

THE MYSTICIAN

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ASPIRING TO GIVE EVERY STUDENT A VOICE

bscmysticmedia.com



Students of the Mass Communication program draw in chalk outside of the Student Union during Mystic Media Day. There is a Mystic Media Day on the first Thursday of every month with live radio provided by The MYX and new copies of the Mystician. (Credit: Jon Fettig)

NEWS

PAGE 3

OPINION

PAGE 6

SPORTS

PAGE 8

A & E

PAGE 9

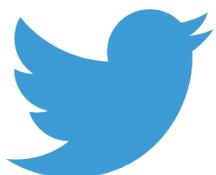


THE MYSTICIAN

PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS – FOR THE STUDENTS

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The leaves are changing, the wind is blustering and we have begun the fall season. Gone is fun in the sun as we gear up for the cold and a holiday near the end of each month.

Lately, I've been wondering what to do for Halloween. I live in a neighborhood with many kids and don't know what kind of candy to get. I rarely indulge in sweets due to my new diet and have no idea what to give out. My sister has already bought some tasteful decorations, so we can prepare the house.

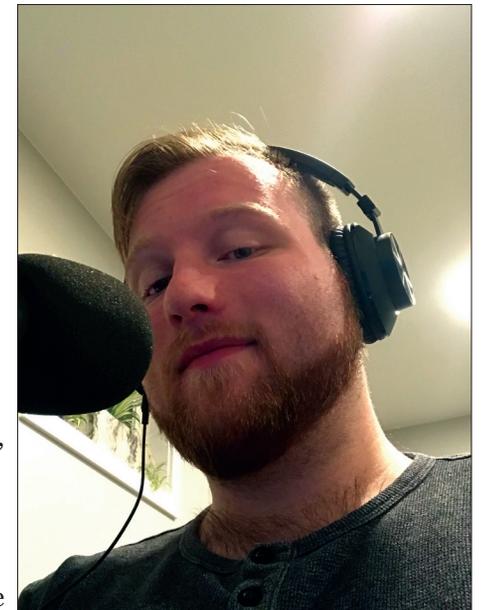
Let's also not forget that election season is fast approaching. Mail in voting seems very likely with the ongoing pandemic and will provide a substantially safer way of voting as opposed to standing in line with many others.

You can go to the North Dakota State government website to register and get your mail-in-ballot. Voting is important, and even if you feel unaffected by politics, remember there are many people in your life who are affected by legislation. Talk to your friends and see how their lives have been affected by the candidates and their policies.

Now that school's back, there's been a lot less time for me to keep up on movies and the new season of television. I had become so used to being stuck at home and chugging through my media backlog that now it feels foreign to be busy with editor duties.

Masks, no problem. Social Distancing, no problem. Not being able to check the next box on my media list, problem.

More than anything, I hope that all of the students of BSC remain considerate of COVID-19. Get tested regularly and be conscious of the immunocompromised around you. Wearing the masks is for them, not ourselves and the health of our peers and even strangers should be considered important.



Crossword Information

BSC's own Language, Literature and Communication Department Chair (and crossword geek) Michael Tomanek has created and submitted this month's puzzle. Experiment, explore and try to find the answers yourself for the most satisfaction. If it proves too hard, fear not, you can find the answers on the Mystic Media Website. Just go to bscmysticmedia.com and check under The Mystician page for the solution to the puzzle.

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

GET CAFFEINATED

By Kyleigh Hilbert
MYSTIC MEDIA COORDINATOR

Most people have caffeine in their morning schedule. On the way to early classes, students make sure to take a pit stop at the famous on campus coffee shop located in the Student Union: Mystic Java.

The coffee shop is branching out into two new locations. Powerbean and Wellbean are the names of the newest additions that will be at new locations on campus.

A familiar and friendly face of the coffee shop is Ronnie Martin, who has been with Mystic Java for three years, and now considers herself the 'Coffee Mom' of the campus.

"I came from being a stay at home mom, to now making coffee," Martin said, "It's kind of like I have 300 or so 20 year olds around here."

Martin works many hours and keeps up a bright smile for all the customers.

"I make sure that everyone is heavily caffeinated, happy, and ready to go," Martin said.

With two new coffee locations, the Mystic Java franchise will be able to reach more students, staff and guests on the BSC campus.

