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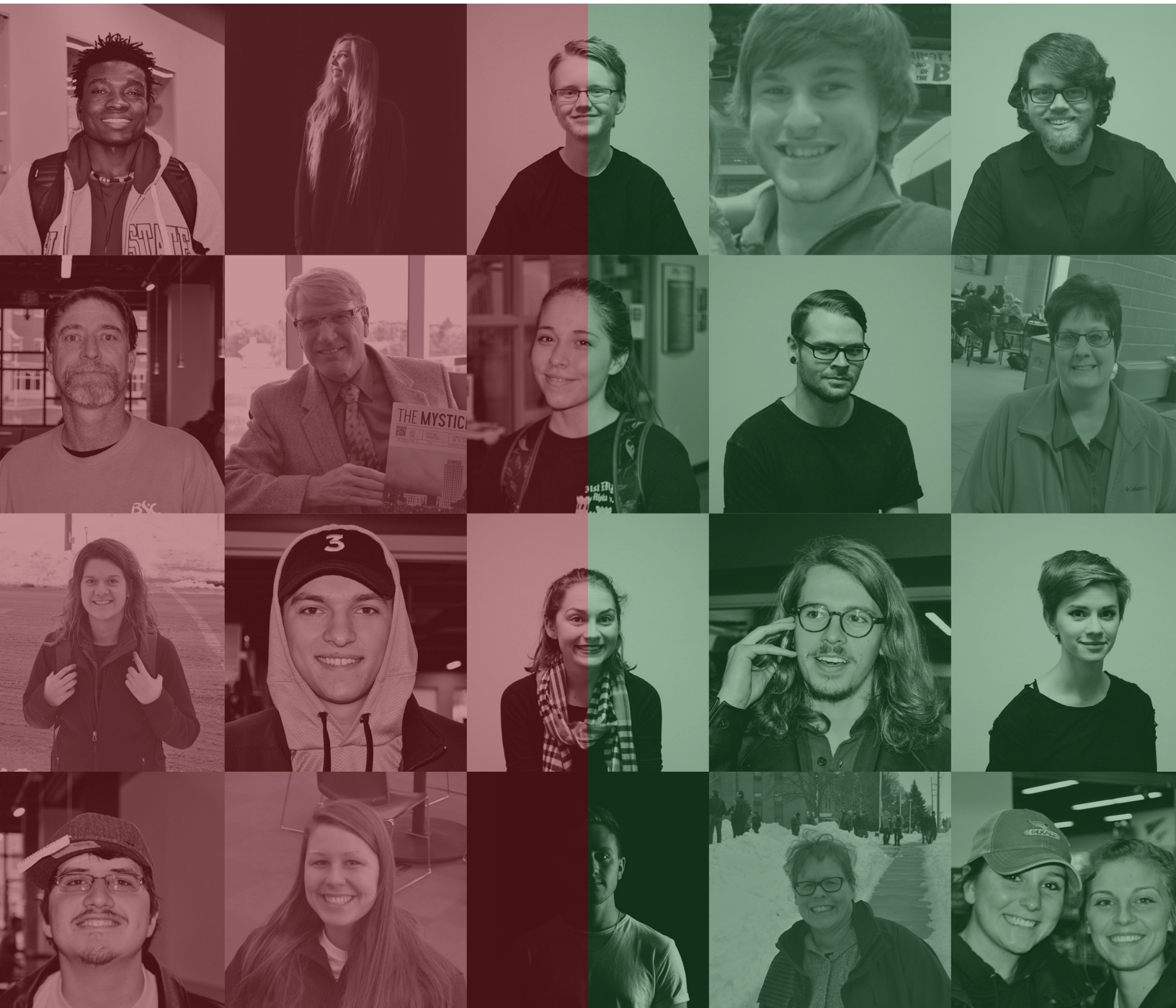
JOYFUL
NOISE P8

BS
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DECEMBER 2016

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BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE



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BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE NEWS MAGAZINE

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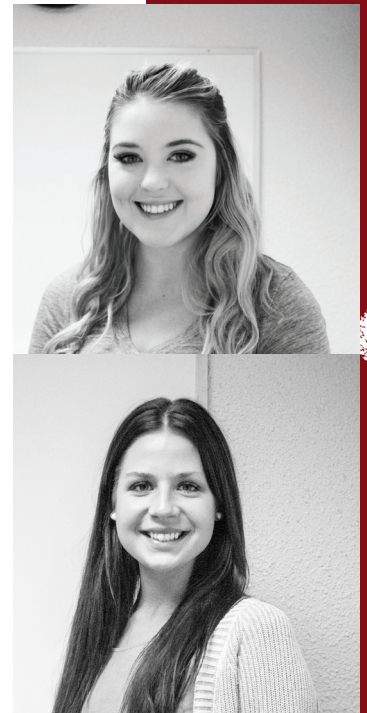
It's the most wonderful time of the year. The time where we get a whole month to do anything that doesn't involve school work. Unless you plan on transferring to another school then you better get that application done.

