

THE MYSTICIAN

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ENERGY AND DESIGN COLLIDE



Lance Geving, Digital Media Developer and Application Specialist, shows the finer point of an application to Matthew Gerhart, a Student Employee. The CDC employs students from Graphic Design to learn and cultivate necessary design skills. (Credit: Robert Mechaley III)

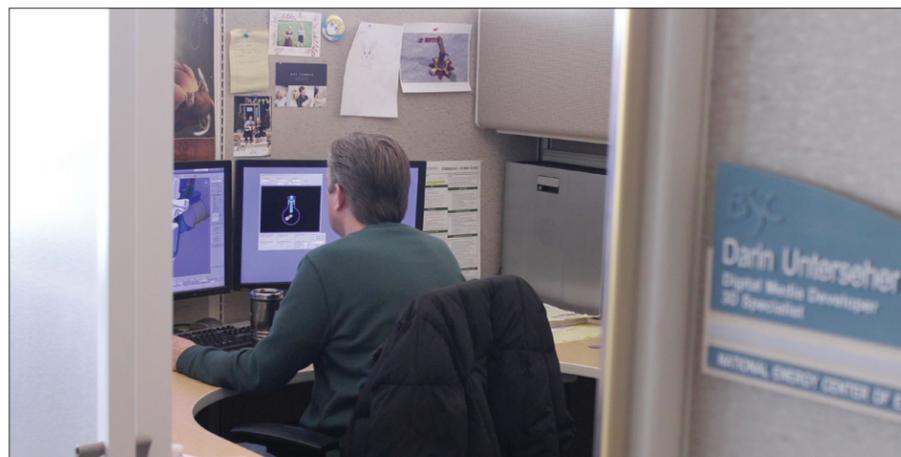
A Look into the Curriculum Development Center at Bismarck State and it's Accomplishments

By Robert Mechaley III
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The National Energy Center of Excellence at Bismarck State College houses the school's largest technical programs and the offices of many in the administration. On the second floor of the building there is a series of cubicles, acting as the workplace for a team of graphic designers who provide simulations and resources for the energy center to more properly teach its students the real world concepts, just short of taking them to the actual facilities.

The Curriculum Development Center works exactly as the name implies. If a faculty member teaching energy classes requires an illustration to help students better understand equipment or machines they will see in the field, the team of graphic design specialists in the CDC will create comprehensive static or dynamic three dimensional models to act as a guide.

"They'll use these wherever they're going to teach either in the classroom or online," said Darin Unterseher, Digital Media Developer and 3D Specialist for the CDC. "They want to show the



Darin Unterseher, Digital Media Developer and 3D Specialist, working on the next project he has undertaken. Unterseher creates three dimensional designs to better give students a hands on learning experience without physical equipment. (Credit: Robert Mechaley III)

students how a centrifugal pump works. So they'll come to me and say 'Hey they're having a difficult time figuring out how the flow goes through this. Could you build this in 3D? And then can we make a video out of it showing the animation?' Once we've got that video built, they can either show this in the classroom or put it in the online classes."

There are files upon files in Unterseher's computer showcasing the energy flows of pumps, the architectural layout of furnaces and the paths steam will take in a generator. Entire rendered videos in well crafted three-dimensional art seek to make the energy students as well prepared as possible, barring seeing the actual equipment in real life.

Continued on pg. 3

THE MYSTICIAN

PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS – FOR THE STUDENTS

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Letter from the Editor

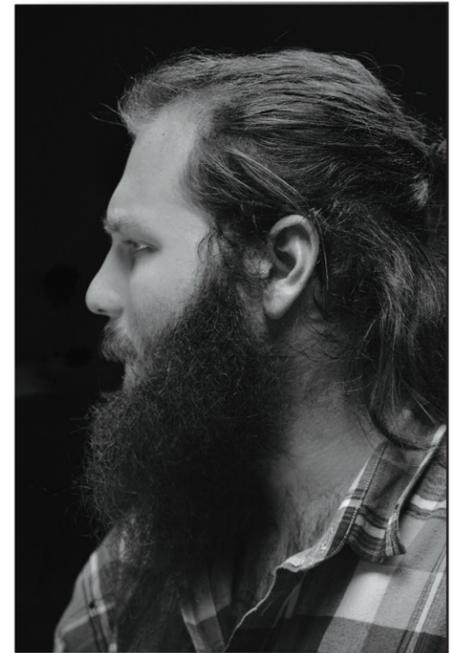
Welcome back, one and all to another semester here at Bismarck State College. Thank you in particular dearest reader for picking up this copy of the Mystician. This will be my final semester possibly at this school and I will miss much of the wonderful program that has given me this chance to practice my future crafts.

I have been looking towards the future very intently and wondering where my skills are best suited. I began my time in the Mass Communication program by jokingly referring to myself as a “Media Analyst Expert”. As time continued on, that pretentious title actually felt fitting as I thought way too hard about the media we consume in our daily lives. In particular, it was after developing a deep interest in trashy romance novels that I truly felt this affinity.

Using certain keywords you can easily find these kinds of fiction works on Amazon for fairly decent prices. You would be amazed to find the number of works that are just similar enough to trademarked intellectual properties in physical paperback that it borders on fanfiction. If you want to experience for yourself, try using popular fanfiction keywords and common romance tropes into the store search bar and be amazed at the results. While trashy at best and tone deaf at worst, these types of novels make for a laugh riot in the form of hate reading and a solid exploration of why the genre isn’t taken seriously by many.

As much as I read, I didn’t hate them. In fact I, actually had a fun time tearing these books apart. It felt like staring at a trash fire, you just can’t look away from the flames. Sometimes these books were even a little creative and did something neat with its metaphor or plot progression. It gave me something to do in my free time outside of work and further inspired my radio show scripts for The MYX this semester where I will be breaking down frequent tropes and ideas that need to die in media. Feel free to give it a listen along with all the other MYX radio shows.