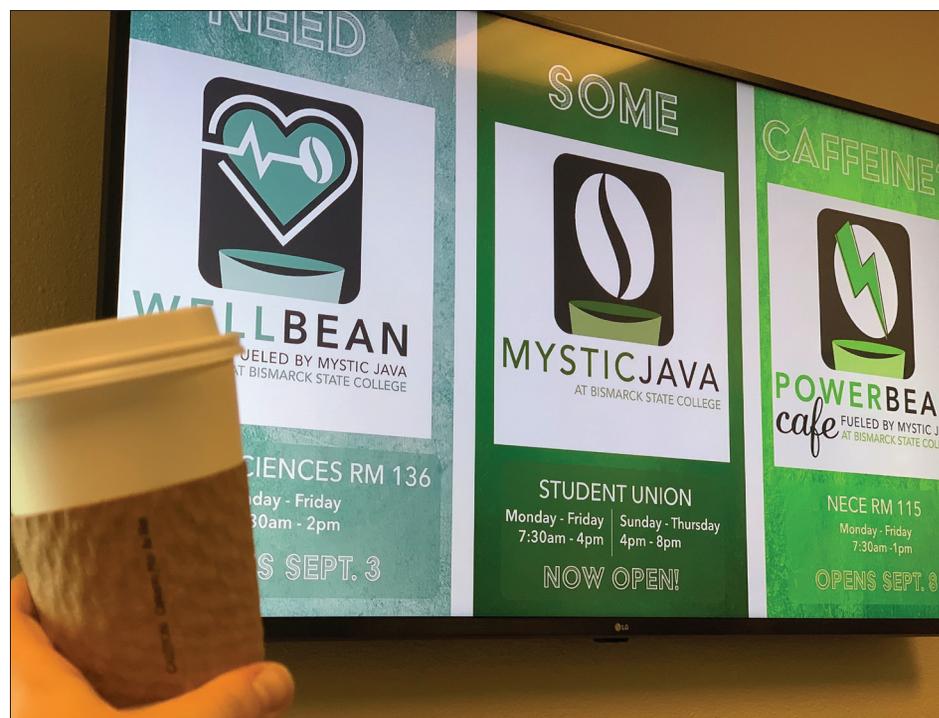
"We wanted people to have con-

venience with the locations of the coffee shops," Martin said. "With the Health Sciences building and the National Energy Center of Excellence building that are just flowing with staff and students, along with outside people who are coming in for meetings and other get-togethers- really it was the perfect spot for them on two different ends of campus."

The new shops are going to be known as Powerbean, is located in the NECE building on the first floor, and Wellbean, is located in the back corner of the Health Science building. Martin said that they are hoping to have Mystic Java open from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. during the week, while Wellbean will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Powerbean open from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The hours are subject to change, as they are willing to adjust hours based on the demands from the customers.

"We have about 200 to 250 customers that we see anywhere from two to five times a week," Martin said, "Some people need a bit more caffeine than others but some people just want to come by and say hi."

Mystic Java can be a great way for staff and students to get away from their work for a refreshing break or



Students and staff can now enjoy three coffee shops on campus. (Credit: Kyleigh Hilbert)

to stop by and grab food. The coffee shops include a variety of snacks and treats from customers as well.

For a nice drink at the coffee shop, Martin suggests that the prettiest drink in her opinion: Iced Caramel Macchiato. Her go-to coffee: hot Almond Joy Coffee.

The next time there is a craving for caffeine, make sure to check out Mystic Java, Wellbean or Powerbean.

Mystic Java
7:30 a.m.-8 p.m.
Monday to Friday
Wellbean
7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Monday to Friday
Powerbean
7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Monday to Friday

BSC LIBRARY PROVIDES OPTIONS

By Dante Ames
REPORTER

As many schools and colleges across America get back into the swing of academic life, one thing is for sure: libraries remain a resource that can be utilized by any who need it.

Whether a student, faculty member, or a random civilian looks for resources to help them in their endeavors, the Bismarck State College library was, and still is, open and the library staff is ready to assist in any way they know how. With all the library's resources available to the Bismarck/Mandan locals, it came as a surprise when local hotel employee Sam Harvati had this to say, "I had no idea I was able to go the college's library. It would be fun if they had some kind of book drive for charity, though." The BSC library was open to the public until the second week of September when BSC went to a risk level three because of COVID -19.

For classes with COVID-19 still around, many students have opted for the online route or the hybrid

route. With either option being valid, the library has prepared thoroughly: one chair to a table in the lobby, chairs for computers spread six feet apart and plexiglass being installed at the front desk, everyone is sure to be safe. Although the public is currently unable to use the library's resources on campus, BSC Director of Library Services, Marlene Anderson has said that there are many ways to utilize the library's resources online, just as well as if a person was at the library.

"Often times for physical materials we might have an online version," Anderson said, "There were a handful of people that we did a curbside pickup for." Besides curbside pickup and online versions of books, Anderson also explained that the BSC library staff is always working during library hours, thus a person is able to call, email, or have a video chat if necessary all in the effort of helping people get the resources they need. For library hours and for more information on how to contact them go to their website at <https://bismarckstate.edu/academics/academicresources/Library/>.



Student Jayden Votava uses the Library services. The Library remains open for study and book rentals. (Credit: Dante Ames)

CAMEL CRICKETS FIND REFUGE INDOORS WITH TEMPERATURE DROPS

By Samantha Rosario
COLUMNIST

It is neither a spider or an ordinary cricket; but a Spricket. Sprickets are usually referred to as Camel Crickets and Cave or Spider Crickets. These insects belong to the Rhabdophoridae family of the Ensifera suborder. They can be found all over the world, usually in basements or heavily wooded areas.

Camel Crickets are not the Crickets most of us are familiar with. Those belong to the Gryllidae family. Camel Crickets have a hump on their back with six long hind legs, and usually green or brown in color. They are completely flightless. The adults do not have wings. Their hind legs are their only means of protection. Sprickets use their hind legs to jump

away from prey and might even jump towards humans in their presence.

A Spricket might enter one's home to find a warm dark place to lay eggs in a safe area and also to hunt for prey. Sprickets are harmless to humans. Sightings of these insects might become frequent as they are beginning to come indoors. Cellars are popular spots for Camel Crickets as they prefer warm and moist environments for laying eggs.

They are omnivores, meaning they eat plants, fungi, and often other dead insects. They also eat fabric like rugs and clothing. When gathering in large groups, they may leave droppings behind. According to Brandon Runyon, a swat pest Entomologist interviewed by Eyewitness News, they do bite, but it is not painful or poisonous.



Check your cellars and garages for them as the weather grows colder and more insects seek warmth. (Credit: Samantha Rosario)



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PANDEMIC AFFECTS EDUCATION

By Azariah Njuguna
REPORTER

Following the COVID-19 pandemic hitting America, the nation went into a state of panic and the fear of being infected by the virus was scary enough to make civilians not want to leave the house nor even let their children go to school during such a crisis.

States have begun to reopen schools. They have prepared but are questioning if they are equipped to stymie the pandemic.

