

# THE MYSTICIAN

February 2016 Bismarck State College

Furry Friends  
P8

Campus Crisis  
P12

#LetsGetMystical  
P20



# Bismarck State College News Magazine

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**On the cover:**  
Bismarck State College went into lockdown for over four hours on Jan. 14 after a credible threat was posted on Twitter about a potential shooter in the library.  
Photo by: Katie Winbauer

## From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to the Spring 2016 semester! Does anyone else feel like time won't slow down?



This semester brings different things for different students. But, no matter what the case is, we as Bismarck State College students all had something affect us this semester.

For those of us who were on campus on Jan. 14, we will never forget the feeling of hearing Dr. Skogen announce the lockdown over the intercom. For those of you who were at home or at work, you will remember the feeling of reading your Facebook feed filled with reports of a potential shooter on campus.

I don't want to dwell on the lockdown, but I do want to point out the impact that day had on all of us as a group. Whether we cared for the classmates we were with or not, we all bonded over the uncertainty of those few hours and hoped that each and every person would end up safe.

Now, we've had various opportunities to share stories and experiences from that day. We can laugh about the girl peeing in a bucket, or raise concerns about the doors that wouldn't lock, but at the end of the day, we are all, as a campus, safe.

Experiences like that of the lockdown always make me think about my life: What I can do better, what I'm spending my time on, who I surround myself with. I want to encourage you to think about those things. Think about what you can do this semester and where you can go in life. Let your time at BSC be the first stepping stone in the maze of life.

Always,

Katie Winbauer  
Editor-in-Chief

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Submit your stories to Room 125 in the Armory or by emailing [editor@mystician.org](mailto:editor@mystician.org).



# Boreal Gardens

## Brings Variety to Local Music

Story and photos by: Adam Pfeifer

BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA may not be well known for producing extensive amounts of creative and fresh music, but there are still groups who create and grow into new fields of sonic mastery. One such group is the band Boreal Gardens.

Boreal Gardens is a local musical ensemble consisting of seven members who periodically perform at various venues around town. The band members play a variety of instruments ranging from the trumpet to the keyboard.

Andrew Larrivee, a former Bismarck State College student, pioneered the group in 2013. Other members include Ben Thompson, Dave Diebel, Gus Lindgren, Richard Lowen, Ryan Duffy and Sky Froelich.

"I had just written a bunch of songs and they just started as ideas in my head, I would go on walks and I would come up with these melodies," Larrivee said. "That was always my goal. I always wanted to be in a band where we played original music."

Larrivee is a guitarist, lead singer and a prominent songwriter for the band.

"Andrew was trying to get people together," Lindgren said. "He and Richard had been in a band before and they wanted to play each other's songs."

Lindgren is the keyboardist, as well as a singer and part songwriter of Boreal Gardens.

"You wouldn't think it would work just making a band like making a snowball, but it kinda did," Lindgren said.

The group is not quite able to fit a single genre despite having clear rock roots. This is because the songwriting comes in a free form that stems from all of the bandmates. They work collectively on creating new and well thought out songs.

“Classic rock, there’s probably definitely some influences there from listening to the Beatles as a kid, but I like pushing forward,” Larrivee said. “Most of the songs I write, I’m not trying to write particular style, it just kinda comes. I rarely have to force it, it just comes through like some spirit is telling me what to do.”

Larrivee said that he usually creates the melodies first and composes some lyrics to go with it second.

**“You wouldn’t think it would work just making a band like making a snowball, but it kinda did.”**

**-Gus Lindgren, Boreal Gardens member**

“I came into songwriting a little bit later,” Froelich said. “I started writing lyrics five years ago, but I don’t have enough time to focus on it as much as I like.”

Sky Froelich is the bassist and occasional guitarist for Boreal Gardens and has played the French horn in the past.

“I certainly don’t aspire to fit into a genre,” Froelich said. “Whenever I write a song I never think, ‘this is Blink182 influenced pop-punk’ or something like that. They’re folk songs that are meant to be played in a band.”

Boreal Gardens is scheduled to perform at Laughing Sun Brewery Company on

Feb. 27 and March 19. They hope to get their first album finished sometime within the next couple of months. More information can be found on the Boreal Gardens Facebook page.

*(Adam Pfeifer is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.)*



**In the photo:** Andrew Larrivee and Ben Thompson practice “Broken Promises” at Rhythm Records, a local music shop owned by Richard Lowen.

# New Radio Station Focuses on Local Community

Story and photos by: Erik Mattheis

DAKOTA MEDIA ACCESS, a nonprofit media center in Bismarck, decided to take the initiative and build a FM radio station, under the name of KDAK 102.5.

In order to distinguish themselves, KDAK will be playing music that isn't typically played on other stations. KDAK will also host talk shows on a variety of topics for entertainment and

will keep listeners up to date with the government by providing a feed from local meetings.


"We had planned to develop a radio station around five years ago," Mary Van Sickle, Executive Director at Dakota Media Access, said. "We actually pursued a full power license quite a few years ago. We were a finalist but were bought out at the eleventh hour and decided to not go that route. When the low power licenses opened up with the FCC, we decided to pursue that which turned into an 18 month process to just receive the license."

After receiving the license, Dakota Media Access had a span of 18 months to get on the air.

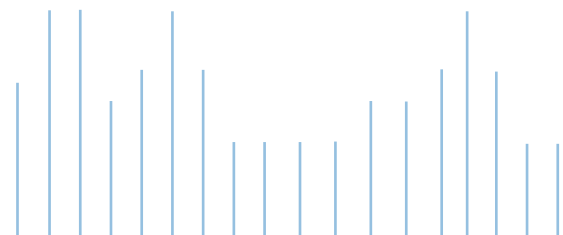
Van Sickle thinks that this new station will affect DMA and possibly the community of Bismarck-Mandan.

"Dakota Media Access is the umbrella organization. We run four cable channels, a web distribution system with a whole lot of online content, a film festival that is conducted every year, and now we have a radio station and run a community member training center. We have a lot of people that go in and out," she said.

DMA will now loan out equipment for audio production. Van Sickle said, "[The



**In the photo:**  
Anyone from the community can produce a show for KDAK, Dakota Media Access' new FM radio station.



radio operation] is just another tool for us to do community media operations for the people in Bismarck-Mandan.”

The main priority of this new station is keeping it local. One thing Van Sickle decided KDAK would provide is coverage on meetings for local government entities such as the city commission, school board and park district.

“We cover around 240 meetings a year. They are live on the channel but they also replay. For KDAK, we are going to push those out live,” Van Sickle said. This new station will also be pushing out content from DMA.

Since KDAK is non-commercial and non-profit, it can provide services for the entire community. The content will be diverse and can range from African tribal music to marching band music.

“Concerts, local churches with a possible choir group, local bands and organizations, and even orchestras will play because they are audio centered,” Van Sickle said. “The rest of the content is mostly up to the community. We already have a number of local producers that are bringing us their regular programs so they have a regular time slot.”

