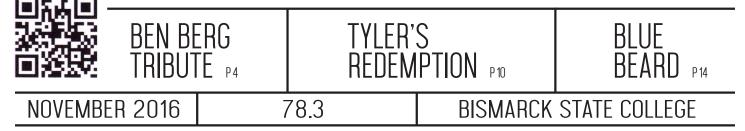
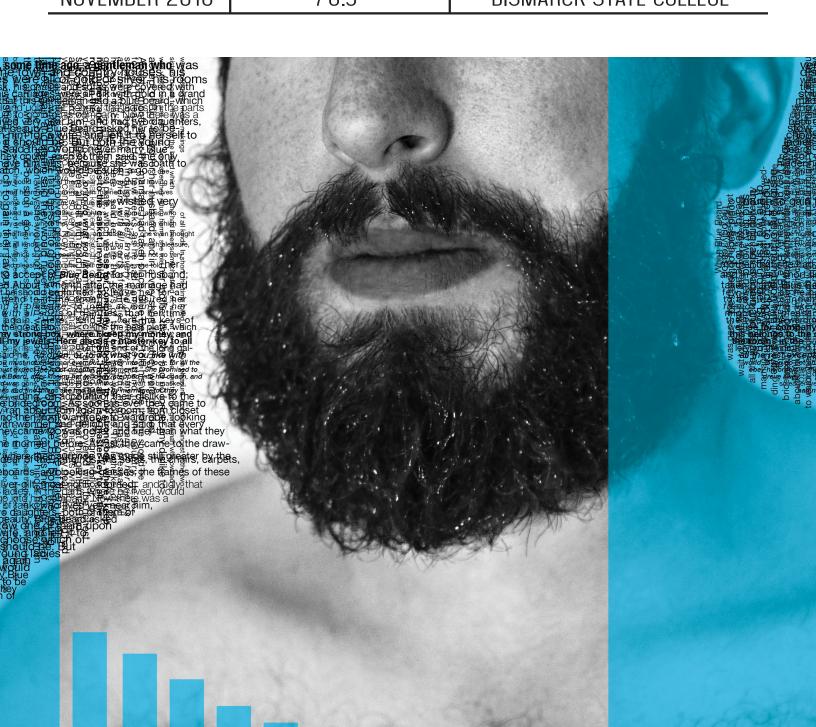
THE MYSTICIAN





EDITORS' NOTE

BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE NEWS MAGAZINE

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VOLUME 78, ISSUE

Congratulations we've almost made it through the first semester! We have completed the midterms and hopefully everyone survived that hell. Now it's time to start preparing for finals, but who can concentrate on that when there are only two more Friday's until Thanksgiving and only seven more until Christmas. Since this is the month of thanks, why not share a list of things we are and are not thankful for.

Thank You:

- -Family
- -Friends
- -Animals
- -Technology
- -People who use their blinker
- -iPhones
- -Auto-start
- -Free printing
- -Graphic Design students
- -Veterans
- -South Taco Bell
- -Tests on Fridav's
- -President Skogen
- -karen Bauer

Screw You:

- -People who don't use their blinkers
- -Spiders
- -Samsung Galaxy Note 7
- -Presidential election
- -F*** Boys
- -Budget Cuts
- -The kid that tried to shoot up the school
- -Basic B****
- -DAPL Controversy
- -Bars closing at 1 a.m.
- -All these new banks and gas stations
- -Tests on Mondavs
- -North Taco Bell
- -Bras
- -Blue Laws

Anka Par



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#LetsGetMystical

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Tanner Ghering @TannerGhering

There WILL NOT be another morning that i don't wake up and thank God for another day with the people I love. I love you Berg 🖕 🌳

10/4/16, 10:34 PM

34 RETWEETS 346 LIKES



@BaileyJangula

Heaven gained one of the greatest, most kind-hearted angels today. You will be forever missed Ben. Rest easy.

10/4/16, 11:38 PM

5 RETWEETS 181 LIKES

REMEMBERING **BEN BERG**





Ben Berg was a student at Bismarck State College and a member of the baseball team. He died on Oct. 4, 2016 while duck hunting. It did not take long for his friends and teammates to take to social media by posting tributes and sympathetic messages.



Megan Mills @MeganVictoria45

The loss of another gone much too soon. Miss your goofy smile already Ben

10/5/16, 9:46 AM

3 LIKES



Luke Leingang @LukeLeingang

Waiting to wake up from this bad dream. Kid was always there. Best friend you could ever ask for. Untill I see you again. Love you Berg. 💝

10/4/16, 11:28 PM

39 RETWEETS 407 LIKES



Tanner Ghering @TannerGhering

It's okay to cry in times like these... but I know Berg would still call me a pussy (*) hope you were smiling over us tonight, we love ya bud (*)

10/8/16, 8:35 PM

6 RETWEETS 166 LIKES



Cyril Nagurski @Nagurski14

Blessed to have known & played with Ben Berg on his short time here. He showed up eachday and just did his job. Until next time Mr. Berg

10/5/16, 5:13 AM

1 RETWEET 80 LIKES



Ben was just such a genuine guy. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of those who were close to him, I couldn't imagine what it's like.

10/4/16, 11:38 PM

6 RETWEETS 115 LIKES



Cullen Irey @Cullen_Irey

Glad I got to meet such a great person this last month. Prayers to the Berg family and those closest to him. Rest In Peace.

10/4/16, 11:03 PM

10 RETWEETS 207 LIKES



Josie Anderson @josephineraye

It was amazing to see how much Ben Berg was loved by his friends and family, he was so lucky to be blessed with all of you. 💜

10/8/16, 8:47 PM

93 LIKES



BSC Baseball @MysticsBaseball

Ben Berg made a positive impact on everyone in the BSC Baseball family on a daily basis and was the best teammate around. Rest easy buddy! 10/5/16, 11:07 AM

24 RETWEETS 279 LIKES



10/8/16, 8:19 PM

6 RETWEETS 135 LIKES



ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

I/BROCK HILTNER

acy Lynch is a redshirt sophomore on the Bismarck State College women's basketball team. The 5 feet 11 inches hooper made her debut in the second grade. Since then, Lynch has given 12 of her 13 years in the sport to her hometown of Bismarck. Lynch said being part of the sport for over a decade has paid off in the form of a diverse set of skills.

"I've had to play every position on the floor growing up, so I feel like I can score any way that they need me to," Lynch said.