If not trashy novels, I recommend all of our readers give reading and writing a shot in some way this New Year. A solid chapter a day can hopefully bring you some peace and maybe inspire you to join our wonderful staff in the Armory building!



Robert Mechaley III EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Mystician Mission Statement and Disclaimer

The purpose of college media is to serve and give voice to the students.

We, as the student-based forum of journalism on the Bismarck State College campus, provide content that is informative, fair, concise and of importance to BSC. With this goal in mind, The Mystician staff is dedicated to accuracy and maintaining ethical journalistic practices.

We strive to give a voice to student issues and

policies within the local community.

Our goal is to incorporate as many students as possible and be an outlet for student expression.

The BSC Mystician strives to be objective and is not affiliated with any outside organization.

The Mystician upholds the principles guaranteed by the First Amendment and utilizes these rights to bring diverse, entertaining and thought-provoking material to the college community.

Contact:

Robert Mechaley III, EIC,
with letters to the editor

or any concerns/comments regarding this publication.

E-mail: bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu

The next Issue of The Mystician will be published Thursday, Dec. 5.

Deadline for any copy to be submitted is Tuesday, Nov. 26.

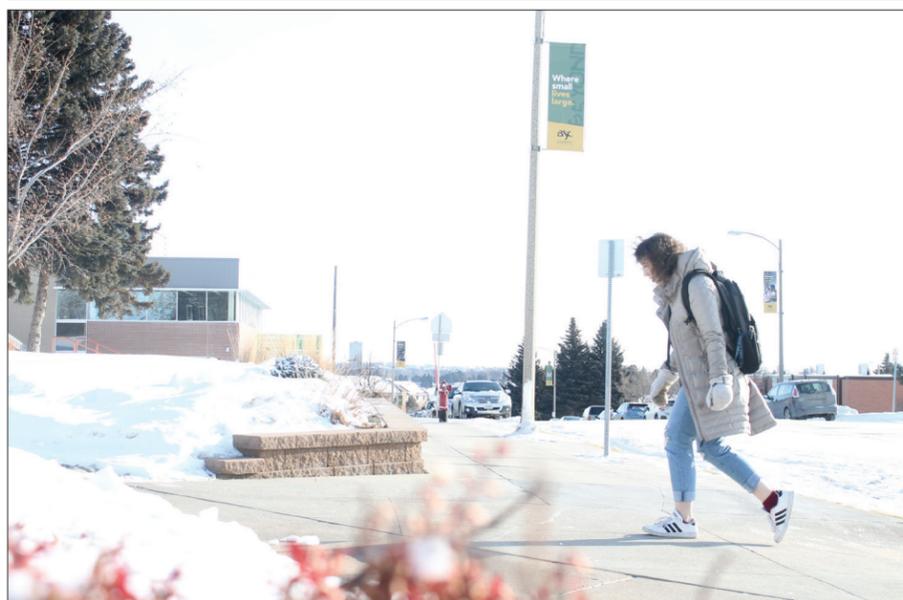
Stop by Room 125 in The Armory for more information.

Event Calendar January-February 2020

| | |
|--|---|
| <p><u>Jan. 23</u> -BSC Mystic Media Day (SU) 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p> <p><u>Jan. 27</u> -Game Night (SU) 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</p> <p><u>Jan. 28</u> -BSC Grand Theatre Movie Night</p> <p><u>Jan. 30</u> -Mac & Cheese Bowl (SU) 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.</p> | <p><u>-Women’s Basketball (AR)</u> 5:30 p.m.</p> <p><u>-Men’s Basketball (AR) 7:30 p.m.</u> -BSC Bookstore Home Game Day Sale (SU) 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.</p> <p><u>Feb. 4</u> -Chili & Cinnamon Roll (SU) 11 a.m.</p> <p><u>Feb. 6</u> -Women’s Basketball (AR) 5:30 p.m. -Men’s Basketball (AR) 7:30 p.m.</p> |
|--|---|

Answers to the Crossword Puzzle on page 7

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| DOWN | ACROSS |
| 1. blizzard | 1. brisk |
| 3. parhelia | 2. hardime |
| 4. hypothermia | 5. balaclava |
| 6. arctic | 10. gloriole |
| 7. absolute zero | 11. ice sculpture |
| 8. firm | 15. frost flower |
| 9. albedo | 16. hoarfrost |
| 12. snowperson | 17. glaze ice |
| 13. hibernial | 18. thundersnow |
| 14. pinus | 19. snowstorm |



Students are greeted to the new Spring Semester at Bismarck State by freezing temperatures, frequent snowfall and icy roads. Be careful driving around town and campus and bundle up. (Credit: Petra Davidson)



Are you a Mystics Sports Fan?

Watch all of the home games live for Mystic Basketball and more at: bscmystics.com/livestream



Come Join Us!

Tune in Live at bscmyx.com



MYSTICAST

ENERGY AND DESIGN COLLIDE *cont.*

“The rest of this crew, and me, none of us have ever worked a day in the energy industry,” said Unterseher. “What we’re good at is graphic design, animation, digital media development and programming to create the interactivity.”

