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[N E W S] P A P E R



College Collage! - Explore BSC Day was a smash hit! Many students attended this special day to hang out with friends and to receive new and important information about Bismarck State College. **Sophia Fafard** | Editor

Explore BSC Creates Connections on Campus for Attendees

Sophia Fafard
Editor

Bismarck State College kicked off summer with an event to connect teens to campus.

Explore BSC gave prospective students a chance to experience campus on May 29 with a one day event that allowed attendees to connect with future faculty members, staff, and classmates.

This event was led by the BSC Admissions and Enrollment Services Department. Due to the large collaborative effort with the rest of campus, Explore BSC is usually organized months in advance. The event takes place twice per year and sees students and their families attend from all over the United States.

“We get students from all of North Dakota, South

Dakota, Montana, Minnesota, and some outlier states as well,” College Admissions Recruiter Justin Folsom said. “It’s gonna get them on campus, they can get programmatic experience, meet people that they probably most likely only hear from through email.”

Explore BSC is a recent rebranding of an open-house event BSC has had in years past. See [Explore BSC](#) | 3



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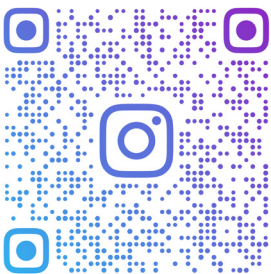
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Explore BSC Creates Connections on Campus for Attendees

Cont. 1

A few years ago the open house was renamed “Explore BSC” with the goal to create a whole-campus experience for prospective students. This would align with the college’s polytechnic mission of hands-on learning by giving students the chance to experience the campus programs themselves.

“We really wanted to showcase that to our prospective student engagement, so that’s why, besides getting a chance to tour campus, you actually get to hear and see from students,” Director of Recruitment and Admissions Anne Seidler said. “You get to experience hands-on different programmatic sessions with our academic areas.”

Explore BSC kicked off at 9 a.m. in the Jack Science Center. Attendees and their families stopped by for a brief check-in before heading over to Schafer Hall for a student Q&A panel. Current students took part in this event, as the panel was led by BSC Student Mygel Porter, who asked four current BSC students about their experiences at the college. BSC Student Athlete Arionna Beatty was one of the participants.

“It was actually a better experience than I anticipated,” Beatty said. “I was a little nervous going into it, but after I definitely got the grasp of it, I really did enjoy it. I feel like I did help a lot of the students. Even when I walked around, I had parents and teachers come up to me to talk about it, so that was very nice.”

With the panel wrapped up, students went out to truly “explore” BSC. Program leaders led students to their respective academic programs to get a hands-on feel for the college learning experience. At the same time, another Q&A panel opened for parents to ask questions and share any concerns regarding the campus or their child’s admission to the college.

These events left many people ready for lunch, which took place at the Student Union. Here, future students ate lunch at the Mystic Marketplace or check out the resources available to them at the Student Services Fair. Bavendick Center tours took place during and after lunch, giving students the chance to check out the new athletic facility at the college.

Eli Halstad is a student planning to pursue welding at BSC in the fall. He



Sophia Fafard | Editor

Aisle of Tables - Parents and future Mystics walk along the tables, talking with BSC faculty and staff and getting to know the campus

said he is most nervous about meeting the right people and finding his group next year, but Explore BSC helped lessen that stress.

“What I really enjoyed about today was getting to know all the staff, making new friends, and just getting to see what they offer here at BSC,” Halstad said.

At the end of the day, general campus tours were given around campus and housing tours opened as well, showcasing the residence options for students interested in living on campus. After the tours, potential students walked away with more knowledge of BSC, and some free Mystics swag.

Jared Mendoza and Michael Cheeseman are new College Admissions Recruiters, which meant that this was their first time helping with Explore BSC.

“I think it went well,” Cheeseman said. “It was a good opportunity to kind of immerse myself into the planning process and how it turns out to the par-

ents and the prospective students that we get here. So overall, I think it went off without a hitch and I look forward to the next one.”

“Me and Michael were leading the tour guides, kind of getting everything put together with those,” Mendoza added. “That was a good experience for us, kind of seeing how to organize everything, how much actual detail goes into the process itself ... it was a fun experience.”

The next Explore BSC event will take place in October and feature some of the same events and collaboration between departments. With an event like this, the weighty decision of where to go to college may not seem so daunting for students.

“I hope [prospective students] are more interested in coming to BSC, and that they’re excited about it, and that they’re impressed with campus and just have a great day and experience,” CRM Specialist Lisa Miller said.