Scoring is something last year's team excelled at. During Lynch's first year, the Mystics squad scored an average of 92 points a game, pulled away at a rate of 18.8 points a game and racked up 21 wins throughout their 25-game regular season. A high score calls for a high possession rate. Lynch said she and her teammates use their quick pace to get such a high offensive output.

"I have had to play as an up-tempo player my whole life so coming into the BSC program was easy to get used to," Lynch said.

BSC 2016 team has a fairly even mix of freshmen and sophomores, which Lynch said is primarily made up of guard-type players.

This year's team gives up a height advantage, but Lynch said they can afford to give up that aspect of their game because they make up for it with their speed and three-point shooting. "Our biggest challenge this year will be playing teams with taller girls," Lynch said. Last year Lynch found herself a key role, averaging 18.2 points per game. This year, Lynch said she feels that her role has not changed much.

"I have always felt like a leader on the court and I will continue to be a leader this year as well," Lynch said.

Lynch and the rest of the Mystics will be returning from a four game road stretch to take on Miles Community College on Friday, Dec. 2 p.m. at their home court located in the BSC armory.

(Brock Hiltner is an editor for The Mystician. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.)

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB: MAKING WAVES

IIALICIA BILLOCK AND MEGHAN MCNEIL

Bismarck State College opened its doors to a new club on campus. The Amateur Radio Club is an outlet for any student who has a passion for radio and who wishes to obtain an amateur radio liscence.

Mike Holman, club adviser and associate professor of electronics technology, invites anyone that has a passion for radio and the art of communication to join the club.

"The main reason we started this club was because we got into high altitude balloon launches and you need to have an amateur radio license in order to turn it on and broadcast." Holman said.

"I got my amateur radio license because of that, and since then it has blossomed into other things." Holman said.

Members of the club join for a number of reasons, some in order to expand their experience in the career field, and others to learn a new hobby.

"I joined the club because it correlates with my degree as a first year electrical student for instrumentation and control unit," Josh Stehberger, president of the club said.

Others were more interested in the opportunity of one day attaining their amateur radio license in order to work with high altitude balloons.

"I joined the club in order to get my amateur radio license for the STEM



Club weather balloon launch," Melanie Dougan, club member said.

Along with taking action to obtian an amateur radio license, the club has also built their own transmitting antenna.

"We already have three antennas on top of the Career Academy, and the fourth one is now ready to go up," Holman said.

The three previous antennas set up on the roof of the Career Academy were only receiving antennas. This means they could only receive messages and not broadcast messages. The fourth antenna will go up as a transmitting antenna.

"The antenna is what we call a dipole antenna. It's 64 feet long and was built by the students in the club. I told them what they needed to do but they did all the work," Holman said.

"The antenna will give the students the ability to practice communicating with people on amateur radio. This is a long distance antenna so they can reach other people all around the state."

The club is still open to anyone interested in joining. They meet in the Career Academy from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. every Tuesday. Although all are

welcome to join, it will be too late to obtain the amateur radio license.

"If anyone wants to get their amateur radio license, they won't be ready to take the test with the rest of the class," Holman said. "But I will be happy to get them the materials needed to study for it and take it another time."

For questions, contact Mike Holman at mike.holman@bismarckstate.edu

(Alicia Billock and Meghan McNeil are editors for The Mystician. Reach them at editor@mystician. org.)



DAY IN THE LIFE

IISARA BOLME

hile Resident Assistants (RAs) can frequently be seen around campus, many people may not know what their job actually consists of.

At the beginning of the semester' many students can be hesitant to approach or contact their RAs when they have a problem. Tooley said this is normal, but discourages the hesitation.

"We're not scary," Tahya Tooley said. "People think that they're supposed to be scared of us, but we're students just like everyone else. We go through the same things everybody else goes through; we're just normal college students, too. We aren't anybody to be scared of," Tooley said.

This is Tooley's first year both living in the dorms and working as an RA, although she is a sophomore.

RAs may have to deal with some scary situations. The RAs in Swensen Hall dealt with someone who had been

stalking one of their residents. While she could not disclose the details of this incident, it proved to be one of the scariest situations Tooley has experienced.

"The craziest thing besides that would probably be the fire alarms going off because someone cooked ramen without putting water in it," Tooley said.

According to Tooley, there is more good to the job than bad, and she recommends others apply to be RAs in the future.

"Besides the free room and board, probably getting to know a bunch of girls and making new friends and learning more leadership skills because you're kind of looked up to," Tooley said. "It's fun getting to know people."

She has met many different students through her job and likes being able to connect with so many of her residents. Along with the free room and board, RAs get paid a stipend every two weeks which increases with each year of RA experience they possess.

The worst part of the job, in Tooley's opinion, is having to get people in trouble. The connections she makes with her residents makes this aspect of the job unpleasant.

"I don't like being the bad guy," Tooley said.

While some rules, like no drugs or alcohol makes sense considering BSC's drug and alcohol policy, others are not so obvious. Residents of Swensen Hall cannot have microwaves, candles, or wax melters in their dorm rooms. So it is Tooley's job to make sure students do not possess any of these.

Each of the four RAs in Swensen have their own floor that they monitor. Tooley is assigned to the third floor, this is where she does her nightly rounds and checks in with each room. Along with nightly rounds, RAs have other responsibilities which include taking a turn in office hours, making sure the building is safe and secure, and being a go-to person for residents within the hall.

Office hours are from 7 to 9 p.m. every day, each RA is assigned their own night from Monday through Thursday. Tooley, for example, does her office hours on Wednesday nights. On the weekends, they have two resident assistants on duty, the primary RA and the secondary RA.

"If you're the primary RA, you're not supposed to leave here, but if you're the secondary RA for the weekend, you can stay in the Bismarck/Mandan area," Tooley said. "It was hard at first to have to be here all the time because I wasn't used to this environment, but it's fine now because I'm right by all my classes anyway." Tooley works with RAs from all of the other dorms along with the ones in Swensen.

"If we need help with backup or something, I can call an RA from a different dorm, but we also work together on programming which is we do something once a week for the residents, like watch movies together or bake cookies or we just sit and eat pizza. Just something to get everybody involved. We all plan that together," Tooley said. "I like it because I enjoy being a role model for my residents, and I love getting to know them all."

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





TYLER'S REDEMPTION

Past trials and tribulations fighting addiction helped Tyler Auck realize he had an experience that by sharing, could potentially save lives. Auck, Bismarck State College alumni, is on the cusp of becoming a licensed addiction counselor next semester through Minot State University.