Now we can all plead guilty and say we just plan on eating and sleeping all month, but is that really how we want to spend this break? There are lots of opportunities to keep yourself busy over this holiday season. Spend time with your family. For a lot of us we only get to see our family when we get more than the weekend off so take advantage of it. Have family game night or a movie night, these are great ways to reconnect after being away from home for five months.

Another idea is to volunteer your time to those who need it. The humane society in Mandan doesn't close when school gets out and could always use those helping hands. Or go to Great Plains Food Bank and help make this holiday special for people who need it. This is the season of giving so let's give back and make this break one to remember.

Until next time,

A&A



Anika Rovig
Alexis Larson

It's the most
MYSTICAL
time of the year

NETFLIX

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**NEW
YEAR'S
EVE**

KEEP
CALM
AND MAKE IT TO
**CHRISTMAS
BREAK**

POV'S 14



//ALEXIS LARSON

What is the best part about Christmas Break, besides the fantastic christmas dinner? Being able to binge watch Netflix. With Netflix having over 1,000 TV shows, it could make the decision a little difficult. After careful consideration, here is a list of the best shows to binge watch over break.

Shameless (American version)- Shameless is about a dysfunctional family. Frank Gallagher, a single father of six who spends much of his free time drinking at bars. The Gallagher children -- led by eldest daughter Fiona (Emmy Rossum), who takes on much of the child-rearing responsibility due to her mother's absence. The drama is an adaptation of the BAFTA Award-winning British show of the same name.

Jane the Virgin-Jane Villanueva, the daughter of a teen mother, grew up determined not to repeat her mom's mistakes. Jane is studying to be a teacher. She is engaged to a handsome detective who supports her decision to remain a virgin until marriage, but a routine visit to the clinic turns her life upside down. Inseminated by a specimen meant for a patient in the next room, Jane is in a situation made only more insane when she learns that the sperm donor is her boss, Rafael. As her meticulously planned life gets more like the telenovelas she loves, she faces a lot of complicated decisions about the future.

Grey's Anatomy-The medical drama series focuses on a group of doctors at a hospital in Seattle, including several

who began their careers at the facility as interns.

Stranger Things- This thrilling Netflix-original drama stars award-winning actress Winona Ryder as Joyce Byers, who lives in a small Indiana town in 1983. When Joyce's 12-year-old son, Will, goes missing, she launches a terrifying investigation into his disappearance with local authorities. As they search for answers, they unravel a series of extraordinary mysteries involving secret government experiments, unnerving supernatural forces, and a unusual little girl.

Making a Murder-Exonerated after spending nearly two decades in prison for a crime he did not commit, Steven Avery filed suit against Manitowoc County, Wis. and several individuals involved with his arrest. Shortly after, however, Avery found himself behind bars again, this time accused of the murder of 25-year-old photographer Teresa Halbach. She was last seen on Avery's property, where she was supposed to photograph a vehicle. Avery and nephew Brendan Dassey were tried and (spoiler alert) convicted of the crime. Netflix took on the controversy to produce the 10-episode docuseries, which generated plenty of publicity and prompted petitions to have Avery's case reviewed, though officials in Wisconsin insist all the evidence is not presented in the program.

How to Get Away with Murder- Annalise Keating is a brilliant,

charismatic and seductive professor of defense law who teaches a class called How to Get Away With Murder. Annalise, also a criminal defense attorney, selects a group of students, the best and the brightest, to assist with cases at her firm alongside her employees: the trustworthy and discreet Frank Delfino and Bonnie Winterbottom, an associate attorney. Mysteries arise that test everyone's limits and reveal dark truths.

Scandal- "Grey's Anatomy" creator Shonda Rhimes is the creative mind behind this ABC drama. Olivia Pope, a former media consultant to the president, is ready to move on with her life and opens her own crisis-management firm, but she can't seem to shake ties with her past. Olivia's staff includes Quinn Perkins, who has a complicated history, and hacker extraordinaire Huck. As she moves forward it becomes clear that, while her staffers may specialize in cleaning up the lives of other people, they can't seem to do the same for themselves.

One Tree Hill- Half brothers Lucas and Nathan trade between kinship and rivalry on the basketball court and in the hearts of their friends in the small town of Tree Hill.

Gossip Girl- Gossip Girl follows the lives of privileged teenagers on the upper east side. Serena Van Der Woodsen is a blonde and beautiful socialite. Blair Waldorf is Serena's best friend but it's always about Serena not Blair. Nate Archibald is Blair's boyfriend



but ever since Serena came back from boarding school, Nate has been acting strange. Chuck Bass a rich and arrogant person. Daniel Humphrey a loney boy from Brooklyn, NY who nobody knows. Follow their lives in this guilty pleasure show.

