

Graff Leads 2017 Mystic Volleyball Team

Alicia Larsgaard

The Mystician Reporter

On Aug. 14, 2017, the Bismarck State College Mystic volleyball team dove right into their pre-season week with sophomore team captain, Sierra Graff leading the way. The Mystics are coming off last year's sub-regional championship win and have high expectations for the 2017 season. Graff was voted the 2017 Mystics volleyball team co-captain.

"I am extremely excited for our 2017 season," Graff said. "We have a great team coming in: great freshmen and great sophomores. I think our overall team chemistry this year is going to be amazing and help us go really far.

Graff's path to success had humble beginnings that started in the small town of Kindred, N.D..

"I was recruited by the 2015-2016 BSC assistant coach, Josh Wastvedt, which really caught me off guard because I didn't get to play my senior year of high school due to an injury," Graff said. "Basically when I got that offer, I was already mentally signed."

Prior to her injury, Graff was a standout athlete. As a high school freshman, she helped lead her team to the state championship where they took home the North Dakota Class B State Title. Three years later, having only played four games before suffering a season ending injury, she made the

all-region volleyball team.

Graff immediately established a strong chemistry with the coaching staff at BSC and still has that connection today.

"I absolutely love our coaching staff," Graff said. "I think they are great; each one has a different view on different things and they all mesh well together. They have so much knowledge of the game which makes it so fun."

When asked about her feelings towards her teammates, she quickly said with a smile on her face, "I love them. I love them all."

Graff's love for the game, as well as her coaches and teammates clearly shows through when she is out on the court, and now that she is a team captain her role means even more to her.

"I find this opportunity as a huge honor," Graff said. "I'm glad that I am able to be a person who the girls look up to and get to be that role model and hopefully be that person who is a great leader and help them through anything they need help with, Graff said. "I try to stay positive on the court. I know everybody makes mistakes. Sometimes a lot of people take that harder than others so I try to be that person to pick them up."

The Bismarck State Volleyball team feeds off of Graff's positive energy and leadership. With her on their side, watch for them to make another return to the sub-regional championship.



Sierra Graff, Bismarck State College sophomore, and team co-captain of the Mystics Volleyball team. Photograph submitted

Black Board: Students and Faculty Face Challenge

Hunter Andes

The Mystician Editor-in-Chief

Some students who have attended college would probably say that the first couple weeks as a freshman can be intimidating. Between making sure classes and books are paid for, learning how to use e-mail, online campus, campus connection, navigating student housing, meal plans, can all be a huge stress.

Now with Bismarck State College adopting a new online campus called Black Board – everybody is having to learn the ropes. The freshman probably have it easier off than anybody else as the sophomores and faculty have to relearn everything.

"I can see the benefits of it," David Poffenberger, assistant professor of mathematics said. "It gives the campus

a uniform feel, everyone is on the same playing field."

Sophomores have to get used to this new way of thinking too. For some it might be challenging and for others it will not be an issue at all.

"I haven't used it much yet," Jesse Gilbertson, engineering technology sophomore at BSC, said. "I like that the classes show up in one place instead of having to exit out of one course and into another."

Black Board can be compared to any other computer program in that until the user gets used to it, it could be considered a challenge.

"The more I work with it the more I like

it," Poffenberger said. "I think it is important that when students log into online campus they are comfortable. There would be unity on campus."

BSC has on-campus classes as well as online classes. This year many faculty are using Black Board in their classrooms. This is the challenge: having online in addition to on-campus classes.

Poffenberger said teachers should decide if on campus should be like online, but he isn't doing it that way.

"In a discipline like mathematics, teachers might want to see the student's thought process and see exactly how their solution derived with all steps shown," Poffenberger said.

Poffenberger isn't against using Black Board, he thinks it has quite a few great tools. He incorporates it heavily into his ASC courses with quizzes, discussions, videos and practice problems.