"From the time I was born, I was exposed to drugs," Auck said. "My dad was a drug addict. My dad used to beat my mom, physically abuse me; mental abuse, torture. When I was 4 years old, I saw someone get shot in our front yard. Being such a little boy and witnessing all those traumatic events – it changed me."

Auck has spent the majority of his life fighting severe drug addictions. His knowledge and experiences have been a source of inspiration throughout the community, also his personal testimony contributed to the passing of the North Dakota Good Samaritan Overdose Law. The law grants immunity to witnesses, up to three individuals, involved with an overdose victim in which the witnesses cooperate with first responders. "I started drinking, smoking pot and taking pills in junior high," Auck said. "All those environmental and genetic factors instantly kicked in, and I was an addict from the first time I used. The disease of addiction took over and I had no control."

When Auck entered high school, the drug use escalated. Auck began to burglarize as a way to make money for his addiction. The Bismarck Police Department began to take notice of his actions. At the age of 17, Auck was facing 35 years in prison for burglary and assault charges.

Auck was ultimately charged as a juvenile and received nine months of house arrest and time in a youth correctional facility. Despite the addiction and legal problems, he was able to graduate high school.

Auck spent the next three years in Boulder, Colo., where his drug use shifted to heroin, cocaine, and meth. Despite a near-fatal heroin overdose in Denver of 1996, he continued to use.

"I fell to the ground, they drug my body out of the apartment building and tried

//BRETT WILLIAMSON

to dispose of me in a Dumpster," Auck said. "They kept picking me up and dropping me. It was the shittiest feeling in the world to have people touching you as you're dying and then have them walk away."

The only thing he remembers is crawling to the street and waking up in a hospital.

"I was in the hospital for a couple days," Auck said. "I didn't tell them who I was while I was in the hospital. They put me in a taxi and then they drove me 20 blocks away from the hospital and dumped me on the side of the road."

Auck returned to Bismarck and continued to use drugs. It wasn't until a failed suicide attempt that he decided enough was enough. In 2008, a misfire on a faulty 9 mm primer spared him and gave him a second chance.

"I have been through a lot of treatments in my life," Auck said. "I always think you feel enough pain or die from the disease of addiction. I finally felt enough pain. I was broken."

Auck was admitted to St. Alexius'



Partial Hospitalization Program and began to fight back against his addiction. The battle was a tug-of-war for Auck, but with each stumble he continued to push forward.

"I struggled for many years," Auck said. "The hardest part was learning to live life on life's terms."

After a relapse, Auck enrolled in the Heartview Foundation in 2011 and has been sober since.

Once Auck demonstrated he was devoted to his new way of life, a recovery coach at The Heartview Foundation suggested that he share his experiences and consider a career as an addiction counselor.

"I needed something to fill that void, because that void was all day every day," Auck said. "I put myself into school. It was one of the most difficult things I had to ever do in my life."

Auck had to start from the bottom once again. He recalls taking the Compass test, not knowing how to type and being required to take every algebra prep course. Auck laughs when he thinks back to the stress of his freshman and sophomore years.

"I spent a lot of time with the tutor," Auck said. "Algebra was the hardest. I never took it in high school. I had to take ASC 91, ASC 92, ASC 93 and then college algebra and stats. I was so afraid of that damn class, but I was not going to let it break me."

When Auck graduates in the spring, he will become a licensed addiction counselor through Minot State University, but his knowledge and experience are already being utilized. Auck is a panel member for the Eyes Wide Open opioid community forum in Bismarck and the Plain Sight opioid community in Mayville. He has worked with Chris Myer, U.S. attorney, in outreach programs fighting addiction. Auck also works as a recovery coach in his spare time.

Auck has to make amends with the detective that tried to put him away for 35 years. That detective is now the Bismarck Chief of Police, Dan Donlin.

"To see the changes Tyler Auck has made from the days when his name was well known amongst the law enforcement officers for all the wrong reasons is nothing short of a miracle," Donlin said. "Tyler is using his past experiences, which most people could not even comprehend having to go through, to help people from having to go through the same experiences which are devastatingly destructive to not only the individual, but their loved ones as well. Tyler's transformation is awesome."

Auck says his perception of the world has changed dramatically since his troubled past. He said he has a loving family that supports him and he is looking forward to helping individuals that share his continuous battle against addiction.

"No matter how far down the ladder you fall, with the disease of addiction or mental health issues, you can come out of it and do amazing things," Auck said. "There is always hope, even when you don't feel it."

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

NEWS BRIEFS

The Bismarck Art and Galleries

Association (BAGA) will be hosting a themed gala event on Saturday, Nov. 12. The event will be at the Radisson Hotel located at 605 E. Broadway Ave. in Bismarck from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. There will be dinner accompanied by music and entertainment, as well as both live and silent auctions. Live music and dancing to follow. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the BAGA located at 422 E. Front Ave. in Bismarck. Each ticket is \$50 per person. To find further information call 701-223-5986 or visit www.bismarckart.org

Bismarck State College students can have their very own Merit page, which is used to publicize student achievements inside and outside the classroom. These achievements, include making the President's Honor Roll, studying abroad, winning awards in their area of study and many more. These merits can be presented later in life for job interviews, internships, or references after graduation. To create a Merit page, enter the student's name at bismarckstate.edu/merit and a notification will be sent to the student's BSC email when it has been approved.

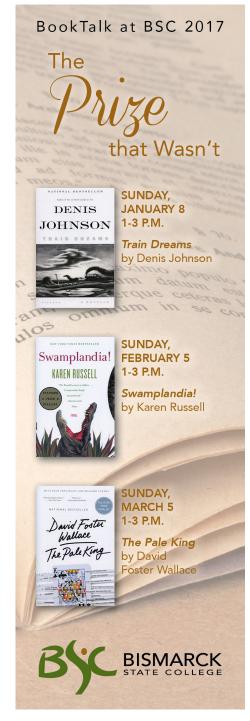
Bismarck State College is providing an opportunity for travel in 2017. Eligible students have the chance to study abroad from mid-August to mid-December at one of three universities. Students can choose from the University of Limerick in the Republic of Ireland, the University of Dundee in Scotland or Edgeww Hill University in England. Estimated costs are between \$12,200 and \$12,850 for the semester. For further information, contact Amy Juhala at 701-224-5760 or by email at Amy.Juhala@bismarckstate.edu. **Priority registration** for current students is November 1 through 18. Students have the opportunity to register for the classes they need next semester. They should check CampusConnection for their registration date and time. Act early to guarantee your classes.