**In the photo:**  
Mary Van Sickle, Dakota Media Access Executive Director, said there are already a number of local producers that have regular time slots on the channel.



Local musicians can bring their CDs to DMA for the opportunity to have their music played on the station.

Students at Bismarck State College will also broadcast their shows. The 90-minute, student produced shows on The MYX will be carried on KDAK each week.

Anyone who wishes to produce a show on KDAK can, but must go through a certain amount of training beforehand.

“There was a new, steep learning curve because now we are dealing with the FCC. We have to make sure we have guidelines in place and that the producers know of this. There is also daily reporting that must be done and music licenses have to be purchased,” Van Sickle said.

Dakota Media Access is located downtown, at 307 N 4th St, Bismarck, ND.

*(Erik Mattheis is the Director of MystiCast. Reach him at [editor@mystician.org](mailto:editor@mystician.org).)*



# Organization Sends Impound Animals to Foster Homes

Story by: Ashley Thorpe

AT THE LOCAL animal impound, there are always too many. Too many smells, too many euthanizations, too many animals.

The Bismarck-Mandan Animal Impound Facility takes in animals off the street and waits for an owner to take claim or an animal lover to adopt. If those two things don't happen, after a certain amount of time, the impound goes through the euthanization process.

For former impound volunteers and current board members of the Furry Friends Rockin' Rescue organization, euthanization was a course of action they wanted to stop.

Brandi Schmidt, one of the board members of Furry Friends, was one of those who wanted to minimize euthanization.

"We formed to alleviate overcrowding and euthanization," Schmidt said. "The process was grueling."

The organization was founded in Aug. 2015, and it was a hard road to be recognized with the non-profit status that it received two months later in Oct. 2015. To become a non-profit organization, it is required to go through the Internal Revenue Service and the federal system. The reason that owners want to be known as a non-profit is that

when donors give money to the cause, they have the potential to write off those donations on their tax returns.

"We created [this organization] to get animals into the right homes," Schmidt said. "The animals that you do see out there just want love and attention."

The organization has no shelter, is foster based and is home checked. The eventual goal of every animal is to be adopted out of its foster home and into a permanent home. There is no permanent location to house the animals. Instead, the rescue sends animals to foster homes, where they find temporary homes and adapt to



loving family environments. Foster homes can shelter dogs, cats or both depending on home conditions. To become a foster home, the process is filling out an application and passing the home requirements.

“If the animal doesn’t work out in that foster home, we find somewhere else for it,” Schimdt said. “With fostering, you don’t have to commit long term.”

All vaccination and sterilization appointments are paid for and taken care of before the animals are adopted. The rescue pays for the medical expenses and the foster parents transport the animal to and from the veterinarian’s office. If there are additional medical expenses for situations in which the animal is injured, the rescue pays for that as well. One occurrence of this was with a two-year-old cat named Estella.

“We got a call before Christmas from a girl who found a cat with a huge gash in the side of her body about the size of a dollar bill,” Schimdt said. “We took her in, cared for her and healed her. She’s one of the animals that is now ready to be adopted.”

Another animal that Schimdt remembers well was one of the first dogs brought into the organization from the impound. A dog by the name of Bogey had a knack for fetching balls, so Furry Friends decided to have Bogey take a test through the South Dakota Canine Center for search and rescue.

“He did so well on the search and rescue test,” Schimdt said. “The only section he didn’t pass was his jumping test. He can’t jump up to counter height, and we think it’s because of his previous owners probably getting angry with him when he jumped up on the counters at home.”

Bogey went on to be adopted by a farmer living in Coleharbor, N.D. and now, according to Furry Friends, Bogey follows the farmer everywhere around town.

“We’ve heard stories of the dog sitting in the bar with his owner,” Schimdt said. “It’s great to see how well it turned out.”

The main mission of Furry Friends Rockin’ Rescue covers four different points: Firstly, to rescue animals from a hazardous situation. Secondly, to foster

an animal by placing it into a stable home. Thirdly, to adopt an animal into the right home with the right people. Finally, to educate the importance of spay and neutering pets.

Like many non-profit organizations, help from the community is a key part to the overall success of Furry Friends. The rescue is always looking for extra help.

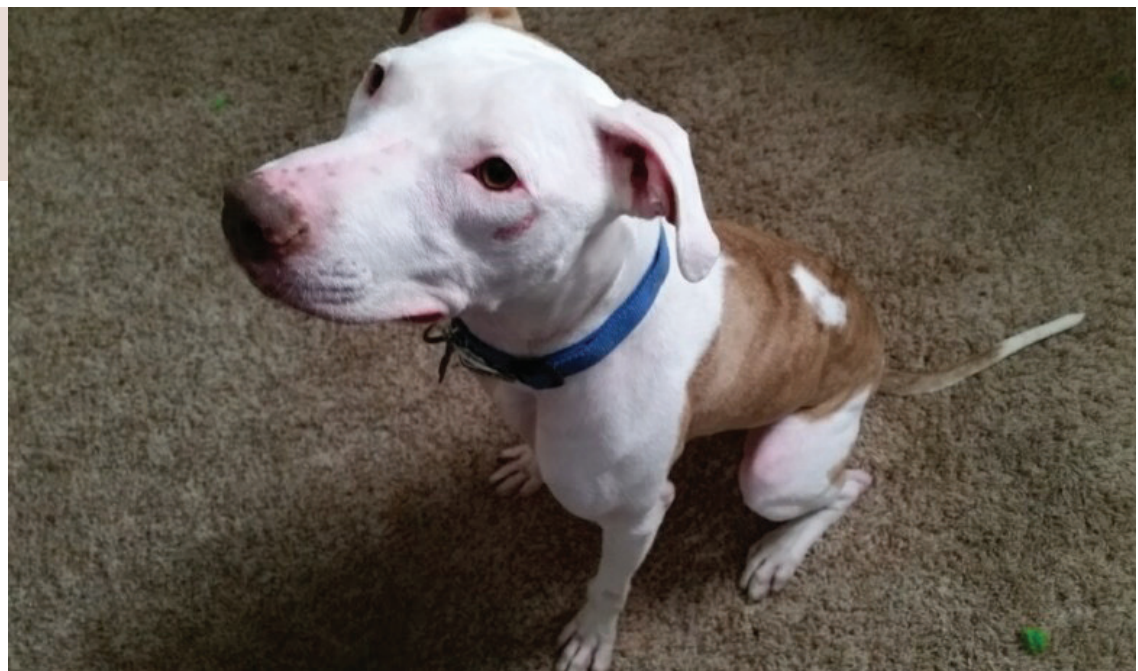
“Monetary donations are always needed for vet expenses,” Schimdt said. “None of us are paid, everyone on the board has jobs we go to.”

Dog food, cat food and cat litter can be donated to the rescue as well. Foster families are a vital part to this organization, and it doesn’t require the long term commitment that comes with adopting a pet.

If interested in donating or becoming a foster family, visit the Furry Friends website at [www.furryfriendsrockinrescue.org](http://www.furryfriendsrockinrescue.org) or visit their facebook page.