Sophia Fafard | Editor

Mystic Aura - Mygel Porter (left) and Chance Leingang (right) wander around the Student Union during Explore BSC. Porter and Leingang answered questions for attendees

Introducing the Student Government Association

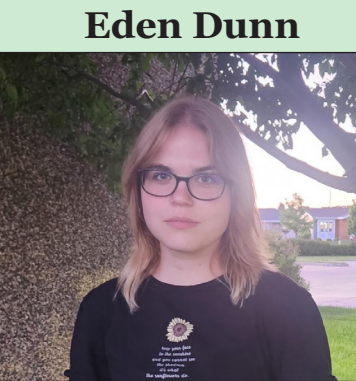
Olivia Grote
Reporter

Meet six Bismarck State College students who will be part of the Student Government Association during the 2026-2027 school year.

Biology Major Chance Leingang joined SGA because he noticed an imbalance in the numerous activities offered by BSC and the relatively few students willing to engage in them. He said that through his time in the SGA, he hopes to promote a school culture that is more involved. His leadership extends beyond the SGA as he currently presides over the Phi Theta Kappa honor society.



Chance Leingang



Eden Dunn

Eden Dunn hails from Canada. She is a mechanical engineering major with a love for learning. She decided to join SGA after recognizing the benefit her unique perspective could bring to the organization. This school year, she said she looks forward to meeting new people and building a tight-knit BSC community.



Jenna Green

Meet Jenna Green, a 4th-year education major and dinosaur enthusiast who will be joining SGA for the first time this fall. Jenna has worked with BSC’s drama department to produce sets for theatrical productions, including “Anastasia,” “Hello, Dolly!”, and “Frozen.” She is also a resident assistant and a member of the school’s country dance club. She said she plans to “better understand student concerns, bring their ideas to SGA, and ... improve communications between students and student government.”



El Jay Dugenio



Jenica Twete

Jenica Twete is BSC’s SGA president. She has an associate’s degree in cybersecurity and is working toward her bachelor’s degree. Last year, as SGA vice president, she rose to the challenge of leading an SGA composed entirely of new members. Moving forward, she said she is going to continue projects from last year and that she is “excited to see how much change [the members] can bring to the SGA in this next year.”

SGA Vice President El Jay Dugenio is a political science major with a focus on international relations and an aim to become a diplomat. He is fluent in two languages—English and Filipino—and has been living in the United States for seven years. El Jay said that this year he will continue the SGA mural project and work to expand BSC’s cafeteria options, in addition to ensuring allergens are labeled.



Jessica Rhoades

Jessica (Jess) Rhoades is a mass communications major who is heavily involved in theatre. This will be her first year in the SGA, where she said she hopes to “make students feel heard on campus however [she] can.” This year, she said she looks forward to getting to learn more about the subjects she loves and hanging out with her friends.

New Garden Brings Bees and Other Pollinators to BSC

Olivia Grote
Reporter

On May 12, several Bismarck State College faculty and staff members gathered to bring a plan conceived by the college’s agriculture students to life. Using only their trowels to break the ground, they spent the day planting an array of native prairie grasses and flowers along Bismarck State College’s Wellness Trail, located behind the National Energy Center of Excellence.



Submitted
From Seed to Blossom - Ahmed Rady plants Western Yarrow, a plant that will produce white flowers once mature.

The idea for the garden took root nearly a year and a half ago, when BSC Ag Club students came up with a project to benefit the greater community by providing a habitat for local pollinators while adding to the natural beauty of the campus. With the help of BSC soil professor and Ag Club adviser Marko Davinic, the Ag Club members successfully applied for a grant from the USDA, resulting in the allocation of \$2,000 for plants for the garden. Most of the plants were sourced from a nursery in Wilton, N.D. Because the plants arrived after the agriculture students had left for the year to take part in internships; the garden was planted by Professor Davinic; Agriculture, Technology, and Natural Resources (ATNR) Lab Coordinator Wayne Olson; and Assistant ATNR Teaching Professors Harlee Kilber and Ahmed Rady.

The garden may not look like much now, but as the plants mature and the flowers bloom, it will become a hub for butterflies, moths, bees, wasps, drone flies, and other beneficial pollinators who will flit among the fronds of swaying foliage, heading from one flower to the next in search of nectar and simultaneously collecting pollen on miniscule hairs as they do. When the pollen has been carried from a male flower to a female flower of the same species, the plant is successfully fertilized, enabling it to reproduce. At the same time, the flowers’ nectar nourishes the pollinators, forming a symbiotic relationship between the two parties.