"I have the syllabus, gradebook, videos and assessment questions up on my Black Board for my other classes such as college algebra, just as I did in the old system," Poffenberger said. "I believe the goal is to start using it as a work horse tool to gather data related to course assessment – assessment for course learning outcomes."

From a student perspective Gilbertson may have put it best when he said, "I'm sure it will be fine once everyone gets used to it."

News Briefs

Students Choose Living Options

BSC in Top Five

Bismarck State College made the top five listing in the 2017 Top Online Colleges for Student Economic Mobility.

Schools were eligible for inclusion in this report if they had a mobility rate in the top 20 percent of schools offering 10 or more fully online degrees at the associate level or higher. Of the 2,273 colleges considered, 97 made the cut. Schools were analyzed based on mobility rate data provided by the Equality of Opportunity Project, and all college tuition rates were manually researched by SR Education Group. Again, Bismarck State College was ranked number five.

NRC Scholarships

Bismarck State College has received a \$140,934 grant from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission which will be used to fund 18 scholarships for qualified students enrolling in BSC's Nuclear Power Technology program over the next two academic years.

UTTC Powwow

The annual United Tribes Technical College International Powwow starts Friday, Sept. 8 and goes through Sunday, Sept. 10. There will be arts/crafts and food trucks set up Thursday, Sept. 7. Grand entries are 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday. Friday will be youth day.



Photograph Submitted

Emily DeSantis and Rachel Vitek
The Mystician Reporters

College students face many challenging decisions and actions that ultimately help form them into who they are. While having independence is something to look forward to it comes with great responsibility and new roles.

Some of these things include: deciding to live on or off campus, financial aid, affordability, distance and comfort.

"Living at home has saved me a huge amount of money," Jessica Peterson, a Bismarck State College student said. "I don't fully receive the full coll

The excerpt below was published in Volume 13, Number 8 of The Mystician April 29, 1960. The author of this piece was not specified.

Came the Dawn –

Struggling with every ounce of possessed strength, the student fought to disentangle himself from the threatening shrouds that engulfed him. Many were the times he had undergone this same trial of will-power, but never before had it been so nerve-wracking as the task which now confronted him.

For a moment it looked as though he might succeed, but his concentration snapped, he fell back into the deep stupor from which he had only then emerged. Acting upon a stimulus, the individual regained slight consciousness and again resumed his fight. Only a short time remained before all would be ended. Realizing this he fought on, with aching tiring muscles.

Another warning echoing throughout the domain in which he was trapped, spurred the youth on, and with a final, tremendous upheaval of power, our hero threw off the bed covers and leaped for his clothes with but 15 minutes to get to school.

experience that you would get on campus."

The cost of living for the residence halls on campus can be similar to the cost of living in an apartment. It is really up to the student to decide what they find more convenient for them.

Living on campus puts students in the middle of all the student action. While students living off campus can still participate in all of those activities; it may not be the same as living in that environment. Living off campus has its perks such as more privacy and bigger rooms which dorms cannot provide.

If students decide to live off campus with their family – it can ultimately save a sufficient amount of money. If a student that is planning on transferring to a different university after their time at BSC, living off campus for now could be a great way to save money for down the road campus experience.

Overall, there are many options available regarding where to live during time as a college student, and it is up to each student to personally discover what is best for their own unique situation.

Below is a comic that was published in Volume 14, Number 1 of The Mystician Oct. 7, 1960



The Mystician
Published by the Students

Hunter Andes.....Editor-in-Chief
Amanda Joyce.....Associate Editor/Photography
Brianna Svihl.....Graphic Designer/Photographer
Michael Sims.....Graphic Designer/Photographer
Brett Williamson.....Senior Reporter
Tom Delozier.....General Reporter
Marcie Reinbold.....General Reporter
karen Bauer.....Adviser

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual writer and not necessarily shared by Bismarck State College or The Mystician staff.

The Mystician accepts letters to the editor, suggestions for stories, information for clubs on campus, etc. The next issue of The Mystician will be published Thursday, Sept. 28. Deadline for any copy to be submitted is Sept. 18. Stop by Room 125 in The Armory for more information.