*(Ashley Thorpe is the copy editor for The Mystician. Reach her at [editor@mystician.org](mailto:editor@mystician.org).)*

**In the photos:**  
2-year-old tortie, Estella (left) and 2-year-old pitbull cross, Jack (right) are ready to be adopted and go to a loving home.



# Guts & Glory

Story by: Meghan McNeil

IN 2010, Bismarck-Mandan produced their first roller derby team. Since then, there have been three established teams in the area: the Bombshellz, Bombzillaz and the nationally ranked men's team, the Bomberz. They have gained 31 participants and are still enrolling players into their training program.

Not only did they hip-whip the competition, they also made a difference in the community.

"I think a lot of people see roller derby as something minor to our community, but it is really far from it," roller derby participant Danny Smith said.

The group has experienced major success and hardships, with attendance rising and falling between bouts.

"We are a non-profit, so getting sponsors and our name out there is super hard," Smith said. "People think 'roller derby' and don't go

anywhere past girls in fishnets skating, and what they don't see is how much we contribute to the community."

The players are not only required to be at practices but also must participate in volunteer work.

"We volunteer for the community whenever we get a chance," Smith said. "It is actually required of us to be in the league."

The league donates a portion of the proceeds from each competition to a different charity of the team's choice.

"Our upcoming bout is going to Prairie Public Broadcasting," Smith said.

The next bout is April 9 and tickets can be purchased in advance in these locations: Main Street Liquor, Station West Bar & Grill, Hot Topic and Laughing Sun Brewery Company. All children under the age of six are allowed in free.

"I think it would be awesome to see more people attend," Smith said. "And I have a lot of reasons, but I think the biggest one is to support the community."

The team would like to reach out to all who are interested in attending the bouts or signing up for the team itself.

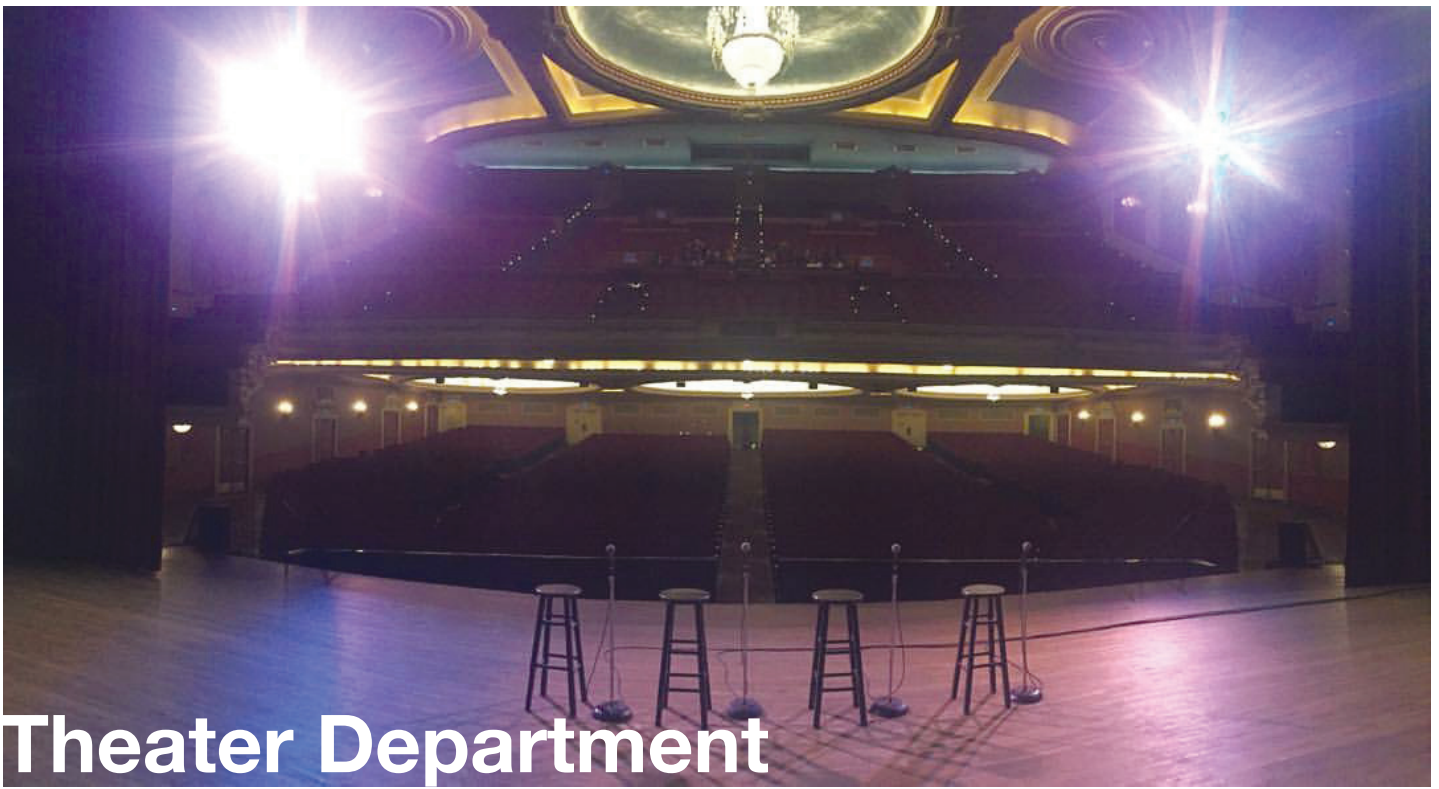
"I am willing to bet that not very many people know about our men's team being nationally ranked," Smith said. "That is a huge accomplishment and I wish we had a bigger fan base to support all our teams!"

*(Meghan McNeil is the Scoop editor for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)*



#### In the photos:

There are three established roller derby teams in the Bismarck-Mandan area. Their bouts take place at the Bismarck Event Center. Photo by: Chad Nodland



# Theater Department Attends National Festival

Story and photo by: Alexis Larson

MEMBERS OF the Bismarck State College theater department attended the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival January 17 - 23.

KCACTF is a national theater program with 18,000 students from colleges and universities nationwide. Each year, regional festivals showcase the finest of each region's entered productions and offer a variety of activities, including workshops, symposia and regional-level award programs.

"I coached and cleaned up the pieces the nominees had chosen," Danny Devlin, BSC's assistant professor of theatre said. "It's a long and tough process, and the Irene Ryan competition featured some of the finest undergraduate and graduate level actors from Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota and of course, North Dakota."

Anyone active in BSC's drama club could attend the conference, but only those chosen by KCACTF judicators could compete. Shaina Hovrud and Robert Day were chosen from the fall play and Taylor Jung and Alicia Billock from the winter play. Each got the

chance to compete against over 300 students across the region.

"I was really surprised when I got nominated, I wasn't expecting it but I was super honored," Billock said. "I thought we did really well. All our feedback was great and even though I didn't advance to the second round, it was still a great opportunity."

