



# THE MYSTICIAN

[ NEWS ] PAPER

**BARBENHEIMER  
AT THE OSCARS**  
PAGE 7

**BALKOWITSCH  
EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEW**  
PAGE 14

**MYSTIC  
BASEBALL  
SNEAK PEEK**  
PAGE 22

**COMEDY  
CORNER**  
CHECK OUT  
PAGE 26

MARCH 2024  
VOL. 85 ISSUE 6

STUDENTS PARTAKE IN SELF CARE EVENT  
PHOTO CREDIT: MALEA BATES

# SELF-CARE EVENT MOTIVATES STUDENT WELLNESS

## Students attend mental health awareness event

BY QUINN BERG  
MYSTIC MEDIA CREW

On Wednesday, Feb 7 the Student Union bustled with

activity as Bismarck State College students and faculty took part in an event dedicated to promoting health through self-care. The theme of the event, "Life is Like a Fruit Basket," encourages wellness through variety, and the services offered certainly lived up to that goal. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. those in attendance were treated to haircuts, massages, nail painting and more, all free of charge.

The event was partially motivated by the well-documented slump in happiness and academics that plagues college students after the beginning of the new year.

"We realized our students need some more positivity and self-care earlier in the spring semester," Student Engagement Coordinator Sarah Owens said. "There's a slump in seasonal depression, so we try to pump that up."

The students present certainly seemed to share Owens' values about personal wellness.

"It's hard to take care of others when you're not doing your best, so take care of yourself first," one BSC sophomore attending the event said.

WELLNESS ON PAGE 4

# CAMPUS ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

## BSC RODEO LAUNCH

MARCH 8 | 5:30PM  
STUDENT UNION

## WELCOME BACK

### CHIPS & DIP

MARCH 11 | 11-1PM  
STUDENT UNION

## TRIVIA NIGHT

MARCH 12 | 6-8PM  
MYSTIC MARKETPLACE

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS & RESOURCES

MARCH 12 | 11-1PM  
STUDENT UNION

## CONSENT TANKS

MARCH 13 | 11-1PM  
STUDENT UNION

## CLOVER COOKIE

### DECORATING

MARCH 14 | 11-1PM  
STUDENT UNION

## MASHED POTATO BOWL

MARCH 18 | 11-1PM  
STUDENT UNION

## SPRING MUSICAL

MARCH 20 | 7:30PM  
SIDNEY J. LEE AUDITORIUM

## SPRING MUSICAL

MARCH 21 | 7:30PM  
SIDNEY J. LEE AUDITORIUM

## SPRING MUSICAL

MARCH 22 | 7:30PM  
SIDNEY J. LEE AUDITORIUM

## GRAND THEATER

MARCH 19 | ALL DAY  
GRAND THEATER

## BSC SPRING

### TRANSFER FAIR

MARCH 20 | 10-1PM  
STUDENT UNION

## BUNNY COOKIES

MARCH 26 | 11-1PM  
STUDENT UNION

## EASTER EGG HUNT

MARCH 28 | 9AM  
STUDENT UNION

## MYSTIC MEDIA STAFF

- Kaia Lehman . . . . . The Mystician Editor-In-Chief
- Levon Schulz . . . . . MystiCast Executive Producer
- Jayden Fajardo . . . . . Mystic Media Coordinator
- Emily Tryon . . . . . The MYX Production Manager
- Quinn Berg . . . . . Mystic Media Crew
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- Alix Dobler . . . . . Mystic Media Crew
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- Mina Good Eagle . . . . . Mystic Media Crew
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- Michael Huravitch . . . . . Mystic Media Crew
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- Jaden Reinicke . . . . . Columnist
- Mason Zacher . . . . . Columnist
- Malea Bates . . . . . Graphic Designer
- Chloe Erickson . . . . . Graphic Designer
- Brandon Hagerott . . . . . Graphic Designer
- Robert Mechaley III . . . . . Alumni Reporter

## SAY CHEESE!



CHLOE NIEUWSMA WITH HER BRACELET  
PHOTO CREDIT: MALEA BATES

## Want to be in The Mystician?

Submit your photos to [bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu](mailto:bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu) for a chance to be featured on one of our pages!

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# CAUTION ADVISED IN CROSSWALKS

BY SHANE BIBERDORF  
MYSTIC MEDIA CREW

Safety is an important thing when going anywhere. The Bismarck State College police are committed to ensuring the safety of as many people as possible. Typically the last thing anyone wants is to sustain an injury when going about their business. Here is what can be done to get to any destination safely.

“Since August, there had been four to five people hit in the crosswalk, all to varying degrees of severity,” BSC Officer Mark Thueson said.

When an accident happens, remaining as calm as possible is helpful so as not to cause more panic during the already stressful situation. Thueson also gave some advice if there were to be a passerby to an accident on the crosswalk.

“If you have a phone with you, call 911 because that’s the most important thing,” Thueson said.

When walking around campus it is key to ensure it’s clear to cross. Everyone, students, faculty and staff should err on the side of caution when moving across the street.

“When crossing the street, I feel like I am safe because most cars stop right there and uncommonly would go pretty slow.” Dustin Wintermeyer, a student

at BSC, said. “I haven’t really encountered anything that has put my life into danger.”

During Christmas break, BSC placed two flashing crosswalk signs along Schafer Street. These lights are continuously flashing to get the driver’s attention and notify them of the crosswalk.

“I feel like it helps put awareness a little more, and it helps people see oh hey there’s probably people crossing this way,” Wintermeyer said.

A question posed is whether BSC should add more of these flashing crosswalk signs. There are multiple opinions on the subject.

“If we get too many lights flashing, they kinda fade into the background and people lose interest,” Officer Thueson said.

“I feel like it’s good the way it is except for on the street that leads up to Werner Hall,” Wintermeyer said.

That street is Edwards Avenue. It is a spot of concern due because of the hill and the crosswalks not always being visible when on either side of said hill. As well as the fact cars are parking right up to the crosswalk making it even harder to see the pedestrians in the crosswalks.

Thueson also said that the no parking signs on the streets are

there for the safety of both the driver and the pedestrian. The other issue is drivers that are distracted by anything causing them to not pay as much attention to the road as they should.

“Anytime that people are driving, they should have their phone nowhere near them,” Officer Thueson said.

Overall BSC’s campus is safe

to walk through, except for a few accidents or close calls that have happened. If anyone sees an accident, report it to 911 immediately to provide the best help they can.



CROSSWALK ON BSC CAMPUS  
PHOTO CREDIT: MALEA BATES

# BSC STUDENTS SPEND SPRING BREAK IN SPAIN

BY JAYDEN FAJARDO  
MYSTIC MEDIA COORDINATOR

While the average Bismarck State College student is going home or sleeping all day this upcoming spring break, a group of BSC students consisting of a joint venture between BSC’s Agricultural and History departments are taking a trip to Spain. They are leaving on Wednesday, Feb. 28 and returning on Friday, March 8. The first four days are going to be spent in the city of Barcelona and the last four days will be spent in the capital city of Madrid. As this is a trip for both history and agricultural students there are elements of both used in the travel itinerary.

The history students will be taking tours of cultural sites, such as the Sagrada Familia Cathedral, which originally started construction in 1882 and is still not finished. This is because of multiple design changes, funding issues and postponements because of crises like the Spanish Civil War in 1936 and COVID-19 in 2020. The students will also be visiting the Prado Art Museum in Barcelona that opened in November 1819 and holds paintings from legendary Spanish artists like Francisco Goya.

This will be happening while the agricultural students are taking guided tours of an organic farm, vineyard, an olive grove and a dairy producer.

All of the students will be taking a Spanish cooking class and they will also attend a Flamenco performance, which is a form of dance that was pioneered by the Roma people in southern Spain. This trip was planned by and is led by Assistant Professor Marko Davinic and Assistant Professor Harlee Kilber from the agricultural department and Assistant Professor David Terry from the history department.

BSC Student Colton Markel said he is very excited to go. He said the main thing he is looking forward to is using the knowledge he has acquired from Spanish history and language classes he has taken at BSC to help him navigate in a real life context. He said he is also excited to try the food, specifically Jamón ibérico, which is a cured ham leg that is carved by a sword. This is his first time going out of the country, as he just got his passport last fall. As for translators in Spain Colton said that they will have guided tours that will be translated and also that Dr.

Terry and he can speak Spanish.

Students left behind in North Dakota can

follow the students trips via social media and the blog at [bscmysticmedia.com](http://bscmysticmedia.com)



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# BSC PROVIDES RESOURCES FOR RED ZONE VICTIMS

## Students encouraged to reach out for help

BY ARIANA GONZÁLEZ RODRIGUEZ  
MYSTIC MEDIA CREW

Over 50% of all college sexual assaults have been statistically found to occur from the beginning of the fall semester through Thanksgiving break. This time period is referred to as the Red Zone.

The time period of the Red Zone is not coincidental as it lines up with the arrival of returning upperclass students and the arrival of freshmen students, who are typically less familiar with the campus environment. These students may be away from friends and family and may be experiencing living on their own for the first time, putting them in a vulnerable position.

Bismarck State College has a Title IX policy. Title IX is a federal law that prohibits sexual violence and discrimination on campuses and within their activities. This policy ensures that students feel safe to report these instances of sexual misconduct.

Kaylyn Bondy is BSC's Vice President of Student Affairs as well as the Title IX Coordinator.

"We are obliged to follow all of those federal policies," Bondy said. "As a part of those federal policies is to educate to create awareness and educate to prevent these types of occurrences, or when made aware of, to stop second occurrences from happening."

For many students, it is helpful to know ways in which they can keep themselves safe on campus, one of which is awareness around substance use.

"Oftentimes substances can be involved in instances of sexual harassment or assault," Bondy said. "Awareness on how those things can link together, I think is most important for students."

Another way for students to

stay safe on campus is to make sure they know who they are spending time with.

"As you are out and about and going out with friends, knowing your environment, I think is important," Bondy said.

These occurrences can also happen within relationships. Because of this, it is important to establish boundaries and have proper communication.

"Knowing how to communicate I think is an important thing for not just students, but really anybody to be able to create that environment within a relationship to have a healthy relationship with clear and healthy boundaries," Bondy said.

BSC provides many ways to report these instances of sexual misconduct and violence. These reports can be filed online, but they can also be filed via in-person connections.

"On our website, we have a concerned report," Bondy said. "Connecting with Nicole Mikkelsen or I if somebody wanted to come in via face-to-face, phone call, or email. We also work very closely with other departments, so if a student had a concern that would be reported to police, we work very closely with our police and also with our conduct office."

Services and resources are also available for victims of sexual assault, both on campus and around the Bismarck-Mandan community.

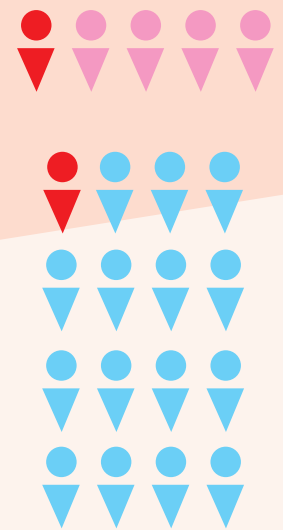
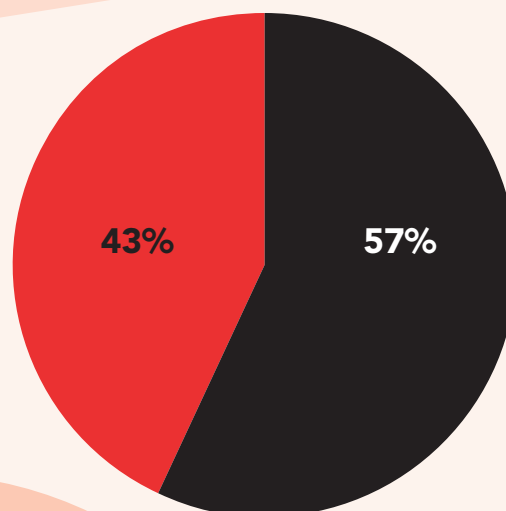
"We branch out to the community because people's needs can be very different," Bondy said. "Supportive measures are things that are put in place to allow students to experience their educational programming without any ramifications."

