granting BSC students the ability to easily access the campus' resources. However, to accomplish these goals, I can't do it alone. The Student Senate needs transformative leaders such as yourself to make these changes and improvements a reality.

We encourage that you join us by grabbing and filling out an application form in our Student Senate office located at the Student Union. Immersing yourself to the campus lifestyle can be difficult, especially if you're new. Don't worry, simply participating in campus events, which we have a ton of, can help you find life-long friends and feel more welcome here at BSC.

Don't forget to know your professors well and thoroughly read their syllabi. Every professor is different, and their syllabi will help you know what to expect in their course as well as their office hours, which will inform you at what times they are free to provide some help.

There are plenty of ways to get yourself accustomed at BSC but with a little bit of participating in campus events and knowing your professors well can make your college life a breeze. Again, welcome to Bismarck State College, and I hope to see all of us have a prosperous and fun experience here.

CHEERS, RJ Tare,
STUDENT SENATE PRESIDENT



OPINION

Don't Belittle Me, Educate Me

By Brenna Malard
EDITOR AND COLUMNIST

"Don't belittle me, educate me." A simple take on this phrase can be to embrace change and learn from new opportunities instead of denying them in fear of rejection or embarrassment.

When entering college, whether as a new or returning student, everyone is just trying to find their place. Meeting new people and trying new things can be an intimidating experience for most because

we fear rejection from others.

Ironically, the one thing keeping people apart is also the one thing most people tend to do when faced with a new environment. If we're being honest, almost every single one of us has been guilty of, although maybe unintentionally, being the source of another person's rejection.

In today's society, we are taught to ridicule others when they don't match our predetermined notions of what we deem "acceptable". We shut others out or turn away from opportunities that scare us. It's important to note that these standards are

merely a societal norm and nothing forces us to uphold them. When abiding by these norms we're all simply acting as pawns in society's game that none of us really want to be playing anyways. These norms create a feeling of discomfort when faced with new opportunities, and these feelings are not unfamiliar to us all.

The start of the new school year is the perfect place to see this in action. We stray away from meeting new people or even joining clubs because we fear rejection. However, if we become complacent with these feelings, we never learn or grow as

people. This school year I urge everyone to try something new whether it be introducing yourself to someone or joining a club that pertains to your interests. I encourage you to seek discomfort in the hopes of finding yourself and maybe a few new friends and hobbies along the way. I also encourage you to make a conscious effort to embrace new opportunities and not criticize those that differ from what you are familiar with.

Most importantly remember, society's standards only restrain us as far as we let them.

Fire Emblem: Three Houses, The Art of War

By Robert Mechaley III
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

YouTube personality and Game Reviewer, Joseph Anderson, says that the two ways to best judge a game is as a work of art or as a commercial product. Views of art are subjected and varied especially within the context of video games. A game can have mechanics that make it great to play with hours of content, but has very little personality or expression contained within. Another game could have the inverse true with gorgeous detail and aesthetic while lacking substantial content for the price or lack of fulfillment in the player upon completion. A majority of well received games feature both, and Nintendo does a fantastic job in this department.

Nintendo has proven itself as of late with mainline games of their storied series on their functional and semi-

portable console the Nintendo Switch. The world of Hyrule looks beautiful in "The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild" with the physics engine and open ended exploration keeping it from going stale on the gameplay side. "Super Mario Maker" and "Super Mario Maker 2" take the aesthetic appeal of new and old Mario games while providing theoretically unlimited content for players and creators. Of all the party games, laid back adventures and indie hits available on the Switch though "Fire Emblem: Three Houses" stands out.

The "Fire Emblem" series of games already went through a facelift with the release of "Fire Emblem: Awakening" on the Nintendo 3Ds in 2012 that was praised critically and well received by fans. "Fire Emblem: Three Houses" outclasses "Fire Emblem: Awakening" in not just improving the long running title even further, but as a work of art.

The mechanics certainly make it a good

game by discarding the fairly unbalanced rock, paper, scissors style combat system. Exploring Garreg Mach Monastery, this games hubworld, to do quests and speak to your character's students between missions is enjoyable, adding depth and texture to a game through meaningful character interaction.

The combat has been enhanced by a battalion system to give an impression of real battle with unique combat abilities to get in just the right amount of damage or apply the opportune effect to an opponent. The gameplay and it's associated mechanics felt great and purposeful. All of this makes for a good game. "Three Houses" would still be considered art by virtue of being a video game, but there is more to solidify it as masterclass and worthy of that exact badge.