According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), extended school closure is harmful because it causes severe learning loss, loss of social skills and also lack of safety of some children. Even if the government sticks to online classes as a solution, lack of in-person educational options disproportionately harms low income children and those living with disabilities. These students are far less likely to have access to private instruction and care and far more likely to rely on food programs, special education services, counselling and after school programs to meet the basic developmental needs.

In the South, schools have opened their doors to a new school year but days in and the openings have been marred by reports of outbreaks and quarantining over positive cases among students and staff. The only option is to sanitize hands, wear masks and social distance.

BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE'S NEWEST PRESIDENT HAS A VISION



Dr. Douglas Jensen has already settled into his office on the third floor of the NECE. (Credit: Robert Mechaley III)

By Robert Mechaley III
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dr. Douglas Jensen has a vision as the new President of Bismarck State College. He seeks to not only grow the greater North Dakota workforce, but also the community surrounding it. With a simple venn diagram, he is able to assuage fears of an uncertain future with a model he claims works.

“I’ve lived that,” Jensen said. “That to me is not just a theory, it’s real.”

Jensen grew up outside of Pittsburgh in a two parent household. When he was 12 years old, his father, a machinist, died. Jensen’s goal became to graduate from high school and go to work at U.S. Steel. Shortly after graduating high school, his mother died. Running into an old teacher, she encouraged him to attend community

college. He didn’t see the potential in himself that she saw, and he wants to carry that forward to BSC students.

“I know they can’t see their potential now,” Jensen said. “What I do know is that if they have the ability to endure it, to stick to it; there are people at this institution that can help them achieve their dreams and goals.”

Upon leaving high school, Jensen saw the steel industry falling into decline and the communities around following. The model he lives is not just a guide for the school but has much loftier goals of growing the wider Bismarck community.

His venn diagram model is as follows: Going clockwise: the growing community becomes a strong workforce; the workforce grows business; the growing industry adds to the community in a cycle of benefits.

He describes the decline in the steel industry as the negative “counter-clockwise rotation.” The decline of industry leads to a declining workforce which leads to a declining community.

“At the center of that venn diagram is BSC,” said Jensen. “I think there are very few institutions that are as well positioned as BSC to make an impact on all those spheres.”

Jensen has seen the impact of the college on the city and state through

his conversations with strangers. In all of those conversations, those strangers are able to recount an experience with the school that they or someone close to them had experienced for better or worse. To Jensen, BSC offers not just a polytechnic education, but valuable experiences and stories that last a lifetime. That is why the face-to-face component of the hybrid model is important to him.

“If we take experience out of the equation, what do we have to offer people?” Jensen said. “In the midst of this COVID crisis, we’re trying to make sure that the students here are getting that experience.”

If students want to have a chance to talk to Jensen, they can frequently find him and even his wife, Karen Jensen, in the Mystic Marketplace. He says that breaking bread with others is about good food but more importantly, good conversation. He recounts multiple stories told to him by friends and strangers over meals, always coming back to that idea of experience.

“Karen and I are excited to be here,” Jensen said. “I think we are in a unique space with this institution where we have the ability to honor the community college.”

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



7:2:1

EVERY STUDENT'S VOICE

ASPIRING TO GIVE EVERY STUDENT A VOICE:

This is our mission statement at The Mystician. It is often said that in higher education, we grow as people and become who we are through learning and experience. We know you would like to let yourselves be heard, and this new addition to our student newspaper is just the way to do that. You will often see our reporters and columnists out and about getting interviews. If you would like to have your voice heard here, answer openly and honestly to them and allow your picture to accompany your opinion.

QUESTION: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT RETURNING TO IN PERSON CLASSES?

"I think masks are a good way to mitigate the risk of catching COVID, but I definitely want to



stay on campus and would rather be here, so I feel masks are the only way to keep us here and I'm glad to be back here at school

on campus face to face cause it's all tougher for me to learn online."

Anonymous

"I think it's kind of a good idea. For people like me it was hard to do online classes. I'm glad we're back here in a safe community, wearing masks and taking COVID tests."



Zelie Goussoumalet

"I'm glad to be back on campus, and I'm glad that BSC is taking so many preventative precautions for our safety during a pandemic."



Breckon Felch

"With heading back to school with COVID one thing I have noticed is that there are a lot of opinions on what should be done by employees, health officials, staff and students. Some feel safe coming back to school and others do not in terms of being in the same room. Some



like to teaching from the school because less distractions from their children and find it easier to teach and some would prefer to be home with their kids instead, Not sure there is a right or wrong answer but I do understand where all the opinions are coming from and their rationalization for it"

Matthew Johnson

"It's very split in between because my major requires me to be in class, but I'm glad I'm here for now. I have a bad feeling we're going to go back online soon. I'm glad I'm back and I'm glad I get to interact with people, but I don't want to go



back online if possible. It would be a lot worse to go online for what I am going into. My degree is very hands-on. It is a lot of studio time. I have to spend at least six hours out of class for one class and then I have to spend at least two to four hours outside of another art class. That on top of if everything else were to go online, would cause me to be swamped. My biology class is also a hands-on class. I'm not going to learn the same if I have to go online. I am a very hands-on and visual learner, so online is not the way for me to go."

Samantha Dinga

"I think BSC is doing a pretty good job handling the Corona virus situation. I heard they'll be installing cameras in the classrooms for the students who are social distancing.



Personally I don't like online, I prefer in-person classes. As for masks, I understand they are necessary so I don't have a problem wearing them."

Savannah Duke

THE

'N'

WORD: JUST DON'T SAY IT



Samantha Rosario
THE MYSTICIAN COLUMNIST

I hear it every single day; sometimes coming out of my own mouth. I am Black.

I hear it on the radio in most of the songs I listen to. Songs by Black people.

Most of the people I know say it. Most of the people I know are Black.

Why do some non-Black people say it? Because they are ignorant.

Non-Black people say the 'N' word because it makes them feel cool. If it was just another word, then why not say homie or friend?