For assistance, dial (701) 224-2700 to reach the Campus

## THE RED ZONE

What is the **Red Zone**? The **Red Zone** is the beginning period of a new school year when there is an **increased frequency** of social gatherings and **sexual assault rates**.

Campus sexual assault (CSA) makes up the **greatest proportion (43%)** of total on-campus crimes in the United States, resulting in approximately **8 forcible sex offenses per 10,000 students**.



For assistance, dial **(701)224-2700** to reach the Campus Police Department or **701-224-5752** to contact the MACC. The MACC can also be reached out to via email at **bsc.counseling@bismarckstate.edu**

All information is provided by **apa.org**

ILLUSTRATION CREDIT: CHLOE ERICKSON

Police Department or (701) 224-5752 to contact the MACC. The MACC can also be reached out to via email at [bsc.counseling@bismarckstate.edu](mailto:bsc.counseling@bismarckstate.edu).

"We are here to support our

students and help them be successful," Nicole Mikkelsen, Deputy Title IX Coordinator said. "If they experience something that could potentially be sexual misconduct or assault, please report it. We can't offer

that support if we don't know about a situation, and that really is our goal first and foremost, how can we help support so they can accomplish the goals they came to BSC to accomplish."

## WELLNESS From page 1

BY QUINN BERG  
MYSTIC MEDIA CREW

Perhaps the most unconventional of the self-care services provided was a Reiki station, in which participants could have their

mental and physical energies healed in a way they may have never before considered.

"It is a good way to have a fresh start. It's like a spiritual massage," Master Reiki practitioner Keshia Hoffer said about the practice.

Indeed, this distinctive way of healing the body and soul certainly seemed to have an effect on those open enough to try it.

"It was really eye opening how people can see the things going on within you," BSC Sophomore José Zendejas said.

Despite carrying out the process, Hoffer states firmly that she is not the source of change found within the practice of Reiki, merely the conduit.

"The client heals themselves," she said. "They're able to release anything

they've been holding on to."

In a time where the nation's college students are being rocked by an unprecedented mental health crisis, it is important that proper care is taken to ensure wellness in all aspects of students' lives. The campus community can rest assured knowing that BSC is committed to helping students maintain their physical and mental health.

# RED CROSS COMES TO BSC

BY ALIX DOBLER  
MYSTIC MEDIA CREW

Each semester at Bismarck State College brings an opportunity for growth. With the influx of new students and community interest, the need for more seminars, events, and clubs continues to grow.

Recently BSC faculty hosted a meeting, celebrating the growth of enrollment for the college.

“This past fall semester, we reported our largest freshman class in BSC history, with overall enrollment reaching a 10-year high. Our freshman class in Fall 2023 was also the largest freshman class in the North Dakota University System.” Anne Seidler, director of admissions and Recruitment at BSC said.

With incoming freshman students emerging every semester, new student-involvement opportunities are highly sought after.

The American Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that helps shelter, feed and support those in need while teaching life-saving skills to surrounding communities. The organization is entirely dependent on volunteers to help meet its mission, providing several lines of service such as – disaster cycle services, biomedical services, training services, services to the armed

forces and international services.

Executive Director of The American Red Cross in North Dakota, Zoe Wergeland Manstrom, was one of the table hosts during BSC’s Winter Survival event last semester. In addition to informing college students on winter safety tips, Manstrom shared a handful of promotional booklets about American Red Cross clubs.

As coined by The Red Cross, the organization’s mission is to ‘prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergency by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.’

The American Red Cross also stated that over 25% of all volunteers are youth and young adults. This number differs greatly in the state of North Dakota, with the majority of volunteers being older adults in the age of retirement.

“The bigger challenge for us is that we only have about 38 volunteers in western North Dakota,” Manstrom said.

With such low numbers, Manstrom shares an interest in gaining new volunteers through the idea of Red Cross clubs.

“We really need to get more volunteers and having that



ZOE MANSTROM VISITING BSC  
PHOTO CREDIT: ALIX DOBLER

energy that we get from students, will just be fantastic, and fun,” Manstrom said.

For those involved in a Red Cross club, opportunities to develop new skills while serving the community leave an abundance of possibilities. Activities range from planning blood drives and sharing disaster preparedness education

to providing food and first aid to groups in need. During their time at the Red Cross, club members gain new knowledge from hands-on experience.

In an academic setting, Red Cross clubs mainly focus on student ideas, leaving complete control of the club’s activities to club members. “The experience that individual students have depends on

what the Red Cross club wants to do,” Manstrom said.

With an academic adviser’s approval, students can discuss and carry out club activities scheduling events that fit with their routines. The organization has a list of potential club activities on its website, helping members get started on sharing the Red Cross’s mission.

# PERCY JACKSON TAKES ON DISNEY

Sometimes the show is as good as the book



BY IRIE TOWNSEND  
MYSTIC MEDIA CREW

Being a fan of Rick Riordan's "Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief" book series, I was excited to see how the Disney series would bring the story justice. After watching the series and comparing it to the original book, I have some of my own opinions.

Riordan's book is a ride through Greek mythology with a modern twist. It's not always just about monsters and gods; it's about friendship,

bravery, and being yourself through the chaos ahead. Part of the book is not only about an amazing story but it also teaches valuable lessons.

Looking at the book's side of things; it has an amazing way of showing imagination through words. The writing gives you a realistic picture where ancient myths crash with the modern world. The book also has characters that you want to remember. Percy and his friends each have their own unique personalities and struggles. It gives the thought that they are like real people. The book has a unique plot that has you hooked through the whole series with the twisting turns of quests and friends.

I feel if you are going to make a series about a book it needs to at least follow the book's plot and I think the new Disney series Adaptation did a good job portraying that. But while the Disney series had a possible chance to capture the magic of the book, it fell short in some



PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS  
PHOTO CREDIT: DISNEY/DAVID BUKACH

areas. A series is never going to fully be exactly like the plot of the book; there will always be some changes. But there were big changes to some of the plot points and the traits of the characters.

While the Disney series didn't quite capture the heart of the original "Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief" book, it still has its own justice. However, a television series will never be exactly like the book.

# EXPLORING MUSIC WITH ALEX



BY ALEX SANABRIA  
MYSTIC MEDIA CREW

At Bismarck State College there's a diversity of students. With a diversity of students comes a diversity of music. I went around and asked three BSC students for song suggestions to review them.

"Beautiful Things" by Benson Boone was suggested by BSC student Avery Rath. I interpret this song is about finding a girl the artist loves and asking for her not to be taken away from him. "Don't take these beautiful things that I've got." There's a

reason that this song is trending on TikTok. It's catchy and has a beautiful message. The passion in the artist's voice, especially in the chorus, adds to the message. My favorite part of the song, which seems to be everyone's favorite part according to TikTok, is the chorus.

"Blue" by Zach Bryan was the next song suggestion I got from student Tyler Thompson. As someone who isn't the biggest fan of country music, I still enjoyed the song. I interpret it as a sentimental song to a lover. I could totally see it being used as the first dance song at a wedding. "There ain't a heaven on the planet that saves me like you," is a beautiful lyric. That lyric and the context of the rest of the song shows that she turned his world around for the better. My favorite part was the simplicity of just having a guitar as the instrumental and raw vocals. I feel like that brings more sentiment to the song.

"This Side of Paradise" by Coyote Theory was suggested by student Juliana Cook. I interpret this song as if the

artist feels what it's like to fall in love for the first time. Also, what it feels like to overcome the feeling of loneliness. "If you're lonely, come be lonely with me," the artist sings. It's a cute song that just makes me smile. My favorite part was the way the singer's voice flowed so well with the beat and instrumentals.

I think it's fun to get

students involved in the paper all around campus. Keep an eye out for me and maybe your song could be reviewed. Though for the most part I'd like to keep it random, you can shoot me an email with a song suggestion as well. See contact info below.

[alexsanabria.mystic@gmail.com](mailto:alexsanabria.mystic@gmail.com)



# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



BY KAIA LEHMAN  
THE MYSTICIAN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Hello my beautiful friends, welcome back to another issue of The Mystician. I've decided, effective immediately, that I am going to become a seer if this whole graphic design career doesn't work out. Predicting the future has been a recurring theme these last few months at The Mystician, and I hope this trend comes to an end. Unless I win the lottery, or a Nigerian prince with his assets frozen decides to randomly give me 1,000,000 dollars. Then by all means, let this office become prophetic.

In other news, Mystic Media staff are headed to New York City to compete for Best Newspaper and other categories at the CMA Awards, College Media Association, not Country Music Awards, we are not that cool. Whoever determines the acronyms in the field of journalism needs a new career though, honestly.

I'm excited to attend this conference and learn about media while I am down there too. There are several sessions we are scheduled to go to that will help make our paper better and I can't wait to apply those tips here. Even though it will only be for two issues, I'm excited to see what these next few months will bring for The Mystician.

Before you go back to the real world, consider the following (Cue Bill Nye Sequence). 1. Buy a lottery ticket, because why not. 2. Call your dad, he needs some love too. 3. Get a cat, we all need a little extra love and connection these days. Enjoy the break, stay safe and for the love of all things, please don't wear a backwards hat and sunglasses while shielding your eyes from the sun with your hand.

Later Dudes,

*Kaia Lehman*

# BARBENHEIMER HITS THE OSCARS

She's Barbie, and he is death, destroyer of worlds



BY LEVON SCHULTZ  
MYSTICAST EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

The Barbenheimer saga continues after \$2.4 billion and twenty-one Oscar nominations. Last July “Barbie” and “Oppenheimer” hit theaters on the same day and revitalized the idea of the event movie. I and many others went to both films on that opening weekend which hauled in a combined \$262 – million domestically.

Every year the Oscar nominations are met with a storm of supposed outrage on Twitter. However, this year's conversation circulates around the highest profile release of the year. “Barbie” director Greta Gerwig was not nominated.

To clarify, “Barbie” writer Greta Gerwig was. Actress Margot Robbie, Stereotypical

Barbie herself, also missed out. However producer Margot Robbie was nominated.

One of the more important Kens, played by Simu Liu, felt the need to release a statement letting us all know how hard Gerwig and Robbie worked on the film. Best Supporting Actor nominee Ryan Gosling was struck with success guilt and also made a statement on the snubs.

Gosling said, “there is no Ken without Barbie, and there is no ‘Barbie’ movie without Greta Gerwig and Margot Robbie, the two people most responsible for this history-making, globally-celebrated film.”

That's great Ryan. I'm still failing to see how the eight Oscar nominations are not a consolation. If Gosling is feeling bad about anything, it should be stealing a slot from Dua Lipa in the Original Song category. America Ferrera, nominated in the Supporting Actress category, should also apologize for stealing a slot from all the actors that did not star in a Chevrolet ad within a corporate toy movie.

On the other side of the Barbenheimer coin, “Oppenheimer” leads the field this year with thirteen nominations. The momentum is

starting to build and this may finally be the year director Christopher Nolan takes home a golden statue of his own.

Including his nominations this year, Nolan has been nominated a combined eight times as a director, writer and producer. It would be a cherry on top of a mushroom cloud if the greatest blockbuster director of the last two decades could take home a prize, or two, or three.

Cillian Murphy, who plays J. Robert Oppenheimer is a favorite to snag the Best Actor prize. Robert Downey Jr., finally free from the MCU, also has his eyes set on taking home the Supporting Actor statue over Ryan Gosling.

“Oppenheimer's” Emily Blunt is competing against America Ferrera in the Supporting Actress category, though neither of the two seem to be the favorite to win.