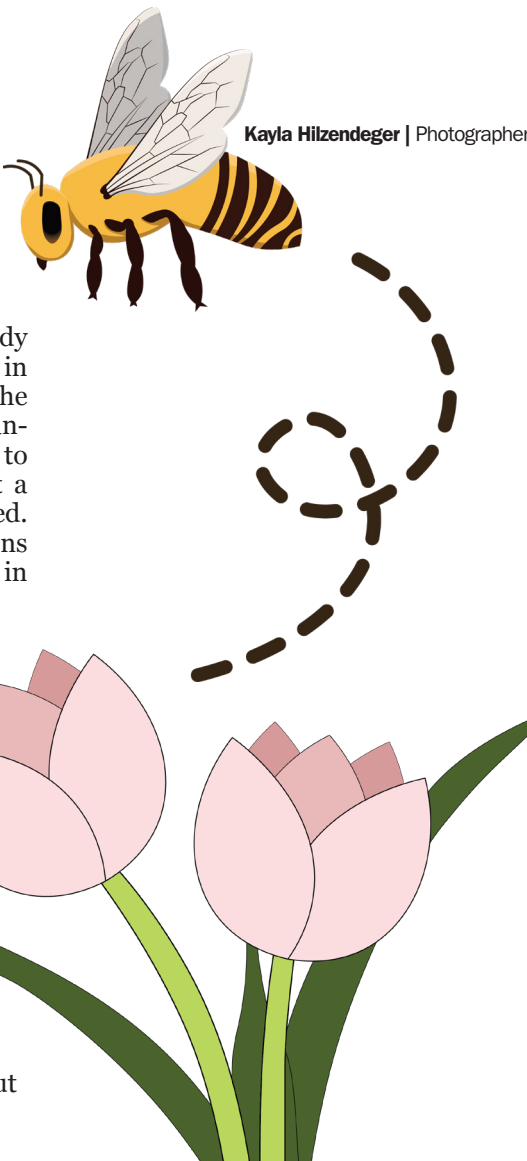
The relationship between plant and pollinator benefits a third party, too: humans. Fertilization is necessary to the growth of the fruits and vegetables people eat as well as the seeds that they plant. In fact, the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that 35% of the world’s crops rely on animal pollinators to reproduce. Thus, BSC’s pollinator garden will not only provide aesthetic and environmental benefits, it will also directly support local farmers as well, who rely on these pollinators for the success of their crops.

According to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, North Dakota has already lost as much as 72% of its native prairies. This fact has meant a drastic reduction in habitat not just for pollinators but also for birds and other animal species.

“I’m sure we’re ... going to attract not just pollinators,” Davinic said. He listed pheasants and deer among other visitors he expects to move into the area as a result of the new habitat.

Plans to expand the garden are already underway. New plants will be grown in BSC’s greenhouse by propagating the plants currently in the garden, meaning these new seedlings will be able to be planted further along the trail at a fraction of the cost it took to get started. Additionally, Davinic has said that signs identifying the plants will be placed in the garden to further increase its value as an educational tool. This addition will blend seamlessly into the current agriculture curriculum, where students are already asked to identify native plants in the wild. This garden ensures that the required plants will potentially be readily available and preserved for years to come.

Anyone interested in seeing the garden at its most vibrant can head over to the Health and Wellness Trail and check it out before the end of the season.



Kayla Hilzendeger | Photographer



Submitted
Hard Work Always Pays Off - Wayne Olson and Harlee Kay Kilber rely on hand tools to break the ground, which was left untilled.

The Coca-Cola Room ... is Gone

Sophia Fafard
Editor

On June 15, an iconic room within the Bismarck State College Armory was the site of an online auction. This room was LaMont’s Pit Stop, or better known as the Coca-Cola Room.



Sophia Fafard | Editor
Auction Talk - Cory Neumiller and Susan Beehler discuss items on auction from the Coca-Cola Room in the Armory. The auction started on the morning of June 16 and picked up with visitors throughout the day.

This nostalgic room featured 50s-style Coca-Cola merchandise, a checkered floor, and Coca-Cola themed booths and tables. During the school year it served as a concessions area for Mystics Athletics games in the Armory, as well as a study space for athletes catching up on homework. The space would open up to students in the Armory to collaborate on assignments. More often though, the space was closed.

The assortment of Coca-Cola themed items were auctioned off by Neumiller Auctioneers, an auction house based in Washburn N.D. BSC Alumnus Cory Neumiller helped buyers find their items on June 16 during the auction pick up day, drawing in a small crowd that filled the decorated room.

BSC Alumna Susan Beehler came over from Mandan to receive her items. Beehler was interested in the 50s style decor, because it would add to her Airbnb in Mandan, which is a 50s style home called “The Bee Hive.” While she was an early visitor to the auction, more people gathered to purchase items. The next day the room was stripped bare,

leaving a lonely checkered floor, a few Coca-Cola designed electrical outlets, and a plaque dedicated to Ken LaMont.

And that was where the room had started—with Ken LaMont. LaMont was a previous Associate Professor of Hospitality Restaurant Management at BSC, and his program took place in the Coca-Cola Room. The plaque for LaMont describes his support and generosity toward BSC students and the Mystics athletics department. The plaque still rests on the wall beside the concessions stand, a reminder of a past professor’s impact on his community. But LaMont was not the reason for the Coca-Cola memorabilia; rather, previous BSC Athletic Director Buster Gillis had signed a contract with Coca-Cola to decorate LaMont’s Pit Stop. After a year and a half of collecting Coca-Cola items, Gillis deemed the place ready to be open for concessions.

Now, the Coca-Cola room will become a classroom in the upcoming semester for exercise science students studying in the Armory. It is still the same room minus the colorful memorabilia.