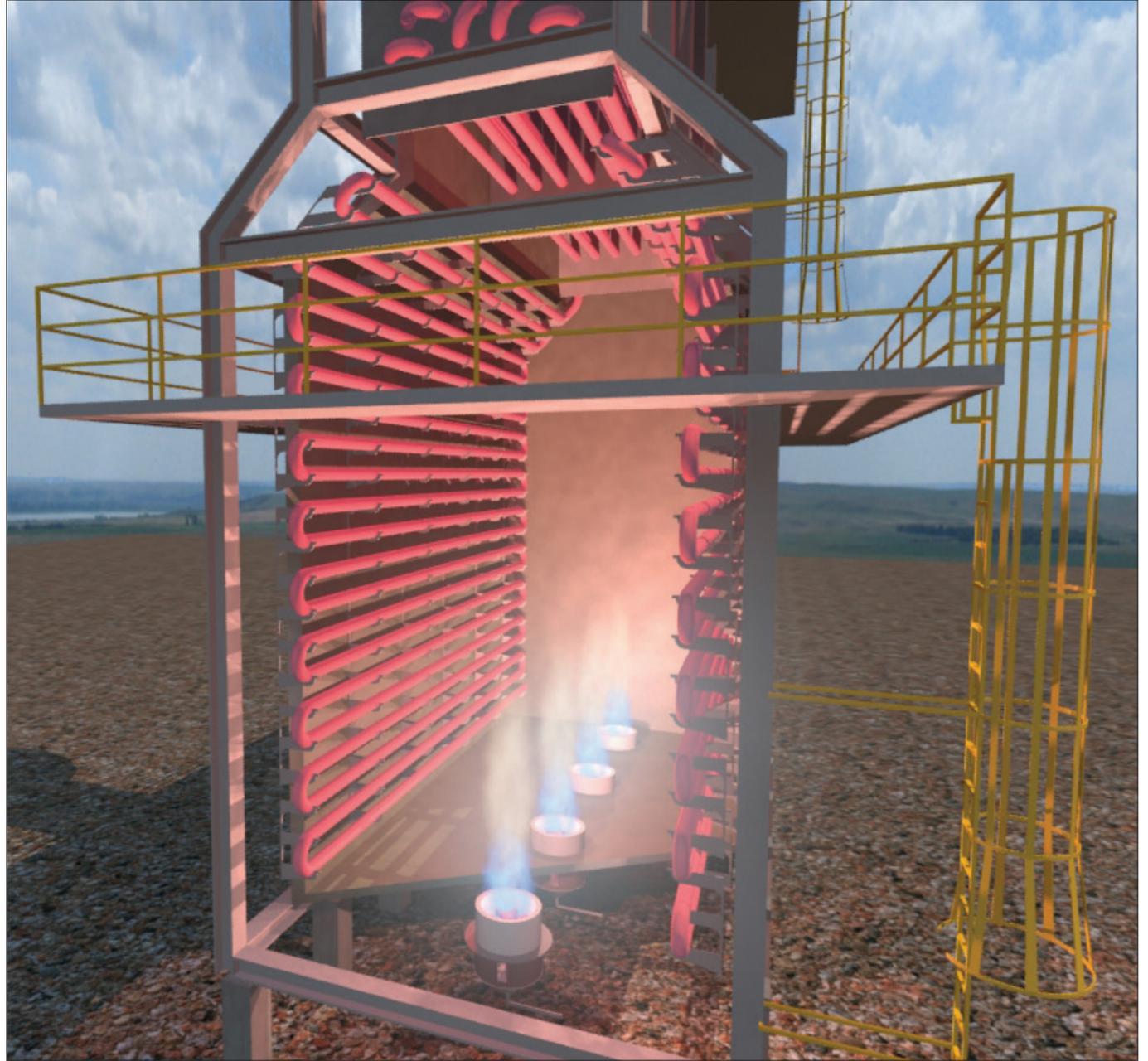
Outside of videos, for students seeking to learn at the march of their drum, online modules of three dimensional art exist as well. The modules allow learners to point and click on specific pieces of the larger machinery to better understand the movement of the moving parts.

Just down the hallway from the CDC cubicles is a very tactile model of a generator that may not be as accessible to a group of students or a student living 50 miles away or more. That is what makes the CDC employs crucial to the energy center as they allow accessibility in learning the very core in a visual and written-out format.