These two hits are destined to be forever intertwined in film history. Without a doubt, the movie event of the 2020s so far, and the post-Covid bump that the industry needed. At long last, at the center of pop culture, the focus was back at the movies. “Barbie” won big at the box office and perhaps “Oppenheimer” will win big March 10, on Oscar's night.

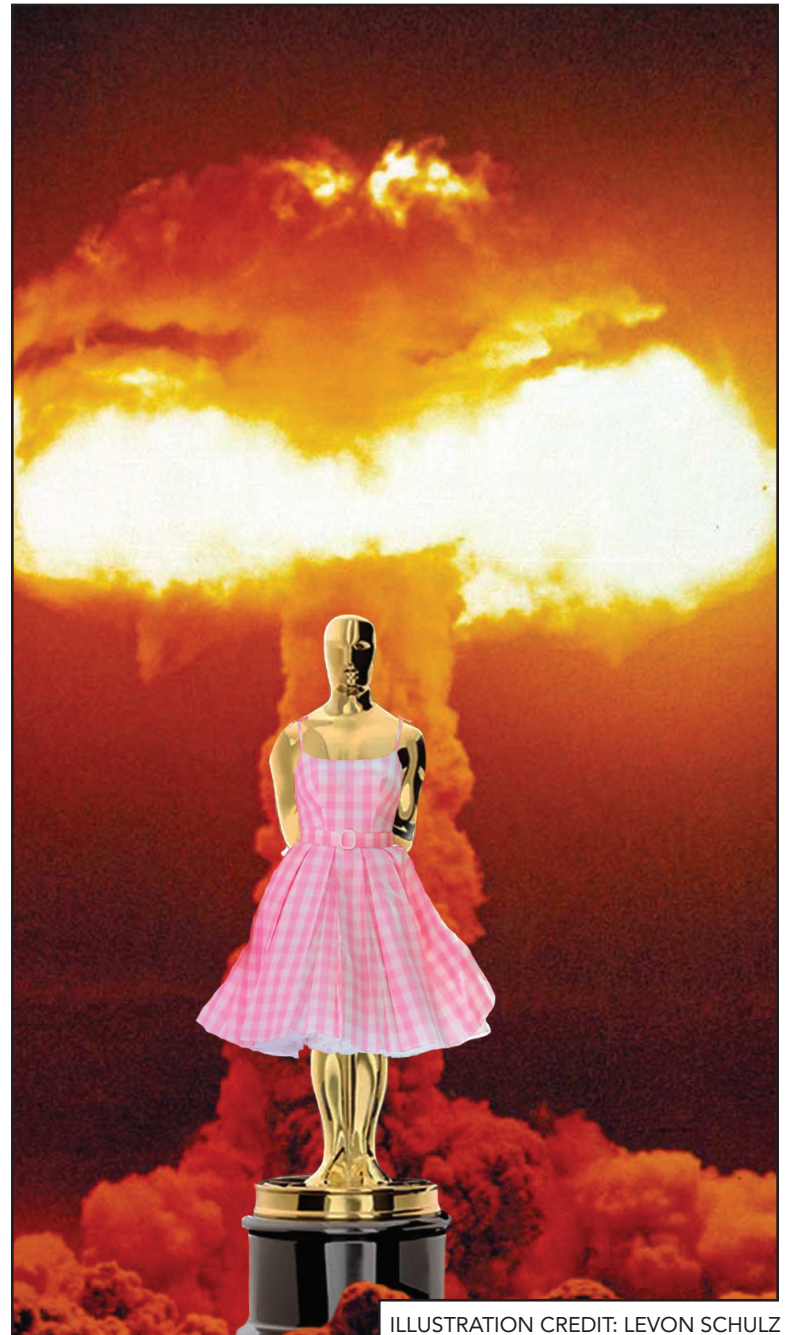


ILLUSTRATION CREDIT: LEVON SCHULTZ

# ROAD HOUSE COMES CRAWLING BACK



BY QUINN BERG  
MYSTIC MEDIA CREW

My friends and family tend to see me as a movie buff, and I don't dispute that label. From the artistry present in every aspect of the craft to the immense emotional meaning one can pull from the screen,

movies are important to me—which is why people are often thrown for a loop when I casually mention that my favorite of all time is the 1989 cult classic “Road House”. I have tried and failed to justify my deep love for this flick that the internet has unironically dubbed ‘one of the greatest bad movies ever made,’ and there's no point in trying again now. I'll simply say this: “Road House” is hilariously macho, unapologetically entertaining and a perfect time capsule of the 1980s.

This brings me to the elephant in the room: the remake. When rumors of a “Road House” reboot first began floating around, I was optimistic. Despite my adoration I can admit that the original isn't perfect, and there is plenty of

room for improvement while still maintaining its spirit and repackaging it for a new audience to enjoy.

Those hopes were crushed upon viewing the recently released trailer by Amazon Studios. Gone are the over the top one-liners delivered dead seriously by the legendary Patrick Swayze, now replaced by Jake Gyllenhaal armed with an arsenal of awkward humor that has been plaguing every major studio release for the last half decade.

Gone is the self-confidence of the original movie and with it the endlessly quotable dialogue that was simultaneously goofy and snappy. But perhaps most noticeably, gone are the glowing neon hues and

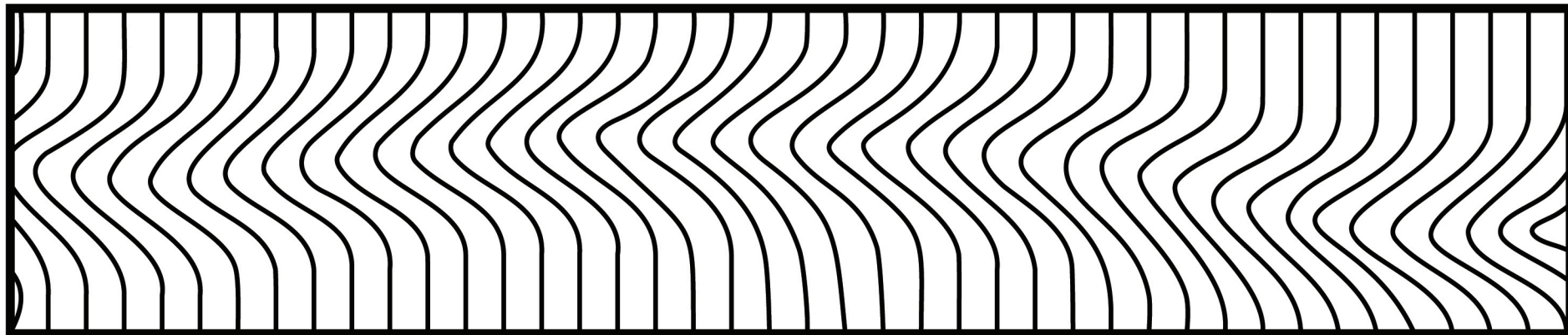
rugged backwater charm that was so firmly rooted in the film's Missouri setting, which has been transplanted to the Florida Keys. This change aligns the remake less with the 1989 original and more with the dumpster fire that was 2006's “Road House 2”.

The only thing in my mind as I finished watching Amazon's new trailer was, why? Why did somebody decide that of all the films to remake, “Road House” was the right pick? “Road House” a movie filled with outlandish \*#@-kicking that takes place in a nonsensical world where a bar bouncer is so famous that his name is recognized from New York to Missouri. A movie featuring depictions of women that range from mildly sexist to

downright exploitative. Why remake a movie that is so clearly defined by the values and trends of its time?

The truth is that “Road House” is the kind of movie that can't be made today without losing nearly everything that made it a cult classic in the first place. As the streaming wars continue to cannibalize the film industry, studios will keep digging up the hits of days past in a vain attempt to capitalize off of brand recognition, all the while not realizing that they're replacing everything people love with crude imitations that simultaneously lack familiarity and are devoid of originality.

It seems you just can't beat the classics. And you certainly can't recreate them.



— BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE MASS COMMUNICATION PROGRAM PRESENTS —

# CONTENT CREATORS SUMMIT

Bismarck State College **Mass Communications** Program Advisory Committee and the BSC **Mystic Media Student Productions** present a day of *content creation and collaboration* with **media professionals**.

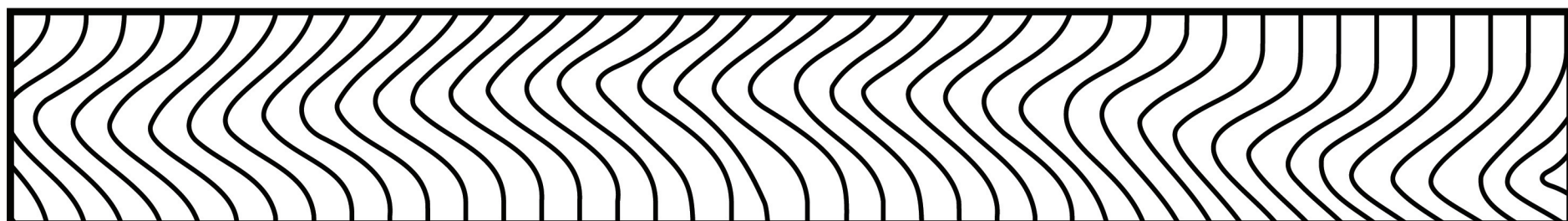
**MORE  
INFORMATION  
COMING  
SOON**

**MAY 3**

9am - 4:30pm

**BSC**

**CAMPUS**





# OLD FASHION AFTERHOURS



HARRISON COBB ENJOYS A MEAL IN THE STUDENT UNION  
PHOTO CREDIT: JAYDEN FAJARDO

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ATHLETE ATTENDS BSC

BY CODY EISENBEIS  
MYSTIC MEDIA CREW

Everyone has a story. One person's story may be about winning a video game tournament where as another may be about starting a whole new life after going through a tough time.

“So, you know, coming from the UK where you can walk everywhere, moving to America a bit different, you can't really walk everywhere,” Harrison Cobb, Bismarck State College Student-Athlete said. “Dirt roads and downtown — it's a lot busier and a lot of things just cut off — you don't really get in the UK.”

Cobb moved to Bismarck during August of 2023. In the spring of 2023, Cobb started to talk with different colleges throughout the United States. Bismarck State College attracted both Cobb and his recruiter's eyes.

Cobb signed with the BSC Track & Field team and started working. He runs mid distance events while also competing in

cross country earlier in the year before track and field.

“So making friends was quite easy because I talk not even a word and people already know I'm English,” Cobb said. “Word gets around quick, make some good friends on it, especially on the track team. You know, there is Morgan, Eric, Ivar, Justin, Cody.”

Cobb was able to meet a lot of new people which opened plenty of friendship opportunities. Since Cobb is not from the United States, he was only able to drive legally for six months. Now that the time is up, he needs to catch rides from friends to events across Bismarck.

“So I have to prove that, you know, this was the right decision [going to BSC],” Cobb said.

Cobb started the year off by heading to the NJCAA Cross Country Nationals and is trying to qualify this year for track.

Watch the story about Harry Cobb on [bscmysticmedia.com](http://bscmysticmedia.com).



HARRISON COBB PREPARES FOR UPCOMING RACE  
PHOTO CREDIT: CODY EISENBEIS

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# OWNERS OFFER NEARLY NEW FOR OVER 50 YEARS

BY MINA GOOD EAGLE  
MYSTIC MEDIA CREW

Bismarck is widely known as the capital of good 'Ol North Dakota. Nowadays it has exploded into a bustling metropolis. It can be easy to get caught up in the 'new,' new shops, new restaurants, new houses, new everything.

However, nestled in a sleepy neighborhood in south Bismarck stands a log cabin style home. This house is particularly unique because within the dwelling is a small thrift store called The Nearly New. The store would likely go unnoticed at first glance. The two owners, Mary Nordstrom and Lois Hohimer have been operating it together for three decades. The store itself has been open since the 1970s.