Aspiring writers and adventurers

alike are invited to attend a summer journalism program in Oslo, Norway. The program will go from June 2 to July 2, 2017. Students will report on subjects ranging from concert reviewing to covering the city's gay pride celebration. The trip itself will cost around \$4,995 plus airfare, and will include tuition for three transferable credits, accommodations, language and culture courses, transit, and travel insurance. Contact Mike Dorsher at mdorsher@iemedia.com or Steve Listopad steven.listopad@vcsu.edu for more information.

The Bismarck State College 2017

BookTalk theme is "The Prize That Wasn't." In 2012, three books were chosen as finalists for the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, but none was awarded. Join the 2017 Booktalk group to read the contenders: "Train Dreams," "Swamplandia!" and "The Pale King." Discussions and refreshments are free and open to all. Join BookTalk in the BSC Library's conference room (LEA 204) Jan. 8, Feb. 5 and March 5 from 1





TUTOR ME

PHOTO//ALEXIS LARSON

*I***/TOM DELOZIER**

Whith fall classes in full swing it is easy for students to fall behind with homework assignments. Not all students are academic all stars with 4.0 grade averages, we all learn in different ways.

If students have a hard time learning in a class, or with homework, there is help here at Bismarck State College. BSC has an Academic Support Department that offers help to students free of charge throughout the school year. Lonna Meier, academic support services coordinator, directs the program and has been with the college for 35 years.

"We offer help to students for all of their academic needs, in any of the college's departments," Meier said. "If we don't have it, we can find it for them."

The department covers all of the academic classes that the college offers. The staff in the Academic

Support Department consists of 13 students who work as tutors to help other students. The student staff must have at least a 3.0 grade average and have a recommendation from a faculty member to be hired.

The Academic Support Department also has an online services for students. For those who cannot make it to office hours.

If students need help they can contact Lonna Meier by email at Lonna.Meier@ bismarckstate.edu or phone at 701-224-5671.

The Academic Support Department is located in the Jack Science Building in room 022. The department's operating hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(Tom Delozier is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.)

BLUE BEARD.



I/BROCK HILTNER

his fall, Danny Devlin is attempting to speak life back into a story that was lost over a century ago.

Devlin, Bismarck State College theatre director and assistant professor of theatre, with help from 9 of his students, are putting together the remnants of "Mr. Blue Beard," which made its American debut in 1903.

Without the full script, Devlin is left with a puzzle with a few too many pieces missing. Devlin and his team of young minds have begun creating a few of their own pieces to fill in the picture.

"We have a bunch of descriptions from all over the country," Devlin said. "We have the 1901 script. We have some programs that describe the progression of action in the show and some of the music. We don't have anything else."

Devlin has embraced his slim-pickings but said he is convinced that a copy of the script is still out there somewhere. In hopes of striking gold, prior investigation took him in search of the playwright's family and several other vague ties.

"This is my scholarly ghost," Devlin said.

However, history may have already written the ending to Devlin's ghost story.

On Dec. 30, 1903, the newly constructed Iroquois Theatre in Chicago stood prepared to host an estimated 900 people, according to National Fire Protection Association statistics.

That particular evening's entertainment was a production titled "Mr. Blue Beard." The script, written by J. Hickory Wood and Arthur Collins, offered an American twist on the British pantomime "Bluebeard".

Devlin said that the play was initially set to take place earlier that May but was delayed because of labor strikes and difficult times during the early 1900s.

After months of anticipation, the event unexpectedly found itself ranked among some of the deadliest disasters in American History. The Iroquois Theatre and 602 of its estimated 900 occupants went up in flames. It remains the fifth deadliest fire in U.S. history, more than doubling the death toll of the Great Chicago Fire some 30 years prior, stated NFPA statistics.

This project has nudged BSC's humanities in a progressive direction.

"It may be my own institutional bias showing but I think theatre is the perfect nexis for the humanities," Devlin said.

With this in mind, Devlin presented

his project before the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) committee which enables BSC's arts and humanities to have a greater reach in the community. The head of this committee; BSC's assistant professor of philosophy, Tayo Basquiat.

Basquiat and the other committee members awarded Devlin with a grant to continue his project. Devlin received praise for his effort in the application process despite having a small field of competition.

"Danny's proposal would have been a top choice, even if there were 12 other applicants, because of how professionally it was presented," Basquiat said.

Devlin's knowledge of theatrical history travels beyond the superficial: times, cities, names – he has a knowledge of theatre stemming from his postsecondary education at three different institutions.

Devlin said there is a reason almost all civilizations have created some type of theatrical story-telling – the ancient Greeks, Chinese and Japanese cultures to name a few. He said such cultures experienced theatre independent of one another which suggests that performance is a natural human impulse. "Performance is the current, dominant paradigm in understanding sociology," Devlin said.

A theatre inferno would be a social faux pas, but the show must go on. In taking on the task of reforming "Mr. Blue Beard" Devlin has brought light back to a nearly extinct story. Devlin's idea of progression is contrary to the typical social tendency to leave the past in the past.

"Theatre may not have dulled. It may have transformed in some ways," Devlin said.

Devlin and the others embodied a certain "never say die" philosophy and began changing the form of "Mr. Blue Beard" to speak to a more contemporary audience. Devlin and the others started at square one, the plot. Carly Willoughby, president of the theater club at BSC helped shed some light on what "Mr. Blue Beard is all about.

"Mr.Blue Beard is a wealthy man that has had many wives and dons an actual blue beard," Willoughby said. "He's always looking for younger more beautiful women to marry, and that's when he takes a young girl by the name of Fatima, against her will, to his castle to be his bride. There he gives her a set of keys but tells her not to go into a certain room or he'll kill her."

On opening night, what the audience sees is the final product of an unquantifiable amount of work. Devlin said the truth behind a finished product is what lies in the work done behind closed doors.