Day and Hovrud were also selected to showcase a scene they performed during the "Dog Sees God" production, in the scene nomination category. There were 200 shows entered to be eligible for the category and only 10 scenes were selected to perform at the showcase.

"When I was told that our scene was selected for KCACTF I was like, 'holy crap.' It was an honor and very exciting to be able to showcase to the rest of the region what we had been working on," Hovrud said. "I was more excited to do the scene showcase than competing in Irene Ryan competition because this wasn't something every school got the opportunity to do."

KCACTF is not just an opportunity for actors; there is also a competition for

stage crew. Stage crew showdown is a technical theater competition where members compete in five events including tying knots, prop set up and costume quick change. The top four teams competed in finals and the winners were awarded the golden wrench. There is also a spirit award for the teams with the best cheering team during the competition.

"Ramrod, BSC's stage crew team, practiced hard and although we didn't come home with the golden wrench, we felt accomplished and happy to be part of KCACTF," Jonah Eslinger, stage crew member, said.

Although none of the Irene Ryan nominees or the stage crew advanced to the next round, Devlin said they represented BSC well.

"I'm already looking forward to next year's program, and anticipate continued success for our student actors, both as part of the Irene Ryan competition, and the broader context of the academic opportunities at KCACTF," he said.

*(Alexis Larson is the producer of MystiCast. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)*

# Campus Crisis:

## When Safety is Threatened

Story by: Katie Winbauer



### In the photo:

On Jan. 14, police agencies in the Bismarck-Mandan area were called to the scene at Bismarck State College after the FBI received a credible threat of a shooter on campus. Photo by: Katie Winbauer

ON THURSDAY, Jan. 14, Bismarck State College students received an email from the North Dakota Universities notification system that read, "ATTENTION - ALL CAMPUS. Lockdown and shelter in place immediately. Close and lock office doors. Stay in place until all clear is provided. This is not a test."

That message was not just sent by email, but also by text and phone call. But even before that message was sent, Bismarck State College President Larry Skogen announced over the intercom system that all of campus is in lockdown and emphasized that this was not a drill.

Around 11 a.m. that day, the FBI contacted Duane Johnson, BSC's campus safety and security manager, and told him there was a Tweet sent from a potential shooter.

"When the FBI calls you and says, 'you have a credible threat of a shooter on your campus,' you have to respond to that," Skogen said.

Skogen said Johnson called together the Campus Crisis Committee, which consists of 15 members, and in the minutes that followed, they decided to lockdown the entire campus.

"When we walked into the room, this was not a foreign conversation for us," Skogen said. "What was foreign to us, was that this was real – that you've got to make a decision now."

He also said that the decision was made quickly, and he doesn't know what else they could've done.

"Locking down the whole campus was the right decision, I believe," Skogen said. "You've got to go on

the assumption that the worst could happen."

Around 30 minutes after the initial lockdown email, another message was sent. "BSC UPDATE: The Bismarck Police is currently working with our campus police searching LEA [Library, English, Arts] Hall. We had received a credible threat from the FBI that a student had threatened to shoot up the library with a machine gun, a picture of which was posted with the threat. We've locked down campus to stop traffic on campus. Remain in place until the police have completed their search and have given us an all clear."

"As it turned out, when the police got here they knew that the telephone was on campus, but they didn't know where," Skogen said.

Skogen said that after the lockdown was in place, the police took over and decided how it would be handled.

Ashley Ficek, a BSC student, was in lockdown in LEA Hall, where the initial



In the photos (below): Students in LEA Hall were asked to show identification and were patted down by officers before they were cleared to leave. Photos by: Ashley Ficek

threat was. She was in a ceramics class, and her teacher blocked the door with carts of pottery. She said the scariest part was when there was knocking on the door.

“We didn’t know it was the police, so we were all very scared,” Ficek said. “I hugged a girl I just met to feel safe.”

Although there were some scary parts of the lockdown for Ficek, she said she thinks it’s amazing how the police handled it and found it comforting to see armed officers in the building.

“It changed the way I look at police officers so much,” Ficek said. “I’m not sure what they could do different.”

Messages from the notification system continued throughout the lockdown, giving students some clarification on what was happening. The all clear message was given about four and a half hours after the lockdown started, and classes were cancelled for the rest of the day.

Later that evening, news reports came out that a 16-year-old boy was tracked through his cell phone in connection to the threat being posted on Twitter.

The teen was taken into custody after being tracked to a school bus that was stopped north of Bismarck, near Washburn. There were no weapons found on the suspect.

Skogen said he has not seen the actual Tweet that was sent out by the alleged suspect.

Skogen also said he feels very fortunate because other schools have dealt with this, and it has not ended “as well” as this did.

“In the end, it was a perfect day. No one was hurt and the perpetrator was caught,” he said. “It’s just unfortunate that we had to go through it and that it had to last four and half hours.”

The week after the lockdown, Skogen met with the Campus Crisis Committee to talk about different lessons learned.

The state board budget and finance committee gave BSC permission to spend money on locking systems because of raised concerns over doors that only lock from the outside.

(Continued on next page)



(Story continued)

Skogen said that many doors on campus have to be locked from the outside by someone with a key, and in some cases, the faculty member doesn't have a key to the room they may be in. A focus of the crisis committee will be to do whatever possible to put the campus in a better position if this would happen again.

Another lesson Skogen said they learned was that the messages from the notification systems need to state the campus that is affected. When the initial message came out, it didn't specify BSC's campus and there are students who are enrolled with BSC

but are also part of other campuses. Students located at different schools still got the notification, not knowing which campus was on lockdown.

Skogen said this type of situation hasn't happened on BSC's campus in the history of its existence, but he said he never believed it couldn't happen.

"It had been 76 years that this college had not been locked down, so I'm hopeful we can go another 76 years," he said.

*(Katie Winbauer is the editor-in-chief for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)*



In the photo: President Larry Skogen said he feels fortunate that the day of the lockdown ended the way it did, with everyone being safe. Photo by: Katie Winbauer

## Tips:

1. Carry your cell phone at all times. A lockdown can happen while you're in the bathroom or running across the hall.
2. Don't post your location on social media. You don't know who the potential shooter is, and sadly, it could be a Facebook friend.
3. Keep snacks and water in your school bag or purse. Lockdowns can take 20 minutes or they can take four hours.
4. Keep the door locked, the lights off and the blinds closed at all times. You never know who is trying to look in at any given moment.
5. Take it seriously. Lockdowns happen for a reason and being a class clown won't keep your peers safe.



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### FOUR AREA LOCATIONS

1727 State Street  
Bismarck  
(701) 255-9000

919 South 7th Street  
Bismarck  
(701) 530-9000  
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Mandan  
(701) 663-8000

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bismarcknurse@firstchoiceclinic.com



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## Feb. 8 - 19

Buy one, get one 50% off  
clothing or gifts  
at the BSC Bookstore!