Nordstrom said she opened her first store in Watertown, South Dakota before following her husband to Bismarck. "I was an avid rummage seller for years and there were stores like this in Watertown in the 60s," Nordstrom said. "I started to sell some clothes there, and then I decided I could do it, too. So, I had one in my home called The Broadway Thrift Shop. Then my husband found a job up here."

Thrift stores and consignment clothing stores offer cheaper options than shopping at department stores, most offer 75% from the original pricing.

"We were the first ones here, selling used clothing, other than thrift stores. It was all consignment," Nordstrom said. "We later got into the name brands. People really appreciate getting the best for less."

Running a business can be a daunting task within itself, but the ladies have an airtight system to beat the odds. Each takes on the task that the other finds monotonous. They say their partnership works because they are the same age and have a deep understanding of what the other needs.

"I do most of the consigning -- she does the pricing," Nordstrom said. "I go through [and] mark things down and straighten things up."

"We understand what goes on in our families, if we have to do something with the kids, we do it. That's a big thing," Hohimer said.

Self-care is important to the owners as well when they are not busy in the store they take time to do what they enjoy. Mary is fond of playing pickleball these days and spending time with family while Lois likes to bake and spend time with her grandkids.

"Shes the jock," Hohimer said.

The Nearly New incorporated itself into modern times by opening a Facebook page and



THE OWNERS STRIKE A POSE  
PHOTO CREDIT: JOHNNATHON BROWN

bringing on Andresha Minard, who joined the team last year. She started selling inventory through her personal Poshmark page. Prior to her helping at the store, she was a loyal customer for several years.

"They are like family," Minard said. "They are amazing, sweet, kind."

All the women love working at the store and plan on

being there for as long as they can. The best part of their days is getting to go through the inventory.

"It's like hidden treasure," Minard said.

Hohimer said she loves interacting with the customers.

"I've met so many nice people and made so many wonderful friends," Hohimer said.

Nordstrom said she hopes she will continue to run the store,

"I will keep going as long as I can," Nordstrom said. "I love it, this is my life."

The shoppe is located at 505 Riverwood Drive, Bismarck, ND 58504, or find them on Facebook at Nearly New Shoppe.

# STUDENTS PUT COLLEGE ON HOLD

BY QUINN BERG  
MYSTIC MEDIA CREW

For most, the completion of post secondary education is a relatively linear four-year journey that ends with caps, gowns and degrees. For some students however, the road to college graduation is long and winding, filled with unexpected twists and turns.

Trace Ellison is one such student. Originally attending Bismarck State College with the intention of transferring to the University of North Dakota and majoring in criminal justice, Ellison has since found himself going down an entirely different path; one that, at least currently, doesn't involve school at all.

"I come from a low income family," he said. "And I really just needed to take a break and figure out what I was going to do financially for college."

Ellison's situation is not uncommon. According to a survey by Cengage Group, sharp spikes in tuition and living costs have resulted in a staggering 68% of college students nationwide struggling to cover the cost of their education.

Determined to escape that demographic, Ellison has chosen to put his learning on the backburner, spending this spring semester in the workplace instead of the classroom. Despite this hurdle in his schooling, he is still fully committed to returning to BSC next fall, seeing the next few months as an unfortunate but necessary delay in his academic journey, as well as an opportunity to come back stronger than ever.

**"I come from a low income family, and I really just needed to take a break and figure out what I was going to do financially for college."**

But for some students choosing to take a step back from college, the reasoning goes deeper than money.

"I had a lot of concerns as far as what I wanted to do with my life," Chase Stockert said, a former college sophomore, referring to his time at both BSC and later Valley City State University.

Stockert is part of a significant number of college students who struggle with their sense of identity and purpose. For him, a gap semester represented an opportunity to find out who he truly was, something he said he wished he had explored sooner.

"Looking back, I put in more work towards my academics than I should have ever done. I should have joined more clubs, more sports," he said. "I should have gotten more involved outside of the classroom."

Stockert is now looking to make up for those lost opportunities, and he is not wasting any time. After spending the fall semester in Valley City, he briefly re-enrolled at BSC in January before withdrawing from college altogether. The sense of self he is searching for, he has decided, cannot be found in a textbook. Instead he plans on finding it in

his community through charity work.

"I want to have more meaning in my life. I want to do something that's larger than myself," Stockert said.

America as a whole is currently struggling with both burgeoning financial instability and a rapidly growing youth mental health crisis—two issues that hit particularly close to home for college students. Now more than ever it is clear that there is no single path to post secondary success.

Students struggling financially will sometimes need to make difficult decisions to sustain their education, even if it means putting their progress on hold. Those struggling internally will need to take the time and steps necessary to protect their mental health and spiritual wellbeing.

Everybody in between will need to figure out what it is they need to do in order to ensure they get their degree. College is a long road, and everybody's journey is going to look a little different.

# STAFF EDITORIAL

## What would you do over spring break with an unlimited budget?

### Kaia

**Major:** Graphic Design & Communications

**Year:** Sophomore

**Answer:** I would go on a vacation to Tahiti, tell no one and drink my fancy smoothies on white sand beaches in peace.

### Robert

**Major:** Communications at UND

**Year:** Senior

**Answer:** Take a road trip to Washington and back staying in the best hotels I can and eating at the best local restaurants I can find with no worries of time constraints.

### Ari

**Major:** Mass Communications

**Year:** Freshman

**Answer:** I'd go on a Caribbean cruise.

### Alix

**Major:** Mass Communications

**Year:** Freshman

**Answer:** I would buy an apartment, a car and move out of the dorms.

## MYSTIC MEDIA 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 information, fair, concise and of importance to students and the community. With this goal in mind, Mystic Media 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. Mystic Media strives to be objective and is not affiliated with any outside organizations. Mystic Media upholds the principles guaranteed by the First Amendment and utilizes these rights to bring diverse, entertaining, and thought-provoking material to the college community. Thoughts expressed may not be the opinion of all the staff or BSC community.

### Quinn

**Major:** Mass Communications

**Year:** Freshman

**Answer:** I would divide my time evenly between the beaches of California, Florida, and Texas.

### Brandon

**Major:** Graphic Design & Communications

**Year:** Freshman

**Answer:** I'd probably take a trip to Germany or Australia. Always wanted to go to both.

### Alex

**Major:** Mass Communications

**Year:** Freshman

**Answer:** I would take a trip to Oklahoma to spend time with my brother and while I'm down there visit Dallas.

### Malea

**Major:** Graphic Design & Communications

**Year:** Sophomore

**Answer:** I would love to go to Brazil and visit all the big cities and see all the famous places. I would also love to eat lots of food there.

### Chloe

**Major:** Graphic Design & Communications

**Year:** Freshman

**Answer:** I would go to Chicago to visit friends then take my family on vacation to Disney World in Florida.

# SHANE BALKOWITZ



SHANE BALKOWITZ RINES BLACK GLASS IMAGE  
PHOTO CREDIT: KAIA LEHMAN

# SHANE BALKOWITSCH

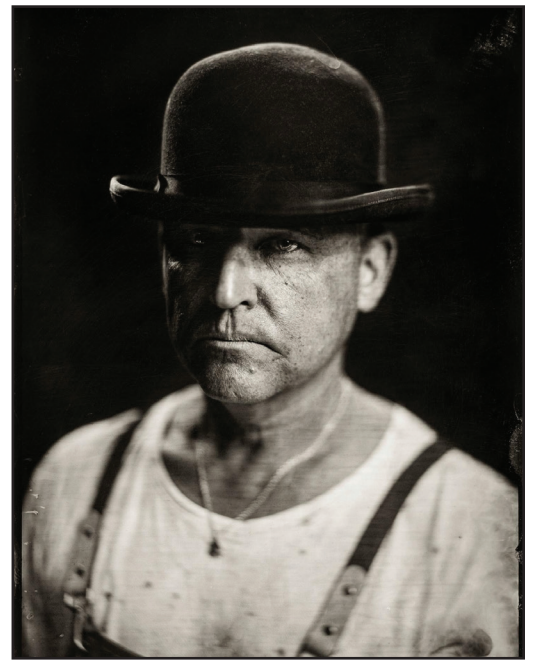
## A Mystic Media Exclusive Interview with World Renowned Photographer

BY KAIA LEHMAN  
THE MYSTICIAN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Photography, the art of capturing a physical moment in time, has come in many different forms over the years as technology has progressed. Digital, film and polaroids are a few examples of modern day photographic processes, but back in 1851, when wet plate photography was invented, to be a photographer meant to also be a chemist. Wet Plate photography is a photographic process that uses photosensitive chemicals and controlled light exposure to create images. Currently, there are less than 1500 wet plate photographers in the world.

Shane Balkowitsch, BSC Alumnus, world-renowned wet plate photographer and owner of Nostalgic Glass Wet Plate Studio, resides in Bismarck. Balkowitsch has photographed a variety of high profile clients, including Greta Thunberg, Josh Duhamel and Shailene Woodley among others. However, Balkowitsch's true passion in wet plate photography is capturing the lives of Native Americans. Currently Balkowitsch is working on a personal project of photographing 1000 Native Americans, to preserve their stories and moments of this life on a piece of glass.

Kaia Lehman of The Mystician recently sat down with Balkowitsch for an exclusive hour-long interview, discussing a variety of topics, such as photography, finding your passion, bowler hats, and much more.



Top: Shane Balkowitsch  
Bottom: Shane Balkowitsch poses Mike Bissonette  
Cutout: Georgia and Mike Bissonette  
Top Left: Black Glass Portrait of Josh Duhamel  
Top Right: Shane Balkowitsch prepares the plate  
Photos Credit: Kaia Lehman



**Q: How do you meet your clients?**

A: It's all word of mouth. It's always been word of mouth. Wow. So I've never advertised it. Just I make one plate at a time, and I've shared it on Facebook and social media. I've had people come in from all over the world to have their portraits taken as far as New Zealand.



**Q: What's up with the hats?**

A: Good question. You can go back to Facebook, probably my first year making wet plates, and for whatever reason, I had this \$3 felt Halloween prop hat bowler hat. It was brown...it wasn't even really, in terms of hats, called a hat other than it looked like a hat.

But it wasn't a hat that you would ever wear outside or you never present yourself with. Someone took a picture of me with this silly bowler hat on and I posted it. And then the following week someone said to me, Well? Where's your hat? So then I said, Well, \$#!?. Okay, I'll put the hat on. So every week I started taking a picture of me and with this cheap ass bowler hat, and then it just kind of stuck...so my wife decided, Well, you can't be, you look like an idiot wearing a \$3 hat around for all your wet plate shoots.

So she went and had a gray felt bowler hat made for me as a Christmas present. And I started wearing that and then it really kind of took off and so that's how the bowler hat became the logo for my studio. And any time that I'm taking an important picture or something, I just have my bowler hat on. Or if I'm doing a podcast, I put a bowler hat somewhere behind me just so there's one always in the frame.



**Q: Why did you decide to go in headfirst?**

A: Because I was killing myself at my job. The stress of being the CEO of my online company was killing me... It was physically killing me. Like, I don't think that I could have done it much longer. I would have had to do something in my life to have changed what I was doing, the trajectory of my life. So (wet plate photography) was a creative outlet. And as soon as I found it, it was like, Wow, there's something else here to do.

And once I found that out from this relief so I could I could I could give credit to what pleading for me, surviving the last ten years of my, you know, company. Because it gave me something else to focus on and I don't have to just worry about business. And it's been a wonderful relief for me.

**Q: What is your most influential piece?**

A: My life's work is my Native American work called Northern Plains, Native Americans from Modern Wet Plate Perspective, because you just never really know what tribes are going to come in. You don't know what regalia they're going to bring or the heritage that comes in with each one of these people, which is rather fascinating. I'm always learning. I'm always trying to listen and ask questions and continue to learn about my Native American friends.