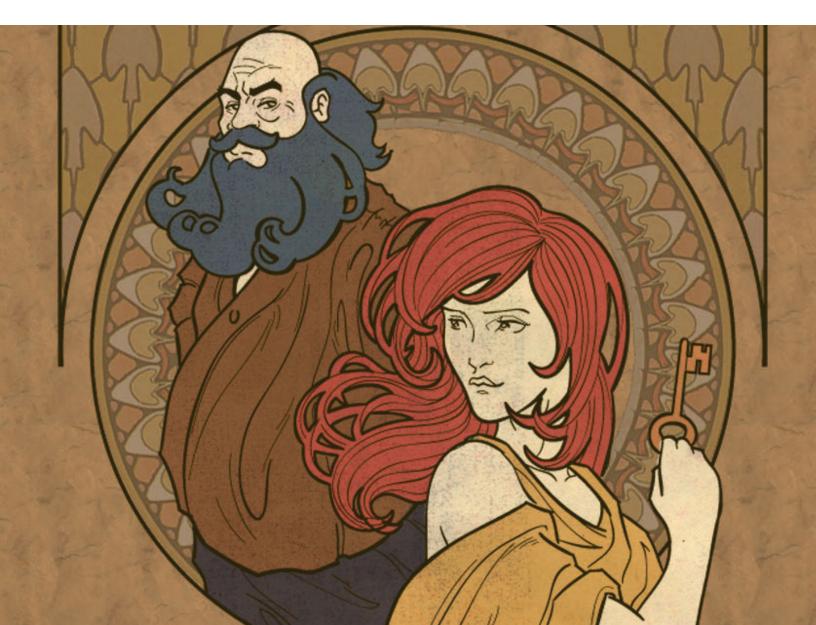
"The work we do is designed to be invisible by nature," Devlin said.

For now, Devlin said he and the others are going to be patient with the lengthy process that they expect from a new piece of work. Quality is a virtue that edges out any urge for quantity from Devlin.

"When we produce it, we want to produce it right." he said.

Devlin said they are certainly interested in bringing "Mr. Blue Beard" to production, it's just a matter of doing so at the right time.

(Brock Hiltner is an editor for The Mystician. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.)



HEALTH NEEDS AT BSC

IITOM DELOZIER



t's the middle of the semester and the holidays are just around the corner.Many people are trying to eat healthy and be active before Thanksgiving and Christmas come.

At Bismarck State College, there is a place where students can go to workout, swim or just hang out with friends. The BSC Aquatic and Wellness Center, located on campus, has swimming pools, weights for strength training and cardio machines. It is open seven days a week during the school year.

"There are so many things to offer to people, from swimming, strength training and yoga classes," Kaitlyn Blabaw, a lifeguard at the aquatic center said. "The general public can get a membership too. We have trainers who can work with you in achieving your fitness goals."

If swimming lessons are needed, they offer swimming classes as well at the center. For the more experienced swimmers, they also offer lifeguard training classes.

A benefit of being a BSC student is free admission to the Aquatic Center. Students must take their school schedules and student IDs to the front desk at the center, and they will give students their free membership cards.

(Tom Delozier is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.).

BSC Aquatic and Wellness Center 1601 Canary Ave Bismarck, ND 58503 (701) 751-4266

Winter Hours (Sept 1 - May 31)

Monday - Thursday 5:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday 12 p.m.-7 p.m.

Summer hours (June 1 - Aug 31)

Monday - Thursday 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday 5:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday Closed



Figments of Imagination is the literary magazine of Bismarck State College, and it is in its 25th year of publication. All current BSC students are encouraged to submit their writing, photography, graphic art, fine art, and even music videos or short films. To find out more about how to submit any work, email publishthis@figmentsofimagination.org

PHOTO//AUDY RIETZ

FIGMENTS OF IMAGINATION

Recap: The story begins in a near desolate Schafer Hall. Upon exploring the darkened hallway,a tapping is heard from an adjunct office suite. Our protagonist listens to the ominous sound only for the talking to stop abruptly. Ever since then an uncomfortable presence is felt in Schafer Hall.

onths later, when my paranoia faded I felt comfortable going back in by myself. One day my morning class in LEA was cancelled, so I decided to head into Schafer hall to work on a little bit of homework before my next class.

I held my breath as I opened the doors to the building, but was relieved at the sight of a bustling hallway. I sat down on the second floor on a bench and relaxed for a moment. I opened my laptop and began working on a paper for English. Slowly, the hallway became quieter, as everyone was going to their morning classes. When I looked up, no one was with me in the hallway. I needed to calm down so I check the bulletin board for anything that might indicate why people weren't in Schafer hall that day. A piece of notebook paper was pinned onto the bulletin board, it read "and you will always be alone". I picked it up and put it in my backpack to throw away later.

I was terrified, and rushed to see if people were still in class, and they were. Every room I checked people were standing and staring towards the east.

In a panic, I looked through every window in each room I was familiar with, my psychology room, my history room, it was all the same. They seemed to be looking at something.

I knocked on the door of my psychology room, suddenly the whole room was staring at me. I screamed and covered my eyes, I wanted them all to go away. I left the room as quickly as I possibly could, and upon stepping into the hallway every doorway had people staring out of it.They were just standing there, still. I never wanted to be alone more than I did in that moment. The next thing I knew, I woke up to my friend shaking me, asking if I was okay. He explained I fell asleep in the hallway typing on my computer and I was sobbing loudly in my sleep. I was embarrassed, but relieved that it was all a dream.

That day, I got over the incident quickly and jumped back into my regular schedule. I got back to my dorm around 2PM and decided to make myself some ramen and binge watch netflix because my roommate was at work.

When I opened my backpack to take out my history book I grabbed out the small torn piece of notebook paper that wrote, "and you will always be alone." I didn't feel comfortable sleeping alone in my dorm that night, so I drove to my boyfriends house and stayed there. I had the same dream about people staring towards the east in Schafer hall for months...



*I***/HUNTER ANDES**

O il production is down in western North Dakota, and state budget cuts are affecting the colleges and universities in the North Dakota University System.

"We're under tremendous pressure for budgets," Larry Skogen, Bismarck State College president, said. "No one could have predicted or foreseen that oil would drop as much as it did. In fact, I heard CEOs of oil companies saying that this boom is different, that this boom would not have a bust to it."

Despite what oil company CEOs predicted, the boom in the Bakken did have a bust that lead to 28 fewer positions at BSC this fall.

"We've got a lot of people working very hard. We've got 28.5 fewer people today than we had this time last year," Skogen said. "Forty-four percent of that is in the faculty ranks, 42 percent is in the staff ranks and 14 percent or so is in the administration ranks."

BSC has about 100 fewer students; most were out-of-state online energy sector students.

"Our total enrollment has gone down about two percent," Skogen said. "However, for our on campus students, for our North Dakota students, and for our Burleigh County students, we are up. Overall, we're down because our out of state online numbers are down."

One of the many full-time faculty members stepping up to the plate to fill the gaps is Kimberly Crowley, assistant professor of English. Crowley said faculty are experiencing larger class sizes, an increased workload, and being mindful of things like printing cost.

With fewer faculty, staff and administration, it may take longer to get things done than before. This being the case, Skogen expressed the importance of patience.