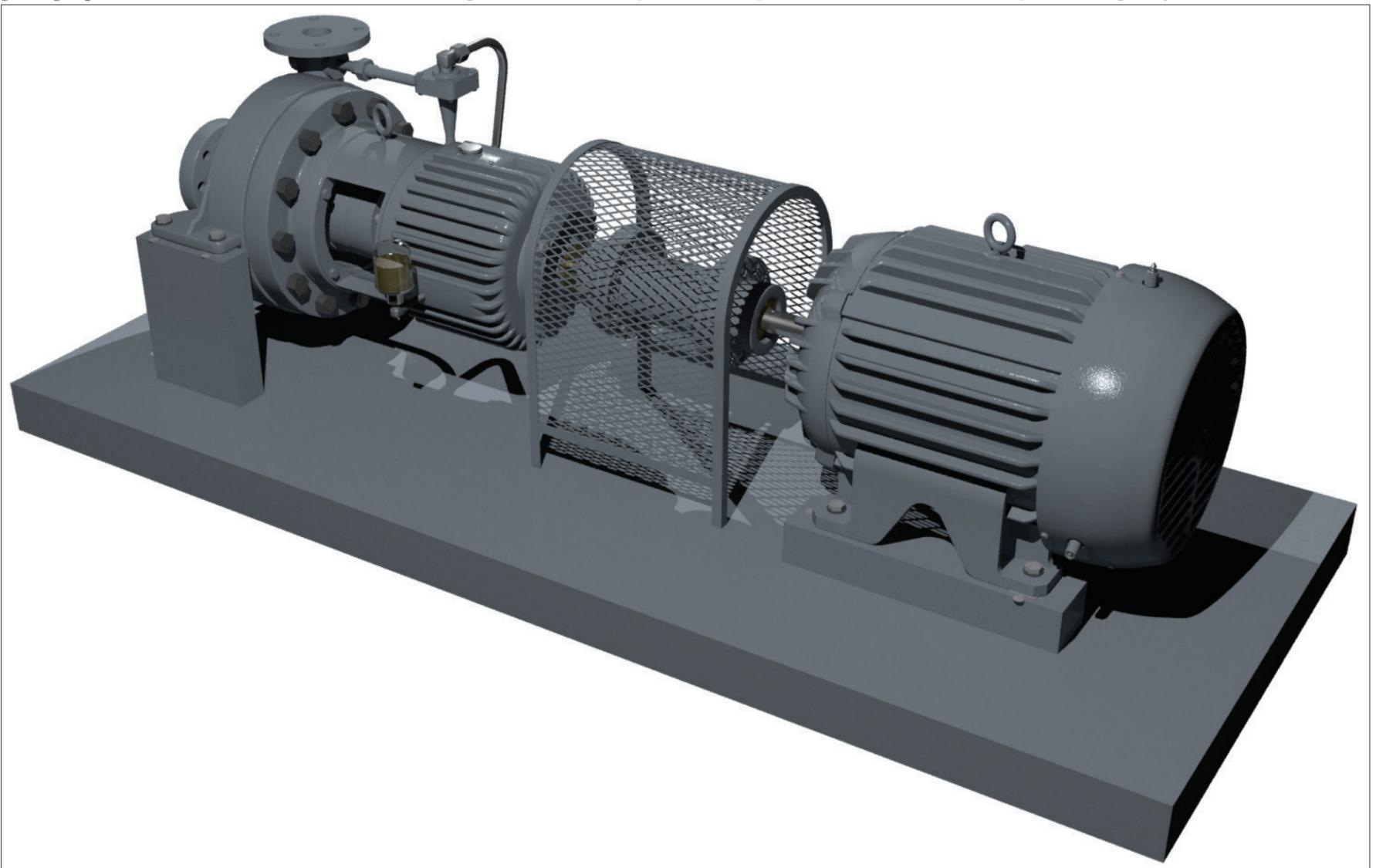
“We have a project management system that we use. Each one of these is a project. We have 4,000 finished projects,” said Unterseher. “Not all of them are animated or interactive. We’ll redraw the simpler stuff in static imagery.”

The graphic design expertise is not only applied in a purely digital format either. The CDC creates textbooks as well. The experts on energy will give text to be placed alongside static imagery crafted by the CDC.

The Curriculum Development Center provides BSC as a whole with the ability, to in full detail, explore the interior moving parts and mechanisms of a wind turbine seen driving along the highway, from the comfort of a classroom while still gaining experience.



Above: Fired Heater (also known as a furnace) is used in petroleum production (refinery process). (Credit: Darin Unterseher, Digital Media Developer and 3D Specialist, Curriculum Development Program)



Above: This pump is a recreation of a trainer that the Energy Department uses to teach students how pumps interact with motors – how they’re built – all of the parts are labeled. (Credit: Darin Unterseher, Digital Media Developer and 3D Specialist, Curriculum Development Program)

STAFF INTERVIEWS AND SPOTLIGHTS

New Feature This Spring; Monthly Interviews and Fun Facts About the Staff Members of Bismarck State College

Ashley Mattson



Ashley Matson, Admissions Counselor, serves in a second position as Staff Senate president, coordinating communication between forty plus departments. (Source: Ashley Mattson)

**By Robert Mechaley III
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

In the Jack Science Center building of Bismarck State College, the Admissions Department has been preparing for the start of a new semester. The services applied by the admissions team, largely tailored toward high school graduates, include making prospective students aware of offered programs, tours of the campus facilities and more. One person helping in this busy area is Admissions Counselor Ashley Mattson. She also helps in another role outside her department as the President of the Staff Senate.

“As Staff Senate President, I work with all the different staff on campus. Each district has a senator, we have somebody representing each area of staff on campus,” said Mattson.

The Staff Senate at BSC serves to examine policy and bring the employees together through events. Events previously have included potlucks, coffee and donuts and holiday celebrations. The larger focus of the Senate is to keep accurate and consistent communication between the more than forty employee departments ranging from Academic

Affairs to the VP of Operations.

“We have tons of different buildings and staff everywhere and we don’t always get out of our offices,” said Mattson. “It’s a great way to stay informed, know what all areas are doing, keeping those updates and then working with all of the staff.”

When Mattson is not working, she spends her time caring for her children, crafting and planning birthday parties. With that party planning in mind, Mattson has a very unique self-appointed title in her office as the ‘Director of Fun’.

“I always like to have some friendly and fun office games to kinda get that office engagement to bring more employee morale to the office,” said Mattson.

Her main aspirations ultimately include bringing more awareness to BSC through her work in Admissions. For Mattson, her goal at the school is to help the wider community find a place in the many programs.

The Mystician will continue to further provide more profiles of staff senate officials as well as more exposure for the everyday workers students will see and meet.

NEWS BRIEFS

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Bismarck State Awarded Health Sciences Grant

An award of \$415,256 from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) is helping Bismarck State College (BSC) equip its new Health Sciences facility with high-tech equipment for enhanced workforce training. The grant is a 50 percent cost share for the \$830,000 project. This is the first EDA grant made in North Dakota under its Assistance to Coal Communities funding.

BSC recently moved its Health Sciences program from its 15,000 square foot downtown location to a newly renovated facility next to campus offering double the training space. The award from the EDA will help the college equip its expanded lab and

classroom space for Nursing, Surgical Technology, Paramedic Technology, Emergency Medical Services, Medical Lab Technician, and Certified Nursing Assistant. With a critical workforce demand for health professionals in the state, providing more training space to increase enrollment will support the local economy, increasing investment and employment in an important industry.