Because it is not just a word.

Some people feel the more they say it, the cooler they look to everyone else. They know this and that is why they get offended when someone calls them out. They know it is not something to be said, but they do not understand or care.

There is both a derogatory meaning and a flourishing culture behind the 'N' word that no one will ever understand except for Black people.

It was never just a word to us.

The word is a part of our history. During the 17th century, the word 'negro,' meaning 'black,' somehow

formed into this very vulgar and aggressive insult known as 'nigger.' It was used to verbally and psychologically attack our ancestors and now us, but we have reclaimed that word, and it is a staple in our vernacular.

Sometime in the 20th century the term evolved into 'nigga,' which became a term of endearment, or a way for one Black person to address another Black person.

The word holds a double meaning because of its history and usage, which is why it is not okay for non-Black people to use it.

We are more than just that word.

We have overcome 400 years of mistreatment, and we still continue to fight for our rights. We have come so far as a group of people.

Just because non-Black people hear it in music does not make it okay for them to say it.

Just because a person grew up around Black people does not make it okay.

Just because non-Black people of color face racism and similar struggles, saying the 'N' word is not okay for them to say either.

The use of the 'N' word is for Black people and no one else.

EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE AN OPEN MIND



Jon Fettig
THE MYSTICIAN COLUMNIST

There are many career opportunities in our world. Every person has different strengths and skills to bring into their work. Our differences are what make us stronger.

On a résumé or in a job interview, students can focus on their unique strengths, skills and talents that match the qualifications for that position.

Bismarck State College offers education to prepare students for the workplace. Some students will choose a few classes, others will earn a certificate, an associate degree or a bachelor's degree.

All students, including students with disabilities, have the opportunity to build the career path that best matches their employment goals.

"There is a new effort to make digital and online content accessible, said Kate Millner BSC Director of Counseling and Advising Services. "This is moving us in a good direction so that everyone can participate and access the information they need."

Some disabilities are invisible. Many people have been willing to share

their experiences living with a disability that others may not see, such as mental health concerns or different learning styles.

There are some who think that people with mental disabilities have nothing to offer or contribute. People are learning to appreciate the differences in each other, but sometimes, discrimination happens to people with invisible disabilities.

There are different kinds of employment discrimination against state law in North Dakota such as race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age (40 years and older), disability, pregnancy, marital status or receipt of public assistance.

In a December 2017 article from the West Fargo Pioneer written by Andrew Hazzard, he cites that in 2016 there were 91,503 employment discrimination charges filed—81 were filed in North Dakota. According to the article, in October 2016 to September 2017 "national charges for discrimination were 35 percent racial discrimination, 31 percent for disabilities, 29 percent for gender-based discrimination, 23 percent for age, 11 percent for national origin and 4 percent for religious discrimination. ... In 2016, 28 percent of North Dakota charges were based on race, 36 percent on gender, 6 percent on national origin, 16 percent on age and about 46 percent alleged disability discrimination."

These statistics of disability dis-

crimination may include people with mental disabilities.

Employment discrimination is a practice of unfairly treating a person or group of people differently from another group of people in regards to average employee duties.

It's important to avoid making assumptions or passing judgments about others. Instead, we can approach each other with curiosity and compassion.

"As a business owner you are always concerned about doing things that are legal; as a decent human you want to do what is right as well," BSC Associate Professor of Management and

"As a business owner you are always concerned about doing things that are legal; as a decent human you want to do what is right as well."

Kevin Cavanagh

business owner Kevin Cavanagh said. "I do know that North Dakota was not very diverse until maybe the last 10 years."

Many states, also have a history of discriminatory practices that show poor thinking toward different cultural groups.

"I think a lot of things are just misunderstandings and [lack of] appreciation for other cultures and traditions. I think there has always been a long-standing tradition of thinking poorly of Native Americans," Cavanagh said. "I find this to be completely inaccurate, I have found some amazing people who have an intriguing culture. We don't have to agree with all their ideas to learn to love them and appreciate them as fellow human beings. I have had the amazing opportunity to meet people from all over the world, and they always have incredible stories and traditions. I can always learn from them."

It's important to get to know people with disabilities. There's a lot to discover with people whose disabilities one cannot see. People with mental disabilities are not all the same. There may be some things in common or things that make them stand out depending on the disability. These disabilities may turn out to be abilities depending on how you look at them. But such people don't deserve to be grouped together like they all need the same accommodations.



MYSTICS PRACTICE

Mystic Basketball Player Garrick Baines (5) works on his layups. Practices are currently taking place with rotating personnel wearing masks and in full Mystic athletic gear. (Credit: Robert Mechaley III)



BSC PLANS FOR INTRAMURAL SPORTS: COMPETITION DURING COVID-19

By Alex Woroniecki
REPORTER

Intramural sports are a fun way to be part of some non-competitive sports where people don't have to be the best to be on a team.

Amanda Morse, the Intramural coordinator at Bismarck State College, has a good plan for sports this year and staying safe while doing so.

She said normally students would be playing flag football to start off, but with the amount of contact involved with the sport, it has been replaced with badminton and spikeball.

Most people know what badminton is, two to four people hitting a birdy back and forth. Spikeball is a little

more new to people. Players start with the circular trampoline in the middle, and they use to bounce a hand ball back and forth. Players try to get the ball to bounce on the trampoline without their opponents being able to hit it back. The game can be played one-on-one or two-on-two.

To finish off the semester, there is a plan for bowling.

In the spring semester, there are plans for volleyball and basketball.

For more information contact Amanda Morse: (701)-225-5460 or amanda.morse@bismarckstate.edu. Information can also be found on the BSC website by searching intramurals.