"My view is, the strength of Bismarck State College is the quality of our education because of people like Dr. Crowley and others that are stepping up to the plate," Skogen said. "I pride myself in the fact that we have such strong employees that will continue to deliver good quality education."

Tightening the budget means everything that is free is being looked at.

"We're under tremendous pressure for budgets, and one of the issues that we have discussed is the number of printers that are available for students to print free in the various labs," Skogen said. "We have to be more fiscally responsible across campus. I am all in favor of taking printers out of the labs, and if someone needs to print, having a spot they can go to and print, and they can pay for it."

The student side of the argument is a little different from that of the administration.

"The college has money for all those sports but doesn't have money for students to print. Pretty sad," Ricky Smith, an engineering technology student said.

"I think it's silly because students shouldn't have to pay for paper. We pay enough for tuition, so we shouldn't have to pay for a piece of paper," Tahya Tooley, a criminal justice student said. "I shouldn't have to pay 10 cents a page in order to print a mandatory class assignment. I'd be better off writing it out by hand."

"The core of our business is delivering high quality education, and we're going to continue to do that." -President Larry Skogen

Skogen said the college goes through enormous amounts of paper. He has heard of some students printing off 100 page online textbooks. In the process of being more fiscally responsible, one of the things is get rid of the stuff that is free because when it free there is no fiscal responsibility. "The core of our business is delivering high quality education, and we're going to continue to do that," Skogen said.

Skogen and his cabinet will continue to work to keep budget cuts from affecting students in a negative way.

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

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//BRETT WILLIAMSON

MASTER SWORD REVIEW

PAPER MARIO: COLOR SPLASH Shrooms & Paint

nce again the world's most popular plumber returns to save his blonde squeeze and restore balance to the Mushroom Kingdom from the clutches of the nefarious Bowser and his Koopa Troop. A story retold since 1985 time and time again.

Nintendo's Paper Mario: Color Splash was released on Oct. 7 for the Wii U and is the fifth entry to the Paper Mario saga. The series has spanned the N64, GameCube, Wii, 3DS and Wii U eras.

The Paper Mario series sets itself apart from the other Mario titles by placing the Mushroom Kingdom into a dimension made of paper. Mario is made of paper, the enemies are made of paper and yes, the environment is made completely of paper. This artistic gimmick is used to drive the central plot of the Paper Mario games. In the last game it was stickers, this game it is paint.

In this installment, Bowser invades Prism Island and began draining the island of its color. During the adventure Princess Peach gets captured and it's up to Mario to save the day by repainting the kingdom, finding the six scattered paint stars and taking down his archnemesis, Bowser.

Paper Mario: Color Splash plays like a Zelda game rather than a traditional Mario game. Players are not running from point A to point B stomping on koopas, but rather advance across a map by fulfilling requirements in a role play fashion. Mario is tasked with quests that typically lead to back tracking to find items that will open up a locked sections of the map. The combat is a turn based battle system similar to the Final Fantasy or Dragon Quest series. Rather than simply picking a command during the fight sequences, players will have to play battle cards. The cards are expended after each use and it is up to the player to keep an inventory of battle cards at the ready. Many of the cards feature Mario's classic attacks such as his trademark stomp, hammer attack and fireballs, while other cards will grant health restoration and defensive buffs. Mario's health points and card capacity will also increase with the advancement of the main story.

The enemies and lore is what makes this game appealing for the long time fan. Mario encounters goombas, koopas and other classic staples from the original series as well as oddball enemies from Super Mario Bros. 2. Watching shy guys and snifits abuse the toads is something that has rarely been seen since 1996's Super Mario RPG.

Paper Mario: Color Splash also is the first Paper Mario game to feature the Koopalings. If the readers of the Master Sword can remember back far enough to Super Mario Bros. 3 and Super Mario World, the Koopalings were the guardians of the seven castles leading up to the final battle with Bowser. The inclusion of the Koopaling is completely unannounced and was a complete surprise. It was a sudden rush of nostalgia to see Morton Koopa Jr. crash through the walls of the first castle and to combat Ludwig Von Koopa aboard his cardboard warship. Paper Mario: Color Splash is dripping with charm. The environments are colorful, the levels are creative and the dialog can be quirky and quite funny. It's almost too cute to watch the little toads dance around after wasting a Koopaling and returning a paint star to the spectrum.

While it is for the most part cute and innocent, there were a few scenes that were borderline horrific. One scene in particular, a group of shy guys pulled a toad from his house kicking and screaming, held the little fella down, shoved a straw into his stomach, drained the paint from him while he was pleading for mercy and then folded him into a small envelope. It was comical to watch, but at the same time a little disturbing.

The game will take 20 plus hours to complete for the average gamer. Between finding all the items, painting all the zones and the Nintendo quality, Paper Mario: Color Splash justifies the \$60 price tag. With Nintendo's new console, Nintendo Switch, being released next March, Paper Mario: Color Splash is the a fitting swan song for the Wii U.

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



//ANIKA ROVIG

MOVIE TROLL PURPLE RAIN

ome people swear they were born in the wrong era. Some wanted to be a kid in the 50s. Others wanted to be around to experience the roarin' 20s. For me, I would have wanted to go back in time to experience "The Revolution" and Prince's knack for entertaining a crowd.

The 1984 film starring "The Kid" a.k.a Prince Rogers Nelson exposes his talent throughout the entire production. Whether it be through Prince's sexually charged behaviors and mannerisms, his undeniable amount of confidence, or his cerenating voice, it is hard to not be mesmerized by his everything.

Prince was born and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He started his debut band, "The Revolution" in the heart of his hometown. The film has handfuls of extended entertaining performances done by Prince and his band. "Purple Rain" was developed to showcase his talents, but it did more than just that. It gave people a little sense of understanding about his home and personal life.

The film depicts a certain kind of "rawness" about Prince, by showing his entertainer life-style as well as his domestic life. Prince's father was an abusive man, not only to his wife, Prince's mother, but also Prince. There are several scenes where Prince drove home on his Honda CM400 Hondamatic Motorcycle after his performances and would have to stop his father from yelling at and beating his mother.

Although Prince had his fair share of being on the top 100 list, this movie has a beautiful way of shedding light on some of his deeper, more meaningful lyrics. One song in particular, "Darling Nikki" was a story about him having sexual relations with a woman he

meets in a hotel lobby. In the crowd stood Apollonia Kotero, his girlfriend at the time. She was staring at him with bliss, as the lyrics went on she shortly became angry and immediately fled the club in tears.