While the Coca-Cola Room is gone, memories of the place will continue to live on through the students, faculty, and staff who once called BSC home.



Sophia Fafard | Editor
Before It Goes - A photograph of the Coca-Cola Room before the items were stripped away. By the end of the day, all that was left was an empty room with a checkered floor.

Arts & Entertainment

A Month of Mission Trips

A Week of Learning in Honduras

Mygel Porter
Social Media Manager

I recently got back from a week-long mission trip in Honduras which was such a great experience. We partnered with a local church down there to build a house, and that whole journey was so amazing. Also the culture down there was a bit of a different lifestyle.

The organization I went with was Young Life, a youth ministry. We had partnered with a local church in Choluteca, Honduras, that does many other ministry things besides building houses. They also have their own property, almost like a motel, that they use to host the different groups that come down there.

The process itself of building the house was quite unique as I don't have any experience with building a house, so it was all new to me. The even bigger problem was that the main people from the church building the house with us



Mygel Porter | Social Media Manager
Chillin’ - Took a well deserved break on the bus with Sophia, one of our translators.



Mygel Porter | Social Media Manager
Piggyback Ride! - Matteo, a friend I made in Honduras, wanted a ride to the bus as we were done for the day.

only spoke Spanish, and at the start of the week we only had two translators with us. As the week went on four student translators came to help, so it got a bit easier communicating with everyone, but we still all used an assortment of different hand gestures and fake actions to get our message across.

We also had this ongoing joke of yelling “TRANSLATOR!” Anytime we couldn’t get by with hand gestures. It started off with one of the students in our group doing that, where everyone else was joking with him about it. Then we started doing it as a joke toward the one student, but it ended up just catching on to the rest of us, so by the end of

the week every couple minutes someone would go “TRANSLATOR!”

The culture down there is also so different. While driving it was a lot of cutting in front of people or just flooring it onto the street in front of traffic. Also a lot of honking, but not in the aggressive way we do it here, more in a way of “I’m here” or “I’m merging right now.” It was interesting to see how people drove more aggressively while still keeping their cool. While here, one minor mistake and there’s people laying on their horn, cussing you out their window, and so many other acts of road rage.

Soccer was also pretty big in Honduras. In every neighborhood you could

find a couple soccer fields and almost all day kids were there playing soccer. I did get the opportunity to play soccer a couple times which was a lot of fun.

We also could not drink the water, so it was a unique experience having to brush your teeth with a bag of water. Which leads me into my next thing—there are no plastic cups. Liquids are drunk in either a bottle or a plastic bag. In the plastic bag you would tear it slightly with your teeth and then drink from that.

Honduras was such a great experience, I’m glad I was able to go and see the world differently than just my view from America.

Guten Tag!

Liberty Friez
Content Editor

The previous Mystician Editor, Kayden Schmitcke, and I recently arrived back from a two-week long mission trip to Stuttgart, Germany. Apparently, it is the month of mission trips.

We went with an organization called Couriers for Christ located in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Twice a year, Couriers picks a city in Europe, contacts the local missionary, and plans a campaign. These campaigns include distributing custom John and Romans and planning an evangelistic meeting for the end of the trip.

Kayden and I went over to distribute John and Romans to the residence of Stuttgart and the surrounding towns. Each day of the campaign, we were separated into teams and were given certain areas to distribute.

The first week or so, it rained nearly everyday, cutting our distribution days short. We took the time to explore a bit of Leonberg—the town we were staying in. A group of us would spend time in the mall, explore the streets, and visit local bakeries. One evening, we wanted coffee so we went on the hunt and ended up (accidentally) in a club where we were glared at by the locals. That was fun.

We had two free days. One, we visited the Liechtenstein castle, the foundation of which has been standing since 1380. We checked out the castle shop where Kayden and I came home with each of our own a sword letter opener. We spent

the other day shopping in a touristy part of Stuttgart where we found souvenir’s to bring back.

Germany is quite different from America. The food there is amazing with heavy regulations on what can be sold. It was like eating food for the first time. Everything is smaller there—houses, streets, cars, portions. Speaking of streets, they are NARROW. Most can only fit one car despite being two-way streets. Cars themselves are a luxury and status symbol. Most people walk or bike since everything is so close together. Plants are everywhere. There is no house, lawn, or sidewalk that does not have plants growing somewhere. Our homes feel bare compared to the variety and denseness of German flowers and plants. The feel of Germany is a mix of modern and old. You can find a robot lawn mower mowing the lawn of a home that has been sitting there for 80 years. Glass highrises could be found by cobblestone paths.

The people, well, they are just like us North Dakotans. Stubborn, keep to your self sort of people. It didn’t take much to fit in. It felt like North Dakota other than the language.

It is amazing, though, how fast one can pick up the language. After only 10 days, there are a few words and sentences that have just soaked in. “Keine,” “bitte,” “verboten,” “danke,” “geschenk,” “habe,” “ein,” “hallo,” “guten morgen,” to name a few.