The Flash- At 11, Barry Allen's life changed completely when his mother died in a freak accident and his innocent father was convicted of her murder. Now a crime scene investigator, his dedication to learn the truth about his mother's death drives him to follow up on every new scientific advancement and urban legend. When his latest obsession, a particle accelerator heralded as a world-changing invention, causes an explosion, it creates a freak storm and Barry is struck by lightning. He awakes from a coma nine months later with the power of superspeed. When he learns that others who have gained powers use them for evil, he dedicates himself to protecting the innocent, while still trying to solve the older mystery.

Daredevil- The first in a planned series of shows detailing the Marvel universe, "Daredevil" follows Matt Murdock, attorney by day and vigilante by night. Blinded in an accident as a child, Murdock uses his heightened senses as Daredevil to fight crime on the streets of New York after the sun goes down. While Murdock's day job requires him to believe in the criminal justice system, his alter ego does not follow suit, leading him to take the law into his own hands to protect his Hell's Kitchen

neighborhood and the surrounding communities.

House of Cards- U.S. Rep. Francis Underwood of South Carolina starts out as a ruthless politician seeking revenge in this Netflix original production. Promised the post of Secretary of State in exchange for his support, his efforts help to ensure the election of Garrett Walker to the presidency. But Walker changes his mind before the inauguration, telling Underwood he's too valuable in Congress. Outwardly, Underwood accepts his marching orders, but secretly he and his wife, an environmental activist, make a pact to destroy Walker and his allies. Based on the U.K. miniseries of the same name, the U.S. version offers a look behind the scenes at the greed and corruption in American politics. A number of real-life media figures make cameo appearances.

Scream- MTV teams with super-producers Bob and Harvey Weinstein on a TV series adaptation of the hit horror film franchise. Instigated by a cyberbullying incident that goes viral, a brutal murder in Lakewood stirs memories of a crime spree from the town's past that has haunted some, intrigued others and maybe just spawned a new executioner.

The Office- This U.S. adaptation, set at a paper company in Scranton, Pa., has a similar documentary style to that of the Ricky Gervais-led British original. It features the Dunder-Mifflin staff, which includes characters based

on roles in the British show and, quite possibly, people with whom you work in your office. There's Jim, the likable employee who's a bit of an every man. Jim has a thing for receptionist-turned-sales-rep Pam, because office romances are always a good idea! There's also Dwight, the co-worker who is successful but devoid of social skills and common sense.

Arrested Development- Michael Bluth finds himself forced to stay in Orange County and run the family real estate business after his father, George Bluth Sr., is sent to prison for committing white-collar crime. He tries to juggle the wants and needs of his spoiled and eccentric family while being a good role model for his teenage son, George Michael.

(Alexis Larson is an Editor at The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org)

THE PERFECT GIFT

//SARA BOLME

He stepped off the shuttle bus and breathed in the cold air. People swarmed around him, scurrying to get the perfect present for each one of their loved ones. His limbs ached. The arthritis had been acting up even more now that it was cold outside, so each step felt like its own little battle. Many of the people out shopping gave him dirty looks as he struggled to walk at a normal pace. He had left his cane at the home, determined to impress her when he arrived to see her again.

Poinsettias. That's what he was looking for. They were her favorite. He loved the look in her eyes when she saw them. It was some kind of bliss. Every year at Christmas time, he bought her the biggest poinsettia he could find just so he could watch her light up.

He continued to hobble through the aisles, wondering why he chose the one place that kept their holiday plants in the back of the store. His balance wasn't so good these days, so short walks were better for him. As he took a step, he felt his leg give out, and he tumbled to the floor. Laying there in the aisle, with lawn Santas from the gardening section staring back at him, he considered giving it all up, but the thought of seeing her renewed his determination. He began to wish he had brought a nurse with him, or at least his cane, so he had some way to make sure things like this didn't happen.

People passed him by as he lay there, intent on getting their christmas shopping completed while the deals

were still hot. It took a minute before anybody noticed the old man on his hands and knees, straining to get himself off the ground. After all, he wasn't new and shiny. He was not what they were looking for.

Once he finally got up, he walked along the aisles, bracing himself with the shelves so as not to repeat what had just happened. With each step, he felt a small flare of pain shoot up his hip, but he continued on as if nothing had happened. Finally, after what felt like hours (but was really about 15 minutes), he found the section he had been looking for. There, in the middle of the table, sat one measly poinsettia. The leaves were unusually small and some were even on the verge of dying, but it would have to do. He was going to get that plant to her if it killed him, which at this rate, he thought with a chuckle, it might.

Balancing on the way to the register proved a bit more difficult than before, but after only a few near falls, he was there. He waited in line patiently while people complained about the prices of things and after only a few short minutes, he was on his way back to the shuttle bus.

He began to speak to the driver, but before he could even begin, he was met with a knowing nod. The door closed behind him, and he made his way to his seat. Through the frosty window, he looked out at the familiar route before him. It always made him so happy to see each one of the little landmarks

along the way because it meant she was not far from him. He could feel his excitement growing, for he had been longing to talk to her for ages. There was so much for him to catch her up on.