**Q: How many plates do you plan on making?**

**“For today?  
Probably  
around 4 to 6.  
For my life?  
Until I expire.”**

Right: Shane Balkowitsch pours plate

Below: Shane Balkowitsch and Kaia Lehman

(Photo Credit: Shane Balkowitsch)

Cutout: Shane Balkowitsch admires work

Bottom: Wet Plate Studio Dark Room

Photos Credit: Kaia Lehman



**Q: Why do you do what you do?**

A: you're capturing moments in time that can never be recreated again. if you sat in my chair and I took your wet plate, um, and then I broke it or something, ten or 15 minutes later, you'd still be in the studio, you'd still be wearing the same clothes and still have the same camera, the same chemistry, the same light from that day, and that we could sit you down in that chair again, but we can't give it to you. 18 minutes ago, that's already gone.

So all these photographs, all these plates on the wall, These are 10 seconds of people's lives. That's the only thing I think about in this process is how romantic and beautiful it is. These are ten-second movies. They're still like movies of all these people. So there's a little bit of life in every one of the images.

You don't have that opportunity when you're grabbing your iPhone out or your digital camera out and taking a photograph and 1/60 of a second. It's just such a fraction of your life. You could argue that it's no part of my life. But when you're sitting for a ten-second exposure, there's 10 seconds of your life in a picture.



**Q: What's your favorite piece that you've ever done?**

A: I think my masterpiece is my portrait of my wife ... So my wife's favorite statue at the Louvre is Winged Victory...I walked up the steps and saw Winged Victory and it's a headless statue and she's got no arms. And it's just grandiose in so many aspects. And it was my wife's favorite piece. So I talked to Laney Pope, my prop masters for my studio, and she made a garment with the wings to look like a statue.

I put a black bag over my wife's head to remove her head from the exposure. But she has a curvature in her back so the wings are rather heavy and hurting her... So we had Lany make a strap to hold the wings up as she stood there and that's why I like that one.

Obviously my beautiful wife is in it, Bonnie, but also it would have been much easier for Laney to design this outfit and put it on a dress form. Then I wouldn't have to worry about it moving and I could have rotated it and I could have taken many plates of it if I wanted to and get the perfect shot. but that wasn't the point. The point was to actually have my wife holding the door at the outfit up and actually technically to remove her head from that picture. So I think for me personally, that's my masterpiece.

**Q: What is wet plate photography?**

A: It's a photographic process that was invented in 1851 by Frederick Scott Archer. It's pretty much the second photographic process known to man. I'm an ambrotypist, which means immortal impression. I'm more specifically a black glass ambrotypist, which means I shoot everything on glass ... Many people know the word tin type, and this is the same process. They are just putting their photographs on a piece of metal instead of glass.

**Q: How did you get into this?**

A: I saw a photograph online. This was back in September 2012. It was a photograph of a motorcycle on a blog post by Paul Delores. So I asked him, What is that? He said, it's a wet plate. And then I just fell in love with this somehow. I don't know why.

I keep thinking back to the moment ... If I would have looked away from the screen or if anything else would have caught my attention in the morning ... I never would have chased this process.

So Paul explained to me what it was, and I did some research. I said, 'Well, I would love to do that'. And Paul, a very nice gentleman, said, 'Well, Shane, I've been a photographer some decades now, and I find this very difficult. There's no way a non-photographer will ever teach themselves wet plate. And within about 45 days of that conversation, I'd made my first plate on Oct. 4, 2012.





# WHAT ABOUT WOMEN?

BY ARIANA GONZÁLEZ RODRIGUEZ  
MYSTIC MEDIA CREW

March is Women’s History Month, a time to celebrate the accomplishments of women throughout history. In a survey sent out to Bismarck State College students, they were asked who is the most inspiring woman in their life as well as the most inspiring famous woman.

**Most Inspiring Woman In Your Life:** Myself  
**How Does She Inspire You:** I inspire myself to be the woman I wish I had to guide me in life, so one day I can be that for someone else.  
**Most Inspiring Famous Woman:** Mother Teresa  
**How Does She Inspire You:** She inspires me to be faithful, kind and generous. My favorite quote by her is, ‘Let us meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love.’

**CHELSEA D.**  
BSC STUDENT

**Most inspiring woman in your life:** My mom  
**How does she inspire you:** My mom inspires me because she shows me what hard work looks like. She shows me to always face my fears everyday and has taught me how to be a strong and independent woman.  
**Most inspiring famous woman:** Amberley Snyder  
**How does she inspire you:** She is a professional barrel racer who is paralyzed from the waist down. She has proven that no matter how big your set back is, you can do anything you put your mind to. I think she is a great reminder of what you can accomplish if you really put your heart in it.

**BRYNN LESMEISTER**  
BSC STUDENT

**Most inspiring woman in your life:** One of my best friends, Heidi Debenedictis  
**How does she inspire you:** She is unapologetically herself. She’s a hardworking electrical engineer. Very sure of herself and lives her truth while lifting other women around her too.  
**Most inspiring famous woman:** Alison Wonderland, producer/DJ  
**How does she inspire you:** She is finding success in a career path dominated by men. She is kind and outspoken.

**KAYCE GRIMM**  
BSC STUDENT

**Most Inspiring Woman In Your Life:** Bridget Streifel, my mom  
**How Does She Inspire You:** She’s inspiring because of how she takes care of literally everything. Her husband and his kids are so well taken care of. Not to mention she helps out my aunt and cousins with anything they need too. I see everything she does while still working a full time job. I often think that this shouldn’t all be on her but it’s impressive how she does manage to effortlessly balance everything.  
**Most Inspiring Famous Woman:** Frida Kahlo  
**How Does She Inspire You:** I’m someone who is also an artist who wants to go into the medical field. I just think she’s relatable in that sense and it’s inspiring to learn about someone similar to myself in those regards come back from so many setbacks and challenges.

**GENEVA GONZALES**  
BSC STUDENT

**Most inspiring woman in your life:** My mom  
**How does she inspire you:** She’s completely selfless and has done so much more than I could ever ask to get me where I am today.  
**Most inspiring famous woman:** Rosa Parks  
**How does she inspire you:** The way she stood up to discrimination by not giving up her seat on the bus because she did nothing wrong and it is her right to sit wherever she pleases.

**CATON PEARCY**  
BSC STUDENT

**Most inspiring woman in your life:** My mother.  
**How does she inspire you:** She is hard working and moves through life with compassion. She taught me empathy and to always dream big. Without her, I would not be where I am today.  
**Most inspiring famous woman:** Marilyn Monroe  
**How does she inspire you:** She was dedicated to her dream and didn’t let anything get in the way of her career.

**HAILEE IVORY**  
BSC STUDENT

**Most inspiring woman in your life:** My grandmothers  
**How does she inspire you:** They went through so much so I could live.  
**Most inspiring famous woman:** Crystal Lightning  
**How does she inspire you:** Represents native women so well.

**COLLINS RISING SUN**  
BSC STUDENT

**Most inspiring woman in your life:** My grandmother  
**How does she inspire you:** Teaches me valuable life goals and reminds me to enjoy the little things in life  
**Most inspiring famous woman:** Probably any single mother that works full-time.  
**How does she inspire you:** It is so hard to raise a child let alone work a full-time jobs. Some even do all this while getting a degree. This amazes me.

**SKYLER SIMES**  
BSC STUDENT

**OUT OF 28 RESPONSES, 12 PEOPLE REPORTED THEIR MOM WAS THE MOST INSPIRING WOMAN IN THEIR LIFE.**

# PIERCING FOR A PURPOSE

## Jay Diaz tells all in an exclusive interview

BY ALEX SANABRIA  
MYSTIC MEDIA CREW

Jay Diaz has been on a journey which ended with him here in Bismarck. He originally grew up in a small town in California where his interests weren't really accepted. He said he loves cats and the cold and considers himself to be fairly introverted. He has been piercing for over a decade now. He works at Alchemist Tattoo & Body Piercing, a popular local tattoo and piercing shop located on Broadway.

In 2010, Diaz got his opportunity to become a piercer while living in California. He became an apprentice at a studio and his mentor at the time is still one of his closest friends to this day. He and the owner of that studio didn't get along, which is why he ended up leaving. Diaz moved to Washington from California.

"I was living in the Bay Area in California and everything was just so expensive," Diaz said. "I couldn't really afford to have a life. It sucked."

He loves gloomy, cold and rainy weather, so he thought Seattle was perfect for him.

"I would live with it every single day if possible," he said.

He ended up not having the greatest experience in Washington either. He met some people that gave him what seemed like a great opportunity, but that was far from the truth.

"Basically managing a studio for almost no pay at all," Diaz said. "I was never allowed to have time off. It was awful."

Aileen Fritz is one of the current owners and piercers at Alchemist Tattoo & Body Piercing. Diaz met Fritz on Facebook. She realized what Diaz was going through at his shop in Washington and encouraged him to check out her shop in Oregon that she was managing.

"She was like, 'you deserve better. Come to Oregon, spend a couple days with me. Just hang out at the studio, see what you could potentially have. See if it's different. See if it's better,'" Diaz said. "So I went down and instantly fell in love with ... the

studio, and she and I became instant best friends."

Unfortunately, it didn't work out too well in Oregon. After about a year of Diaz working at the shop with Fritz, Fritz was betrayed by the owner. This resulted in her moving back home to Bismarck to work at what is now Alchemist. This presented another opportunity for Diaz.

"She told me, 'as soon as I'm ready, I will call you, and you will come work for me,'" he said. "I was like, nah, North Dakota. I'm never moving to North Dakota."

He stayed in Oregon for a couple of years. It was perfect weather for him and he had a great friend group. During those couple of years in Oregon, he would come to Bismarck to guest spot at Alchemist and hang out with the members of the studio. Fritz offered a job to him one more time the summer of 2022.

"I was just fed up and I was like, you know what? I'm ready for something new. Let's give it a try," Diaz said. "I came up for a wedding, and at that wedding the other two owners told me that they really wanted me to move out here, too."

He took this as his sign and moved to Bismarck in October of 2022. He ended up enjoying North Dakota more than he thought he would.

**"Being such a homebody, it doesn't really matter that there's not a whole to do here. I've got the most incredible family/friend group at the shop that is just unparalleled."**

"Being such a homebody, it doesn't really matter that there's not a whole lot to do here," he said. "I've got the most incredible family slash



JAY POSES WITH HIS FELINE COMPANION  
PHOTO CREDIT: BRYAN HEMPSTEAD

friend group at the shop that is just unparalleled."

Diaz's interest in piercing peaked from watching TV shows back in the day like Miami Ink and L.A. Ink, as well as joining a bunch of body modification discussion forums.

"I loved watching tattooed and pierced and modified people showing up on it," he said. "People that I heard about and known about, ... actually being real people in these shows."

Meeting and talking to piercers on discussion forums is what made him realize that it is something he could make a living off—that there is a whole community of people with the same interest.

Diaz enjoys the confidence that piercing and body modification gives a person. Through his own experience with body modification, he's been more confident in himself and more comfortable in his own skin.

"Once I pierce them, and they get up and look in that mirror, you see their face just glow," he said. "Like it can totally change a person—it can also make somebody, you know, who

originally hated a part of their body suddenly love it."

Body modification isn't strictly piercings and tattoos. It can be as simple as waxing the body or dyeing one's hair. It's changing the body to look how one wants

it to look to boost confidence.

"I feel like piercing and tattooing is the exact same. It doesn't really deserve all the negativity that it still gets," Diaz said. "I think when a lot of people, who are originally



PIERCINGS STYLED BY JAY  
PHOTO CREDIT: BRYAN HEMPSTEAD

pretty stuck up about it, meet me or meet someone at our studio, they realize, wow, this is not scary. This is the exact opposite of what we thought.”