ROBOT UMPIRES RUINING THE TRADITION OF AMERICA'S PAST TIME

Since 1869, the game of baseball has been played relatively the same way. That being nine fielders at a time, nine batters in a lineup, and the all too pivotal piece, the umpire. The umpire's main job confines them to one task: standing behind the catcher and determining whether the pitch being thrown to the batter is either a ball or a strike. This is where the controversy begins.

Do not get me wrong. Home plate umpires are extremely good at what they do. From the eyes of an 18-year-old lifelong baseball player and fan, I believe I can accurately estimate that the professional umpires in today's Major League Baseball are missing about 10 calls give or take a game. That's in a 9-inning game, where they have seen upwards of 300 pitches.

Pretty darn impressive if you ask me.

The only thing is, any one of those 10 or so pitches could be crucial in deciding the outcome of the game. That is affecting the wins and losses, players batting averages, All-Star appearances, how much money they are taking in and for some, whether they have a job next season.

Electronic strike zones are currently being tested in Major League Baseball's affiliate MiLB or Minor Leagues. Pitchf/x uses three cameras to triangulate a baseball's position in space from the moment it leaves the pitcher's hand. One flaw is that cameras stop tracking the ball a few feet from the plate. Instead the software analyzes the trajectory to come up with a predicted location within an inch of where it actually shows up.

Back to earth, the human umpire wears Bluetooth-connected earphones, connected to an iPhone, connected to a software program in the press box. To inform the umpire of its decision, through the earpiece the umpire will hear a distinct sound that lets him know if the pitch was a ball or a strike. If the software's decision is obviously wrong the umpire has the right to change the call and gets the final decision.

Allow me to break it down some more. Home plate is 17-inches wide, which is the amount of space the pitcher has to throw the ball horizontally or side-to-side. Depending on the height of the batter determines how much room they must work with vertically. The dimensions the pitcher can throw the ball up and down span from the batters' torso to their kneecaps. Anywhere inside those parameters must be considered a strike. What makes this logic of thinking tricky, to the batters' eye, the strike zone is more oval shaped, not rectangular like the pitcher would think or an electronic strike zone would believe. See the controversy?

Nevertheless, umpires are the piece of baseball that makes it human. They're not going to get every call correct, and nobody will be happy with every call; that's the game. Baseball has been played for over 150 years, and what makes it America's past time is the tradition it has been played with since the beginning. The individual battles galvanize a team and make everything come together.

Everything can be argued, that is called perspective; people will try to argue everything, that is called pride. Sure that 1965 Ford F-150 may be covered in rust, the windows may not be able to roll up and probably doesn't have a working A/C - but why fix tradition.



Kade Trottier

THE MYSTICIAN COLUMNIST

NBA BUBBLE

The National Basketball Association (NBA) kicked off their restart on July 30 in Orlando, Fla. The NBA is playing all games inside a "bubble" on the campus of Disney World to avoid the spread of COVID-19. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver decided to take 22 teams and put them all in isolation to make sure the season as a whole was not wasted. If this plan works, Silver will go down as the greatest commissioner of the NBA ever.

There have been many questions regarding the whole COVID-19 pandemic, and no one really knows how to prevent it or stay away from it. Since the NBA restart, there has not been a single person who has tested positive within the bubble down in Orlando. With 22 teams within the bubble, not a single person has been positive and that goes for players, coaching staff, as well as team officials.

Since July, teams have left the bubble either because they did not make the playoffs or they lost out of the playoffs. With 243 games played thus far, four teams left and a maximum of 21 games left, Silver might be able to pull this crazy idea of his off in midst of a world pandemic.

Silver knew this country needed sports back, and he brought us basketball. This pandemic has been crazy; it has been long and it has been very out of the normal from what we are used to seeing. Despite this, the best NBA Commissioner of all time was able to do the unthinkable and bring us what we needed during this crazy year while keeping the league safe. His plan has not fully worked out just yet, but he is on the perfect path to do just that and complete the NBA season sometime in the month of October.



Caden Shean

THE MYSTICIAN SPORT REPORTER/COLUMNIST

TIPS COLLEGE STUDENTS CAN USE

By Kiara Strickland
REPORTER

With the first month of the Fall 2020 semester behind them, students are either still rushing to class and forgetting to do their assignments, or they are perfectly prepared.

Whether a student is a freshman or a senior in college, it is never too late for them to take in a few tips to help them out for the rest of the school year.

Perhaps they do not set an alarm early enough that gives them enough time to fully wake up and prepare for the day, rushing out of the door to get to class only to forget their class materials. They may forget when that next assignment was due. They may forget their mask.

However bad a student's organization is, these tips can help them.

HAVE A SET MORNING AND NIGHT ROUTINE.

Setting a morning routine can give students extra time in the mornings to use toward assignments or double checking if they have everything they need for the day. Without rushing and feeling overwhelmed, individuals can start their day strong and hold that

energy throughout the rest of the day.

"I give myself about an hour," said Bismarck State College Sophomore Therese Wehri when asked how much time she gives herself to get ready in the morning.

If students give themselves a good amount of time, they will not feel overwhelmed. The same thing goes for the evenings. When they get home from work or school, students want to make sure they are setting enough time aside to study, relax, as well as setting a bedtime. That's right, a bedtime. It sounds childish, but when it comes to sleep, especially for students, they need to get as much as possible.

CHECK THE WEATHER BEFORE GETTING DRESSED FOR THE DAY.

Ever feel like you did not dress for the weather? Imagine sweating in class or shivering in the cafeteria. Preventing this is easy. Check the weather at night or in the morning.

"The morning of, for sure" Wehri said.

This way students will know of any changes that happened throughout the night. They can feel extra prepared and not have to worry about having pit stains in class if they check the weather.

KEEP A CLASS SCHEDULE SCREENSHOT ON AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE.