Finally, he stepped off the shuttle bus once more, and his feet met with the frozen, frosty grass. He began making his way forward slowly, although he felt like he was gliding. Love did that to him sometimes. He carefully stepped around the stones marking the names of his family members until he found who he was looking for. Her name was so familiar to him; he had said it a million times in joy, anger, contentment, and eventually grief. He had finally got back to the point where saying her name didn't make him feel like drowning. He even got excited at the chance to talk about her, to reminisce.

He sat the poinsettia by her headstone and laid out a blanket. He laid down, looking up at the sky, and began to tell her all about the kids: how they were growing up in front of his eyes, how beautiful they were, how much they missed her. He laughed as he told her how the two of them had been picking his brain for the last few weeks, trying desperately to figure out the perfect Christmas present for him. He smiled because this time he got to remember her was all he really needed.

(Sara Bolme is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach him at edito@mystician.org.)





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PHOTO//ALICIA BILLOCK

JOYFUL

//ALICIA BILLOCK

The cheerful noise of band practice emanates throughout Schafer Hall. The director behind these melodies, John Darling, is a current professor of music at Bismarck State College and the Department Chair of Fine Arts and Humanities.

“I always knew that I was going to do something with music,” Darling said. “I always imagined that I was going to be a teacher at some point.”

At a young age Darling developed a diverse range of talent in band.

“I started on clarinet – which is pretty basic – it was one of the only choices back then,” Darling said. “I switched over to saxophone in my third year of playing. From there I played whatever the band director needed.”

After graduating in 1975 from Amherst Regional High School in Massachusetts, Darling enlisted in the United States Army. From there Darling attend several different colleges to attain his degrees.

“While I was in the military trying to complete my bachelor’s degree, I was able to take classes in order to complete it through the State of New York Regent Program,” Darling said. “I got my Master of Music degree from the Virginia Commonwealth University, and from there I got my doctorate degree from Ohio State University.”

For Darling, teaching was the obvious next step in his career.

“The more experience you have, the more you can develop a piece, and the better you get,” Darling said. “The more I learned, the more I wanted to play.”

In the photo: Darling hard at work preparing the band for upcoming concert

NOISE

The more I played, the more I wanted to learn. Eventually down the road I said 'Yeah, I want to teach,'"

In his current position at BSC, Darling conducts the Wind Ensemble, and teaches instrumental conducting, music theory and technology courses.

"Working with Dr. Darling is so fun," Matalyn Lund, sophomore at BSC and saxophone player in the band, said. "He is so educated and picks amazing pieces for us to perform. It's really great to have someone like him lead a band,"

His passion for music fed his desire to learn more and pass that knowledge onto his students.

"Playing music and the act of creating music is something you get hooked on, and so I just wanted to play and get better," Darling said. "The more you increase your skills the harder the music gets which pushes you to get better,"

Darling's extensive musical experience opened the doors to a possible career in performing. After weighing his options he decided what path in his musical adventure to take.

"I wasn't sure I wanted to be a performer, that takes a lot," Darling said. "You have to be on top of your game because it is very competitive. You have to be the best of the best and that's only to get through the door. You have to compete against all these people who are just as good as you to get the position so you can actually make a living."

Walking into class everyday Darling is ready to teach, but for him that means much more than just leading

the rehearsal.

"It's watching the kids grow, watching the students figure it out," Darling said. "Having been instructed or giving them something and telling them how to make it work and watching them fix it and then bring it back and say 'How's that?' Watching that process is always the reward,"

A prolific composer, Darling creates his own music and listens to it come to life.

"As a composer, it's nice to hear my own charts," Darling said. "That's self-gratification versus the professional gratification of watching students learn how to do what you told them to do. Then watching them discover what they can do next."

Darling's knowledge of composing and active teaching style engages his students and creates a positive learning environment.

"He is so helpful because he actually knows the music," Tinashe Mukoii, sophomore trombone player, said. "he knows how to play it but also knows all the history behind it. Everytime he gives us a new piece of music, I learn something new. I never know what to expect and that makes the rehearsal process amazing,"

With the upcoming holiday season quickly approaching, Darling and the rest of the music department is preparing for the holiday upcoming concert.

"All of us are currently working on it. It's a little bit of everything and encourage all to come," Darling said. "We try to make it a collage of all the different

sections of the music department."

The concert will include the concert choir, men's and women's choirs, as well as the Chamber singers. All the instrumental groups currently practicing will also be included. The band, which is directed by Darling, along with the brass, percussion, and the guitar ensembles.

"Anyone who has been to one of our holiday concerts knows that there is a great variety of music, all of the ensembles perform," Darling said. "It usually takes about an hour but it goes by so quick that people can hardly believe it's already over."