Diaz enjoys doing all different kinds of piercings. Ultimately, for him it comes down to the jewelry that the client picks.

“There’s times where even earlobes can be the best piercing, and they’ll do something super cool or use some unique jewelry,” he said. “You know, people think it’s so basic to get earlobes pierced and everyone

does it but there’s still a lot that goes into it.”

As for himself, his vertical philtrum is his favorite piercing. It’s an uncommon, unique piercing that isn’t seen very often.

For tattoos he has some that are meaningful to him. He has his whole left leg done by Simeon, one of the tattoo artists/owners at Alchemist.

“It means so much to me because it’s how I met him and really was introduced to Alchemist,” Diaz said.

His trifecta of cats hand tattoo also means a lot to him. He said it felt like an “in” to the body modification world.

“I got it as soon as I finished my apprenticeship and knew I was gonna be able to make it in this industry because you don’t tattoo your hands, right?” he said.

Two other tattoos stand out to Diaz. A bird on his arm that his best friend from high school drew inside a history book that they ended up stealing because they loved the art.

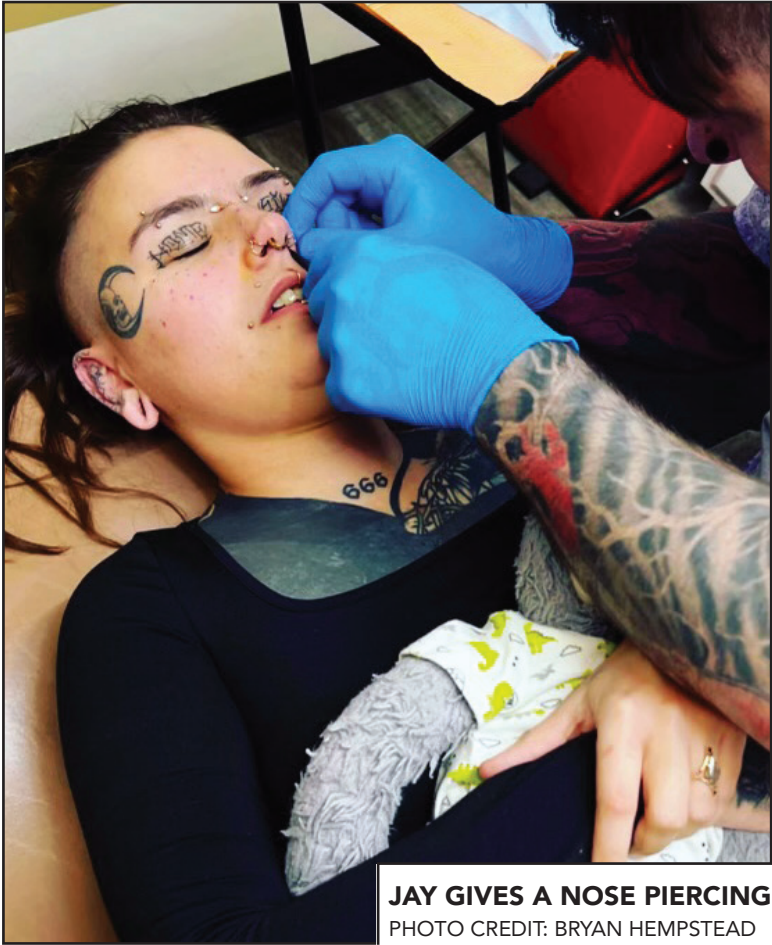
“A lot of people call me Jay Bird, and she drew this incredible bird—it’s just stuck [in the book] and that’s really how I felt at the time,” he said. “I felt so stuck in a life that I didn’t think I liked.”

The other tattoo is on his palm, which from an outsider’s eye seems like a math equation, but it’s much more than that.

“It’s [tattoo] from a book that changed the way I think about a lot of things and changed me in a way that I did not imagine would have happened from reading it,” Diaz said.

As for Diaz’s future, for him, he’s satisfied with the point he’s at. He said he enjoys working at his studio and the crew he works with. He plans to stay in Bismarck and work with Alchemist with no desire to open his own studio.

“This is my future. This is what I want. I want to grow with the company,” he said. “I want to be everything the owners want me to be as their piercer and really make them proud. I love Alchemist.”



**JAY GIVES A NOSE PIERCING**  
PHOTO CREDIT: BRYAN HEMPSTEAD



**JAY PIERCES A CLIENTS EAR**  
PHOTO CREDIT: BRYAN HEMPSTEAD



**JAY GIVES AN EAR PIERCING**  
PHOTO CREDIT: BRYAN HEMPSTEAD

# HOROSCOPES



BY MINA GOOD EAGLE  
MYSTIC MEDIA CREW

These horoscopes were written for the purpose of being fun. They were written with the astrological sun signs in mind using tarot cards and guided by the spirits.

**Aries (March 21 - April 19)** — External events are causing needless stress, keep in mind that they are sometimes out of your control. Long ideas and beliefs will be challenged. Plan new activities to help boost self-esteem.

**Taurus (April 20 - May 20)** — Events are working in your favor, remember to take responsibility for your actions. This will be a time of emotional peace but expect criticism of your authority.

**Gemini (May 21 - June 20)** — Let your confidence shine moving forward, as great changes are coming. This will be an excellent time for new projects.

**Cancer (June 21 - July 22)** — Be patient and wait for all elements to fall into place. You are entering a period of serenity and satisfaction.

**Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)** — Build upon your character and compassion, you will need it to help with incoming adversity. Look for support among others to help you through.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)** — You will find success and honor during this time. Avoid arrogance. Joy and inner peace will be achieved.

**Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)** — You are coming to a major crossroad in life. Move quickly or miss out on opportunities. This is a good time to clarify goals and set new priorities.

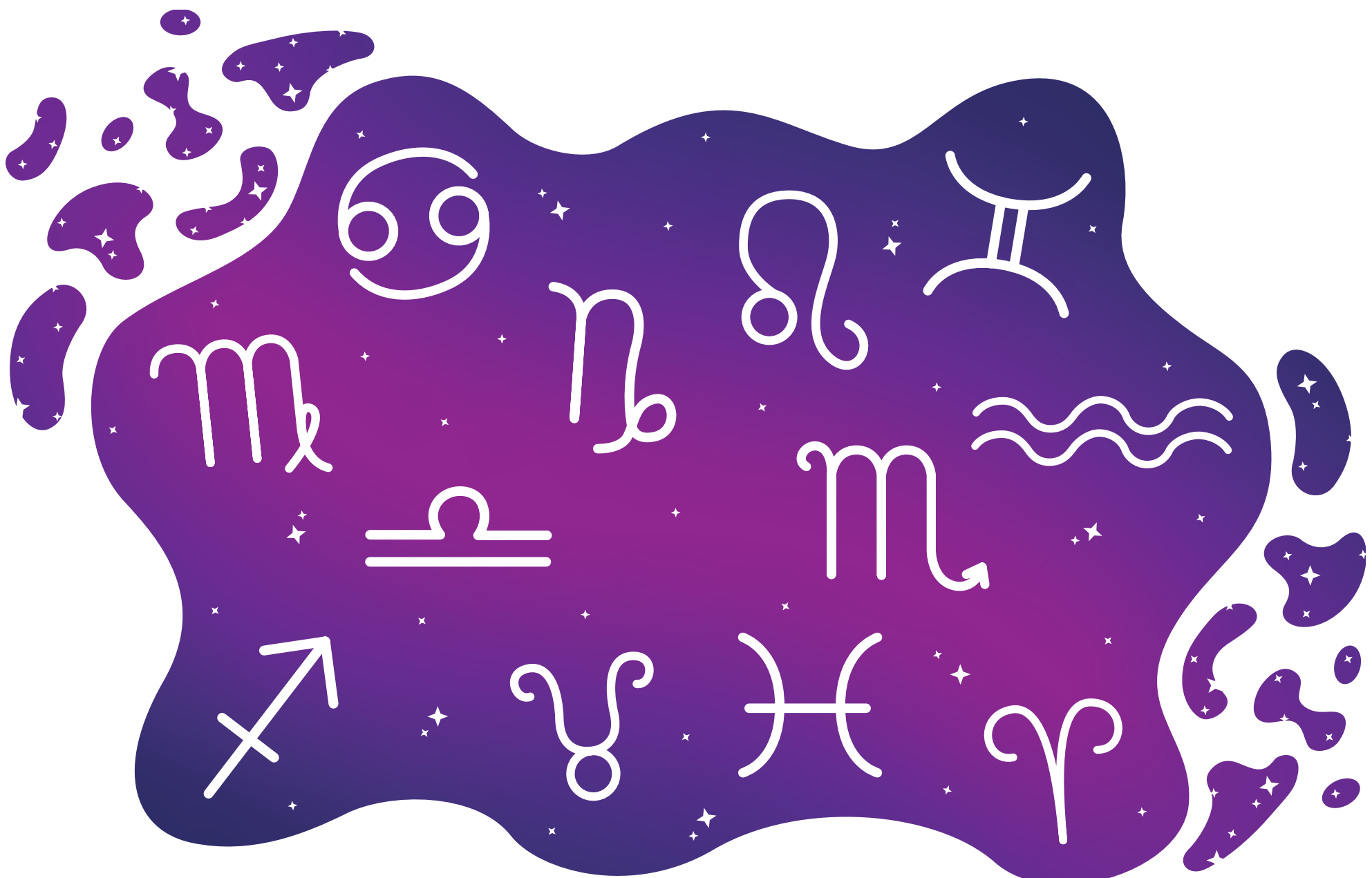
**Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)** — Follow your heart and instincts moving forward, this will be a time to work on personal relationships with friends and family.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)** — You will be entering a time of positive events. Goals are achieved and simplicity. Share this good fortune with others, whatever you give will be returned.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)** — This will be a time for personal growth, trust in your own ideas and plans despite what others think or say. Be open to being spontaneous and adventurous.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)** — It will be time to withdraw from certain aspects in life that you find are draining. Make decisions with caution, you will meet someone who will inspire you.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)** — You are about to find success in love or career, this is a time of optimism and happiness. Doubtful ventures now have a positive outcome.





TARYN SIEG PRACTICES A SPIKE WHILE CATON PEARCY WATCHES  
PHOTO CREDIT: CHLOE ERICKSON

# MYSTICS PREPARE FOR UPCOMING SEASON

## Coach Jaden Scott shares insights on the team.

BY CALEB HERR  
MYSTIC MEDIA CREW

The Bismarck State College baseball team is swinging back into action. Head Coach Jaden Scott and the Mystics will begin conference play against the reigning Mon-Dak Conference Champions, Miles Community College, on Saturday, March 23.

“It’s a good task for us to go see Miles and figure out where we stand right away,” Scott said.

BSC is returning just 11 of the 22 freshmen from last year’s 30-win team, which means Scott and his staff had a busy offseason with recruiting. There are 18 new faces joining the program and only six are from North Dakota. During the process, Scott says they looked for pitchers that were throwing with good velocity and were controlling the strike zone with their off-speed pitches.

“We got some really high character individuals this year that I’m excited to work with,” Scott said. “On the mound, I think we’re going to throw it really well this year and that comes with a handful of freshmen guys that jump out. Mason Lunzman, Matthew Porter and Tristan Delaplante have all been really good for us.”

As for offense, Scott said

freshmen Nixon Carriere is a big addition to the team and has been swinging the bat very well.

“[We’re] excited to get [Carriere] some opportunities in the lineup and see what he does with those,” Scott said. “We’ve thrown him in at a couple different positions [and] he’s jumped right in full stride.”

With so many first-year athletes, Scott is looking for his sophomore competitors to be a resource for the younger guys to lean on. He mentioned catcher Wyatt Tweet and 2023 Mon-Dak All-Conference pitcher Kyle Odenbach as two sophomores that have done a good job leading the way so far.