Keeping a screenshot of class schedules on an electronic device, such as a cell phone, can make life so much easier. Maybe a friend wants to plan a coffee date before class, but wait—what time is class tomorrow? Pull out the phone and check when it is. Without logging into Campus Connection students can check when breaks between classes are, how much time they have for lunch and what time they can go to the library to do homework. It is that simple.

USE A PLANNER.

Students never have to question when an assignment is due for what class if they utilize their planner that they either bought or got for free from the Bismarck State College Bookstore at the beginning of the year. If students are not into writing notes down, then they can simply use the Reminders app on their phones, or download an app that allows them to keep track of assignments and exams. Better yet, students can look ahead to other assignments and perhaps even complete them early.

KEEP PERSONAL HAND SANITIZER

IN BACKPACKS AS WELL AS EXTRA MASKS.

If students keep their own hand sanitizer in their backpacks, they will be the only ones who touch it and they do not have to use the pump ones that everyone else has to, therefore reducing the spread of germs. Along with this, students can also keep an extra mask in their backpacks and cars so that they always have one in case they forget the one they regularly use.

"Every few times I forget [my mask]," BSC Sophomore Alecia Turner said.

BSC always keeps extra masks handy just in case, but students having their own is probably more comfortable for them, and they can save BSC the hassle of buying more masks.

Waking up with enough time in the mornings and writing down assignments are simple tips that students can use to make their school year go more smoothly. Do not be that student that is always late, not dressed for the weather and not completing their homework on time. Be the student that has time to sit down and eat breakfast in the mornings while completing homework that is not due for another two weeks.



Kinsey Schepp chooses the BSC Library for a quiet, organized workspace. (Credit: Kiara Strickland)



THE SAD BEAUTY OF "BOJACK HORSEMAN"

By Robert Mechaley III
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Over the course of quarantine, the Netflix original series "Bojack Horseman" ended its run on television with its sixth season.

The show by Studio Tornante stars Will Arnett as the titular character of Bojack Horseman, a former sitcom star from the 90's, coasting through life on drinking and pills.

When he falls behind on turning in pages for his memoir, his publisher hires Diane Nguyen (Allison Brie) to ghost write. The two of them embark from episode to episode on journeys of self-reflection and catharsis from the past.

The show is funny, gut-bustingly so in places. At the same time, it is deeply sad and downright depressing. The comedic elements and running gags keep the show afloat but the show explores trauma and depression in ways I'd never seen outside of Russian video games.

Even in the lowest moments of Bojack and company's lives, there is still healing, showing that the journeys they took all led somewhere and had meaning. The show isn't purely about Bojack and Diane but also of Todd (Aaron Paul), Mr. Peanutbutter (Paul F. Tompkins) and Princess Carolyn (Amy Sedaris).

Each have their own narratives every season whether absurd or very close to home. The season arc can have anything from the troubles of raising a child as a single mother and movie producer to wacky business ventures like a feminist ride share app and non-trademark infringing Disneyland (remember to spellcheck when signing legal documents).

The animation during some sequences combined with powerful direction can be outright stunning. The musical sequence in the final two episodes of Season 4 in particular stands out more than any Family Guy number in the last ten years.

Even with being funny and tragic, Bojack has something rarely seen in adult animation these days, genuine heart and passion. Rewatching it becomes satisfying just finding gags in the background and seeing the foreshadowing.

If you want a show to make you laugh and feel during these strange times, all six seasons are available on Netflix.

POYNTER INSTITUTE'S MEDIAWISE VOTER PROJECT

offers a variety of options to help students prepare to vote.
The following information courtesy of the Poynter Institute website:
<https://www.poynter.org/mediawise-voter-project-mvp/>

PREP FOR THE POLLS

Want to know how to prep for the polls as a first-time voter this election season?

Take this free text message course!

Sign up to receive daily text messages from the MediaWise Voter Project (#MVP2020) and learn how to find reliable and accurate information on social media about the election.

For 10 days, you'll receive a message each day from the MediaWise team's Heaven Taylor-Wynn, with 5 minutes of info that will help you feel confident you are casting your vote for the first time based on facts and not fiction.

<https://www.poynter.org/mediawise-voter-project-mvp/prep-for-the-polls/>



MEDIAWISE VOTER PROJECT FACT-CHECKING CERTIFICATE

This online fact-checking course will help you figure out what is fact and what is fiction as you vote for the first time in 2020. Enroll now and get notified when the class goes live in October.

Description: Voting can be complicated, especially if it's your first time. Are you properly registered? What's up with mail-in voting? And perhaps most importantly, how do you know that you're voting based on facts, not fiction?

Here's how it works: This is a four-part course that dives deep into all things fact-checking. Each part takes about one hour and ends in a quiz that advances you to the next level. Once you complete all four levels, you will earn a MediaWise Voter Project Fact-Checking Certificate to prove you are MediaWise and know how to find accurate information.

Level 1: Fact-checking 101 for first-time voters

Level 2: All about that research

Level 3: Follow that coin!

Level 4: Deepfakes, bots and seeing the future

<https://www.poynter.org/shop/self-directed-course/mediawise-voter-project-fact-checking-certificate/>

FACT-CHECKING 101 FROM THE MEDIAWISE VOTER PROJECT

This one-hour course will introduce the tools and techniques you can use to fact-check information online before you vote for the first time in 2020.

Enroll now and get notified when the class goes live on Oct. 5.

The internet is full of misinformation and disinformation. If you are voting for the first time this election season, it can be daunting to try and sort fact from fiction on social media.

In one hour, you'll learn the basics of misinformation, how to quickly fact-check suspicious posts, and how to identify even the sneakiest of online ads.