(Alicia Billock is an Editor at The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org)

HOLIDAY CONCERT

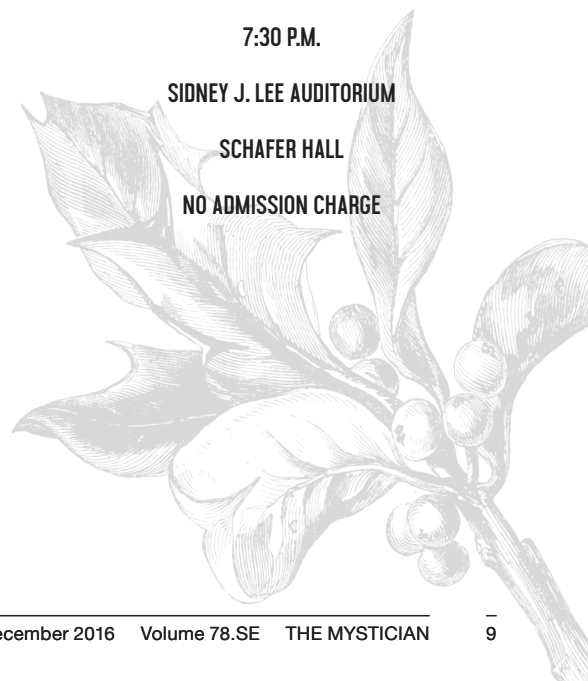
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MASTER SWORD REVIEW

//BRETT WILLIAMSON

Christmas season is a time of overcrowded malls, swelling financial debt and forced visits from estranged family. The Thanksgiving Day turkey hasn't even digested yet and it is time get Christmas crammed down our throats. Board up the windows, unplug the phone and feign death, here is the Master Sword's Christmas buyer's guide to help ease the holiday pains.

POKÉMON

For those that have been living under a rock for the past 20 years, Pokémon is a roleplaying game in which players travel make-believe lands collecting cute little monsters called Pokémon. Pokémon Sun/Moon was released Nov. 18 and introduced the seventh generation of Pokémon; bringing the total of collectable Pokémon to 801 different species.

The game was released in two versions, Pokémon Sun and Pokémon Moon. The differences between the two versions are the available Pokémon a player can catch and the day/night cycle within the game world. Pokémon Sun runs a standard day and night cycle, while Pokémon Moon's cycle is twelve hours offset. This offset allows for players who have a life during the day not to miss out on hunting day time Pokémon during evening hours.

Each person plays Pokémon in a unique way and for different reasons. Some gamers play to complete the story, and others have been playing for many generations attempting to collect every species of Pokémon. The most hardcore of Pokémon players selectively breed Pokémon to create the most optimal Pokémon for online battles and tournaments.

Pokémon Sun/Moon is \$39.99 and is available at retailers and the Nintendo eShop for the Nintendo 3DS.

DRAGONBALL XENOVERSE

The Xenoverse saga is a definite creative spin to the long running Dragonball series. Rather than playing as Goku and reliving the story retold a million times over, players create a character and help the Dragonball characters restore a broken timeline.

Dragonball Xenoverse 2 plays like a fighting game, but it is truly a roleplaying game. Characters level up with experience and develop as progress is made within the game. Different sets of armor and fighting abilities are collected by defeating opponents and successfully completing quests. Most, if not all, the loot is dropped by a random number system so prepare for some frustration and long hours grinding to complete the armor sets.

The game holds true to the source material and is played at a rather fast speed. Characters become blurs as they evade each other's ki blasts, and players ping pong around the screen off each others kicks and punches. The game can have a frantic nature, but overcoming that chaos and maintaining stamina and ki is what separates the great from mediocre.

Dragonball Xenoverse 2 was released Oct. 25 and is available for the PS4 and Xbox One for \$59.99.

METALLICA

Oddly there is at least one person who is reading this article that needs some serious Christmas advice. They may need to find a gift to put in a Christmas stocking or may be trying to find that special something for a special someone. Nothing says love like a Metallica album.

Hardwired... to Self Destruct is Metallica's tenth studio album and was released on Nov. 18. The album has a little bit of everything that can appeal to the Metallica fan of any era. The three disk deluxe album features 12 new tracks, four previously unreleased rare tracks and 10 live tracks.

Hardwired... to Self Destruct is a return to the days of Metallica's fast and brooding past. New tracks such as ManUNkind question the dark primal nature of man and Here Comes Revenge acknowledges the liberation and regret of the eye-for-an-eye mentality. The album's new introspective songs, while heavy and dark, are contrast against the charm and energy of the Metallica live tracks on the third disk — it's not all doom and gloom.

Hardwired... to Self Destruct (Deluxe) is available for \$14.99 on iTunes.

(Brett Williamson is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach him at edito@mystician.org.)



MOVIE TROLL: FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

//ALICIA BILLOCK

Winter break is quickly approaching, which might leave students with hours of freetime. Filling those precious moments of freedom could be difficult, boredom could be a real threat to these students. If the struggle to fill this pastime is real, remember there is a place full of endless entertainment; the movie theater.

