

THE — Mystician

Volume 87 | Issue 6
October 9, 2025

[N E W S] P A P E R



Wall at the Net - #12 Reese Duchsherer and #15 Dedra Wood leap in unison to block the attack. Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

Mystics Fall in Weekend Doubleheader

Isalah Johnson
MystiCast Executive Producer

The Bismarck State Mystics Volleyball team (2-9, 0-7) lost in straight sets to the No. 4 Providence Argonauts on Friday night, falling 25-16, 25-18, 25-18. The Mystics struggled throughout the first two sets, but pulled to within two points in the third set before Providence regained control to end the match.

Chelsa Krom led the Mystics, tallying 8 kills with a .389 hitting percentage. Delaney Deschamp contributed 16 assists on the night, and libero Piper Harris added 19 digs. Bella Thompson of the Argos

paced the offense with twenty-eight assists, 7 digs, and 2 aces. Friday's game was Light up the Armory Night, as the Mystics wore neon green jerseys that were auctioned off after the match to raise funds for the North Dakota chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Saturday afternoon's contest was against the Montana State Northern Skylights. The Mystics fell 25-19, 25-10, 30-28. The Mystics struggled mightily in the second set, managing only 5 kills with a .000 percentage. They fought back in the third set with 19 kills and a .263 percentage, trying to prolong the match, but the

potent combination of Macee Selman and Lexi Jones snuffed out the comeback.

Chelsa Krom contributed 11 kills with an outstanding .556 percentage, with Paige McAllister adding 8 kills. Macee Selman of the Skylights had fifteen kills with a .520 percentage, leading her team to victory.

The Mystics' next homestand is October 3-4 versus Carroll College and Rocky Mountain University.

See **STATS** | 5



SCAN
FOR
WEB

Student Life
Living Experiences | 3

Sports
Men's Basketball | 5

MYSTICMEDIA
BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE STUDENT PRODUCTIONS

Opinion
Shame & Judgement | 6

Arts & Entertainment
Humanities Mixtape | 4

Feature
Homecoming week photo spread from Mystic Media staff plus submitted photos.
Homecoming | 8

MYSTIC MEDIA

SHENANIGANS



Kayden Schmitcke & Sophia Fafard
THE MYSTICIAN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu
Room 125, BSC Armory

karen Bauer
THE MYSTICIAN ADVISER
karen.bauer@bismarckstate.edu
Room 111, BSC Armory

Mystic Media Staff

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Kayden Schmitcke <i>Co-Editor</i> | Isaiah Johnson <i>MystiCast</i> | Avah Stein <i>Reporter</i> |
| Sophia Fafard <i>Co-Editor</i> | Executive Producer | Connor Grabow <i>Reporter</i> |
| Jaxon Miller <i>The MYX</i> | Liberty Friez <i>Content Editor</i> | Elena Sanchez <i>Reporter</i> |
| Mygel Porter <i>Social Media Manager</i> | Olivia Grote <i>Reporter</i> | Kaden Solemsaas <i>Reporter</i> |
| Clay Sicble-Fox <i>Photographer</i> | Garrett Froelich <i>Columnist</i> | Bryson Mohs <i>Reporter</i> |
| Paysha Rex <i>Sports Editor</i> | Michael Huravitch <i>Distribution Manager</i> | |
| | Robyn Albitre <i>Reporter</i> | |



CONTENT CREATORS SUMMIT

Crafting Careers, Connecting Creatives

BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE

YOU ARE INVITED!
SAVE THE DATE:
Friday, Nov. 14, 2025

MYSTIC MEDIA 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 students and the community. With this goal in mind, Mystic Media 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. Mystic Media strives to be objective and is not affiliated with any outside organizations. Mystic Media upholds the principles guaranteed by the First Amendment and utilizes these rights to bring diverse, entertaining, and thought-provoking material to the college community. Thoughts expressed may not be the opinion of all the staff or BSC community.

College Students Share Living Experiences

Robyn Albitre
Reporter

Is a student really missing out on the college experience if they choose to live at home? Students revealed how living at home or in a dorm shaped their college life. Students often prefer to engage in their own activities or hobbies within the community, rather than dealing with the costs and drawbacks of living in the dorms.

“It was hard living with my dad full-time, and then transitioning to having to room with other girls,” said Taylor Dietrich, a Bismarck State College student.

Most off-campus students chose to not live in the dorms because they thought it would be hard to have a roommate, and they did not want to adjust to that.