Photographs Submitted

Gannon Gallery Presents

Beau Theige *Artist's Statement: "I am a husband, father, and hobby rancher on the windswept plains of North Dakota. Although I am not a guitar player myself, I was instantly intrigued by this varied and unique craft, and thus the journey began. If you want to get trendy, it's called "upcycling." Each is handcrafted, inspired by everyday utilitarian objects, antiques, or plain old trash. Half art, half junk, all guitar. Let's change the way you make music."*

Born and raised in Williston, the oldest of eight children, Beau Theige became fascinated by art in all forms at a young age. He attended country school through eighth grade in Williston and went to Ray High School where he graduated in 1999. He held various positions in the work force until most recently becoming laid off after eight years in the oil field. Beau Theige Custom Guitars has since become his full-time occupation. While his interest has taken on many forms over the years: woodworking and mixed media pastels/acrylics, Beau has found his calling with his most recent guitar adventure. Proud of his North

Dakota heritage, he strives to infuse his guitars with true North Dakota spirit, incorporating barn wood and kitchen objects that remind him of spending time in his grandmother's kitchen on their dairy farm north of Ray. Since December 2015, he has created over 160 guitars and sold over 120. His guitars can be seen coast to coast from L.A. to Florida, and even as far as London.

He's thrilled to have been featured in the Williston Daily Herald's, Talkin' the Bakken magazine, Midwest Living (online edition), and on Prairie Public Radio. He resides in rural Williston with his wife of thirteen years, Larissa and their three children.

New Editor Takes Hold

Justine Smith
Staff Reporter

Meet Hunter Andes, the new editor-in-chief of Bismarck State College's school newspaper, The Mystician. He is from Makoti, North Dakota and this is his third year at Bismarck State College.

At the age of 21, in May of 2018, Andes will be graduating with two more degrees; an AAS in mass communications as his second, and an AA in English transfer as his third. In May 2017, he graduated with an AAS degree in Engineering Technology.

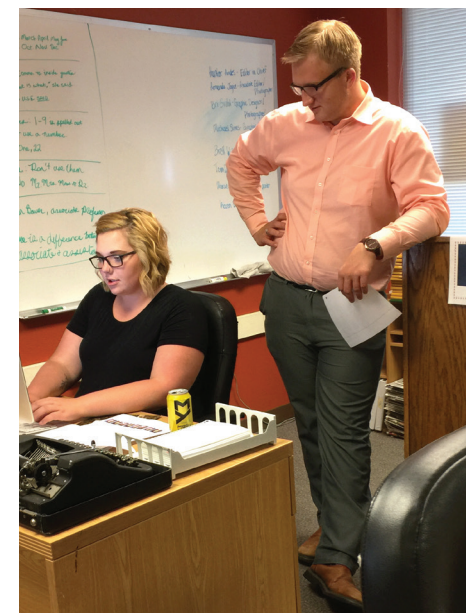
After graduating Andes plans to transfer to Minot State University to pursue a degree in secondary education emphasizing in English and hopefully go on to teach in the future. He chose BSC because it was close to home, yet just far enough away and also quite affordable. This year Andes became the editor-in-chief of The Mystician

"My first story and also favorite story, Local Rally Calls Senator to do Job, I wrote was for The Mystician, in May of 2016. It was about locals protesting John Hoeven, who refused to meet with Barack Obama's supreme court nomination, Merrick Garland," Andes said. "I also had two great friends in the newspaper, which sparked my interest even more." In April of 2017 Andes was also nominated by two faculty members as an

outstanding student.

When Andes is not working on The Mystician he is an amateur radio operator and president of BSC's amateur radio club. His call sign is NØHLA. He helps his dad on the farm harvest wheat and canola, and has been restoring his grandfather's 1947 Studebaker one ton truck, something that he is very proud of. Andes owns five old tractors as well, which he drives in the Makoti Threshing Bee. Andes said he likes to dance, especially swing dance whenever he gets the opportunity.