Harry Potter is perhaps the most recognizable book series in the world. J.K. Rowling's classic series of magical wizarding books captured the hearts of millions. On November 14, 2001 the first book *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* was adapted into a cinematic jewel.

From there the Harry Potter craze was unstoppable. The final movie of the series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2* came out July 15, 2011 thus concluding the Potter movies, or so we thought.

Fantastic Beast and Where to Find Them, is the thrilling spin-off of the Harry Potter series. Based on J.K. Rowling's book of the same name, the movie was adapted to the screen by J.K. Rowling and directed by David Yates. The new wizard movie hit the big screen November 18th of this year.

Walking into the theater Potter fans may be skeptical of a new cast to portray the wizarding world of Harry Potter. The movie begins with the famous dark and smoking Warner Bros log and the iconic

Harry Potter theme song easing the nerves of fans in their theater seats.

The film follows a young and awkward British wizard, Newt Scamander, played by Eddie Redmayne. Redmayne, most known for his role in *Les Misérables*, captured the quirkiness and innocence of Scamander.

The wizard finds himself in the bay of New York City before his final destination of Arizona. He carries with him with a brown leather suitcase which to the no-mag (the American term for non-wizards) looks normal, but it holds a secret world full of magical creatures. The journey begins with one of Newt's beloved creatures getting into a little bit of mischief and attracts some unexpected new friends.

Tina Goldstein the American wizard detective who has recently been demoted, and a veteran middle aged man who aspires to own a bakery accompany Newt in his American adventure. The trio, along with the Tina's sister face challenges that they never expected.

As the search the street of New York to recover some of Newt's magical creatures that escaped from their suitcase they find themselves involved in something much bigger. The streets of New York City have been plagued by an evil wreaking havoc on innocent normal citizens. The members of the wizarding world will stop at nothing to

keep the suspicion of magical activity at bay.

Even though the story is set years before Harry Potter was even born, there are subtle connections to the Potter books and movies. They mention Professor Albus Dumbledore and how he took a liking to Newt when he attended Hogwarts. There is even a little playful banter between some of the American wizards and Newt about which Wizarding school is better, Hogwarts or the American Ilvermorny. Little comments and remarks like these keep the audience still aware that they are in the world of Harry Potter.

The mystical rollercoaster takes its audience on a series of action and heartwarming friendships. The fast pace of the movie makes the 133 minute film fly by. The prequel to the famous Harry Potter films can be chalked down as a success and fans can sleep well at night knowing they were not disappointed by another new magical wizarding adventure. The movie is now showing at various times at the Grand 22 Theater and the Carmike 8 Theater in Bismarck.

(Alicia Billock is an Editor at The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org)

FINAL VERDICT

8/10



INSTAGRAM



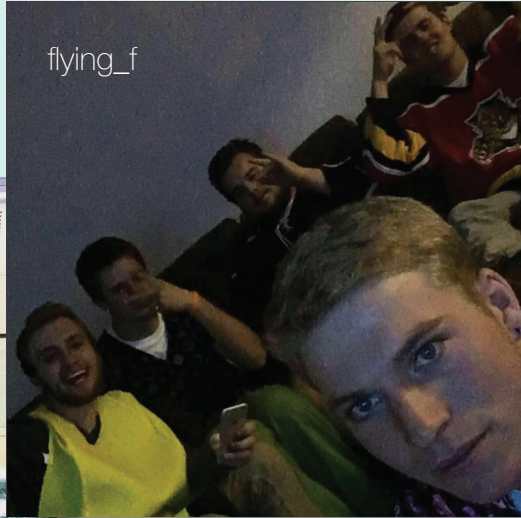
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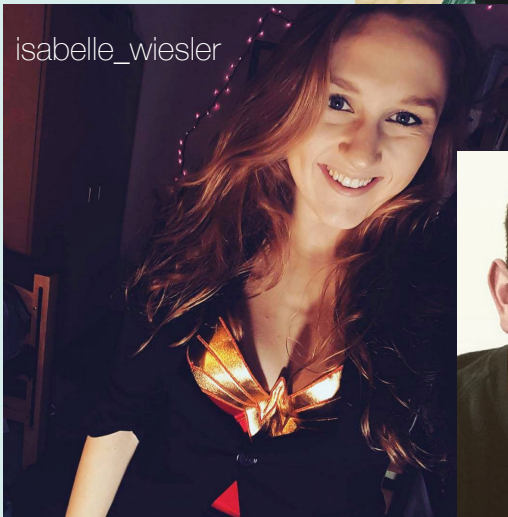
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STAFF EDITORIAL

NEW YEAR NEW US... NOT

As the dawn of the new year arrives, it is time to start coming up with New Year's resolutions. In order to keep from failing once again on making basic resolutions, the Mystician staff has created a list of resolutions to completely avoid this year.

To be honest I probably won't...