Many students who live in the dorm are there for convenience, such as those who live far away from home, have some form of Residential aid, or are military personnel.

“We just wanted the college experience, and everyone has to live in the dorms at least once, right?” Twins Peyton and Page Shook said in unison.

Most individuals do not have the opportunity to live in the dorms, mostly due to financial reasons.

“I chose to live off campus because it’s just cheaper for me and convenient financially,” Hailey Penor, another student, said.

Other students said similar things when they were interviewed about living off campus.

Many students commute to the college for events, as they live in town. Living off campus does not make students miss out on more; it only shapes their experience differently.



Dorm Life - Peyton and Page Shook study their spanish homework together. Submitted

Mystic Council Brings Student Engagement

Mygel Porter
Social Media Manager

Bismarck State College is bringing the hype with an all new group called Mystic Council. Danielle Dolecheck is the Student Engagement Coordinator at BSC. The Mystic Council includes five college students who help Dolecheck with campus events.

Dolecheck created Mystic Council because she believes having college students lead the events will create more student engagement. To get involved in Mystic Council, students were able to fill out an application. She sent it out to eight people and chose five people at the end. The questions were base level and asked the students to explain why they were interested in joining Mystic Council. It also asked for ideas for events around campus.

Mystic Council students receive

a \$250 scholarship per semester. The requirements are to work 15 hours, either setting up, manning, or tearing down events each semester and attending a monthly meeting. These scholarships are funded by the BSC Foundation.

Apart from getting student help, Dolecheck also wants feedback on some of her ideas.

“My ideas might not be ideal [for] 19 year olds,” Dolecheck said.

By gaining feedback, she looks forward to hearing what events do not go well, what to possibly change, and what to take out for the future.

Dolecheck plans to continue Mystic Council in the future. Her plan for next year is to start getting the group of five students assembled before this school year ends to start event planning over the summer.



Make Friends - Students work on friendship bracelts in the Student Union

Mystics Smiles Grant Advances Dental Programs

\$75k grant advances BSC Mystic Smiles dental clinic and dental career programs

Juanita Lee
Public Information Officer

The Bismarck State College Foundation has received a \$75,000 grant to equip the new BSC Mystic Smiles dental clinic and launch dental career pathways at the college. The funding, awarded by the North Dakota Community Foundation’s Otto Bremer Trust Community Responsive Grant Fund, will support the purchase of 3-D imaging equipment and upgraded sterilization technology to support underserved youth in central and western North Dakota while providing real-world training for future students in BSC’s dental pathways.

“We are grateful to the North Dakota Community Foundation and the Otto Bremer Trust for recognizing the importance of the Mystic Smiles dental clinic and dental programs at BSC,” said Kari Knudson, Executive Director of the BSC Foundation. “This grant helps us address two urgent needs:

expanding access to pediatric dental care for underserved families and creating high-quality, hands-on training opportunities that prepare BSC graduates to meet the state’s workforce demand.”

Currently, patients in the region face up to an eight-month wait for dental care, and only 16% of North Dakota dental providers accept all Medicaid patients. The Mystic Smiles clinic is focused on closing this gap by accepting Medicaid, offering a sliding fee scale, and providing care for children ages 13 and younger. Patients are referred through partners like Bridging the Dental Gap, Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, and Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health.

“Too many children in our state face barriers to timely, affordable dental care,” says Dr. Tegwyn Brickhouse, BSC Mystic Smiles in-house pediatric dentist. “By pairing care with student training, Mystic Smiles improves health outcomes today while building the dental workforce of tomorrow.”

The Mystic Smiles clinic, which opened in May 2025, is the first pediatric dental clinic of its kind in North Dakota. Located at 210 W. Century Avenue in Bismarck, the college-owned and operated non-profit clinic is designed to

meet the pressing needs for accessible pediatric dental care while also serving as a future training facility for new BSC dental programs.

The concept for Mystic Smiles came from early conversations with Dr. Katie Stewart of SDY Dental, who brought the critical need for dental professionals in the state to BSC. Citing a recent North Dakota Dental Association survey, Stewart noted that 98% of North Dakota dentists believe there is a workforce shortage in dental professionals. More than 80% of dentists in the state tried to hire someone in the last year, and most were unsuccessful.

“This grant helps BSC do what we do best as a polytechnic institution, and that is partnering with industry to train students while solving real workforce and community needs. We are appreciative of the North Dakota Community Foundation and Otto Bremer Trust for supporting this important work,” said BSC Interim President Dan Leingang.