Andes encourages any student with an interest in writing to join The Mystician.



Brianna Svihl and Hunter Andes working on The Mystician over the past summer. Photograph submitted

EVENT CALENDAR

Beau Theige's Custom Guitars

Gannon Gallery in LEA
Aug. 22, 2017- Sept. 30, 2017
Reception: Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2017
4 - 6 p.m.

Community Fit Fair

Sept. 6, 2017
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
MDU Resources Community Bowl
FREE

24 Hour Play Festival

Sept. 15, 2017 - Sept. 16, 2017
7 p.m.
Sidney J. Lee Auditorium

Live Polka Music

Sept. 20, 2017
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Student Union

I love German Trivia

Sept. 21, 2017
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Student Union

Volleyball Home Games

Sept. 13, 2017 Wednesday 7 p.m. vs. WSC
Sept. 25 Monday 7 p.m. vs. DCB
Sept. 27 Wednesday 7 p.m. vs. NDSCS

48th Annual United Tribes Technical College International Powwow

Sept. 8 - Sept. 10, 2017
Friday 1 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday 1 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
3315 University Drive, Bismarck, N.D.

My Endless Summer Tour 2017

Sept. 21, 2017 - 6 p.m.
Flo Rida & Timeflies
Bavendick Field at the MDU Resources Community Bowl

Grocery Bag Bingo

Sept. 26, 2017
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Mystic Marketplace

Downtowner's Street Fair

Sept. 15, 2017 - 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sept. 16, 2017 - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Downtown Bismarck

Apple Dash 2017

Sept. 10, 2017
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Papa's Pumpkin Patch

Next issue of The Mystician

Sept. 28, 2017

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 news publication 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.

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.

Letter from the Editor



Hello again from the editor's desk. I am glad to see that everyone survived the first couple weeks of classes. I want to thank everybody who read the first issue of The Mystician; we nearly ran out of them. The student support on campus keeps this publication alive.

Some returning students, faculty and staff may recall that The Mystician used to be a monthly publication. Over the summer, my staff and I decided it would be best if we made the move from a monthly publication to a triweekly one. It seemed like the gap between issues was too long. By making this move it will increase the number of issues released during the semesters and also shorten them – in our minds a win-win.

We have added something new in this issue, and it is the game page. In the hope of getting more people to pick up the paper, we decided to include a word search, crossword and eventually Sudoku. We hope you enjoy them.

In memory of the many men and women who died from the September 11, 2001 attack, we thought we would honor them by temporarily changing The Mystician flag on the front page from the color black to the colors of this nation.

Walking around campus this year

seems to be a little more upbeat from last year. Seeing the glow in all the freshmen's eyes as they start a new chapter in life can't help but put a smile on my face.

As the semester roles on student attendance will likely start declining. I have seen it happen each of the past four semesters. My advice is to make sure this isn't you. You are paying too much in tuition, books and time to not show up to class. I have a little sign on my desk that says, "You are the author of your own life story." College is an important chapter in that story; make it worth reading.

If you are wanting to join The Mystician, stop me in the hallway, or come over to The Armory. We are always looking for new student writers to join the staff, so consider this an open invitation.

Keep up the good work students. Make sure to get those assignments in on time and keep that attendance up. Just remember that all the hard work will pay off.

Until next time,

Hunter Lee Andes

Hunter Andes, editor-in-chief
701-224-5467

Campus Connection Sucks

Tom DeLozier
The Mystician Reporter

Let me start by saying that I love Bismarck State College. I have obtained a graphic design degree from BSC, and now it's my last semester and I am completing my second degree



– mass communications. Although I have spent a fair share of time with BSC, I can still say that Campus Connection is not easy to understand or navigate. If not for my wife, who graduated from BSC in 2014, I could not have done the process of registration. It is a nightmare.

Many alumni and students who I have spoken with have said the same thing. Campus Connection is not easy to understand, and it provides no clear instruction. It's worse for me, because I have a learning disability. The joke is, the registration process has not changed much since 1959. It's time to get with the program and make it more user friendly.