Although Prince had many significant others throughout his career, this scene greatly depicts the emotion women would have over him.

One night Prince came home after his performance, the house was quiet, which was a change of pace for what he normally came home to. A few moments later he heard a gun go off. His father shot himself in the head and was immediately sent to the hospital. Although Prince's father did not die, he was greatly impacted.

The song "Purple Rain" was tributed to Prince's father in an emotional final performance ending the film. Prince's raw emotion was captivating as he slowly approached the crowd, drawing everyone's attention. His performance was beautiful. You could see in the crowds eyes, at that moment everyone understood him.

Some call Prince a lyrical genius. His albums had so much range and beauty, he could go from vulgar to sublime, to political to playful in just one album. The way he flamboyantly expresses himself physically and emotionally is captivating.

History see's many historical figures like artists, entertainers, philosophers and world leaders come and go. Only the most influential figures however, will have their work talked about after their gone. Prince will forever be an iconic performer, songwriter, and an '80s era Casanova.

(Anika Rovig is an editor at The Mystician. Reach her at editor@v/sidiarEors)ATING



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INSTAGRAM



Bismarck State College >

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STAFF EDITORIAL 13,000 STUDENTS WITH NOTHING TO DO



Bismarck a college town? It doesn't feel like one now; however, it has the potential to be one. Some businesses in Bismarck-Mandan are taking strides into making the community a more habitable place for college students; nevertheless, more needs to be done to give students additional options. The city has a few nice places to hang out but no real place to let the id run wild. Between a growing number of students at the University of Mary, United Tribes and Bismarck State College, BisMan adapting into a college town needs to happen soon.

Being a college student on Friday night can be a drag when you have nowhere to go. Some squares enjoy Xbox and Party Pizzas, but a night on the prowl can provide a cathartic experience after a week of hitting the books and meeting social expectations.

We shed a tear every time we hear of a building under construction becoming a bank or gas station. Prime examples are: the bank that bought and destroyed one of our favorite food joints Rez's Pitch, the four new gas stations in a one block radius on Expressway and the Wendy's on Tyler Parkway now being turned into a bank. So much for the editors getting a Wendy's Burger after layout this month. Students do not like banks, students owe banks money.

Very few businesses enhance the college community making it difficult to keep students here on the weekends. There are about 13,000 college/high school students getting an education in this town with their own visions of making the community a better place; but they all want to leave because there isn't any community support.

The attitude the community has about college hasn't changed much in the last century or so, as Bismarck had its chance to have a four year public university. The people of Bismarck had the choice of the state penitentiary or a university, and chose the state pen.

Is it too much to ask for some 18 plus clubs? Students have nothing to do but drink after the sun goes down on BisMan. It would give students the opportunity to experience downtown life with older college students and people around town. Students need a place to hang out that has a hip atmosphere such as a community pool hall or an arcade, so they won't have to be tempted with fake ID's.

It would be nice to have not only more options in the community but affordable options. We should have open mic nights, and stand-up comedy, a drive in movie theatre, more restaurants around the college, just to name a few. At least give us some choices. More variety is better and more appealing. Right now the only affordable food joints around BSC are Subway and McDonald's. It's ludicrous that a student has to travel all the way to State St. or 3rd St. if they want any other decent priced chow.

If Bismarck would step up its game a little, it could be a goldmine college town, but remember it's the city that chose felons instead of students.

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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.

KEEP PRESCRIPTIONS REQUIRED //emily soderberg

When the Food and Drug Administration was ordered to make the morning-after pill available without a prescription, complaints were made from people who are for abstinence and against abortion. Despite all the uproar, many are now proponents for birth control being available without a doctor's prescription.

In 2012, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) endorsed the idea of birth control pills being available without a prescription. According to ACOG, 50 percent of pregnancies are unintended. More access to reliable birth control would result in fewer accidental pregnancies. ACOG also found that taking birth control isn't a big health risk, so requiring a doctor's visit and prescription is overkill.

Although no big health risks are associated with taking birth control, there are benefits to consulting a doctor. There are many forms of birth control, such as pills, patches, implants, rings, shots and many others - seeing a doctor would provide professional help to figure out what method of birth control is best for each individual. While the Pill is good for a lot of people, it is not the best option for everyone. Many women tend to take the Pill for more than simply contraceptive reasons, such as helping painful menstruation. Those who would simply be wanting to get birth control easier might not be getting the best form of contraception for them.

Are we so set on getting things easier that we forget the best option for one person might not be the same for another? We are not copies - we are unique and should remember that in all situations.

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

LOVE'S NEVER ENOUGH

A s a college student still living at home, I can clearly see why people my age are eager to get their own place and finally be on their own. Too often, though, I see it as a result of pent up teenage angst. I was pretty notorious for this, and I still have short bouts of it every now and then. I am an undergraduate with a full time job, so that must mean I know everything about what's best for me, right? My bank account would beg to differ, but I feel like having enough money is only one step toward being prepared to leave home.

Having sufficient funds is crucial for being independent, make no mistake, but the mental aspect behind going solo can have plans backfire in an instant. I have heard plenty of stories from friends and family about how they or somebody they know tried to live on their own but had to move back because they were homesick. People can miss career opportunities or a chance to explore the world if they decide to leave prematurely. Just like being in a relationship, moving out takes a level of commitment that many may not be able to handle.

I grew up with a dad that had to travel a lot for work, so I developed habits of half-hearted waves and glances whenever I saw him coming or going. It was not until he had a stroke on his way to work that I realized I may never get another chance to hear him say goodbye or even hello.

I had to learn a bitter lesson about goodbyes, but I consider myself lucky because he did live for me to say hello again. Now I make it crucial to greet him and acknowledge our goodbyes,

//NICK WESTERMEYER

not because I'm afraid of losing him, but to show him how much I appreciate and value his existence in my life. Please do yourself a favor and go tell your family that you love them. If you live with them, go hug them or even just sit down and talk with them. If you have moved out, go visit them or at least give them a call. Hit up that sibling, aunt, uncle or grandparent that you have not talked to in a while. Time cannot be replenished or slowed down, so do not rush away from who or what is familiar.

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

LET'S TALK BSC

IIALEXIS LARSON

In light of recent events, such as the death of Ben Berg, I feel this is the right time to talk about a topic that I have been putting off writing about: losing someone close to you.

This summer, one of my best friends died by suicide. Coming from a small class size of 47, you get really close to everyone. You see each other every day and know everything about them.

My friends death is something I really struggle with and I still do not fully understand why he did what he did.