More than 100 prospective applicants have already expressed interest in BSC’s future dental hygiene program, which is currently seeking initial accreditation with the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).

Cyber Club & WiCyS Club

Bismarck State College students are eligible to join two cybersecurity clubs this year. These are WiCyS and Cyber Club. Both clubs are open to all BSC students, regardless of degree, and both clubs meet monthly.



WiCyS club members participate in online training activities designed to promote and encourage new persons in the field of cybersecurity and cyber-adjacent fields, such as Artificial Intelligence. Meetings are monthly and take place at the Advanced Technology Center in Room 210. The meetings are virtual and in-person. WiCyS will meet from 7 p.m. to 7:50 p.m. The WiCyS club adviser is Lynette Borjeson Painter. For any questions, contact her at 701-224-5755.

CyberClub is another cybersecurity opportunity. In CyberClub, members prepare for and train to compete in cyber competitions around the region and nation. Meetings are monthly and take place at the ATC in Room 210. Meetings are virtual and in-person, and the club will meet from 6 p.m. to 6:50 p.m. Club advisers include Painter and Deborah Mantz. Contact Painter at her previously mentioned number or Mantz at 701-224-2407 for any questions.

Meeting Dates for Both Clubs:

- October 14, 2025
- November 4, 2025
- December 9, 2025
- January 13, 2026
- February 10, 2026
- March 3, 2026
- April 14, 2026

Faculty & Staff Spotlight

Liberty Friez
Content Editor

Eric Bless
Associate Professor of Biology



Q: What is your name and what are the classes you teach?

A: “Eric Bless. I, on campus, teach the General Biology courses... biology 150... the lab, biology 151. I also teach the Concepts of Biology lecture and lab.

Q: How long have you been teaching at BSC?

A: “I am now starting my 18th year teaching at BSC. It doesn’t feel like 18 years, but it’s been a good place.

Q: What is your favorite thing about teaching at BSC?

A: “I think a lot of good things at BSC. One thing I truly enjoy is the fact that we have small class sizes and I truly take pride, every semester, I learn all of my students names. In small class sizes, I feel like I become more familiar with students in my class. Even over the years, we have a lot of good employees on campus, just helpful. I always feel, even being here eighteen years, if I ever have a question about something people are willing to help me out.”

Q: What is your favorite topic to teach?

A: “I really enjoy photosynthesis and cellular respiration. They are such complex topics but once you really learn and understand how they work it’s just really amazing to think what happens.”

Q: Do you have a fun/favorite memory of being at BSC?

A: It was one of the volleyball games and it was teacher appreciation. One of the volleyball players selected me as an influential professor. It was just a fun opportunity to get out there... watch the volleyball team. I was able to bring my family, I have three daughters at home and they all had a blast. They thought it was such a fun thing to be at. That’s a fun memory for me... getting acknowledged by a former student was awesome.”

Lack of Languages Limits Communication

Elena Sanchez
Reporter

Two people, two different languages, and a conversation to be had, yet lost in translation. Languages are how we connect as people. Colleges, both at community and university level, often offer multiple language courses to choose from to learn a second language; however, Bismarck State College currently suffers in this area as Spanish is the only world language course available for students to take.

The BSC Spanish Professor, Ryan Pitcher, gave valuable insight into the world language history of BSC and how world language courses are affected as of now. Despite French and

German once being a part of the campus back in the 1990s, Spanish was the only language that remained strong.

“When you have a very popular language, like Spanish, it tends to cannibalize enrollments for other languages unless you make foreign language a requirement,” Pitcher said, “In colleges or universities, that is typically what happens.”

Even with Spanish being the only foreign language left on the campus, it has remained strong despite unfortunate circumstances like COVID-19 affecting education during that period. In fact, the language is now seeing more attendance, just in a different manner.

“It has increased interest in the language, but it’s the accessibility of the

course work, of the instruction, that has allowed us to better serve the needs of the community.”

Spanish courses at BSC are available to be taken in-person or online which makes the hybrid experience very useful for those who may still want to learn the language, but have a full schedule of classes on campus. The technology we have now also leaves the opportunity for other language courses to come to the campus as long as the language is a noticed need of the community. With enough calls, requests, and proper staffing, more languages can come to the BSC campus with the developed effort of the students and community.

College Students Find Activities

Connor Grabow
Reporter

While places such as Grand Forks and Fargo can easily be deemed college towns due to their plethora of activities geared towards the average college student, Bismarck generally falls short of the college town moniker at face value. With the help of the neighboring town of Mandan, however, activities are all around. Students just need to know where to look.