...stop eating bad food. "Because my mind is telling me no, but my boooooody, my boooooody is telling me yesssss"

...get rich. Let's face it, I am a college student with a part-time job. I can only make so much money and I have 6 years left of college. This whole get rich thing isn't gonna happen for a while or maybe ever.

...stop smoking. There is no reason to quit anymore. The tax increase didn't go through so paying \$4 won't break the bank.

...quit my hopeless job, but I never do because I'm a college student who pays seven dollars in quarters to do my laundry, I need the money. Damn though, every time I see my cul-du-sac'ed haircut boss I picture him being in a gruesome scene from Planet Terror, that can not be healthy.

...spend less time watching television and spend more time reading. Throughout the course of the year, my collection of books grow with impulse purchases from Barnes and Noble. Most of these book spend their life cycles collecting dust or being used as coasters... maybe I should just stop buying books.

...stop skipping class just because my bed is cozy. The winter makes my room

cold, and the blankets surround me like a warm hug that would never give me an "F". I always end up regretting staying home instead of going to class, but the bed will almost always win.

...keep my room clean instead of living in a pile of clothing. The task of laundry includes not only washing clothes, but also folding and putting the clothes once they are clean. As a full time student with two jobs, I simply have no time to deal with laundry. So living in a mixture of clean and dirty clothing it is.

...stop being so cynical. When in reality cynicism gets me through the day and gives me the ability to laugh at my situation, even though it's a horrible practice that will deteriorate my mental health in the long run.

...start a juice cleanse. One christmas my mother got a high tech blender. She then decided that she was going to use the new blender everyday. A juice cleanse was her big idea. This lasted less than twenty four hours due to frequent trips to the bathroom.

...stop falling asleep in class, but it is so hard to stay awake during a boring lecture. Specially when you stayed up till 5 a.m. every night the last thing you wanna do is go to the 9 a.m. class.

...eat less pizza. Why would anyone even consider giving up pizza. There are so many different flavors and you can eat pizza on any type of occasion. Birthday party, end of the semester party, after a breakup, when you get up in the morning and before you go to bed. So never give up on pizza.

...drink less beer. How do you even solve this problem?

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Mission Statement:

The purpose of college media is to serve and give voice to students. We, as the student-based forum of journalism on campus, provide content that is informative, fair and concise. With this goal in mind, this newsmagazine is dedicated to accuracy and maintaining ethical practices.

The Bismarck State College 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.

Disclaimer:

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual writer and not necessarily shared by Bismarck State College or The Mystician staff. We welcome comments and letters from our readers. All letters to the editor must be signed and include contact information.

Agenda:

We, as the student-based forum of journalism provide information that is important to Bismarck State College's campus. The Mystician staff strives 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 truth, fact-based opinions and informative sources are important to us as a staff. With these three standards, The Mystician will be well-written, respected and relevant.

POLITICALLY OFFENDED

//HUNTER ANDES

Does the phrase “politically correct” sound familiar? Of course it does. America has become a society where certain words are considered taboo because they might offend someone. I’m sorry to burst your bubble America, but I am offended by the censorship.

Bismarck State College is one of the recent institutions to join the clique of the politically correct. Apparently Christmas break is now considered offensive, so BSC took it upon themselves to change the name to winter break. If anyone has noticed, faculty are straying away from saying the word Christmas as well.

Congratulations to whomever made this decision, because winter break is offensive to the Christian community. “Christianity, by far outnumbers any other religion in the U.S.,” Marv Mutzenberger, BSC religion lecturer said. The vast majority of people in the U.S. celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on Dec. 25, others need to accept that if they decide to live here. If a Christian went to a Jewish or Islamic country, would that country change their beliefs for the Christian? The answer is no.

The relationship between church and state, no matter how controversial, still needs to be respected. Culture is a powerful thing. Stripping the use of

the word Christmas would in turn be devastating to most Americans, all in order not to offend a minority of people.

Before making an autonomous decision, thought should be given as to why this break is recognized. Is it because schools get a holiday break for Santa to bring holiday gifts to put in holiday stockings and eat holiday cookies on Holiday Eve? No. It is to honor the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas.

(Hunter Andes is an editor for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

//EMILY SODERBERG

With the holiday season quickly approaching and people wondering what to get for their friends and family, I highly suggest looking at locally-owned businesses. Many Americans tend to simply go to chain stores, sometimes even not thinking of local counterparts. While big chain stores are well known by many people, choosing local businesses has many options that people might not consider.

Local businesses help to improve the local economy. When people buy local, more money stays in the community – a study done by the research firm Civic Economics found that for every \$100 spent at local businesses, \$68 remained in the city compared to only \$43 of every \$100 spent at major

retailers. Owners of local businesses often promote other local businesses; they understand the importance of keeping things within the community.

Local businesses tend to be more personal than major retailers, and customers tend to know the people behind the business. Personally knowing people behind a business that you shop at will create a type of connection that wouldn’t be present with big stores. This connection is why communities celebrate when local businesses succeed and mourn when they are forced to close – people tend to not feel like this with retail stores.