Here's an idea: How about making pamphlets for registration, with step by step instructions? Or how about a video tutorial on the website to walk the student through the registration process? That would be especially helpful for students with learning disabilities such as myself. For me, it's hard to read instructions, so a video would help me learn faster.

On top of the video suggestion, we should put up an informational bulletin on the main page of the website each semester that lets students know when night classes and regular classes begin.

This was not on the website, nor was it regularly communicated about with the students. Many students showed up for classes on Aug. 21, when school was not in session. Most people only look at the main page of the website to see when classes start. Our phone numbers are registered in the school phone system, so why not send out a text message saying: Night classes start Monday, Aug. 21, and day classes start Tuesday, Aug. 22?

I saw many students outside of the offices in Schafer Hall waiting for help. This happens every year, so we have people at the door to help these students with what they need. The faculty and staff don't need to be the only people helping, we could have

student volunteers from clubs and organizations such as Phi Theta Kappa or Student Government pitching in as well. This will make the process go much faster for everyone. Things need to be made easier for future students. Let's work smarter, not harder.

Get Your Sass Back to Class

Amanda Joyce
The Mystician Editor



The first month of college here at Bismarck State College is underway and things seem to be going smoothly. Actually, that's a lie. I cannot be more convinced that some

of my professors think it's a great idea to cosplay as Jigsaw and ask me if I want to play a game. The game of course, is wasting my money on textbooks that they tell me I'll desperately need, even though it's already September and I haven't needed them once.

On top of everything else, new and returning students should normally be comfortable with getting to their classes and finding where they feel they fit in. However, there are a couple things that continue to happen year after year, and I want to address them.

Congratulations to everyone who knows how to get around campus with their big jacked up pickups, but someone needs to teach at least half of you how to properly park them. I get too excited when I think I managed to find a close spot in the front lot when I have two minutes to get to my class, only to find out that someone's pickup is halfway into the spot. Then I have to go to the Student Union parking lot and sprint to the Jack Science Center for my biology lab. It's too much for me to handle.

Second, to all my ladies out there, why is wearing heels year round a thing? They provide absolutely no traction, they're uncomfortable and they're impractical. I can barely walk as it is, and that's in tennis shoes. I don't want to worry about someone else falling down the stairs because that gives me more anxiety than I already have.

Keep in mind these are my own things that drive me crazy, but there are so many more. If anyone wants to enlighten me with their own bothersome worries get in touch with me. Now get your sass back to class.

When the going seems easy make sure you are not going downhill.

**Interested in being part of Mystic Media?
The Mystician Editor-in-Chief,
Hunter Andes, invites any student who
has an aspiration for journalism
– print, photography, broadcast –
to please inquire at The Mystician Editors' office
Room 125 in the Armory or call 701-224-5467**

Below graphic – 1977 The Mystician Archives



The Mystician is looking for letters to the editor.

Sudoku

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

Answers for the crossword and word search can be found in The Mystician 79.3 Sept. 28.

Back To School Word Search

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

- achievements
- aspiring
- college
- inspiring
- friendships
- hardwork
- seniors
- sophomores
- stress
- juniors
- loans
- creativity
- exhausted
- freshman
- schedules
- scholarships
- school
- selfloating



Tune into The MYX
 at bscmyx.com

Campus Camera

Do you want your post to be featured in the next issue of The Mystician?
 Upload your picture to Instagram, tap Add Location, type in Bismarck State College, possibly see your photo in the next issue.