# News Briefs

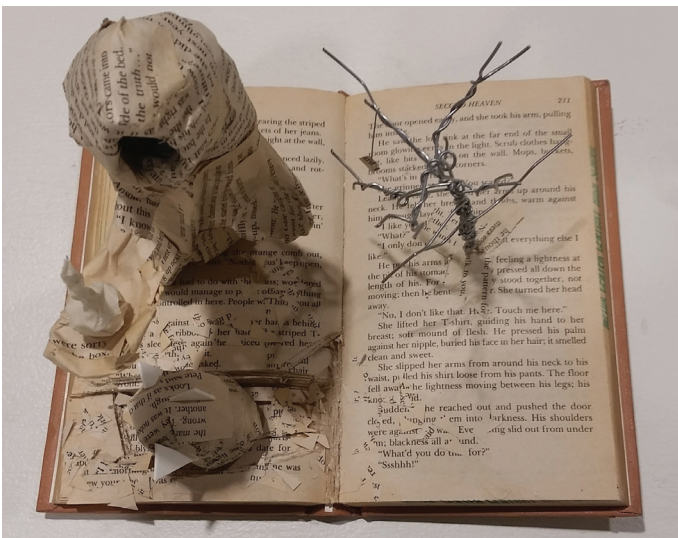
## Dakota Stage

Dakota Stage Ltd. will be starting its second comedy season with live stand-up comedy this February. Headlining this show will be Tommy Thompson on Feb. 12 and 13 at 8 p.m. Concessions will be available for purchase at the theater and a cash bar will be provided in house. Tickets are \$18 per person when purchased online in advance. Tickets will also be available at the box office for \$20 one hour before the show. Doors will open at 7 p.m. for general admission. This is an adult only show featuring mature language and content.

For tickets and information visit [www.dakotastageltd.com](http://www.dakotastageltd.com), email [execdir@dakotastageltd.com](mailto:execdir@dakotastageltd.com) or call 701-258-4998.

## Gannon Gallery

The Gannon Gallery spring schedule is out. The Century High School exhibit will be displayed until Feb. 11. "Souls of Silver" by Shane Balkowitsch will be on display from Feb. 16 - March 11. The Annual Visual Art Faculty exhibition will be on display from March 15 - April 15 with a reception on March 24 from 4 - 6 p.m. The Juried Student Visual Art exhibition will be on display from April 20 - May 13.



## H & M

H & M, a fashion retail chain, is opening a store in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Renovations begin March 1 for the 22,000 square-foot store that will be located on the south end of Kirkwood Mall. The store will be next to JC Penny, taking over the space that was formerly Arby's and HotSpring Spas.

Men's, women's and children's clothing will be sold at H & M, as well as beauty products and accessories. The store is set to open in the fall.

## Refugees

Prior to an upcoming vote in the Senate for the American Security against Foreign Enemies (SAFE) Act of 2015, Retired Brigadier General Murray G. Sagsveen sent letters to Senators Heitkamp and Hoeven this past weekend to show his concern regarding the anti-refugee bill that passed in the House late last year. This bill would effectively halt the resettlement of Syrian and Iraqi refugees in the United States.

For more information, contact Gabby Brown at 914-261-4626.



# Athlete Spotlight

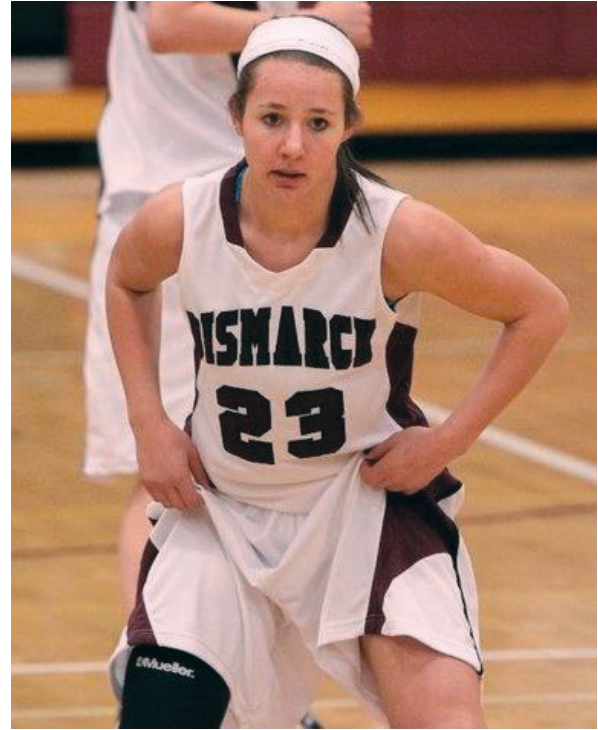
Story by: Ashlee Hilzendeger

Name: Keisha Engelhardt

Position: Point Guard

Sport: Basketball

Year: Sophomore



## In the photos:

Keisha Engelhardt was named player of the week last December for the women's basketball team at Bismarck State College. She is a Bismarck native and is one of the lead scorers for the Mystics team this season.

Photos submitted

KEISHA ENGELHARDT is one of the lead scorers for the Mystics women's basketball team this season. On Jan. 18, Engelhardt added 24 points and 11 rebounds to help the Mystics win a close and exciting game against United Tribes, 100 - 99. She was also named player of the week in December of 2015 for the women's basketball team. Within that time span of just one week, two games, she dropped 47 points, 20 rebounds, 11 assists and 5 steals. Engelhardt averages 22.4 points, and 9.5 rebounds a game.

This season, the Mystics are 13 - 3. "Our team this year is pretty similar to last year, the new players have filled in

the roles of our graduated sophomores quite well," Engelhardt said. "We have a tough conference and all the teams are very competitive, which makes it fun and also gives us an opportunity to get better every game."

Engelhardt grew up in the heart of North Dakota. She attended Bismarck High School, where she led her team to a 3rd place finish at the state tournament her senior year. This will be her last year playing at Bismarck State, but this will not be the end to her tremendous basketball career. Engelhardt plans to continue playing the game, she is just undecided as to where at this point.

She has built relationships on and off the court with all of her teammates, high school and college. "The most influential people are my teammates because they have pushed me to be a better player and person in life," Engelhardt said.

The next home game is on Feb. 9, where the Mystics will take on United Tribes Technical College at 6 p.m. with the men's game following shortly after.

*(Ashlee Hilzendeger is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)*



# Mystic Basketball Schedule

## Women's

- Thursday, Feb. 4 – North Dakota State College of Science, BSC Armory, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 9 – United Tribes Technical College, BSC Armory, 6 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 11 – at Lake Region State College, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 15 – Williston State College, BSC Armory, 6 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 18 – at Dawson Community College, 7 p.m.

## Men's

- Thursday, Feb. 4 – North Dakota State College of Science, BSC Armory, 8 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 9 – United Tribes Technical College, BSC Armory, 8 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 11 – at Lake Region State College, 8:30 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 15 – Williston State College, BSC Armory, 8 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 18 – at Dawson Community College, 9 p.m.