The world, character designs, lore, story and pacing blend equally as well as the mechanics do. Without being gritty as "Saving Private Ryan" or "Game of

Thrones" it manages to tell a thoughtful experience on the nature of war as well as examine whether or not we should place stock in the words and actions of people who assume to rule over us. The game hammers home the artistic elements with a gorgeous understanding of architecture and medieval art. As time passes in the game, each new moon (month) has lore regarding it narrated through a portrait reminiscent of medieval tapestry work. The lore itself is similar to a folktale with a religious influence blended in. Much of the players time will take place within a grand cathedral with architecture and stained glass evoking back to around roughly this same period.

Altogether, "Fire Emblem: Three Houses" becomes a must buy and classic in Nintendo's library with a new and improved look for the long running franchise and a tremendous experience worth playing, at least three times.

A Shower Thought

By Daniel Burbank
THE MYX PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Showering in the morning or showering in the evening? This hot topic in mid 2017 never officially answered the question everyone was looking for..or did it?

Tens of thousands of people took to Twitter, while the debate was popular, voicing their sides.

Some said that showering at night is like pouring milk before cereal. While others said showering in the morning is far superior to a night time wash.

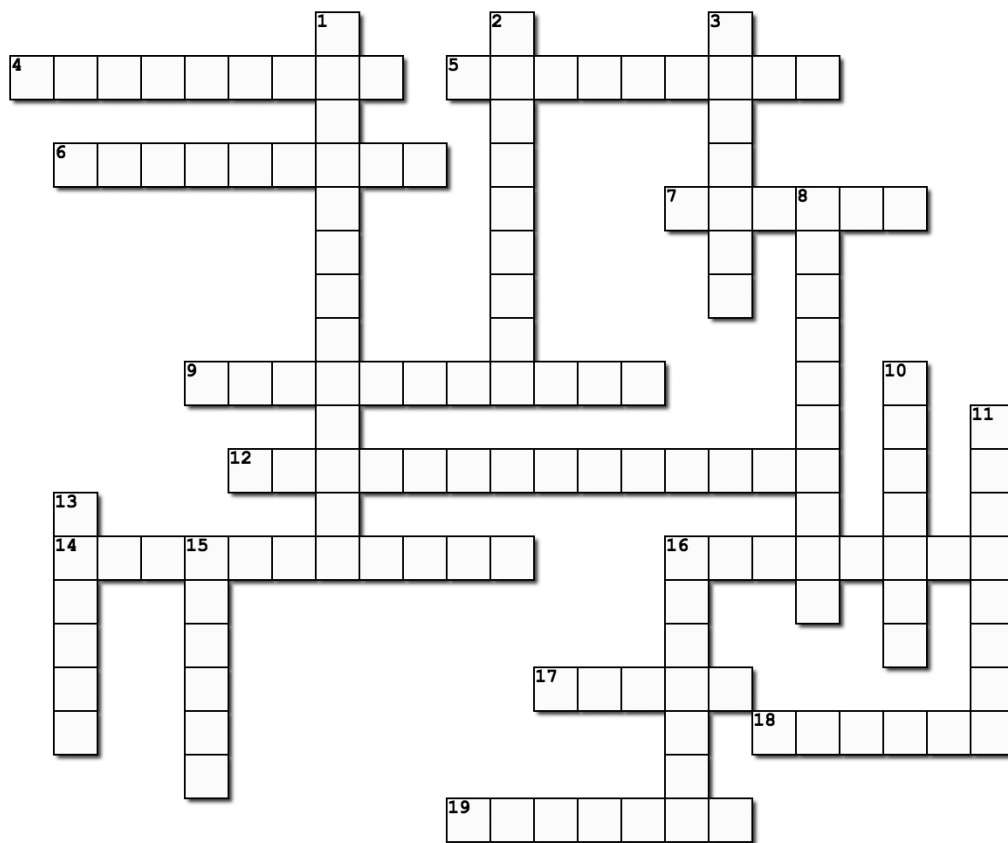
But there's actually science that supports both options. The associate clinical professor of dermatology at the Yale School of Medicine once said 'showering in the morning is like meditation,' while other experts said it can serve as an "incubation period" for creative ideas. Sixty-four percent of people preferred showering before bed in a Buzzfeed poll.