@caitlyninman



@lyndsey.scheurer



@madelineeaston



@rissav16



@leah_woods



@sam_anklam



@jayceerae10



@amy_jacobson



@alyssa_beck

MASTER SWORD REVIEW

Sonic Mania: A Retro Romance

Brett Williamson

The Mystician Contributing Writer

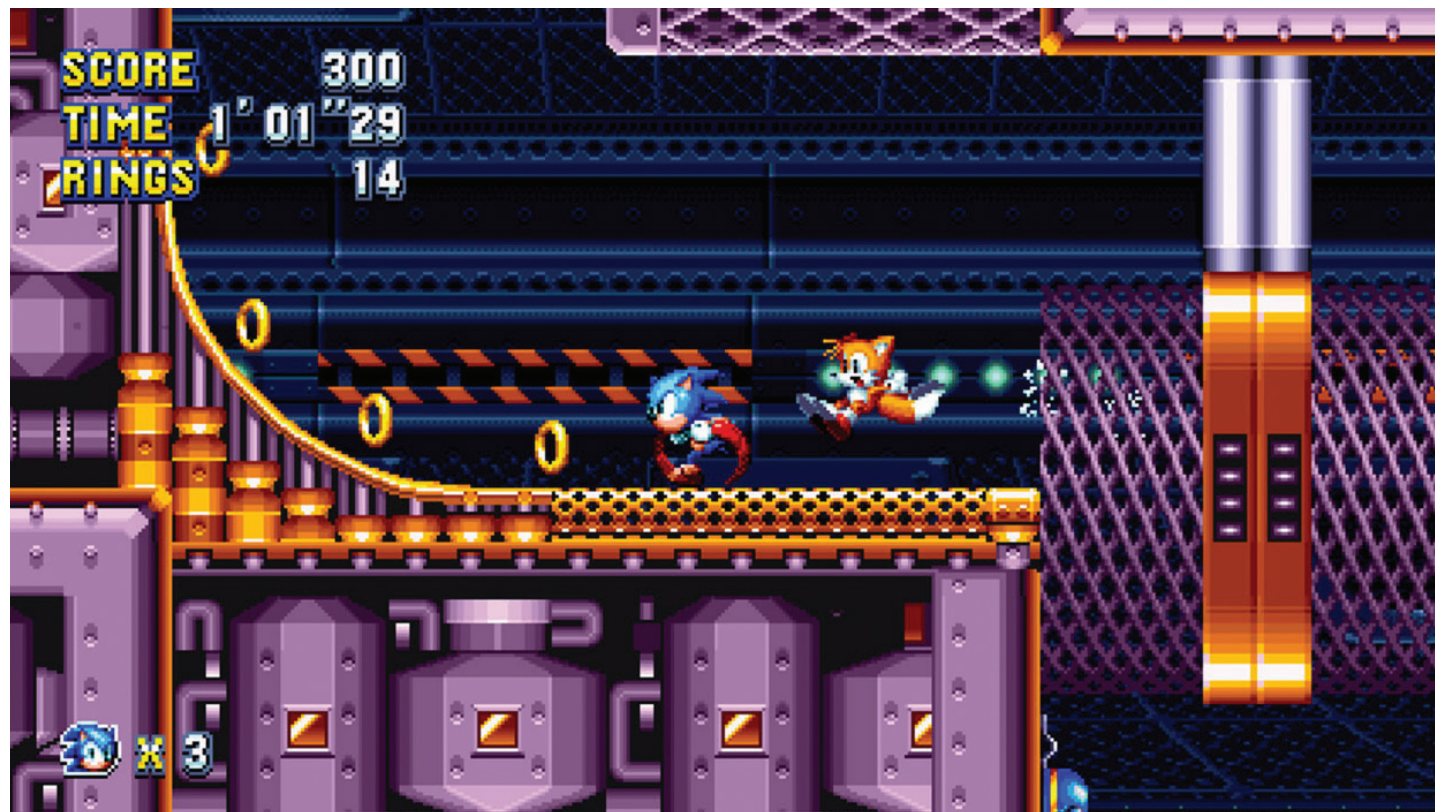
Sonic the Hedgehog is most known for speed and not taking a backwards step. After many recent missteps with the Sonic franchise, it appears the best step for the world's fastest Hedgehog was not forward, but backwards. In this year's Sonic Mania, Sonic returns to what made him a gaming icon – Fast and furious side scrolling action.