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Photo by: John Bettger

# State of the Senate

WE'VE JUST gotten into the swing of second semester and Student Government has already seen significant changes – namely, I am not John. At the end of last semester, former Student Government President John Bettger stepped down from his role, thus promoting me to his position and reducing the dynamic duo of “The Beard and the Blonde” to just “The Blonde.” The decision was not an easy one to make, but he and I are both comfortable with going forth as we did.

Naturally, an introduction is in order. My name is Marcie Woehl and this is my last semester attending Bismarck State College. I will be graduating this spring with an Associate in Arts and an Associate in Science. I intend

to pursue a degree in Philosophy and then law school. On campus, I am active in Phi Theta Kappa, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble and tutoring; my activities keep me busy, but the experiences I've gained through each organization have contributed so much to my time as a student. In fact, I'd like to wholeheartedly encourage all of you to take part in the variety of clubs and organizations on campus; they will enrich your college experience more than you'd think.

John and I had set up an ambitious platform when we campaigned last year, and I intend to follow through with our goal to make a lasting difference on campus. One project in particular I plan to pursue is the addition of more practice rooms for

the music students here. As anyone knows, practice makes perfect, and it's important that we facilitate the pursuit of perfection as much as we possibly can. As for a bit of a larger scale project, Student Government is eager to pursue our idea to start BSC's first ever MystiFest, a multi-day event across campus with a variety of events, booths, food trucks and live music for the students and community to enjoy. We feel like this is exactly the kind of end of year event that everyone can look forward to.

As always, feel free to reach out to me or any of the Student Government representatives with thoughts, questions or ideas. We'll be happy to hear from you!

-Marcie Woehl



THE MYSTICIAN

Bismarck State College


Our office moved!

Find the editors in the Armory  
-Room 125-



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# MASTER SWORD REVIEW



## The 32 Year Wait

Story by: Brett Williamson

THE BATTLE ended on the silver screen in 1983 with Return of the Jedi. It has been 32 years since the Rebel Alliance and company took down the Empire's second Death Star and ended Emperor Palpatine's iron fist rule over the galaxy. Many cannoned books, comics and games continued the story following the aftermath of the Battle of Endor. Fans knew it was just a matter of time to see the story told on the big screen.

In October of 2012, George Lucas, creator of Star Wars, sold Lucasfilms and the rights to Star Wars, to The Walt Disney Company. Once Disney had Star Wars under its creative control, it announced a release of a follow up film to Return of the Jedi. Disney made it official all books, comics and games following the events of Return of the Jedi un-cannon (they don't count as officially story). Disney put J.J. Abrams at the helm to direct the film.

On Dec. 18, Star Wars: The Force Awakens was released following the events of Return of the Jedi 30 years after the fall of the Emperor. The anticipated film brought in \$1.872 billion since opening day and is praised on Rotten Tomatoes with a 93% rating.



The "all new original" story by Abrams starts with a droid carrying vital secret information on a desert planet with the Republic (the Rebels) and The First Order (the Empire) in hot pursuit. Along the journey, the droid comes

across a lone scavenger, Rey. The duo eventually escape from the First Order, with assistance from Han Solo, and takes down the planet sized weapon threatening the galaxy. By the end of the movie, Rey has become force sensitive and is looking for further training from the last Jedi, Luke Skywalker.



That is almost the exact same plot from Star Wars: A New Hope with a dash of The Empire Strikes Back. For more than 30 years fans have waited to see what happens next, and they were given basically a reboot. Which is a shame, because Disney owned all the previous stories that were written, but decided they wanted to be original by copying the first movie.

As for the writing of the movie, it seemed rushed to get all the original characters in one film. The film promised original actors playing their original roles. Trying to cram Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill, not to mention all the others originals characters C-3PO, R2D2 and Chewbacca, and the introduction of four new main characters, Rey, Fin, Poe Dameron and Kylo Ren, resulted in fast paced scenes with poor character development. By the time Han Solo bit the dust, I was glad he was put out of his misery. It is no wonder Harrison Ford wanted his character to be killed off.

I could complain about the deus ex machina of Rey's sudden force use and open up the forum about an inexperienced Jedi, technically not

even a padawan, taking down a near Sith Lord on the first attempt, but I want to talk lore. By the time Return of the Jedi concluded the original trilogy, there was an established lore. We had A-wings, Tie Interceptors, Y-wings, B-Wings and Tie Bombers, but all that was thrown aside for recognizable X-wings and Tie Fighters. Why did they throw all that out? Was it because the target audience would not recognize them?

I could go on all day about this, but the Mystican cuts my reviews to one page. The movie was not terrible, but for a Star Wars film, I have expectations. The action scenes were fun, the effects and visuals were captivating and seeing Stars Wars turn back to aspects of the original trilogy was a nice change from the recent prequel trilogy. Over all it is a mediocre movie. A lot of potential that was failed to be seized. Two out of five.

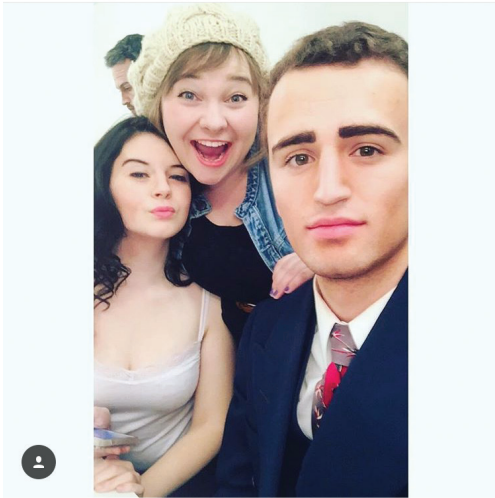
<b>2 out of 5</b>				
<b>Could Have Been Better</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Great Special Effects</li> <li>+ Han Solo and Chewbacca</li> <li>- Unoriginal Story</li> <li>- Ingored Previous Lore</li> <li>- Rushed Character Development</li> </ul>				

In a recent interview with PBS host Charlie Rose, Lucas said in regards to his Star Wars characters, "I loved them, I created them, I am very intimately involved in them." Lucas continued the interview by saying, "I sold them to the white slavers that takes these things, and..." Lucas then trailed off. Lucas apologized for the statement later that week.