For starters, there is a well run bowling alley in Mandan under the name Midway Lanes. Even though the arcade section is geared for younger children, college students can spend time bowling.

One student suggested athletic activities at the YMCA. The YMCA has countless available athletic activities including basketball, a gym,

racquetball, and swimming.

Those looking for brain teasers are welcome at Breakout ND, the local escape room.

Another good activity would be to find a walking trail. There are two fairly long walking trails that follow the river, one on each side. The trail on the Mandan side is found across from the Mandan archery range, while the trail in Bismarck runs along River Road with a trail head at Pioneer Park. Two other options include McDowell Dam and Harmon Lake. Paddle boarding, kayaking, and canoeing are options at these bodies of water. All these are great places to visit on an autumn day before the snow falls.



Michael Huravitch | Distribution Manager

Strike! - Kenzie Fleck gets ready to bowl

A Work in Progress

Kelsey Riggs
Reference & Instructional Librarian

The library is generally considered a quiet place. Whether it is to read, study, or chill in between classes, the volume barely rises above the music in your earbuds. This September has definitely not kept up with that pattern.

If you have been in the BSC Library, the whispers of the tutors and clacking of keyboards would have been overshadowed by Bang Bang BANG. Why? Well, to everyone’s surprise, the tracks for our moveable shelving were laid in freshly poured concrete. This means, the

construction company we are working with must chisel away the concrete in order to replace the tracks, which were rusted from the flood damage.

We apologize if this has caused you any headaches or distractions. Trust me, you are not alone. We also apologize for the lack of bathroom access in the library for a few days. They were re-laying our carpet and the black baseboards! It is so good to see the library slowly starting to look like itself again.

Fingers crossed our Halloween will be filled with screams of joy at having shelves once again.

Speaking of Halloween, the Library wants to help you celebrate this year. So, together with the BSC Campus Police, we will have an escape room perfect for the holiday. The starting point is in the library. If you complete the hunt within 1 hour, your team gets a certificate and picture which will be posted on various social media platforms including the library blog. Do you dare take on the challenge?

More details will be posted later around campus so LOOK OUT!

Humanities Mixtape: Rewinding the 1980s

Sophia Fafard
The Mystician Co-Editor

Bismarck State College is going back to the 80s with the multidisciplinary Humanities Symposium, presented by Bringing Humanities to Life at BSC. This event explores how people remember and interpret an iconic decade in recent history from the perspective of 2025. The event takes place from Oct. 22 to 24 at the Advanced Technology Center.

This symposium takes a humanities-based lens and explores a variety of topics, including how pop culture and trends laud and celebrate the era, particularly when it comes to popular culture itself. It also considers what the 1980s imagined about today as well as local, national, and international topics and trends rooted in the 1980s.

The events included at the symposium range from a music performance by local group Rift and a screening of “Beetlejuice” (1988). Speakers include local author Sarah Vogel, Prairie Public News

Director Dave Thompson, and author and essayist Chuck Klosterman.

Bringing Humanities to Life has had a key role in organizing this symposium. This group was originally funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Associate Professor of English Michael Tomanek is part of Bringing Humanities to Life and has experience with organizing symposiums in the past.

“We have a committee of about 15 people or so that combines faculty from the humanities, some faculty that are technically outside of the humanities, but also a couple community members,” Tomanek said. “We get what we have because we’re working off of these proceeds [the grants] every year.”

Tomanek added that BSC has a history of symposiums. Symposiums in the past have included a 10 year anniversary of 9/11, a symposium on John F. Kennedy in 2013, and another symposium on the 1960s. The symposiums came to a halt in 2020, when COVID struck and delayed a symposium on American bison until 2022. That was the last symposium. Until now.

“As we’ve been trying to find and identify different ways that we can leverage this fund, we thought ‘well why not pick up this tradition [of having symposiums], and we’re 40 to 45 years out from the 1980s,” Tomanek said. “We said ‘let’s do [the symposium] on the 1980s and get all sorts of speakers and activities that ... celebrate as well as try to understand why we are so fascinated with [the 1980s] right now.”

Tomanek mentioned that, with the re-release of 80s movies and 80s pop culture trends returning, Bringing Humanities to Life settled on the theme and sought to bring the event to the Advanced Technology Center to showcase the new building.

Anyone is welcome to attend the symposium. Here, attendees can reflect on the past, examine the present, and imagine the future. Registration is free for students, and students are asked to register for the event before attending. Check your BSC email for the full schedule of events.