Funds from the grant will be a variety of items, including interactive video systems for distance Health Sciences education, specialized instruments for lab exercises, audio/visual equipment for simulation and observation rooms, and more.



Left: Health Science Students sterilizing equipment for performance of simulated surgery in the practice OR. (Credit: Robert Mechaley III)

Changes to SafeColleges Requirements

Beginning with the Spring 2020 semester, ALL incoming degree seeking students of any age and regardless of course delivery method will be required to complete a set of SafeColleges courses.

There is no change to the SafeColleges training requirement for students age 24 and under or for those attending on campus classes. Completion time for the required courses for these students continues to be approximately 2.5 hours.

Students age 25+ and those taking only online classes:

Effective Spring 2020, this group of students will now be required to login to SafeColleges to read the BSC Policy: Sexual Misconduct and Title IX Compliance and complete two courses:

(1) Intimate Partner Violence and (2) Sexual Assault Awareness.

Course completion time is approximately 1.5 hours.

These courses are being required of students in order to comply with recommendations from a recent NDUS Internal Title IX Audit.

Students will be receiving an email with a link to complete their required courses beginning this week.

Please be aware that completion of the assigned courses is required or a hold will be placed on student accounts in early March preventing future registrations.

More information can be found online at: bismarckstate.edu/safecolleges.

HOW TO ACCESS

SAFECOLLEGES REQUIRED TRAINING

1. Using Chrome, log in to your BSC email
2. Open the “SafeColleges Student Online Training” email
3. Click the link to complete the course
4. Your username is the first 7 digits of your student ID

Questions?

Call the MACC (Mystic Advising & Counseling Center) at 701.224.5752

STAFF ED

The New Smoking Age

Eighteen years old has typically been the age that marks the beginning of adulthood. At eighteen you are legally allowed to vote, buy a lottery ticket, sign a lease, and even go to war but what you cannot do is buy tobacco products. To a degree this new law undermines what it means to be an adult in this country. Although smoking is not the healthiest of choices, it is a choice an individual should be allowed to make. Restricting those eighteen years of age from this while simultaneously encouraging them to join the military or vote delivers a warped sense of what it means to be an adult in America.

Health concerns are the main backing for those in support of this change. While it is understandable that people

want to promote healthy lifestyles, and smoking goes against this, it isn't their choice to make. Individuals that are of age should be held accountable for their actions and if they choose to participate in these activities then they will have to deal with the consequences as well. People should be entitled to make these decisions without interference from others.

There's also backing for this law in regard to underage children, mainly highschoolers, who come into contact with these products from peers. This change may make it harder for them to get their hands on products and therefore reduce smoking among younger kids. However if they were able to buy it off an eighteen year old before,

then they can probably find a twenty-one year old willing to sell to them too.

There are obviously benefits to the age increase in relation to health concerns and source availability to those underage. If the main concern is in regards to health problems then programs to fund addiction counseling and recovery need to spread, be funded and advocated for. Supporting those types of programs would help those struggling to get out of bad habits and recover from addiction. This would also promote the idea that this new law is trying to enforce, that smoking is unhealthy and should be avoided. People are going to do it regardless and by providing services for recovery it would sidestep the need to continuously

increase age limits while also promoting the notion that help is available to those in need.

This change, while it serves some benefits, mainly undermines what once was the mark of adulthood. There is no assurance that the government will not continue to raise the legal age for things such as smoking. New studies will occur and find more information regarding brain development and health issues, and while this is important to know, it does not deter from the fact that at a certain point people need to be legally allowed to make their own decisions.

Eighteen is the age where most life changing decisions can be made, and if you can go to war for your country, you should be able to legally smoke in it too.

LETTERS TO PETRA



Dear Petra,
Hi, my name is Peach and I need some loving advice from you. I am a single mom to the most beautiful girl in the world, and she is in desperate need of a father. Where does a girl find a good family man?
Sincerely,
Princess Peach

Princess Peach,
Girly, I have one word for you. Tinder. Lowkey there are a lot of guys on that app that are looking for a real, authentic

By Petra Davidson
MYSTICAST EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Princess in Need

relationship. I'll be honest, Christian Mingle will probably give you a better man as a whole, but it will require you to put in effort as well. Work, the grocery store, school, etc. are other places a man can be found, but if you find someone attractive, there's no harm in asking them out or for their number. Grabbing coffee is a great way to get to know someone and finding out if they are a family man. Being a single mom is something that I can not relate to, but I can imagine the struggles you have been through when it comes to relationships.

I think that putting yourself out there and being honest with whomever you are first interested in will make them realize how genuine of a person you are. My last advice for you would be to find a husband who makes you feel like a real princess and allows you to be your true, honest self.

Love,
Petra
Song Suggestion:
I'll Stay by Isabela Merced

COME JOIN US NOW! MYSTIC MEDIA WANTS YOU!

The Mystician: Tuesday and Thursday at 12 p.m. MystiCast: Tuesday and Thursday at 2:30 p.m. and The MYX: Tuesday and Thursday at 11 a.m.

Friendly faces, great times and quality entertainment. Come see us in Armory Room 125 for more information. Visit us on social media.



BINGEWORTHY

By Roger Marks IV
MYSTIC MEDIA COORDINATOR

The Witcher (2019) is from the first minute a satisfying show. The first episode is a little over an hour. Something that I particularly enjoy and being a Netflix original means no commercials. A little over an hour of content with no interruptions is something that already draws my eye. The protagonist of the series, Geralt of Rivia, acting suspiciously as a college student might also make the series have an oddly quirky comedy break. The mountain of a man that Henry Cavill is,

makes for an imposing figure.

In the wake of shows like *Game of Thrones*, *Vikings*, *Last Kingdom*, and others, *Witcher* follows the fantasy medieval trend and a method of magic that makes it not overpowered in any encounter, however powerful. Like me, in many situations, Geralt has the same situational reaction to just about anything summed into two words. Which makes him relatable if you count out his other features.