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

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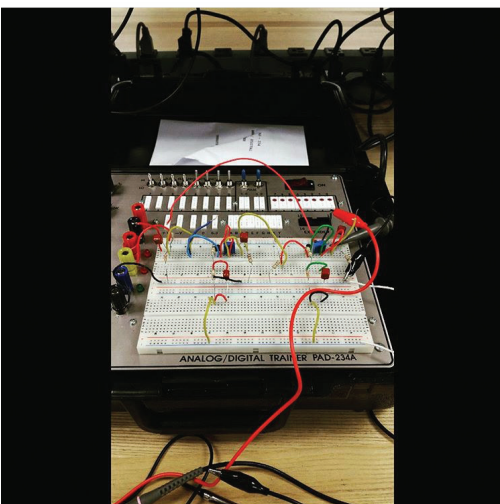
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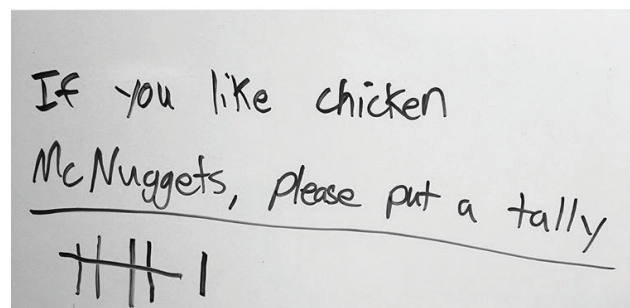
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# Staff Editorial:

## Contributors:

Jordan Bitz

Erik Mattheis

Devin Stelter

Ashley Thorpe

**Contact Us:** [editor@mystician.org](mailto:editor@mystician.org)

## Mission Statement:

The purpose of college media is to serve and give voice to students. We, as the student-based forum of journalism on campus, provide content that is informative, fair and concise. With this goal in mind, the news-magazine is dedicated to accuracy and maintaining ethical practices.

The Bismarck State College Mystician strives to be objective and is not affiliated with any outside organization.

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

## Disclaimer:

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual writer and not necessarily shared by Bismarck State College or the Mystician Staff. We welcome comments and letters from our readers. All letters to the editor must be signed and include contact information.

## Agenda:

We, as the student-based forum of journalism provide information that is important to Bismarck State College's campus. The Mystician Staff strives to give a voice to student issues and policies within the local community. Our goal is to incorporate as many students as possible and be an outlet for student expression.

The truth, fact-based opinions and informative sources are important to us as a staff. With these three standards, The Mystician will be well-written, respected and relevant.

# Locked Down

ON THURSDAY, Jan. 14, Bismarck State College went into lockdown because of a credible threat notification from the FBI. It seemed as if the world stood still for the first half hour after Dr. Skogen made the announcement. Students were located all over campus, and each of their experiences were different. There are multiple perspectives from The Mystician staff about how the incident unfolded for them. Here are some of those stories.

**Devin Stelter:** I had just finished eating lunch in the union and was relieving myself in the bathroom. I was the only one in the bathroom when I heard the call for a lockdown over the PA system. I quickly finished up and mall-walked to the SGA offices where other students were taking shelter. I was the last one in the room, so I had to sit in the middle of the room with nothing to lean on. I remember being very concerned at the whereabouts of my girlfriend, Meagan. I stopped panicking when I found out that she was safe. My ass went numb within the first hour of sitting there, as I do not have much padding to sit on. There were so many different rumors swirling about what was going on, but I ignored most of them. I made sure to text my mom and let her know that I was safe. After four hours, I finally got to leave and then pretty much went straight to work.

**Ashley Thorpe:** I wasn't at the school when BSC went into lockdown. I got numerous notifications from the school and frantic text messages from friends and family. The first hour or so when we didn't know if there was an active shooter was definitely terrifying, as I had a lot of friends and classmates locked down in the buildings. But after it was confirmed that there was no active shooter, I went home and watched Grey's Anatomy.

**Erik Mattheis:** I was in the National Energy Center of Excellence during this whole fiasco. I was learning about folder arrangement when all of a sudden I heard Skogen on the intercom saying that we were on lockdown. My class and I then rushed into the camera storage area where a total of 10 people were stuck in there for around five hours. Texts, emails and phone calls were being sent out like mad while everyone was in the closet. We only had one casualty, Dusty's bladder. All of us had to use the bathroom and were desperately in need of food. We were nervous about the situation and had no idea about what was happening. My classmates and I then proceeded to reference TV shows such as Spongebob, Jimmy Neutron, etc. for entertainment and laughter. After a while, we went live on The MYX and explained the situation through our perspective. While live on the radio, we heard Skogen's voice proclaiming to the NECE that we could leave and everyone was ecstatic.

**Jordan Bitz:** I, too, was in the studio closet. Not where I wanted to spend the day, but I knew I was safe.

# Flint Water Crisis

Story by: Devin Stelter

A STATE OF emergency has been issued in the city of Flint, Michigan.

In April 2014, the state decided to switch the main water source for Flint from Lake Huron to the Flint River. The major reason for making the switch was to, of course, save money.

The state apparently did not know what a majority of Flint citizens already knew: the Flint River is absolutely disgusting.

Toxic amounts of lead from the Flint River leaked into the pipes that transported water to the residents of Flint.

This entire situation was allowed to happen because, allegedly, the State Department of Environmental Quality neglected to even test the water of the Flint River for corrosive properties.

You might ask yourself: how in the hell can a state department not test the drinking water, consumed by thousands of people, for corrosive materials? It is absolutely mind boggling that something as serious as testing drinking water was handled so poorly.

Well, it turns out that the EPA knew all the way back in April that testing of the water was not being done.

EPA Region Five Administrator, Susan Hedman, made the authoritative decision to not use any means to test or treat the water from the Flint River. Even more concerning, top officials lied about testing the water.

Stephen Busch, an official from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, was asked if testing was being done on the water from the Flint River. He replied, "The City of Flint...Has an Optimized Corrosion Control Program [and] conducts quarterly Water Quality Parameter monitoring at 25 sites and has not had any unusual results."

How insane is that? The irresponsibility from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to the EPA itself is astonishing.

I would not only call for the resignation of all of these individuals, but for criminal lawsuits to be filed against them as well.



Similarly, multiple class action lawsuits have been filed against the governor of the state, Rick Snyder.

I have a mixed review of how Governor Snyder has handled this situation so far. I commend him for not stepping down in order to help correct this massive wrong, but the wrong did occur under his leadership and he had to have known about the change in water source. He is doing the correct thing in trying to aid the community, but his resignation should be the next course of action.

There has to be accountability when handling major necessities such as drinking water. The amount of caution and precision demonstrated by the Michigan DEQ, the EPA and Governor Snyder was almost nonexistent in this debacle, and people have to be held accountable for that.

*(Devin Stelter is the P.O.V. editor for The Mystician. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.)*

## Thoughts Regarding Food I've Eaten

Story by: Jordan Bitz



I enjoy all kinds of food, except Chinese, but egg rolls are all right. I especially like Mexican. I am a firm believer that Taco Bell is better than Taco John's (admit it, Potato Olés aren't that special). My favorite type of food is New York City deli food (thanks to

810 Deli on 7th Ave. in Manhattan) and authentic Mexican food (thanks to Sal's in Madera, CA). I'll usually start this column out with "Today I ate a..." or "The other day I went to..." So, now that we've gotten that out of the way, let me share with you some thoughts about a sandwich I ate recently.

Last week, I ate a sandwich. It was a really good sandwich, from a place that I just recently started going to. It was an Angus Beef and Cheese on sourdough from Schlotzky's Deli on State St in town. Even though I recently started going to Schlotzky's, I must say that it would take a lot for me to stop going there. For just \$8, you can get a sandwich and a really big lemonade – a

combo that would cost twice as much in the Mystic Marketplace. The food at Schlotzky's does not disappoint. If you're looking for a traditional deli feel, this is it. They have a drive thru as well.