BSC ATHLETICS • BSC ATHLETICS • BSC ATHLETICS • BSC ATHLETICS • BSC ATHLETICS • BSC ATHLETICS • BSC ATHLETICS • BSC ATHLETICS

BSC ATHLETICS

BSC ATHLETICS • BSC ATHLETICS • BSC ATHLETICS • BSC ATHLETICS • BSC ATHLETICS • BSC ATHLETICS • BSC ATHLETICS • BSC ATHLETICS

Campus Gets to Know BSC Men’s Basketball

Bryson Mohs
Reporter

The Bismarck State College Men’s Basketball team is preparing for another competitive season in the Frontier Conference of the NAIA. Players Avery Wesley, Leon Andersson, Eric Shadoan, Alex Proctor, and Benjamin Hilstock recently shared their basketball journeys, team roles, and goals for the season ahead.

For many players, the game has been a lifelong passion. Wesley first picked up a ball at age three, while Shadoan also started between ages two and three. Proctor began at four, and Hilstock joined the sport at 10. Andersson came to the game later at 13 but quickly found his place on the court.

Men’s Basketball Coach Kevin Rice outlined how each player will contribute this season. Proctor is expected to run the offense at point guard but can swing into a combo guard role. Wesley will primarily play shooting guard, with the ability to step in at point. Andersson offers versatility as a combo guard and wing, while Shadoan brings strength as a true shooting guard. Hilstock was described as the team’s “swiss army knife,” capable of playing three or four positions depending on the matchup.

That versatility ties into the program’s motto: “one team, one mission, one goal.” Rice said it reflects the group’s shared commitment to success.

“Practicing a little bit, throwing new stuff in for the new guy. Seeing who can play what. Trying to get acclimated with each other,” Rice said.

Proctor added that while the team hasn’t had a full practice yet, conditioning through scrimmages has revealed plenty of upside.

Fans will get their first glimpse of the new-look Mystics during an exhibition scrimmage on Oct. 6, though the event will not be open to the public. Wesley said he is eager for the challenge of Frontier Conference play, calling it “a step up from Juco.”

Guiding the program is Coach Rice, who brings extensive playing and coaching experience. Originally from San Antonio, Texas, he played high school basketball before competing at Midland College and West Texas (JUCO), then finished his career at Utah State University. He went on to play professionally



Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

Mystics Prepare - Kamayua Black Jr., Avery Wesley, and Alex Proctor get ready for practice.

for the IBA Dakota Wizards, competing in both the IBA and CBA, and spent summers playing in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Venezuela. His professional career also took him overseas, with two years in Turkey and one in Israel.

After retiring early, Rice returned to coach the Dakota Wizards in the NBA Development League. He later served four years as head coach at United Tribes, five years as an assistant at Midland College, and one year as an assistant at BSC. Now entering his fourth year leading BSC, Rice is focused on molding his roster into a competitive force in the Frontier Conference.

| BSC Volleyball Stats | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|--------|-------|------|
| # | Name | Points | Kills | |
| 1 | Kiley Huebner | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Brooklyn Sand | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| 3 | Delaney Deschamp | 7 | 3 | 13 |
| 4 | Ashley Martodam | 37 | 35 | 163 |
| 5 | Kasey Simmons | 1.5 | 1 | 3 |
| 6 | Shayna Roach | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 7 | Summer Thomas | 50 | 40 | 102 |
| 8 | Kate Zimmer | 13 | 5 | 18 |
| 9 | Paige McAllister | 41.5 | 38 | 129 |
| 10 | McKenna Brendal | 59.5 | 53 | 210 |
| 11 | Thiel Hannah | 1.5 | 0 | 2 |
| 12 | Reese Duchsherer | 128 | 116 | 418 |
| 13 | Piper Harris | 12 | 3 | 28 |
| 14 | Emerson Carufel | 68.5 | 62 | 183 |
| 15 | Dedra Wood | 50.5 | 43 | 139 |
| 16 | Chelsa Krom | 111 | 96 | 207 |
| 18 | Kennedy Senn | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | | 590 | 495 | 1628 |

Sports Spotlight: Brynn Crane

Avah Stein
Reporter

Cross-country is a sport of leisure to some, whether that be a form of comfort or a love for the sport.

Brynn Crane is one of those athletes who loves it all, from the adrenaline she gets from the runner’s high to the comfort and happiness she gets while running, such as the ability to escape reality while running.