Sonic Mania was released on Aug. 8 for the PS4, Nintendo Switch and Xbox One. The game was developed by PagodaWest and Headcannon Games and published by Sega. Sonic Mania was released for the 25th anniversary of Sonic the Hedgehog.

Sonic Mania is directly inspired by the early Sonic games of the Sega Genesis system. Sonic is back to his side scrolling roots and his 16-bit form. This Sonic adventure is played across 12 zones, each with two acts, as Sonic is hot on the heels of the evil Dr. Eggman in attempt to end the madman's latest plan for world domination.

Many of the levels reappear from the Sega Genesis era Sonic games. The opening level is none other than Green Hill Zone, the first zone from the original 1991 Sonic the Hedgehog. As the player advances through the game it becomes obvious that the levels have been remixed and changed to keep the gameplay fresh while at the same time maintaining the nostalgia factor. Sonic Mania features a few new zones, but is mainly comprised of zones from the original series.

The levels are played in classic Sonic fashion. Players race through the acts collecting rings to survive while utilizing a series of power ups to aid Sonic in his quest. At the end of every act there is a boss waiting



to test the player's skills. Each level increases difficulty attempting to burn through the player's lives. Sonic Mania features a save system, but the player must restart the zone if all their lives are depleted.

Gamers are not limited to playing only as Sonic. His friends, Tails and Knuckles, are also available to play as. While the story does not change depending on what character you choose, each of the three characters do have their own unique skills and abilities. Sonic can run the fastest and jump the highest, Tails can fly with the use of his siamese tails, and Knuckles can glide and climb walls. This element makes replaying the game more enjoyable and diverse.

On top of rushing the levels and smashing Dr. Eggman's creations, there

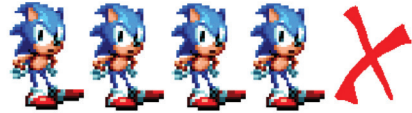
are a series of special stages to keep the gameplay varied. There are two types of special stages. The first special stage is a throwback to Sonic 3 in which the players must traverse a 3D sphere collecting blue orbs. Success in these special stages unlock medals which in turn unlock game secrets and different modes of play.

The second special stage type is found by locating the secret zones within each of the acts. These special stages are a throwback to Sonic CD. The player must run down one of Dr. Eggman's robots in a Mario Kart esque race game. By completing this type of special stage, the player will collect one of the seven Chaos Emeralds. By collecting all these emeralds, powered up versions of the characters will become available and unlock the game's true ending.

For a skilled player, the game can be beaten within a couple hours.

Attempting to collect all the emeralds for Sonic Mania's true ending is wherein the challenge lies. The levels are beautifully drawn and the HD character sprites are charismatic. Sonic Mania offers a fun gaming experience that will require multiple playthroughs to see all it has to offer, but will leave most gamers wanting a few more levels.





4 OUT OF 5
A GREAT ADVENTURE

- + CLASSIC SONIC ACTION
- + REMIXED LEVEL DESIGN
- + MULTIPLE CHARACTERS
- COULD HAVE BEEN LONGER

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Vikings Battle for The North

Levi Holzer, Mason Thorenson,
Westin Lougheed
The Mystician Reporters

The Minnesota Vikings are looking to become only the third team to ever play a Super Bowl in their home stadium this year. Super Bowl LII will take place at U.S. Bank Stadium, the home of the Minnesota Vikings.

With Sam Bradford at quarterback and the signings of tackles Riley Reiff and Mike Remmers to an otherwise underwhelming offensive line, the Vikings are definitely striving to be competitors in the upcoming season. The Vikings also acquired much needed young talent through the draft, most notably Dalvin Cook. Cook is a 5' 10" 210 lb running back from Florida State. He recently finished his junior year as a Seminole and ended as the all time leading rusher in Florida State history. Cook was selected 41st overall in the 2017 NFL draft in June.

The last playoff appearance for the Vikings was in 2016 when they fell to the Seahawks by a 9-10 score in the NFC wild card game.