Overall, it was an amazing trip. Germany is a beautiful country and it is definitely worth the visit.



Submitted
Went Shopping! - A group stops outside a mall in Stuttgart, Germany for a photo. Their hands are full of treasures they have picked up throughout the day. From left to right: Logan Muth, Kayden Schmitcke, Liberty Friez, Brendan Jorgensen, Tresa Scholz, and Nathan Scholz.

Editorial

OUR VOICE

Letter from the Editor



Sophia Fafard
Editor

Has anyone noticed how this summer is flying by? As I write this letter from Canada, it’s already been a month and a half since the spring semester

ended, and we’re already half-way through summer. But for me, my days have not changed; working in The Mystician office, interviewing sources, and studying for my summer classes any chance I get. I hope for you, dear reader, that your summer is filled with sunlight, the sound of waves lapping at a lakeshore, or exploring lush hiking trails. That sounds much more like summer than staring at a screen of blue light—don’t ya think?

While the summer flies by, so does time at Bismarck State College. Already this summer items in the famous Coca-Cola Room were auctioned off, creating a classroom space for students next year. More on that in this issue. And, while other changes take place on campus, The Mys-

tician will continue to report the news as we move into a new space. Next year, you won’t find The Mystician office in the Armory; we’ll be tucked in a corner of the Advanced Technology Center, so make sure to find us there.

While I could dwell and pout on all these changes and the fact I have not had a “summer,” per say, I instead remind myself that there is a lot to be grateful for; for instance, having the chance to work as the Summer Editor of The Mystician. So I encourage you to think of one thing you’re grateful for this summer. I promise—it really puts things into perspective.

Sincerely, Sophia Fafard

The Facets of Home

Sophia Fafard
Editor

Home. It is one of the most unique words as it does not have a decided definition. It means something different to everyone. If someone were to ask me “where’s home for you?” the answers might go something like this:

- “I’m from Canada” or
- “I live in the States” or
- “It’s wherever my family is.”

But what defines the place that is home? I have lived in the United States for almost two years now. I could say it is starting to feel like “home,” yet my passport and visa status remind me that I am Canadian, and that I lived in a different country for eighteen years of my life. It reminds me that the house I grew up in is in Canada too, crowded with the presence of my immediate family; my mom and dad, my brothers and sister, and even the sassy pets I once saw every day.

I could get even more specific. I spent my formative years in a small town, but that place never felt like “home” to me. The farm where I grew up did. When I came to Bismarck and started college here, I started to feel at home. I found friends, and one could say, a family with some of the people I met. Now, I must move on from this home, at least for a little while, as life takes me to Grand Forks. Will that be my new home? Or am I still home, in North Dakota? Or am I a stranger to this place, as my passport glaringly reminds me, and my home is still Saskatchewan? Even more particular, but so crucial to this dilemma, is the matter of whether my home is now with my boyfriend whom I have lived with the past two summers, or my family, whom I visit frequently but do not reside with anymore?

It begs the question of whether a person can have multiple homes, though this can muddle minds and create a murky distinction of one’s own identity as others attempt to perceive them through this definition of “home.” I am sure for those who have a parent in one country and a parent in another, it is also difficult to define where exactly you are from. A Canadian is not the same as an American. A girl living in the city is different from a girl that grew up on a farm in a family of six. And a student attending community college is slightly different than that of a university student working toward a Master’s. The differences are there, and the perception others have of you all depends on how you answer that silly question that tends to be one of the first asked of you when you shake that stranger’s hand at some networking event. They ask “where’s home for you?”

For me, it’s usually a long winded explanation of how I got to where I am now. But the next time someone asks, I’ll be straightforward with it.

“Here,” I’ll say. Because maybe the definition of home does not have to be complex. It can be simple. And maybe people will respect that.

Judicious Jocular



Isaiah Johnson
MystiCast Executive Producer

It appears I’m back in the editorial column for the summer. I’ve also gotten an upgrade in the form of an official title: Rambling Raconteur. The word raconteur is French and refers to a skilled storyteller. I don’t mean to be presumptuous in titling my column such, but I like to think of it as more aspirational to the heights I wish to achieve. Perhaps I should include some more long-winded anecdotes in my pieces. Regardless, I leave it to my audience to determine if and when I achieve the label of a raconteur.

Trivialities aside, I thought it might be interesting today to propose the philosophy of the jester. One of our culture’s most pervasive commodities is humor. Everyone wants to be the jester in the room, resorting to goofiness, crude joking, or whatever silliness wins titters or guffaws. This is just one outpouring



of the idea that we must always remain in a state of levity. Our entertainment culture, through our phones, trains us to constantly crave content that strikes us as humorous. Laughter is a great gift and very enjoyable, but much like candy, too much of it greatly cheapens the experience.