Crane is a student at Bismarck State College and is a part of the cross-country team. Crane talked about the turnout for the first meet and the support her team received. She said that the turnout was great. The whole BSC track team was there to support the runners, as well as the BSC softball team.

Crane said the team is doing exceptionally well this year, exceeding expectations and raising the stakes for upcoming meets. Each team member has worked hard to improve themselves. Crane said that the Mystics Track and Field Coach Julia Hammerschmidt has been an excellent coach and trainer, helping the athletes to do their very best.

Crane’s experience through the years has included running for Legacy High School, which has shaped her decision in running for BSC.

“I love to run. It’s something I have loved since I was a kid,” Crane said.

The cross-country season takes place at the beginning of the college year and ends in November. Runners usually move into indoor track season afterwards.

Crane is excited for the upcoming meets as well. “The meets excite me and give me a sense of peace too,” she said.

Cross-country is not for everyone, but it has been everything to Crane.



Cole Bernhardt | Media Production Specialist

Spotlight - BSC Cross Country runner Brynn Crane.

Editorial

Letter from the Editors

OUR VOICE



Kayden Schmitcke & Sophia Fafard
Co-Editors

Football season, fall weather and mid-terms around the corner? Yup, that’s right, but don’t stress, just do your best. Ok, maybe that was a little cheesy... When I think about the midterms approaching I tend to veer off that train of thought and rabbit hole to the fact that football season is here. Last year I had a fantasy football league and this year is the real deal, so be like me and instead of

thinking about midterms watch some foot- ball. Meanwhile, Sophia is in disbelief that midterms are approaching so fast.

Not only is football season here and mid- terms creeping up but also homecoming was amazing on campus. By the time this has been released the homecoming royalty will be announced! Our very own Mygel Porter ran for homecoming, surprise, surprise. We’re excited to see in the next few days whether he can claim the Mystic Homecoming throne. With all the posters and reels he’s been making to promote his campaign, he might actually win this year and stop harassing Sophia about not voting for him last year.

Now that we are one month into the semester, we only have a few months left before we’re back to chilly snow and a break from school. So enjoy the weather and the crisp fall air. Time flies by these days, so might as well enjoy the year and all college has to offer! And while you’ve got a lot to think about, take a break and browse through the pages of this Mystician. We have stories that’ll take you away from the stress of midterms and allow you to relax, take a breath, and reset.



A Well-Ordered Mind



Isaiah Johnson
MystiCast Executive Producer

How well is my mind working? This is something I’ve begun to ask myself recently. I have heard numerous people claim that we are getting dumber. Why is this? We have access to all the information we could ever want. The world is connected through the internet. Our society has become incredibly advanced technologically. Yet, our minds are suffering.

We are nearly always plugged in. Being informed is certainly advantageous, and we should make use of our unprecedented access to technology. We live under the assumption that because we can know something we should. This mindset leads us to excessive media consumption. We are never content with mental silence. Our

minds must always be ingesting new information. Why stop and ponder what we have learned when we can move on to the next thing?

Our mind is a muscle, and we seem to have forgotten that. If we never exercise it, it will become lethargic and ineffectual. Have we ever stopped to consider how our brains are holding up under the colossal weight of information we cram into them day after day? Now, this would be somewhat less of a problem if what we put in our minds was wholesome and challenging content, but we fail on even that level. Mindless short- form content reigns. No thought required. Just keep scrolling.

I’ve come to realize that even if I eliminate mindless content from my daily routine, the massive amounts of higher quality content I consume utterly exhaust my brain. I need to take a break. Nature is pretty great. If only we would take the time to appreciate its beauty. Meticulous logical arguments are incredible. If only we would take the time to reason them out in our heads and make conclusions. Only in the moments when our minds are quiet can we form our convictions and resolve to live with purpose. All too often, we are stuck in the prison of doomscrolling or endless escapism. We can’t think or reason, so the loudest mob always wins the day.

Time to Bring Back Shame and Judgement



Liberty Friez
Content Editor

Is it still immoral if the person doing the action doesn’t believe it to be so?

This was the question posed to me in one of my lecture classes.

I thought it was an obvious answer. Almost so obvious that it didn’t deserve a discussion. Yes, it is still immoral.

Well, it turns out I was one of the few with this viewpoint.

The examples given to defend this question quite honestly shocked me.

Apparently it’s okay for a homeless person to steal another homeless person’s food if they think it’s okay.

The way people try to justify immoral actions was telling to say the least.