The show follows around three storylines at roughly the same time. Gleaning information to the viewer to make them understand what going on

and what may be about to happen while still keeping them just in the light. For the most part, this stays fairly even between three characters. Unlike what most fantasy shows do, *Witcher* doesn't force you to know a lot of its vocabulary. If it does say something vocally ambiguous, most of the time a character explains it in a way that doesn't make it obvious that the writers wanted you to know its meaning.

Another positive note is the episodes don't alternate on wins and losses forcing you to play on your feelings. The show tells a story and does so well. Set choice and costume design are

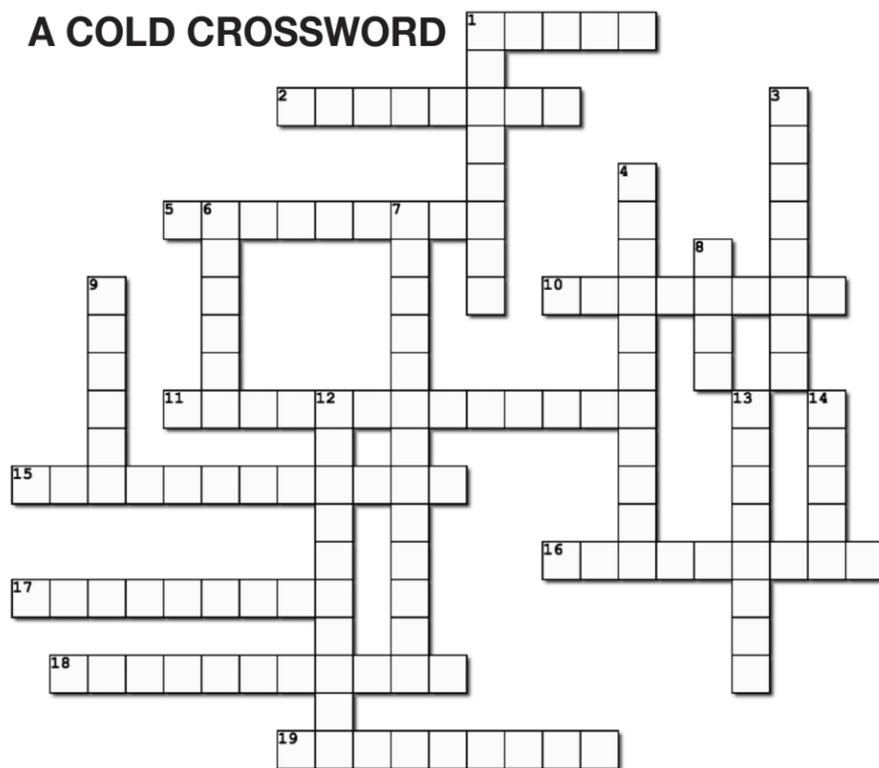
done wonderfully. There is hardly any dialogue spoken in a created tongue. The witcher seems to claim its idea from the books turned games but strays off course to widen the potential audience. However many fans may disapprove of these certain choices the shows never fail to keep its identity. Fight scenes are well-choreographed and used sparingly.

With a nice twist at the end, the first season closes out on a strong note. Rumors of a second season already purchased by Netflix with a slated date of 2021. If you have eight hours to kill, grab some snacks and drinks because this is the next binge-worthy show.

Below: The main characters of the Netflix original series, *The Witcher*. Cirilla (Freya Allan), Geralt of Rivia (Henry Cavill) and Yennefer of Vengerberg (Anya Chalotra) are three key figures in the grander story adapted from the Polish novels and video games. (Photo Courtesy: Netflix PR)



A COLD CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Marked by speed, liveliness, and vigor
2. White ice that forms when water droplets in fog freeze to outer surfaces of objects
5. A warm cap shielding the neck and head, often made out of wool
10. Can be seen year-round, but are always caused by ice crystals suspended in the atmosphere
11. Temporary, decorative sculpture carved from a block of ice
15. Delicate tufts of frost on a surface of ice or snow
16. A white coating of ice crystals formed of atmospheric water vapor on a surface
17. A smooth, transparent and homogeneous ice coating occurring when freezing rain or drizzle hits a surface
18. A violent storm of thunder and lightning that is accompanied by snow
19. A storm marked by heavy snowfall

DOWN

1. A very heavy snowstorm with high winds
3. An atmospheric optical phenomenon that consists of a bright spot to one or both sides of the Sun
4. Abnormally low body temperature; specifically, below 35°C
6. Extremely cold; frigid
7. The theoretical temperature at which substances possess no thermal energy, equal to 0 K, -273.15°C, or -459.67°F
8. Granular, partially consolidated snow that has passed through one summer melt season but is not yet glacial ice
9. Whiteness; specifically, the proportion of light falling on a surface and irregularly reflected from it
12. Snow sculpted into a human figure, a snowman or snowwoman
13. Of or relating to winter
14. Conifer in the genus of the family Pinaceae

CHERNOBYL

Why It Deserves to Serve As a Template For TV

By Roger Marks IV
MYSTIC MEDIA COORDINATOR

Chernobyl is a documentary series created by HBO that follows the events of the catastrophic disaster that occurred in Pripjat, Ukraine. The 2019 series, written by Craig Mazin and directed by Johan Renck, is tasked with telling the story of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant disaster. The plant suffered catastrophic damage to reactor number 4 when a breach of protocol occurred during a simulated power outage. The show won a golden globe for best drama.