You all know that I am a sucker for deli food and good sandwiches, which is why I feel so good about Schlotzky's and their Angus Beef and Cheese. It's a simple yet delicious sandwich, perfect for a simple yet delicious person like myself.

Where should I go next? You know what I like. Email me at [jordan.r.bitz@ndus.edu](mailto:jordan.r.bitz@ndus.edu)

*(Jordan Bitz is the Director of The MYX. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.)*

# Point of View



## Beyond Our Borders

Story by: John Bettger

FOUR DAYS after he turned 18, my nephew and I arrived in “Sin City.” It was the middle of August 2014 when we departed on our epic seven day road trip. No real plan conceived, only a desire for adventure. We landed in Las Vegas and drove on the strip on our way to the Hoover Dam before returning to crash at Excalibur Hotel & Casino. The next day we experienced Death Valley, 130 degree heat with zero humidity. On the way to the coast we navigated through the rocky hills of Yosemite National Park, breathing in the high mountain air. While in San Francisco, we crossed the Golden Gate Bridge and walked the famous Haight-Ashbury area. One street peddler attempted to sell us some hash. Heading south along the Pacific Highway was the next logical step. Passing beach after spectacular beach, we came upon Big Sur, a defining location for all things California, an exotic location with surfers catching huge rolling waves. That night we witnessed the warm glow of a Pacific sunset. Time was catching up with us, so we jumped back on a main highway heading for Los Angeles. We raced to attend a Nine Inch Nails and Savage Garden concert at the Irvine Meadows Amphitheatre. We visited the Walk of Fame and the Hollywood sign, and returned to Las Vegas to walk the strip once more.

We traveled for seven days, across more than 2500 miles, from 282 feet below sea level to 9000 above and back down to zero. We crossed the world’s biggest dam, walked in the lowest valley and swam in the largest ocean. We saw Alcatraz, Santa Cruz, L.A. traffic, the birthplace of the counterculture movement and my nephew’s first rock concert. It was a trip neither of us will ever forget, something we will carry with us forever.

An all too common story shared by millions: working 9 to 5 at a mindless job, coming home to a collection of objects and vegging out to the latest episode of a compelling drama – only to feel empty and unfulfilled. We must each determine the plot line of our lives and where the scenes will take place. Dare to break from the monotonous tasks of daily life, from the mad rush to acquire possessions, instead seek to acquire experiences. Find out who you are and who you could be.

Traveling is often seen as a luxury for the wealthy and privileged. There are, however, creative solutions for even the most frugal traveler. Here are three adventurous options to consider.

The World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF) is a network of organizations that help organic farms find workers. In exchange for volunteering with a variety of

farming tasks, workers receive food, accommodations and an opportunity to explore the surrounding area. The whole world is available to see. Visit [www.wwoof.net](http://www.wwoof.net) for more information.

As the world becomes more interconnected, communication across cultures becomes increasingly sought after. Teaching English abroad is a simple way to submerge oneself in a foreign country, creating new relationships by sharing each other’s culture. To learn more, take a look at [www.interexchange.org/travel-abroad/teach-english](http://www.interexchange.org/travel-abroad/teach-english).

Every year, 4 million travelers go couch surfing. More than 400,000 hosts are available. Simply search around the desired location and find accommodations to stay for free. Create a profile and search at [www.couchsurfing.com](http://www.couchsurfing.com).

There is so much more the world has to offer than the security of North Dakota. By exploring new cultures, foods, music, traditions, songs and ways of life, we grow and develop our character. We should all seek to accumulate experiences to carry and share with others.

“The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page.”  
– St. Augustine.

*(John Bettger is the content editor for The Mystician. Reach him at [editor@mystician.org](mailto:editor@mystician.org).)*



**In the photo:**  
 P.J. Rackou,  
 Jonah Eslinger,  
 Elley Cannard  
 and Carly  
 Willoughby  
 were part of the  
 Ramrod crew  
 that competed in  
 the technical  
 competition  
 at KCACTF in  
 January.  
 Photo by:  
 Alexis Larson

## Feb. 4 - March 4 Calendar

2/4/16

- Xtreme Bull Riding & PRCA  
 Championship Session, Bismarck Event  
 Center, 7:30 p.m.

2/5/16

- Xtreme Bull Riding & PRCA  
 Championship Session, Bismarck Event  
 Center, 7:30 p.m.  
 - Bismarck Bobcats vs. Minnesota  
 Wilderness, VFW Sports Center, 7:15  
 p.m.

2/6/16

- Xtreme Bull Riding & PRCA  
 Championship Session, Bismarck Event  
 Center, 7:30 p.m.  
 - Bismarck Bobcats vs. Minnesota  
 Wilderness, VFW Sports Center, 7:15  
 p.m.  
 - Coed Walleyball Tournament, BSC  
 Aquatic Center  
 - Bis-Man Symphony, Belle Mehus  
 Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.  
 - Masks in the Moonlight, Sixteen03  
 Main Events, 5:30 p.m.

2/9/16

- KFYZ Radio Agri-International,  
 Bismarck Event Center, 9 a.m.

2/10/16

- KFYZ Radio Agri-International,  
 Bismarck Event Center, 9 a.m.

2/11/16

- White Chocolate foundation, photo  
 booth, V-day cards, BSC Student  
 Union, 1 p.m.

2/12/16

- Bismarck Bobcats vs. Minot, VFW  
 Sports Center, 7:15 p.m.  
 - Bismarck Tribune Sports Show,  
 Bismarck Event Center, 3 p.m.

2/13/16

- Bismarck Tribune Sports Show,  
 Bismarck Event Center, 10 a.m.  
 - Wibit, BSC Aquatic Center, 11 a.m.

2/14/16

- Valentine's Day  
 - Bismarck Tribune Sports Show,  
 Bismarck Event Center, 12 p.m.  
 - Wibit, BSC Aquatic Center, 12:30  
 p.m.

2/15/16

- BSC Closed  
 - Movie Day, Bismarck Public Library,  
 1:30 p.m.

2/17/16

- Phi Theta Kappa Orientation, LEA Hall  
 room 209, 2 p.m.  
 - Flashdance the Musical, Bismarck  
 Event Center, 7:30 p.m.  
 - Grocery Bag Bingo, BSC Student  
 Union, 6 p.m.

2/20/16

- A Little Bit of Magic, Dakota Stage, 2  
 p.m.  
 - Wibit, BSC Aquatic Center, 11 a.m.

2/21/16

- Wibit, BSC Aquatic Center, 12:30  
 p.m.

2/25/16

- Job Fair, NECE, 4 p.m.

2/26/16

- Bismarck Bobcats vs. Aberdeen, VFW  
 Sports Center, 7:15 p.m.

3/4/16

- Bismarck Bobcats vs. Minot, VFW  
 Sports Center, 7:15 p.m.  
 - Figments of Imagination submissions  
 due