Other than coming away from that class angry and shaking, I also came away with a realization.

It has been normalized to be accept- ing of everyone’s lifestyle and beliefs that we have cast aside right and wrong.

There is nothing wrong with being respectful to other ways of life. Where this gets twisted is when we start accept- ing immoral behavior simply because we don’t want to appear rude.

It is okay to have standards for peo- ple. It is okay to have morals and to hold others to them, and when someone does something immoral IT IS OKAY TO JUDGE.

Too many horrible tragedies have occurred in the last couple years, even in the last couple weeks, because we have let immoral behavior go unchecked and unjudged. Because people do what is right in their own eyes and feel they are justified in doing so.

Perceived justification does not negate the wrongness of an action.

When we get to the point that people

think stealing, killing, and assaulting others is the moral thing to do, we have gone too far into the idea of acceptance.

Are there situations that might call for it? Yes. The key word is might. These should always be last resorts.

The actual act, however, will always be immoral.

I will have compassion for a homeless person who steals food to survive. I do not think stealing is moral.

I will side with a woman who kills her attacker. Killing- still wrong.

Separating situational needs and immoral acts is crucial. Blur the lines and chaos will ensue.

Let’s bring back shame. Let’s bring back judgement.

The Bismarck Sushi Scene Explored

Kaden Solemsaas
Reporter

The concept of raw seafood cuisine is already incredibly interesting, but selling it in the center of a continent, away from any ocean, is simply bizarre. Despite this, there are at least 10 sushi locations in Bismarck and over 60 across the entire state. Because of North Dakota’s distance from the ocean, quality is never certain, but this article aims to provide the reader with the best sushi eating experience one can achieve in Bismarck.

There are many locations that provide sushi in Bismarck, however this arti- cle aims to help create the best eating experience, so only the highest rated restaurants will be included. This leaves

Ichiban Ramen and Poke One, although Nara Ramen and Noodlezip are also reviewed rather highly. Although nei- ther Ichiban Ramen nor Poke One are exclusively sushi selling, they are both viewed highly for their sushi selection.

Ichiban Ramen is a restaurant dedi- cated to Japanese Cuisine, and overall, its food quality and overall atmosphere are widely accepted to be incredible. Ichiban Ramen is an ideal place for anyone to sit down and enjoy a classic roll. As for Poke One, almost none of the reviews relate to sushi at all, as they are much more popular for their specialty dish, poke bowls. Poke One differs from Ichiban Ramen in the sense that it is not a sit down restaurant, rather it is more akin to fast food. However, the food quality is not lacking. Both locations are

an excellent choice, and to any foodie looking for their next stop, these are the places to go.



Tinashe Makuve | Submitted

Ja Bomb - Local sushi was put to the test against other sushi places in town.

Puzzle Page

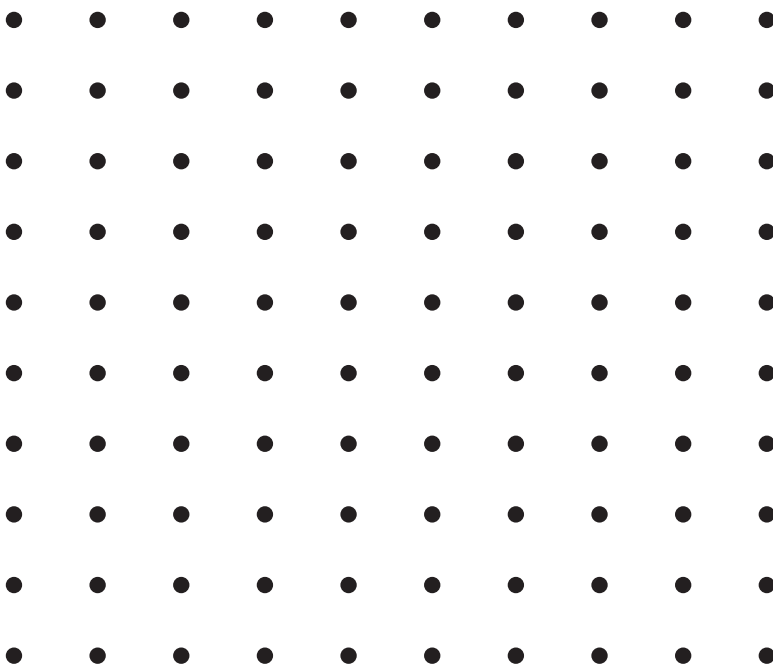
Fall Trivia!