This disaster is considered to be the worst nuclear disaster in history. The series captures the viewer within the first episode by showing the story unfolding in a non-linear fashion. Time jumps around and information is only revealed as a necessity to the audience. Much like how the soviet government only allowed certain information to slip out to the wider public. This was in an attempt to save face for the nation to remain looking strong. The numbers of radiation levels were falsified. The firefighters responding we lied to about the cause and location of the fire.

The story follows the efforts of Valery Legasov, played by Jared Harris, Boris Shcherbina, played by Stellan Skarsgard (won a golden globe for his performance), and Ulana Khomyuk, played by Emma Margaret Watson, as they attempt to contain the disaster

and uncover the truth behind what happened.

The show does in mere five episodes that take most shows season to accomplish, empathy. This is, I believe partly due to the fact that the event is real and everyone knows that going into the show. Or so I hope. The names are real people. The times are real. The story is completely real. The show does its research, quite literally. The production was painstakingly researched and very few changes were made for dramatic effect. The event itself is already a very emotional and tough subject for most. The total damage caused is untold due to the impossibly large area that may have been exposed to radiation.

Chernobyl makes excellent use of its time, but possibly the best that Chernobyl does is its use of off-screen action. The show allows the audience to use their minds to fill in the blanks of what they are seeing and hearing. The show also allows silence to speak. Using long scenes with little to no dialogue. Thanks to good directing this proves to ad more suspense than dreadful news.

Possibly my favorite part is that it doesn't drag on. Some shows don't know when to quit. They drag on with no real reason to continue. Chernobyl probably lends itself to the fact that there is only so much story to tell, but the show ends on a peaceful resolution. The show leaves you wanting more, but content with what it has laid at your feet.



Left: “Jedi: Fallen Order” developed by Respawn Entertainment, follows a story across the stars of Cal Kestis (Cameron Monaghan) a former Jedi apprentice being chased by the Empire. A game of exploration and combat with satisfying atmosphere and memorable story beats, it serves a role in the business model different from other published EA Star Wars games out there. (Photo Courtesy: Electronic Arts Entertainment)

EA FINALLY DIDN'T MESS UP A GAME

By Roger Marks IV
MYSTIC MEDIA COORDINATOR

Electronic Arts has been notorious for publishing unfinished games to cash the check early. They have also been in hot water for making their games filled with microtransactions. Essentially making their games pay-to-win. Ever since 2013 when Disney signed over the licensing rights of Star Wars to EA. “Jedi: Fallen Order” makes the third game to be released under EA and the past two games detracted a lot from the hype that initially surrounded it. As release day came closer more and more criticism came in. EA had promised no microtransactions of any sort.

Due to their track record, many fans doubted the legitimacy of that promise. After release day, as with any modern

game, there were many bugs and crashes discovered. As to be expected when your game is being played by hundreds of millions of people. Not even a company as large as EA would be able to flex that much payroll to test a game. This turned around quickly after about a month of hotfixes and updates. The game is beautiful and feels actually large while easily traversable. Combat is rewarding, challenging, and enjoyable. Something that has always been a hard thing to do when your main weapon is a super-hot stick of plasma. A weapon that seems hard to balance.

With gameplay on lock, one might think that the story suffered as a consequence. Quite the opposite. The story is fluid and at no time does it seem fake or disingenuous. There are times where the game feels like a mix of The

Force Unleashed and the Uncharted series. A winning combination in my book. Character conversations are enjoyable and seem like real human interaction instead of scripted voice lines. Again, the droid companion quickly becomes the star of cutscenes and occasionally butts in when entering a new area, or when the character may be stuck in a puzzle. The travel between planets is something that seems necessary and not a nuisance for the sake of extending playtime.

Finally, the ending is something not really seen in games. All in all a satisfying game and worthy of a replay. Good on EA for not sucking this time.

Oh and
the Game
was
Good Too

ENTERTAINMENT MATTERS

What “Earthbound” Unleashed Upon Us

By Robert Mechaley III
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

“Earthbound” was a video game released by Nintendo in 1995 to North America for the Super Nintendo Entertainment System. In the game, a group of various characters, mostly children, explore their world to expel the hate thrust upon the planet by an alien force named Giygas. Due to this hate, the various denizens of Earth including humans and animals, are turned hostile and attack the adventuring children out of the blue.

Overall it is a wacky and absurd game that consistently tries to justify its absurdity with, “That’s just the way things are now.” Animals will attack randomly, taxis are now monsters and the buses are behind due to ghosts in the tunnel.

This game post an unsuccessful launch to North America is now lauded as being a must play overall. In my mind, the strangest sub-genre of “fantasy/sci-fi Suburban America” was born. A sub-genre that heavily asks you to suspend disbelief so hard that you are willing to accept that your hometown forest is now full of dangerous bees and snakes because an alien entity willed it so.

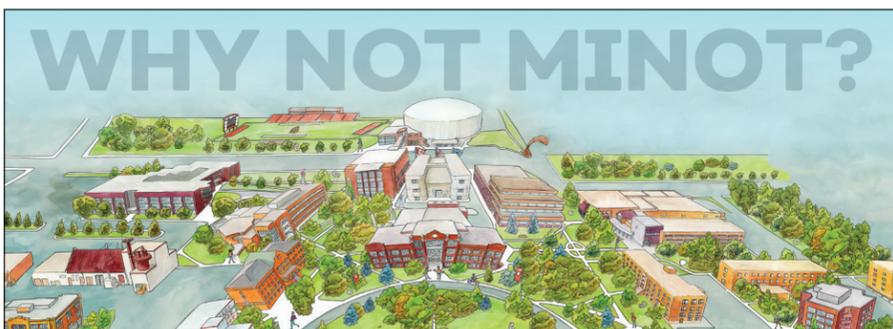
People being not too phased about this drastic turn of events is perhaps the

oddest notion. The character is asked to fight complete strangers and everything is just...ok after you beat them up.