Here's what you'll learn:

- Questions you should ask when you see a suspicious post.
- The difference between reporting, commentary and fact-checking
- The definitions of misinformation, from clickbait to deepfakes
- How to use the three most common fact-checking tools
- What a fact-check looks like on different social media platforms
- Spotting political ads on social media

<https://www.poynter.org/shop/fact-checking/fact-checking-101-from-the-mediawise-voter-project/>

LOOKING FOR THE CROSSWORD?

PICK UP A PHYSICAL COPY OF THE MYSTICIAN ON CAMPUS TO PLAY MICHAEL TOMANEK'S LATEST CROSSWORD! ANSWERS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE!

GAMERS CLUB REIGNITES

By Dante Ames
REPORTER

With school already several weeks in, students across campus are working hard—in school, at work or at home. One thing in this world is universal, and that is the fact that everyone needs some time to relax and unwind. Thankfully, we have clubs at Bismarck State College to help us in that endeavor. One of those clubs is Gamers Club.

Gamers Club met for the first time this year Sept. 8. The group unanimously decided that they would meet Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. until further notice.

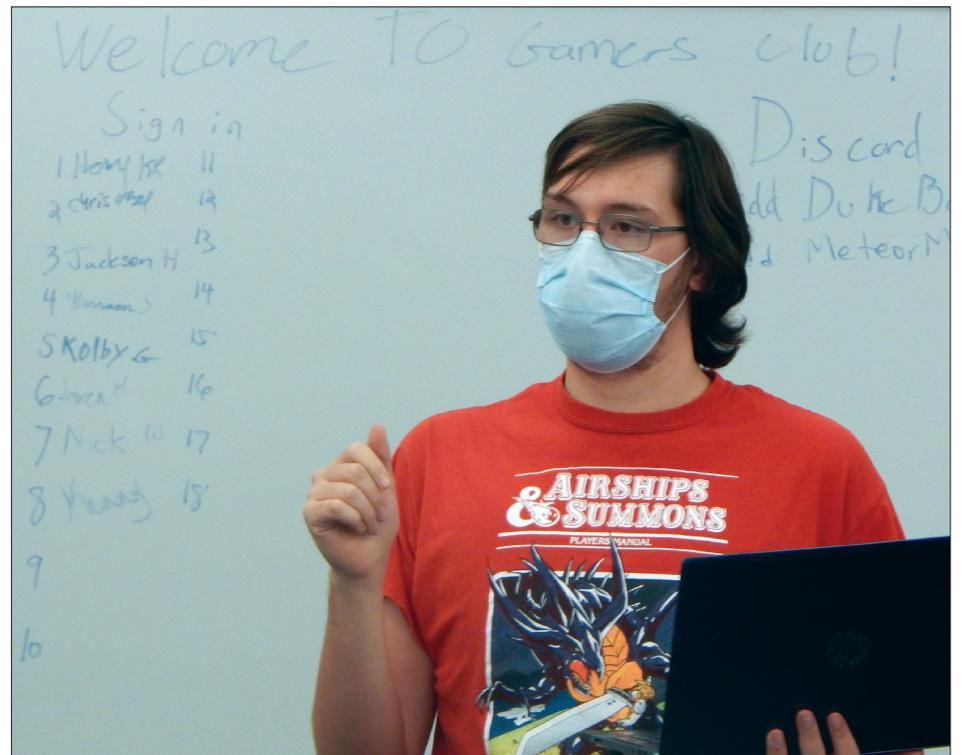
Many old faces made an appearance such as Gamers Club President Henry Kersey-Russell, Vice President Jackson Hellman and Secretary Treasurer Nicholas Winistorfer. New members also showed up to enjoy the video gaming atmosphere. They met in room 126 in the Jack Science Center, where they promptly began discussing the current status and

future of Gamers Club.

COVID-19 is still a major threat to our safety; thus, some students and faculty may be skeptical of starting clubs back up in person. Kersey-Russell and current adviser Karen Arlien reassured us that the regulations for COVID-19 will be upheld.

“It has been very stressful, but with the help of my co-adviser Arlien, we have been working very hard for this past week trying to figure out what the regulations are and making sure everyone is safe throughout this whole process,” Kersey-Russell said. During the meeting all six gamer club computers were spread apart to ensure social distancing, as well as special wipes available for the electronics afterwards. The club members practiced regular protocols such as social distancing, use of hand sanitizer and the mandatory masks.

With COVID-19 protocols in place, Arlien and Kersey-Russell want the student body to know that Gamers Club is a safe, open and fun environment for



Kersey-Russell making waves at the first Gamers Club meeting of the year. (Credit: Dante Ames)

everyone to come enjoy.

“I would really like people to be here and just have fun because that’s what gamers club is all about,” Kersey-Russell said.

Although Arlien is not a huge gamer in today’s world, she enjoys old

Nintendo and is excited about the club starting back up.

“This is a venue for students to share their knowledge about games that they like, to learn about new games they may not have heard of and to share their passion for gaming,” Arlien said.

GHOST OF TSUSHIMA: END OF AN ERA



Travis
Askerooth

THE MYX
PRODUCTION
MANAGER

*Sparring in the wind
A welcome escape from all
Cleanse yourself from pain*

With the 8th generation of consoles coming to a close, the PS4 had one last game to end the line of PS4 exclusives. And that game is Ghost of Tsushima. The game was developed by Sucker Punch Studios and published by Sony. It is set in the late 1200s Japan and the story involves a warrior named Jin Sakai who becomes one of the few samurai left in Tsushima after the army was brutally defeated by the invading Mongol army and their leader, Khotun Khan. During the journey to get rid of the Mongols, he is forced to utilize unhonorable tactics to defeat them and risk conflict with his uncle who closely follows the samurai code.