The main thing that makes any city special and different is the diverse local businesses that the city has. Most cities

have similar chain stores, but the one-of-a-kind diners, unique flower shops, and boutiques are the things that make each city its own.

While major retailers can have benefits of their own and not everything can be bought from small businesses, everyone should want to give back to their community in whatever ways they can – choosing to buy from locals can be a simple way to do this.

(Emily Sofeberg is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)

WINTER BREAK

//ASHLEY FRITEL

Students attend an average of 180 school days per year. The rest of that time is spent on weekends, holidays and vacations. While students look forward to those holidays as a break from their regular studies, there is a growing fear that students are falling behind. However, there are some benefits to these breaks.

Winter break encompasses three of the most beloved celebrations among Americans: Christmas, New Year's Eve, and Hanukkah. All three of these are the largest holidays where families travel to be together, and with winter break students are granted the opportunity to enjoy time off from school to spend with

their families. If winter break was not in place the amount of time students have to spend with their families over the holidays would plummet.

Anybody still in school can relate to how exhausting the first few months of school can be. Winter break gives the mentally exhausted an extensive amount of time to get themselves back together, maybe restock on school supplies, and become re-energized in general. If winter break was not in place students would labor on tirelessly until Spring Break leaving them with six almost non-stop months of dealing with homework, grades, teachers, etc. One of the biggest things that eats a

school's yearly budget is the cost to pay for teachers and running the school five times a week. Without winter break, schools would be spending a lot more money that they often don't have much of anyway, which could affect the quality of education the school can provide for the rest of the year.

Although there is discrepancy about weather winter break necessary or not, there are many benefits to having it.

(Ashley Fritel is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)

WORKING RETAIL

//NICK WESTERMEYER

The customer is always right. Say it loud, say it proud, and try to say it without puking. It's the all-too-familiar pill that every person in customer service must swallow. From servers to salespeople, there's a callus that builds inside of associates whenever a shopper demands to speak to a manager.

As somebody with four years of customer service under his belt, I can wholeheartedly preach that the sense of a customer's entitlement to save a couple of bucks has made my stomach turn worse than any of my past bouts with strep throat or pneumonia. I've made bets with fellow employees on when someone will get themselves fired for talking back or yelling at a client. My job isn't for the faint of heart or for

anybody that likes to be treated like a human being.

Imagine customer service as a lake. Every good interaction is a drop of water into the lake, and every bad interaction is a drop of oil. If there was one bad drop in a clean lake, would the lake still be clean? If 20 of your customers compliment how good of a job you did for them, but one customer denounces your service, would you still drink from that lake?

Jobs like serving tend to be bittersweet for youngsters coming out of high school and into the workforce. That rebellious whipper snapper can finally break free from the chains of the daily school grind, only to bow to a new overlord: The American capitalist.

In a perfect world, everybody receives fair and adequate compensation for their services given, but in a perfect world, ice cream cures the common cold and conflicts are settled with dance-offs. Just don't dwell on the unfortunate times and remember to applaud yourself when you do a good job.

(Nick Westermeyer is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)

THE EDITORS' MYX FYX



The Mystician's Monthly Myx Fyx is a selection of songs chosen by The Mystician Editors to spread enjoyment through out the Bismarck State College community. Each Editor has a unique flavor of music. The collaborative hybrid will produce a sonic experience unique only to the MYX.

CHRISTMAS EDITION

- 1: THE FIRST NOEL - PENTATONIX
- 2: A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS TIME - PAUL MCCARTNEY
- 3: CANON OF PRAISE
- 4: SANTA, BRING ME BACK MY BABY - ELVIS
- 5: WHITE CHRISTMAS - BING CROSBY
- 6: IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS - MICHAEL BUBLE
- 7: MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HOLIDAYS - NSYNC
- 8: HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS - FRANK SINATRA
- 9: BETTER DAYS - GOO GOO DOLLS
- 10: THE MAN WITH THE BAG - SHE & HIM
- 11: WINTER WONDERLAND - JAMES TAYLOR
- 12: RIVER - SARAH MCLACHLAN
- 13: ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU - MARIAH CAREY
- 14: ONLY THING I EVER GET FOR CHRISTMAS - JUSTIN BIEBER
- 15: BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE - GLEE CAST
- 16: CHIRSTMAS (BABY PLEASE COME HOME) - MARIAH CAREY
- 17: WHERE ARE YOU CHRISTMAS - FAITH HILL
- 18: I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS - JOSH GROBAN

THE MYX CREW AND AIR TIMES

Scott Mann: Tuesday @ 3 p.m.

Dylan Bender: Wednesday @ 3 p.m.

Kiri Bauer: Thursday @ 2 p.m.

Thomas Delozier: Thursday @ 3 p.m.

Cameron Olson: Friday @ 2 p.m.

TO LISTEN: GO TO BSCMYX.COM