Games such as “YIIK: A Postmodern RPG”, which was released in January 2019 by Acck Studios, tried to emulate this experience in a more mature fashion. Well, it tried too at least. The game fails mechanically in gameplay and technically in terms of bugs blocking progress. A character can permanently die and their voice lines can still remain in the story. At best the game is aesthetically pleasing with a solid soundtrack. At worst, the game is annoying to the point of imbuing terror of playing another second.

While the world is strange and fascinating, those two things alone does not a good game make. “Earthbound’s” gameplay is still fun, the jokes still land and the feelings it invokes are still lighthearted. “YIIK” on the other hand is a mess filled with so many feelings of self loathing it manages to rub off on you. If there were ever a good way to chart the mediocre differences that appear in emulated works, the dissonance between “Earthbound” and “YIIK” is perhaps the most recent and enlightening.

“Earthbound” remains as a classic, but it’s sad to say, the clones it inspired fill me with the kind of feelings that could make taxis evil.



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First Women's Basketball game played with the new Sanford Health sponsored scoreboards. (Credit: Robert Mechaley III)

NEW SCOREBOARDS

By Robert Mechaley III
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A case of out with the old and in with the new has come to the Bismarck State College Athletic department in the form of two brand new scoreboards in the Frank Gilchrist Court. The old boards that have lined both sides of the court since 1997, have received a physical and technical upgrade. The reason for the new boards is to stay in compliance with the National College Athletic Association's rules and regulations regarding Basketball. A grace period was provided for Division 1 schools in the NCAA for modifications to the three point line, but not for the new rules on the shot clock resets.

"We have a thirty second shot clock reset any time the ball would hit the rim," said Buster Gilliss, Athletic Director at BSC. "This year they changed it to, in the front court, the offensive team when they get the rebound it resets to twenty seconds."

The former scoreboards were not capable of keeping to this rule. In 1999 the controller for the boards was replaced from a 4000 series to a 5000 series model. The 5000 model of controller was multipurpose, meaning that it could be adjusted for multiple

sports. The controller would allow for the twenty second reset with a new plug in, but it did not work for the controller at BSC.

"They gave me an estimate of about six thousand dollars a board to put the driver in," said Gillis. "They weren't sure that they were going to work anyway."

There is no way around these new rules, so the decision for new boards became a necessity as the old boards would negatively affect the Mystic Basketball Teams. The official at the start of a conference game will approach the table and have the shot clock reset to twenty. If the shot clock cannot be reset properly, then the home team starts with a technical foul and the PA announcer has to physically countdown from twenty seconds each time. Sanford Health stepped up to the plate and donated the new boards through the BSC Foundation in exchange for a sponsorship.

The brand new scoreboards are on display now in the Armory and fully functional in time for the official start of playoff season. For now, the best way to see the new equipment in action is to attend a home game for Men's and Women's basketball in the Armory.

Basketball Rosters

2020 Season

Women's Basketball Roster

- #2 Lauren Koski G So
5' 5" Wing, ND
- #3 Brenna Hoger
G. Fr. 5' 6" New Salem, ND
- #5 Olivia Winfrey
G. So. 5' 6" Ada, MN
- #10 Hope Lindgren
F. Fr. 5' 9" Alice, ND
- #11 McKenzie Johnson
G. Fr. 5' 8" Carrington, ND
- #12 Emma Marion
F. So. 5' 10" Flasher, ND
- #15 Karsyn Hager
G. Fr. 5' 8" Rugby, ND
- #20 Trae Murray
F. So. 5' 11" Killdeer, ND
- #21 Breanna Friedt
C. Fr. 5' 11" Mott, ND
- #23 Sydney Andersen
G. So. 5' 10" Killdeer, ND
- #25 Courtney Olson
F. So. 5' 10" Mandan, ND
- #34 Amber Stevahn
F. So. 6' Bismarck, ND

Men's Basketball Roster

- #1 Leyton Lang
F. So. 6' 7" Minot, ND
- #3 Devon Headdress
G. So. 6' 1" New Town, ND
- #4 Ngor Deng
G. Fr. 6' 1" Austin, MN
- #5 Jamison Kramer
F. Fr. 6' 5" Marion, ND
- #10 Tanner Davis
G. Fr. 6' 2" Bismarck, ND
- #12 Jalen Ziegler
F. So. 6' 4" Bismarck, ND
- #20 Cobe Begger
F. Fr. 6' 5" Wibaux, MT
- #21 Hart Andes
C. So. 6' 7" Plaza, ND
- #23 Debyn Johnson
F. So. 6' 5" Grand Forks, ND
- #24 Cody Perkins
F. Fr. 6' 5" Mott, ND
- #32 Trapper Jacobs
G. Fr. 6' 2" Turtle Lake, ND
- #34 Joe Jahner Jr.
G. Fr. 6' Bismarck, ND
- #35 Kyler McGillis
G. So. 6' 1" St. John, ND
- #55 Macauley Young
C. Fr. 6' 9" Bismarck, ND

Sports Calendar

Women's Basketball

Home

- January 30th vs Miles Community College at 5:30 p.m.
- February 6th vs Willison State College at 5:30 p.m.

Away

- January 23rd vs North Dakota State College of Science at 5:30 p.m.
- January 27th vs United Tribes Technical College at 5:30 p.m.
- February 2nd vs Dawson Community College at 3:00 p.m.

January 2020 - February 2020

Men's Basketball

Home

- January 30th vs Miles Community College at 7:30 p.m.
- February 6th vs Williston State College at 7:30 p.m.

Away

- January 23rd vs North Dakota State College of Science at 7:30 p.m.
- January 27th vs United Tribes Technical College at 7:30 p.m.
- February 2nd vs Dawson Community College at 5:00 p.m.