To say that the story here is great is an understatement. Not only does the dialogue between characters feel

natural, they each have a piece of history that the player gets to explore the more times they do missions for them; they are handled well and the characters make the player want to learn about them and their conflicts residing inside themselves. Even the Khan has layers to him that doesn’t make him a one-noted villain. He has studied the samurai way, read maps on the layout of Tsushima, and learned the people’s culture, so when he invades, he knows where to camp and how the people will retaliate. He is a threatening villain that needs to be stopped.

Gameplay-wise, it has some of the best and unique combat mechanics I have seen in a game. When you use your katana, there are four different stances to utilize, each having a different weakness against the Mongols: stone stance is effective against sword enemies, water stance against shields, wind stance against spearmen and moon stance against heavy enemies. For stealth, there are a number of tools that will help aid the player to become an unseen menace. One interesting mechanic is the Standoff. If the player sees enemies near them, they can initiate a Standoff with one of the men. The player holds onto a button and waits until the enemy tries to attack him, then releases the button in time to kill the

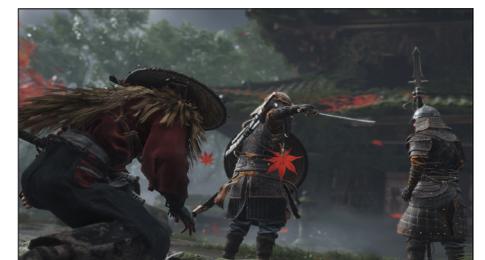
enemy. The ability can be upgraded so that the player has more chances to kill more enemies trying to avenge their comrade.

Some of the gameplay might be difficult for newer players. First of all, there is no lock-on. Typically in third person games, the combat revolves around a system of precise attacks in order to kill one or multiple enemies. To aid the player, they would utilize a lock-on feature to help players focus the damage on one enemy. In Ghost of Tsushima, there isn’t one, so early combat will feel off or clunky, but as the game progresses, the player will get used to it. The game has a counter/parry system, but when enemies do normal attacks, there is no indicator of when to counter/parry. The indicator is reserved for enemies with spears and heavy enemies. The player has to be focused at all times in the battle so they know when to counter or evade.

Overall, it is both beautiful and polished. The game’s environments have so many interesting color pallets that contrast well with each other; also, the game is just plain gorgeous. Technically, the game never crashed, had only a few bugs, and the frame rate is very stable unless the game throws out a ton of heavy enemies and the particle effects start filling up the screen. Some aspects of the game did

feel unpolished like if the player tries to scale a mountain, there is a chance that the player can get stuck on the rocks if they fall. The AI for the enemies is also inconsistent. Sometimes, when the enemies discover dead bodies, they can be unrelenting in finding the killer and the player will be spotted more easily. Other times, they won’t see the obvious dead body, and the player can hide in the dumbest spots without getting noticed by them.

Ghost of Tsushima is a beautiful and fun game that becomes the perfect game to end the line of PS4 exclusives. The characters are rich, the world is sprawling with detail, and the combat is hard but fun. There are a few nitpicks with the game, but are not a detriment to the game whatsoever.



Jin Sakai prepares to attack two Mongol invaders. Ghost of Tsushima blends stealth and action gameplay. (Credit: IGDB.com)

SPECIAL SECTION

GARRETT LANGERUD AND TORRANCE PETERSON



CASSIE PERMAN AND ERIN SCHWALK



THANK YOU TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE 2020 CONSTITUTION DAY SCAVENGER HUNT

On Sept. 17, 2020, students were invited to follow the clues and take a selfie at each spot. They submitted the photos to The Mystician Editor-in-Chief email for a chance to win prizes from the BSC Bookstore. Clues are below. Try the hunt.

CLUE 1
Find the building named for Mr. Bubble's creator—it's got a theater. Outside the door, look for more: Mr. Constitution's tree and a bench for three.

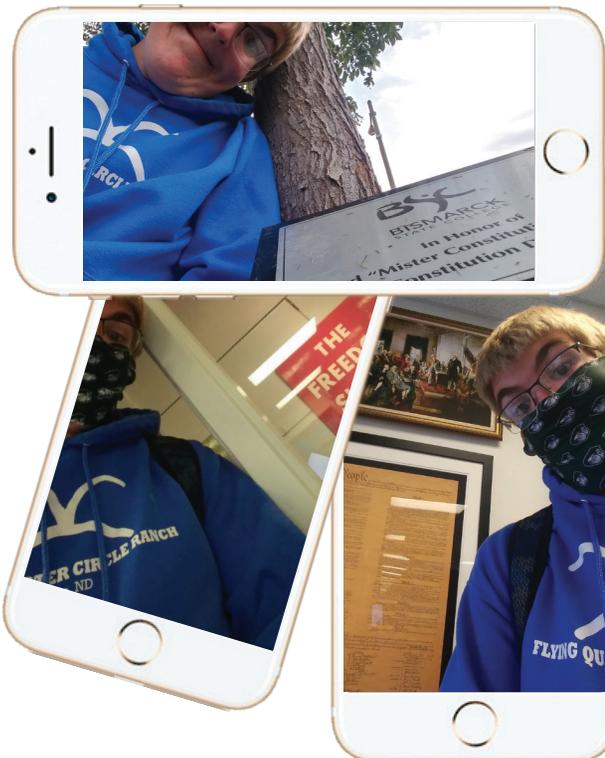
CLUE 2
From spot one, be a voyager—at least as far as the foyer. Look for the gallery glass for writing that brought freedom to pass.

CLUE 3
Don't go far from spot two—the last find is not far from you. Do an about face, walk, don't race. You are kind of like gamers, but you're looking for framers of this document for our beloved states.

PROFESSOR KARMEN SORENSON CLASS PHOTO



JACOB HENDRICKSON



JAKE HOLT

GREGORY GRANT



EVA ABFALTER WITH PROFESSOR SORENSON'S CLASS