“Obviously they’ve been here for a year playing college baseball,” freshman pitcher Mason Lunzman said. “They know a little bit more of what’s going

on and [how] to handle adversity, so we take what they say and really take it into account.”

McCoy Keller, another freshman pitcher, said the sophomores know what to expect with every practice. We just look after what they do and how they do it and try to recreate as best as we can, he added.

Coach Scott and the baseball program have two recurring goals for every season. They want to make their athletes better and help find them their second home after BSC at the four-year level. Along with those goals, Scott hopes this team can win the 2024 regional title.

“By a lot of numbers we had a super successful season last year,” Scott said. “The one spot we fell short was the region tournament, so [we’re] hoping to go out, make amends, and

take that region title home.”

The Mystics have a lot of position depth this year, which is something the team struggled with last season. Scott says their depth will be one of the many strengths this team has in 2024. He also added that the depth has him excited for a couple of legit position battles.

“We feel comfortable with a lot of different guys out there,” Scott said. “I think that’s a huge part of having success in baseball.”

The Mystics home games are played at Haaland Field located in south Bismarck. To learn more about game schedules and team information visit <https://www.bscomystics.com/sports/bsb>.



WYATT TWEET, NIXON CARRIERE AND ANDREW NIAVES WARM UP FOR PRACTICE  
PHOTO CREDIT: CODY EISENBEIS

# BEST IN THE MOUNTAIN WEST SEEK CHAMPIONSHIP

## New Mexico Lobos stands out of the pack



BY CALEB HERR  
MYSTIC MEDIA CREW

The New Mexico Lobos currently sit at the top of the Mountain West basketball conference.

The Lobos have an overall record of 20-5 and a conference record of 8-4. In years past, an 8-4 record in the Mountain West would not be noteworthy, but this conference that began in 1990 is having its best season ever.

The Mountain West is one of two conferences to have at least five teams inside the top 35 NCAA Evaluation Tool rankings. The NET ranking system is used to categorize the quality of wins and losses based on opponent rank and game location. The tool is specifically used to help the NCAA Tournament committee members choose which teams make the tournament.

I expect the depth and play style of New Mexico to carry them to the second weekend in the NCAA Tournament. In his third year as head coach, Richard Pitino, son of the prominent Hall of Famer Rick Pitino, has found success through his passionate and dynamic coaching approach. Pitino's team follows his coaching style with the way they play intense and creative offense.

New Mexico has no problem scoring the ball as they rank tenth in the country in points per game. They are quick to get up shots and make an average of 31 field goals per game, the sixth most among division-one teams.

The Lobos' offense is led by a trio of experienced guards. Jaelen House, Jamal Mashburn Jr. and Donovan Dent each average over 15 points per game.

Teams with balanced offensive production have been having the most success in tournaments. When you look back at the last three national champions, UConn, Kansas and Baylor, all three were full of talented scorers at every level. A team like New Mexico does not have to rely on one player for the offensive production and to have three scoring

guards is a huge advantage in a tournament setting.

The guards are not the only position that excites me about the Lobos. JT Toppin is a 6-foot-9 freshman forward with exuberant athleticism.

Along with his 12.4 points per game average, Toppin leads the team in rebounds snatching over eight a game. He adds a fourth scoring threat to New Mexico's offense. The freshman earns second-chance opportunities for his team with his talented offensive rebounding ability. Toppin ranks 22nd in the nation with an average of 3.44 offensive rebounds a game.

New Mexico's high-powered offense is created through their defense. The team averages over 16 fastbreak points a game which is fifth most in the

country. Pitino has his guards play with active hands and relentless defensive pressure on most opponent possessions.

House leads the defense with nearly three steals a game and was recently named to the Naismith Defensive Player of the Year Watch List. While House is defending the perimeter, Toppin protects the rim with an average of two blocks a game.

The balanced scoring, led by a trio of skillful guards and complemented by the elite athleticism of Toppin, alongside the unrelenting defense, poses a tiring challenge for opponents.

The Lobos are going to be a team to watch out for as they aim for a deep tournament run at the end of March. It would be no shock if the Lobos find themselves competing for a spot in the Final Four.

## BSC ADDS RODEO TO SPORTS ROSTER

BY CALEB HERR  
MYSTIC MEDIA CREW

Bismarck State College is installing a new sport to their athletic program. Rodeo will begin in the fall semester and the Mystics will join the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA).

The NIRA is split into ten regions across the United States and BSC will compete in the Great Plains Region against schools

like South Dakota State University and North Dakota State University.

The BSC Men's Rodeo team will participate in bareback, saddle bronc, bull riding, tie down and steer wrestling competitions.

The Women's team will compete in barrel racing, goat tying and breakaway roping. Team roping will be a co-ed activity for both teams to compete in.

Rodeo teams will practice in the indoor

and outdoor arena facilities of JT Family Equine. The program will be led by Jon Peek, a former competitive multi-event rodeo cowboy who most recently served as a coach at New Mexico Highlands University.

The rodeo season will span both the fall and spring semesters, consisting of 10 total rodeos.

The rodeo launch party is scheduled for March 8 in the Student Union.

# SUPERBOWL ENTERTAINS ALL

## Taylor Swift, Kansas City and Usher galore

BY MICHAEL HURAVITCH  
MYSTIC MEDIA CREW

Another year, another superbowl in the books. The San Francisco 49ers took on the Kansas City Chiefs at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas. While the Chiefs were the defending champions heading into this game, they were underdogs as the Vegas odds favored San Francisco. Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs didn't seem to have a problem being the underdogs at all.

In the first quarter both teams were scoreless as the defenses seemed to set the tone of the

game. San Fran notched 10 in the second quarter to lead the Chiefs 10 to 3 at halftime. The eight time grammy winner Usher took the stage at half, singing his popular songs, but he wasn't the only superstar on stage. Usher was joined by Alicia Keys, H.E.R, will.i.am, Lil Jon and Ludacris.

The Chiefs came up big in the 3rd quarter, Harrison Butker hit his second field goal and Mahomes threw his first touchdown pass. The Chiefs scored 10 unanswered points

and made the score 13 to 10 taking the lead from the 49ers in the 3rd quarter. Any play that the Chiefs superstar tight end Travis Kelce made, resulted in the camera moving to his superstar girlfriend Taylor Swift. Fresh off winning album of the year at the grammy awards, she was accompanied by Britany Mahomes (Patrick Mahome's wife) and the popular female hip-hop star, Ice Spice.

San Francisco answered back with a touchdown of

their own early in the 4th with an effective trick play, receiver Juan Jennings threw a touchdown pass to running back Christian McCaffrey, but the Chiefs were able to block the extra point. Butker ended up making two more field goals which made the score even at 19 to 19 ending the 4th quarter, which of course meant overtime.

The 49ers won the coin toss in overtime and received the kick, but only managed to score a field goal making it 22 to 19. Patrick Mahomes made some plays, displaying his athletic ability, marching all the way down the field resulting in a touchdown pass to Mecole Hardman to win the game. The final score was 25 to 22 with the Kansas City Chiefs being back to back superbowl champions.

With the big game and all the excitement that surrounded it coming to an end, I asked some BSC students what they thought. I talked to 6 students in the union and asked what they thought about the halftime show. Out of the 6 students 2 were disappointed with Usher's performance, 2 liked the halftime show and 2 felt neutral about it. I also asked the same 6 students which commercial was their favorite and also got mixed responses. There were 2 students that said they didn't have a favorite, but for the rest there was a variety of favorites. The E-Trade pickleball babies, the Homes.com commercial, the Cerave commercial with Michael Cera and the Pringles commercial with Chris Pratt.

# Life is *like* a

## BSC Students

take a day to treat themselves to free haircuts, goodie bags and more fun activities





# fruit basket



**TOP LEFT**  
Madison Bebee and Katie Baumiller

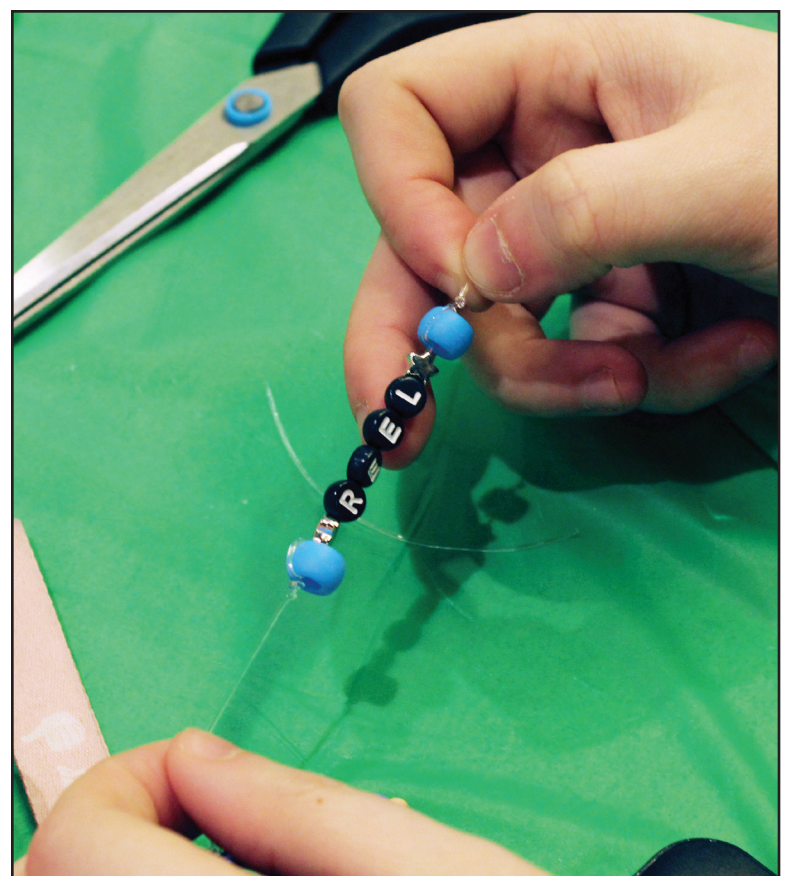
**TOP RIGHT**  
José Zendejas, Sarah Nelson, Keshawn Gilmore and Mercedes Runfola