When everyone is seeking to be the jester, humor abounds, but it often comes at the expense of weightier matters. Not every conversation needs to analyze the fundamental realities of our universe, but some should. Many people I have encountered haven’t even taken the time to consciously shape and engage with their own worldviews. Life is merely about feeling good in the moment. This is what I would call a negative version of “living in the moment.” The moment becomes all there is.

Jesting with friends is often enjoyable and valuable. But divorced from deeper connection, those friendships will always be shallow. For many friendships, that is fine. Aristotle provided an interesting analysis on the categories of friendship that pertains to this topic. But for close friends, significant matters must permeate certain conversations. How can iron sharpen iron if the iron always wants to be a cushion?

In conversation, it is easy to identify people of depth. Sure, they could split the sides of everyone in a group, but they also have a seriousness beneath the surface: a hope in something beyond themselves, a light that cannot be extinguished, a zeal that invigorates the soul. The story written for this world will always have moments of jocular, but there will always be times for serious and joyful reflection on the giver of life and light.

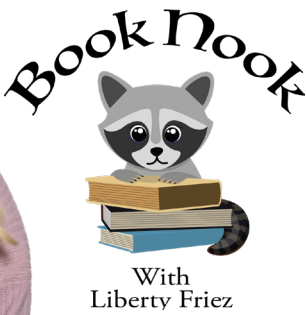
The Ultimate Cozy Fantasy?



Liberty Friez
Content Editor

I picked up “A Winter’s Promise” on a whim a few years ago. I’ve read it a few times since, if that says anything.

“A Winter’s Promise” is a young adult novel written by Christelle Dabos, originally published in French.



This novel is set in a steam-punk world made up of 21 Arks. Each Ark is ruled by a celestial, immortal deity. Given their immorality, these deities have come to a point where they can no longer remember much of their life. To combat this, each one has a book that records their life. Which will be important later, so keep this in mind.

In the beginning we meet the novel’s protagonist, Ophelia, a girl from Anima. Anima is an Ark where objects are sentient. Ophelia herself has abilities—she can pass through mirrors and “read” objects. Basically, she is able to touch an object and see its past. She also has a sentient scarf, a very moody scarf, which is quite fun.

When we are first introduced to Ophelia, it is revealed that she has been, unknowingly, betrothed to a man from another Ark. Ophelia is quite upset about this development as she has purposely avoided marriage and is set on inheriting her great-uncle’s museum.

The man betrothed to Ophelia is Thorn. He is from the Pole, an Ark characterized by its ice and snow. Thorn is a Dragon, a family clan that has an ability known as Claws, allowing the wielder to injure by connecting to another’s mind. Thorn is an abrasive, strategic, and a silently dangerous man and it becomes abundantly clear that this marriage, while his idea, was not what he wanted.

Ophelia is taken to the Pole, where she lives with Thorn, Bernilde, his aunt, and her aunt, until the marriage. Through her time living with Thorn and Bernilde, Ophelia finds herself accidentally entangling herself into the politics of the Pole. This ends up unraveling the main plot of the story—Thorn needed a reader to “read” the book of the Pole’s deity, Lord Farouk.

Overall, there is not much I can say to discredit this novel. The characters, the plot, the worlds are thought out, gritty, and just whimsical enough to work. Thorn and Ophelia are multi-fac-

eted, with the ability to be annoying and endearing at the same time. The atmosphere of the book is captivating. You can feel the surface level danger that follows Ophelia in the Pole, you can feel the warmth of Anima, and the isolation of Bernilde’s cottage. The parts of the story—the plot, characters, and the world—are cohesive, blending seamlessly together to make it feel like you step into the novel. There really isn’t one part of the book I would say is better than the other.

Since this book is translated, there are some things that do get lost in the English translation. Words, sentences, and descriptions don’t entirely make sense. But it is minute, never interfering with the comprehension of the plot.

For those who like political machinations, grumpy protagonists, and sentient objects, then “A Winter’s Promise” is a great book for you. I would argue that this novel should be the guideline for a cozy fantasy. 8/10.

Staff Opinion

Where is your Dream Vacation?



Sophia Fafard
Editor

When it comes to dream vacations, I guess I should get a little dreamier. I tend to be cynical with the topic of vacations, as that is the last thing on my mind at this point in my life. Still, I hope to go on a few vacations in the future, and most of the places I want to visit are

The Green Isle, Etc. Etc.

pretty dreamworthy.

My top three dream vacation spots would have to be Ireland, Norway, and New Zealand. I am descended from both the Irish and Norwegian people, so I would love to visit those places. Ireland and Norway look more my style anyway, especially as they are rooted in a rich history and seem like beautiful places to be as well. Also, two movies I love are from Ireland and Norway: “The Banshees of Inishirin” and “The Worst Person in the World,” so all the more reason to visit.

New Zealand is kind of random, but if I were to go to a more southern beachy place, New Zealand is that place. The Lord of the Rings Trilogy was filmed there, and the place has kiwi birds and large flocks of sheep. The natural landscape is what I’d prefer over human-made structures.