1. What marks the official start to the fall season in the Northern Hemisphere?
2. In colonial times, what were apples called?
3. What sport do folks gather together to watch every weekend in the fall months?
4. What happens if hay bales get too wet?
5. What was fall originally called?
6. Who was the first group of people in history to use scarecrows?
7. What do you call a male turkey?
8. What is the official word for the sound of leaves and trees rustling in the wind?
9. Why do you see more large spiders around Halloween?
10. What is the natural color of leaves?
11. What pigment is responsible for trees with red and purple leaves?
12. When is fall in the Southern Hemisphere?
13. What’s the name for the science of growing apples?
14. How many pies can a bushel of apples make?
15. What fall month will you see a full corn moon?
16. Which U.S. state has named apple cider their official state drink?
17. Cranberries grow in water. True or false?

1. The autumnal equinox
2. Winter bananas or a melt-in-the-mouths
3. Football
4. They can spontaneously combust.
5. Harvest
6. The Egyptians
7. A gobbler
8. Psithurism (pronounced sith-yuh-riz-uhm)
9. Spiders that hatched in the spring have grown up and are now actively in their mating season!
10. Yellow and orange. The green is produced thanks to chlorophyll.
11. Anthocyanins
12. March through May
13. Pomology
14. Approximately 21 pies
15. September
16. New Hampshire
17. False — Cranberries grow on vines in the wetlands. These areas are typically flooded by harvest time.

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.



Color Me!



FALL IS HERE

SHOW OFF YOUR SMILE!

Are you interested in showing off your wonderful smile? The Mystic Media crew is here to help. If you submit a photo, you may appear in the Mystician Newspaper under the “Say Cheese!” column. How do you submit your photo? It’s simple! Scan the QR code. This will direct you to the Editor-in-Chief’s email address. Send your “Say Cheese!” submission. Make sure to include the first and last name of everyone in the photo. Also, remember to title the email “Say Cheese!”. Keep that smile shining, everyone!

SCAN ME!



SAY CHEESE!



Mygel Porter | Social Media Manager
Just Hanging Out - Kayless Jaensch and Jayne Yokom pose for a photo

* “My favorite part is the Homecoming volleyball match”

Emerson Carufel
Sophomore
Piper Harris
Sophomore



Hitting the Mark - Katie Schmidt tries her hand at axe throwing. The booth was led by Gate City Bank.

“My favorite part of Homecoming was the lasertag. My friend and I went, and it was really fun!”

Rita Wise Spirit
Freshman



YEE HAW! - Merlin strolls the streets of Schafer, ready to wrangle unsuspecting students. Watch out freshmen, Merlin is looking for outlaws.

Go Mystics!

HOMECOMING WEEK

2025



Bragging Rights - Merlin proudly points at center hit.



Campus Cowboy - Edward Rekdal holds on tight as mechanical bull draws a crowd.



Eat on! - Students lined up for the pizza wars competition. Students were asked to judge the different pizza places in town.

* “My favorite part was all the hype going around campus.”
Hope Carslen

“All the events that I’ve been to have been really fun! My favorites were definitely the Party on Schaffer and Laser Tag was so high energy it was really fun!”

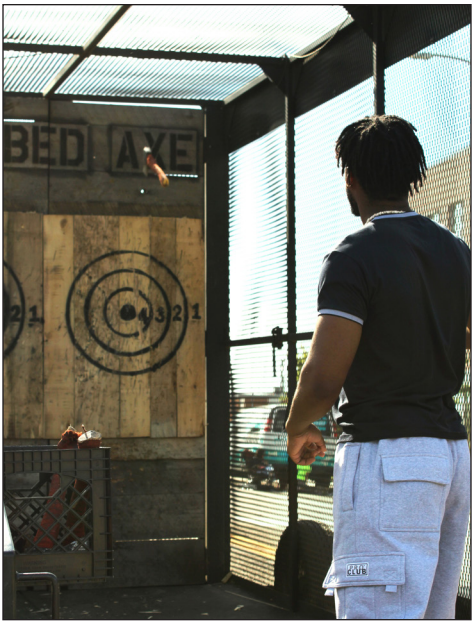
Jaxon Miller
Sophomore



Pie in the Face - Merlin prepares to pie a professor



A Mystic Bullseye - Arianna Beatty throws the axe attempting a Mystic bullseye



Swing and a bullseye? - Mygel Porter throws the axe attempting to hit the target.



Pew Pew - Students camp out on the defensive in a high stakes game of laser tag.