**BOTTOM LEFT**  
Student enjoys a manicure

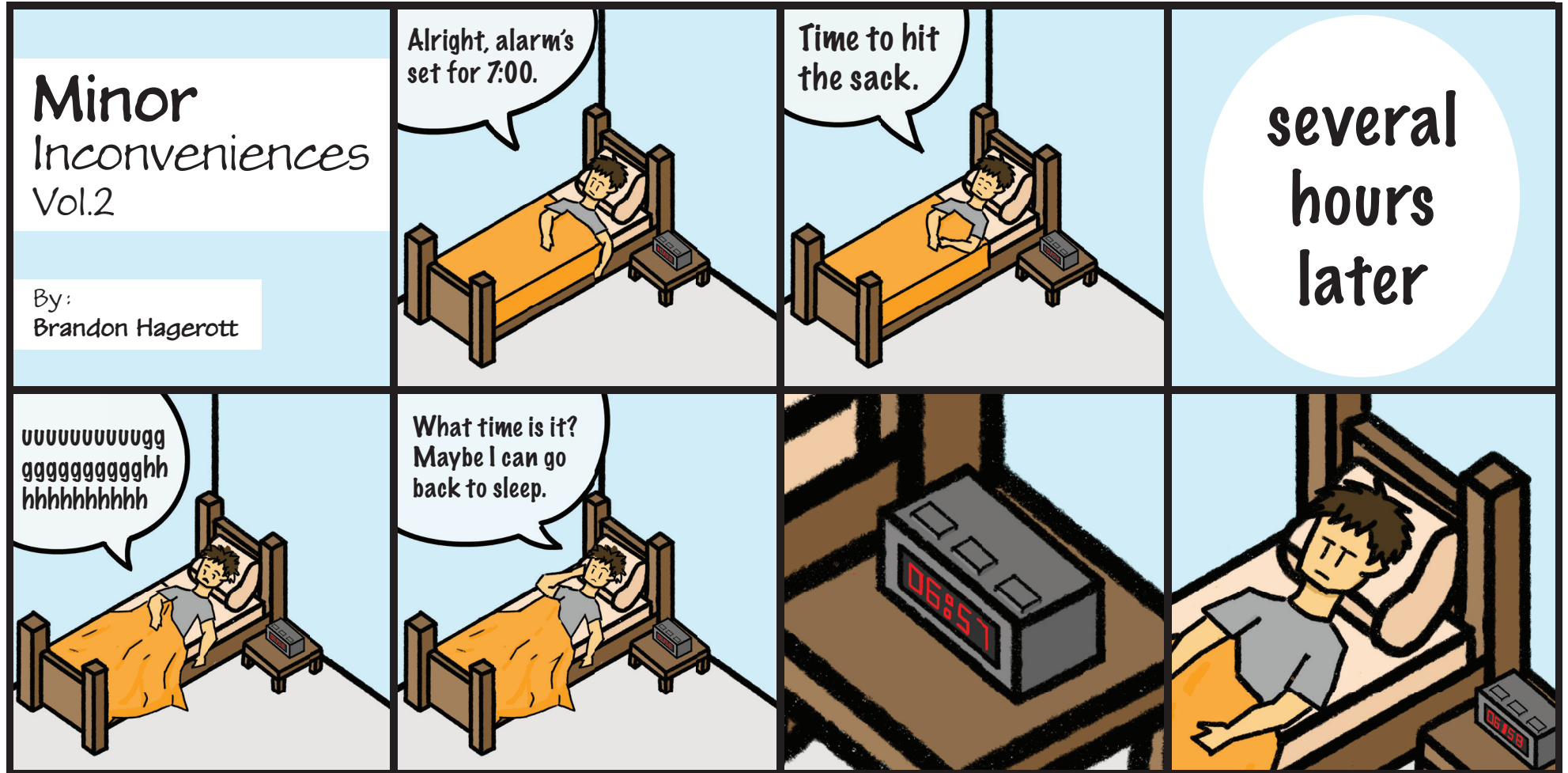
**BOTTOM CENTER**  
Jaida Walter, Abby Parsons and Daisy Sparrow

**BOTTOM RIGHT**  
Student creates beaded bracelet

PHOTOS CREDIT: MALEA BATES



# COMEDY CORNER



# WHEN THOSE MIDTERM EXAM GRADES DROP

BSC01-2430-MATH103-05820  
 MATH 103: College Algebra - 10:00 - 05820 - 24 Camp

Recent Grades

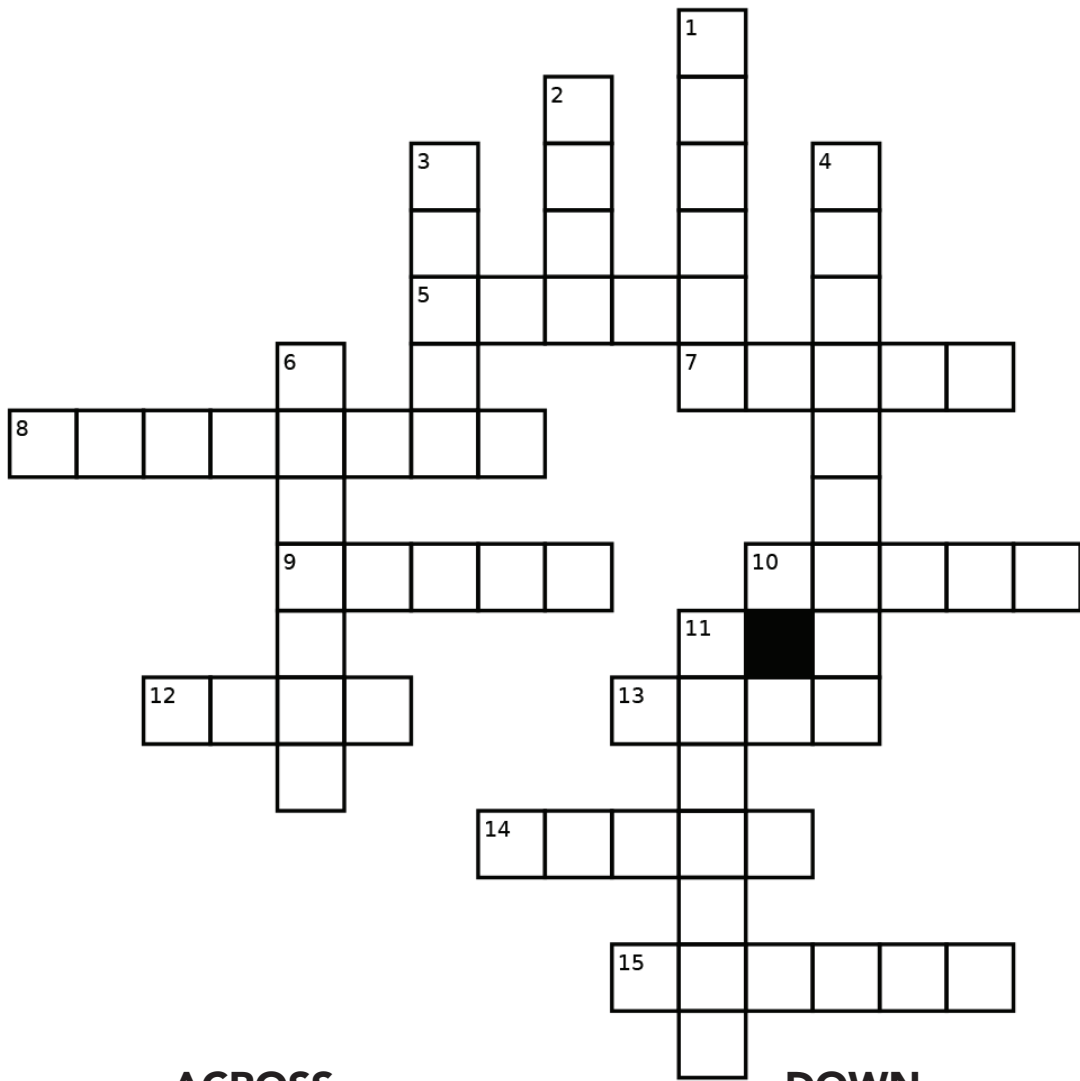
	Weighted Total	34%
	Graded HW 2.6-2.8 Submitted: 2/20/24	12.5 / 30
	Quiz 2.6-2.8 Submitted: 2/21/24	5 / 20
	Midterm Exam Submitted: 2/29/24	6%

**Credit: Jayden Fajardo** [View all work \(11\)](#)

Oh No, Here We Go Again

**GOT A COMIC OR ILLUSTRATION?** WE WANT TO SEE IT!  
 SEND AN EMAIL TO [bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu](mailto:bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu)

# PUZZLE PALOOZA



**ACROSS**

**DOWN**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>5. A color representative of life and plants.</p> <p>7. A green plant found growing all over one's yard.</p> <p>8. A three leafed plant and a symbol of Ireland.</p> <p>9. A Dr. Seuss character, known for protecting trees.</p> <p>10. What you may do to someone not wearing green.</p> <p>12. The movement of air, usually blowing in a particular direction.</p> <p>13. Something you'd do outside on a nice day.</p> <p>14. A person who is recognized as holy or virtuous.</p> <p>15. A starchy plant, cooked and eaten as a vegetable.</p> | <p>1. A season between winter and summer.</p> <p>2. A toy flown in the wind, held on the end of a string.</p> <p>3. A power from a supernatural source.</p> <p>4. The patron saint of Ireland.</p> <p>6. The country where St. Patrick's day originated.</p> <p>11. An arch that appears in the sky during or after rain.</p> |
|---|---|

## HINK PINKS

- Sibling of a skin blemish. \_\_\_\_\_
- A magical grasshopper. \_\_\_\_\_
- A rabbit with a sense of humor. \_\_\_\_\_
- A young cat in love. \_\_\_\_\_
- An anxious snake. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ships crewed by apes. \_\_\_\_\_
- A "hip" monster. \_\_\_\_\_
- A party at a convent. \_\_\_\_\_

K N Y V A H C R S S D O P K B  
 E K F H J V O S X G S J A X Q  
 K A S T G D L R B O S P R M R  
 G H S L B U L I S I F F A T V  
 L Q F T E J E U M E R C D T B  
 U E D M E G N J C E S A E P L  
 S H P R I R E K S K R H I C A  
 A K C R S S Y N U H H I O N R  
 I M L O E E C Y D L W Y C E N  
 N Y O T R C U H B I U I D K E  
 T D V O P L H S I Q Z E I B Y  
 H N E V H G I A S E Q I A H N  
 L E R U G O L E U W F D A A W  
 C M O C O L T S J N E T T R H  
 U Q I B N D L W X F C I D P S

## WORD BANK

- |            |           |           |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Parade     | Saint     | Blarney   |
| Easter     | Luck      | Harp      |
| Clover     | Dr. Seuss | Legend    |
| Leprechaun | Limerick  | Mischief  |
| Gold       | Rain      | Horseshoe |

			5	8		2	3	6
				2			1	
6		2			1			
			4					
5				9				
7	9			6	5			
9		6			8			
		7	9			8		5
8	3	5		1			9	2

## NEED A CLUE?

CHECK OUT  
OUR ANSWERS  
PAGE HERE



# MEET THE DJS

SHANE HAILEE

ALEX

EMILY



**Who is your favorite artist?**  
Five Finger Death Punch

**What's your favorite genre?**  
Rock/Classic Rock

**What's your music hot take?**  
Country music can be good, but it is mostly overhyped.

**Who is your favorite artist?**  
Lord Huron

**What's your favorite genre?**  
Western

**What's your music hot take?**  
You don't have to know every fact about a band/artist to enjoy their music. It's music, not trivia night!

**Who is your favorite artist?**  
Pierce the Veil

**What's your favorite genre?**  
Alternative/Rock

**What's your music hot take?**  
The 80's was the best era of music.

**Who is your favorite artist?**  
Melanie Martinez

**What's your favorite genre?**  
Alternative/Indie

**What's your music hot take?**  
You don't have to swear in a song.

## THE MYX ON-AIR SCHEDULE

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
7am	Pop	R & B	Alternative	Hip Hop	Rock	Blues	Alternative
8am	Country	Blues	Empty Space	R & B	MYX Talk 1	Alex	Pop
9am	Blues	MYX Talk 2	R & B	Hailee	Shane	R & B	MYX Talk 3
10am	Hailee	Emily	Hip Hop	MYX Talk 3	Hip Hop	Pop	Hip Hop
11am	Rock	Alternative	Hailee	Alex	Country	Shane	Country
12pm	Alex	MYX Talk 1	Rock	Alternative	MYX Talk 3	MYX Talk 2	Rock
1pm	Alternative	Hip Hop	Alex	Shane	Emily	Empty Space	R & B
2pm	Pop	Hailee	Emily	Empty Space	Pop	Hailee	Blues
3pm	Emily	Rock	MYX Talk 2	Alternative	Alternative	R & B	Shane
4pm	R & B	Alex	Shane	MYX Talk 1	R & B	Blues	Empty Space
5pm	MYX Talk 2	MYX Talk 3	Rock	Emily	Hip Hop	R & B	Pop
6pm	Alternative	Empty Space	Hip Hop	Rock	Blues	Emily	Alternative
7pm	Hip Hop	Shane	Alternative	Pop	Hailee	MYX Talk 1	R & B
8pm	MYX Talk 1	Country	Country	MYX Talk 2	Country	Country	Blues
9pm	Blues	R & B	MYX Talk 3	Blues	Alex	Alternative	Country
10pm	Pop	Blues	R & B	Rock	Empty Space	Pop	Hip Hop

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