Going to bed clean is very important and the warm water naturally relaxes the muscles anyway.

If you're one of those people who shower with straight cold water, power to you but it really isn't helping build your immune system up any more than with warm water. But that's a whole other shower thought for later.

If you want to be 100 percent on the safe side, shower in the morning AND night. Kill two birds with one stone. Personally, I prefer showering at night because there's nothing more relaxing and refreshing than feeling clean before hitting the hay.

Dictionary 101



Across

4. comparable or similar
5. to clear from blame or suspicion
6. relationships between people that are mutually beneficial, or dependent, to each other
7. an extremely large, uncountable number of things
9. seeing events in the future
12. a perfect, model example of a specific quality
14. relating to human existence or the experience of existing
16. still pure and in its original condition
17. lacking originality so it's boring
18. something that consists of two parts
19. having wisdom with the future in mind

Down

1. the fact of placing two things side by side, usually in contrast
2. a difference between two opposite things
3. calm and peaceful
8. someone who attacks cherished beliefs or institutions
10. to take back, repeal
11. relating to money or currency
13. someone who is uncompromising and fanatical about an ideal
15. having or displaying sharp judgement, being clever
16. a model of excellence or perfection

Answers on page 2

Esports Arrives at Bismarck State College

By Robert Mechaley III
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Buildings and programs are not the only new face to have arrived to Bismarck State College for the 2019-2020 academic year. The BSC Athletics Department unveiled in a press conference held in the Missouri Room of the Student Union on July 9, the new varsity Esports program. Dr. Larry C. Skogen, President of Bismarck State College, as well as Buster Gillis, Director of Athletics, brought to light plans for the program that will begin practice in the Fall semester.

"Gaming is mainstream and implementing a team on campus allows us to bring those who may not always become involved in a sport or campus organization together," said Buster Gillis in a press release that day.

The press release announced the four games that would be played in a competitive setting by the newly formed team. The two competitive shooter games to be played are "Overwatch" a first person shooter (FPS) by Blizzard, the designer

and publisher of "Starcraft" and "World of Warcraft", and "Fortnite", a third person shooter and battle royale style game created by Epic Game Studios. Blizzard shares another game in the BSC game lineup in the form of collectible card game (CCG) "Hearthstone", which involves the strategic use of a handcrafted deck of virtual cards. Lastly, the popular multiplayer online battle arena (MOBA) "League of Legends" will have a team to contend. A poster for each game lined the walls around the Missouri Room which has been designated as the space to be used for team practice.

\$50,000 was set aside to be distributed as individual \$1000 scholarships for students admitted to the team. The Mystics will compete on a collegiate level against other ND state educational institutions such as Dickinson State University, Minnesota State University Moorehead and the University of Jamestown. Any other Esports programs in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) will be competed against as well.



Top: Bismarck State College President Dr. Larry C Skogen and Athletic Director, Buster Gillis, announce Mystics Esports at live press conference in the Student Union on July 9. (Photo: Robert Mechaley III)

The Missouri Room in the SU has been refurbished with the necessary equipment to practice. The walls now are lined by desks, gaming PCs, gaming chairs and LED lighting fixtures.

On September 3 the athletes for this team met in the Basin Electric Conference room of the National Energy Center of Excellence and got to tour their new practice space as well.



Right: Student athletes for the Esports program tour the Missouri Room. This room will act as the practice room for the emerging athletic team. (Photo: Robert Mechaley III)



Mystic Volleyball Calendar

September 2019

September 13-14
NDSCS Invitational
@ Wahpeton

September 17
@ Miles Community College

September 18
@ Dawson Community College

September 23
@ North Dakota State College of
Science

September 25 - Home Game
Lake Region State College

October 2
@ Dakota College at Bottineau

October 4-5
@ Central Community College
Classic Tournament
Columbus

October 9
@ Williston State College

October 14 - Home Game
Miles Community College

BSC Volleyball Captains Amy Jacobson, Alie Glasser and Bailee Otterness will be leading the team this year. Mystics Volleyball won their first official game of the season on September 4. (Photo: Mystician Archives)



On August 30, alumnus and former editor of The Mystician Hunter Andes visited the campus and the renovated Mystic Media studio and offices. Andes was instrumental in setting the process of renovation in motion. (Photo: Submitted)

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