One hurdle in the way of the Vikings playoff hopes will be their division rival Green Bay Packers. The Packers are

looking to build off their 10-6 finish and division title in 2016. Wide receiver Jordy Nelson's health will also play a major role in the Packers' 2017 success. Nelson missed the entire 2015 season after tearing his ACL in a preseason game. Aaron Rodgers will need to have a good season again to help lead the way as well.

After placing third in the NFC North division, only ahead of the 3-13 Chicago Bears last year, the Vikings will hope their youth will make for a strong playoff run. The Bears are a team with a lot of youth at key positions. One possible quarterback option is rookie, Mitchell Trubisky. This 23-year-old standing at 6'3" and weighing a solid 222 lbs was selected second overall in the 2017 draft.

Chicago will be hoping for similar campaign to last year's from second year running back Jordan Howard. He rushed for 1,313 yard on 252 attempts in 2016 and produced six rushing touchdowns and one receiving.

The Bears will look to Kevin White as a passing target after he was limited to just four games during an injury-plagued rookie season in 2016. Adding Victor Cruz to the receiving core this offseason will help in the passing game.

Another young team competing with the Vikings for the 2017 NFC North title is the Detroit Lions. The Lions are riding on the hopes of yet another

successful season from Matthew Stafford. Stafford has averaged 61.5 completion percentage and an 86.8 QB rating over his first eight seasons in the NFL. The 29-year-old quarterback has managed to remain healthy every game over his last 6 seasons, so the Lions will count on his durability.

Stafford will rely on both veteran receiver Golden Tate and rookie Kenny Golladay to provide majority of the receiving game in the 2017 season. Most of the rushing will be done by three year veteran Ameer Abdullah who appeared minimally during an injury-plagued 2016 campaign.

The Lions will hope to better their respectable 9-7, 2nd in NFC North finish last year. The Lions defense will be asked to produce great play lead by veterans Naloti Ngata, Ezekiel Ansah and Tahir Whitehead who were the big time players for the Lions in 2016.

The Vikings will have a lot of competition as they anticipate a possible playoffs appearance in 2017. Health will be a major key for many of the Vikings players especially the offensive line which was tarnished by them just a year ago, but they feel that they have the depth to compete.

The combination of youth and veterans the Vikings bring to play on Monday, September 11 as they take on former Vikings running back Adrian Peterson and the New Orleans



Photograph by Levi Holzer

Saints. This will be a key factor in whether the Vikings can compete against a legitimate team like the Saints in week one and throughout the 2017-18 season.

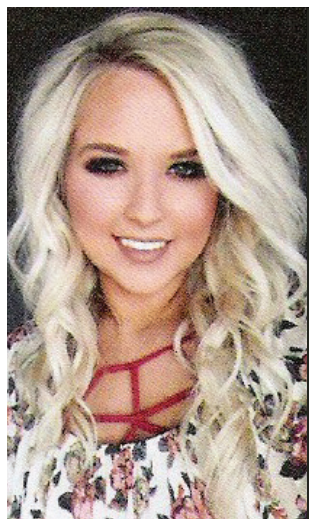
With the talent that the Minnesota Vikings are bringing into the new season, it isn't a stretch to believe that the only thing that can slow them down is themselves.

Lounge Tongue

The only thing that can cheat some people out of the last word is an echo.

No one so thoroughly appreciates the value of constructive criticism as the one who is giving it.

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Mandan Slides the City

Amanda Joyce
The Mystician Editor

Residents of North Dakota flocked to Mandan on Saturday, Aug. 25, to take part in the nationally renowned 1,000 foot slip 'n slide. Sliders took part in the event from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Elias Gonzales, (pictured below) volunteered for the slide, and made clear that his goal was to get as many people as soaked as he could in a nine hour time frame.

"It's a great time," Gonzales said. "I get to slide all day and spend it having fun with a lot of people."

The volunteers spent the day soaking up the sun, sliding and slipping down the hill, and making sure everyone had an enjoyable experience.



Photographs by Amanda Joyce