The death a friend or family member is the worst kind of pain that never fully goes away, but it does get better.

"It's been a long day without you, my friend and I'll tell you all about it when I see you again," echoed throughout the church.

I was not expecting there to be an open casket given the circumstances, but there he was.

He looked so good, I kept wanting to shake him and tell him to wake up because this is not funny.

The service was beautiful; at one point I was finally able to catch my breath until they began to play a video. Just looking at a picture still makes me lose it.

The summer was really hard on me. I woke up on May 18 to a message saying one of my classmates had died. I did not have any diversions from my thoughts besides work. I found myself turning to methods of distraction that were not healthy for me.

I have been blessed with some amazing friends that have helped me through this. It was not until school started that I didn't think about him on the 18th of every month.

School averted my attention from what happened this summer to focusing on getting my work done on time.

I'm not saying that when "See You Again" or "You Should Be Here" comes on I am not going to cry, because I will, or that I will stop thinking about him, because I won't.

I'm saying the pain will hurt less, and when you think about them it will be about the good memories and moments you shared.

It's gonna hurt like hell for a while, but one day you will be able to smile when you think about them.

"If I had just one wish it'd be that you didn't have to miss this. You should be here."

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

IIASHLEY FRITEL

GUNS ON CAMPUS

Ass shootings at schools and universities across the U.S. in recent years have amplified the issue of firearms on campuses. Many opponents want to keep campuses gun-free, but a growing number of students argue if they were allowed to carry guns at college, they'd feel safer. I am a student that would feel safer if legally armed students and faculty could carry concealed weapons on campus.

Concealed weapons on campuses are primarily an issue of whether licensed citizens, who responsibly carry a firearm for self-defense, should be rendered vulnerable simply because of their choice to pursue higher education or educate the next generation. An individual who already intends to commit a crime is not deterred by a sign saying firearms are banned.

"I think it's absurd," Scott Weinand, Bismarck State student said. "I wouldn't put up a sign that said 'No wolves allowed' on the gate of my sheep pasture. I would train sheepdogs to guard and protect my flock from the wolves instead."

As policy stands, the people who carry weapons on campus are looked at as criminals because it's illegal, which takes away the right to something they can legally do elsewhere.

Gun-free zones should be aptly named defense-free zones, because 19 major shootings in the last 10 years stand

as evidence that campus gun bans are ineffective at keeping students and faculty safe.

Campus carry proponents cannot guarantee that allowing concealed weapons would have affected the outcomes of these shootings, but as policy stands the only outcome guaranteed not to occur is a lawfully armed citizen saving a life.

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

SEAT BELTS

earing seat belts in a vehicle is a contentious topic with many people. Most people agree that they save lives, but a democratic state government can not order its people to wear one just because it is the safe thing to do.

*I***/HUNTER ANDES**

Laws are made for the purpose of protecting a person from another person's actions. An example is North Dakota's Smoke-Free Law, which protects people from secondhand smoke in public buildings and workplaces. The North Dakota seat-belt law on the other hand forces people to do something because it is the safe thing to do for themselves. Smokers hurt the people who are around them, but the driver of an automobile is hurting nobody for choosing not to buckle up.

For adults, North Dakota has what is called a secondary enforcement seatbelt law. This means an officer cannot pull a vehicle over for lack of seat-belt usage. If another offense is being made such as speeding, the driver can be cited for themselves and front seat passengers for not wearing a seat-belt. However, in North Dakota, adults do not have to buckle up in the back seat, and can not be cited in any circumstance.

Walter E. Williams, economics professor at George Mason University said, "The point is whether government has the right to coerce us into taking care of ourselves. If eating what we wish is our business, and not that of the government, then why should we accept government's coercing us to wear seat-belts?"

Citizens of a democratic government should not be intimidated into doing something. It is time for Americans to stand up for their rights.

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

VENTURES OF ADULTS

recently was cordially invited to probably the second worst event that has been initiated in today's world. One of my friends asked to me attend her baby shower. I wanted to be excited, I tried to be excited, I even told her I would attend just to make it seem like I was that interested. This has nothing to do with our friendship or anything like that, I respect fertile women.

I completely understand why men generally aren't invited to these gatherings, there would be so much shit talking. Nobody wants to play pin the tail on guess what kind of genitalia the kid is going to have. Why can't we get creative with it, maybe have some friends dress in giant baby suits and lather each other up with baby oil, fun but also relevant. Men: keep milking the tradition where you don't have to be involved at this event.

Although I had responded fairly quickly to her invitation, my sentence ended with...as long as there is alcohol I will play pin the tail on whatever you want.

I had an uneasy feeling about showing up with just my handle of Jim Beam, so I figured I should bring something for the offspring. I went to the diaper aisle because we all know how well infants control their orifices. So many options, there are diapers, cruisers, pull-ups, anything you can imagine to do some heavy duty absorption. There was a little boy in the same aisle, shy little guy who seemed confused as to what he was looking for. Me being a seasoned vet in the pull-up department felt an obligation to guide him to a reliable product, but I disgressed.

With some discouragement in my heart, I left the diaper aisle. I knew what was the mature things to do. I had purchased a year's supply of old newspapers that had been recycled. I also thought about getting a card too, just so she wouldn't get confused, but I'm pretty sure she's already seen Big Daddy.

(Anika Rovig is an editor for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.).



THE EDITORS' MXX FXX



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 collbrative hybrid will produce a sonic experience unquie only to the MYX.

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**

THROWBACK EDITION

- **1:** THIS IS HOW WE DO IT- MONTELL JORDAN
- 2: THAT THING LAURYN HILL
- 3: STONE IN LOVE JOURNEY
- 4: TAKE ON ME A-HA
- 5: JUMP KRISS KROSS
- **6:** PUMP UP THE JAM TECHNOTRONIC
- 7: HASH PIPE WEEZER
- 8: ANTS MARCHING DAVE MATTHEWS BAND
- 9: SEND ME ON MY WAY RUSTED ROOT

- **10:** WATERFALLS TLC
- **11:** MOUNTAIN MUSIC ALABAMA
- **12:** BYE BYE BYE NYSNC
- **13:** GO YOUR OWN WAY- FLEETWOOD MAC
- 14: THE WAY YOU LOOK TONIGHT FRANK SINATRA
- 15: HEY MA CAM'RON
- **16:** SEVEN NATION ARM THE WHITE STRIPES
- 17: GENIE IN A BOTTLE CHRISTINA AGUILERA
- **18:** DON'T YOU FORGET ABOUT ME FLEETWOOD MAC