The ULTIMATE Dream Vacation

but in my dream circumstances (with unlimited money, because these are dream circumstances) I would love to explore as much of Europe as possible. I am a huge history nerd and the best vacation for me would be getting to see a bunch of historical sites, ancient ruins, and extravagant palaces. Even if that means 25,000+ steps a day. From the beaches of Normandy, to the Colosseum, the Palace of Versailles, and Westminster Abbey; count me in, my bags are packed. Getting to explore the places that I love to read and learn about would be an absolute dream come true. France, England, Poland, Germany, Italy, you name it, I want to go.

“Dream Destination” - As in Only One Place?!

indecisive for that, so what I’ve detailed below is the top locations I would like to visit.

A few years back my family and I visited a location called the Devil’s Bathtub in the Spearfish Canyon Byway. Despite the dubious name, this trailhead was a beautiful location and a major stepping-stone (no pun intended) to my love of nature trails and mini hikes.

So without further ado the destinations I would like to visit the most include (but are not limited to): Alaska, Iceland, Yosemite National Park and Plitvice Lakes National park. These places would be such a dream to experience and to take lots of photos of!

À Plus Tard, Amérique!

language. Although I would certainly pay a visit to Southern France as I have heard wonderful things about it, Parisians, in particular, are notorious for a fast-paced communication style and tendency to blend or shorten words that I seldom practiced understanding in French class, making the city a perfect litmus test. Moreover, I am drawn to France’s vast history; I could spend days upon days learning about and experiencing several of the key places that shaped our world. Finally, I discovered my immense appreciation for art when I was visiting the National Art Gallery in Washington, D.C. last year, and I can only imagine that a visit to the Louvre would further heighten that enjoyment.



Mygel Porter
Social Media Manager

While it may seem easy to choose a dream vacation once you consider that money is not a factor and you can go quite literally anywhere it becomes harder as you don’t want to waste

Dream Vacation

your one time vacation on something practical like a place you can drive to, or even a place in your country. Also, trying to make the most of your vacation it becomes hard to decide where to go.

So after a long and hard consideration I finally landed on Australia. Australia has everything I want and anything one can imagine. Beaches, zoos, safarias, hiking trails, and a lot of interacting with animals such as swimming with dolphins and horseback riding.

I believe the versatility of Australia makes it one of the best places to go on vacation as you get so much variety in the time that you’re there with all the assortment of activities down there.

Steep Mountains and Quiet Rivers

The idea of vacationing does not often enter my mind. Many times, I am content to sit down with a book or venture out onto the disc golf course. But when I think of a place to get away, I don’t think of Disney World or other large attractions. My soul finds rest in God’s glorious creation.

I would spend a dream vacation in the mountains of Colorado or the Black Hills of South Dakota. I would hike along rivers and stay in a cabin overlooking a stream. Anywhere I can step out of the daily grind and savor the natural beauty of this land, I am content. These are the moments I cherish and long for.



Kerstin Hilzendeger | Graphic Designer

Dream Vacation

There are many places I would love to visit, but if I was forced to choose it would be Norway or Alaska.

I have similar reasons for visiting both. The climate, the scenery, and the history. I don’t exact plans for if and when I visit. I just want to see as much of Alaska and Norway as I can.

Other places I would like to visit are Prince Edward Island, Sweden, Scotland, Poland, Finland, and Greenland. But Norway and Alaska are at the top of my list.



Kayla Hilzendeger
Photographer

I know that this staff opinion says “dream vacation destination”, meaning that I would only be able to choose one place. Unfortunately, I am much too



Olivia Grote
Reporter

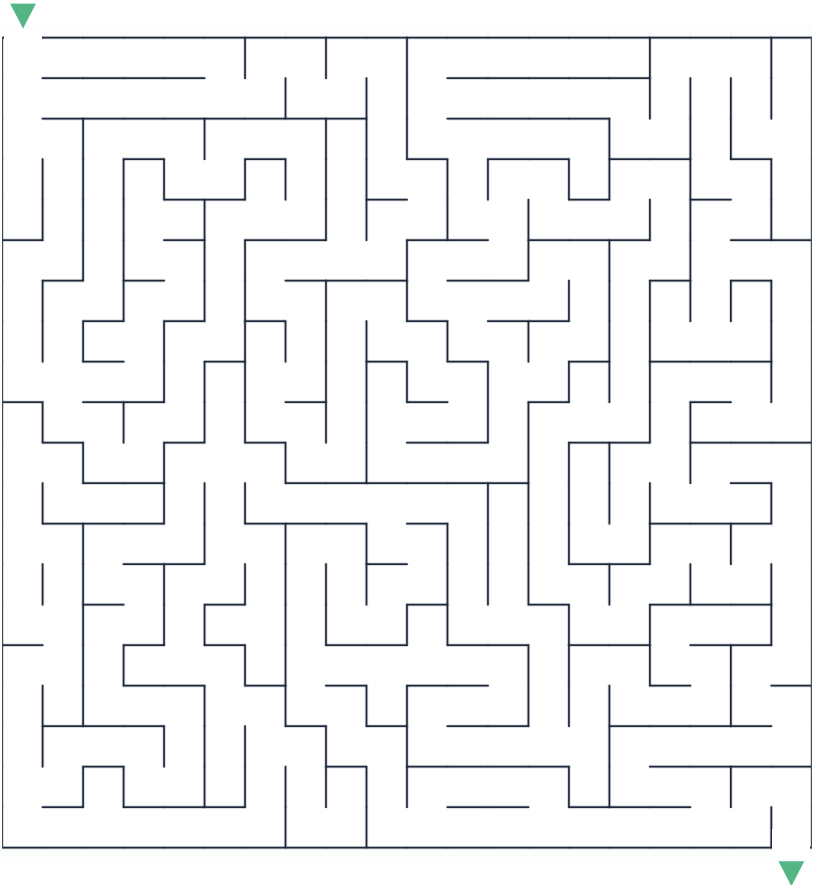
Assuming time and money were no object, I would select France as my vacation destination for a few different reasons, the first being that I would like to test my ability to speak the French



Liberty Friez
Content Editor

PUZZLE PAGE

HOW A-MAZE-ING!



SUDOKU

Fill every empty square with a number 1-9. Every row, column, and 3x3 square must include the numbers 1-9 exactly once.

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

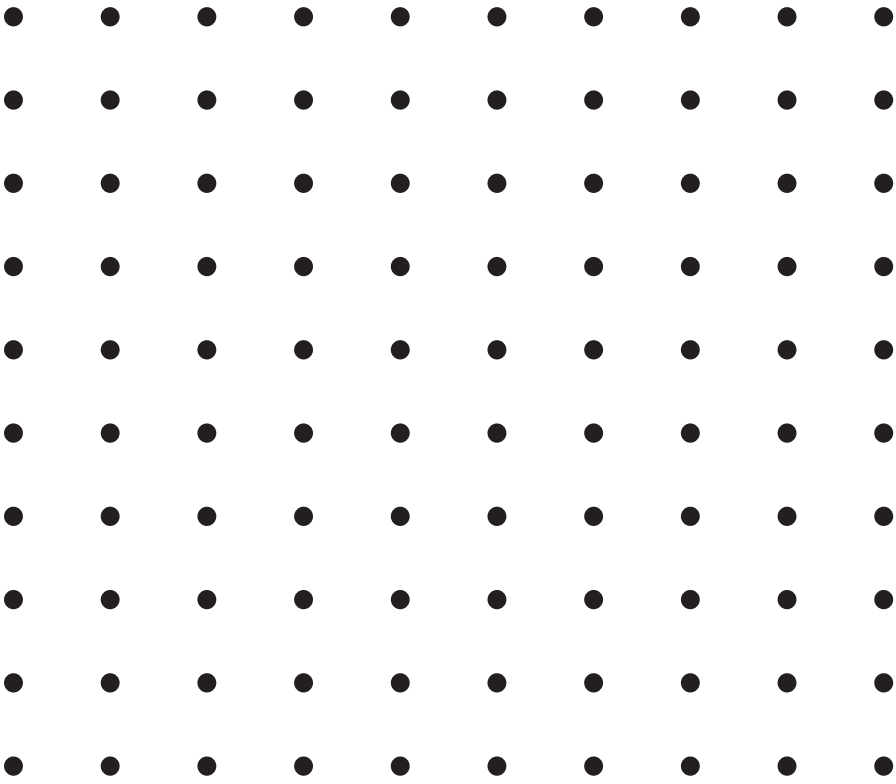
FUN FACT

Did you know that if you go to Google and type in “Askew” the search page will be tilted!

Similarly, if you enter “Do a barrel roll” your page will spin!

DOTS TO BOXES

Two players take turns drawing a single horizontal or vertical line between adjacent dots on a grid. The player who draws the fourth line of a 1x1 square claims the square by putting their initial inside it and gets to take another turn. The game ends when no more lines can be drawn, and the player with the most claimed squares wins.



LANDMARK TRIVIA

- Q: Where is the Burj Khalifa Located?
- A. Munich, Germany
 - B. Dubai, UAE
 - C. Las Vegas, USA

- Q: What famous landmark that is located in Cusco, Peru?
- A. Petra
 - B. Machu Picchu
 - C. Alamo Mission

- Q: In which city would you find the famous Christ the Redeemer Statue?
- A. Mumbai, India
 - B. Cancun, Mexico
 - C. Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

- Q: What is the Longest River in the world?
- A. The Danube
 - B. The Mississippi River
 - C. The Nile River

- Q: What group of people were thought to be the first people to work on Stonehenge?
- A. Early Neolithic people
 - B. Early Maya Civilization
 - C. Local Farmers

Find the answers to these puzzles and more on our website!

