THE Mystician
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Logan Hoff | Sports Information Director

Hooray! - Students cheer for the Mystics at the breast cancer awareness game on Wednesday, Oct. 14 in the Bavendick Center.

Team Supports Night to Remember

Natalie Lawrence
Reporter

The usually green Bavendick Center at Bismarck State College was transformed by shades of pink as the volleyball team took the court for its annual breast cancer awareness game. Pink jerseys, awareness shirts, and tribute photos filled the arena as the Mystics faced Dickinson State turning the match into more than a competition.

BSC Head Coach Kyle Kuether said the event has been a tradition since before he arrived, and its purpose reaches beyond breast cancer alone.

"We want to honor not just people that are fighting breast cancer, but any type of cancer," Kuether said.

Each year, the team highlights one guest of honor. Although the team did not have a guest this year, Kuether said the night remained meaningful because many players have personal connections to the cause.

"We've had girls on the team that have moms who have had breast cancer – grandmas, aunts," Kuether said. "I think it's personal to everybody in their own way."

The visual details of the night reflected that personal meaning. The coaches wore pink shirts, while the players competed in special pink jerseys. Before the match, the team also shared photos and a tribute slideshow recognizing the family members, friends, and loved ones each player chose to honor.

Junior defensive specialist Brooklyn Sand said the game gave the team a larger purpose beyond volleyball.

"It allows us to think of it as a bigger reason outside of just volleyball," Sand said. "Breast cancer affects a lot of families, and it's cool to have a game centered around it to raise awareness for those people that are going through it."

Brooklyn Sand played for her mother.

"My mom had breast cancer about 10 years ago, so I always love playing for her," Sand said.

Junior setter Aislyn Hogan played for her aunt.

"My aunt on my dads

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MYSTICMEDIA
BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE STUDENT PRODUCTIONS

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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.

Night to Remember

Cont. 1

side had breast cancer a few years ago," said Hogan. "It's great to dedicate a game to her."

Logan Hoff | Sports Information Director

All Smiles - Aislyn Hogan smiles at teammate.

Sand said the tribute slideshow allowed each player to recognize someone important to them.

"We all got to pick a special person that has meaning to us, and that'll get posted probably before the game," Sand said.

While the team hoped to win, Kuether said the night's success was measured by more than the final score.

"Obviously everybody wants to win," Kuether said. "But community wise, it's just coming together for one night and trying to be one community instead of just people at a game."

For the players, the match was a chance to compete for something bigger than themselves.

"Most of us have somebody that we dedicate this game to, so being able to play for them matters," Hogan said.

As the pink jerseys moved across the court and the tribute slideshow played for the crowd, the night became a reminder that the game meant more than points on a scoreboard.

Logan Hoff | Sports Information Director

High Five - Head coach Kyle Kuether high fives a player during the volleyball game.

"It's always fun to have a little more meaning to the games," Kuether said.

Logan Hoff | Sports Information Director

Let's Celebrate - Brooklyn Sand celebrates a point with her team.

Content Creators Summit Recap

Content Creator Summit Speakers Teach Students Tips of the Trade

Elena Sanchez
Reporter

On Oct. 9, Bismarck State College held the Content Creators Summit. Multiple content creators, professionals, and instructors came to the event. The summit had a featured keynote speaker as well as multiple breakout sessions for attendees. This year, the Content Creators Summit had fresh faces and a wide variety of speakers.

The Summit started with keynote speaker, Amy Allender. Allender is the mind and creator behind the 'Hey Minot' social media accounts across Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok. 'Hey Minot' is Allender's way of spreading positivity and information about Minot to others on social media. She was invited by Matt Fern, the Executive Director of Film North Dakota, to speak at the Summit. It was Allender's first time speaking at the Content Creators Summit.

While her breakout session discussed logistics behind her brand, Allender's keynote session placed heavy emphasis on mental health and the way it can be impacted when creating content on social media.

"There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about how much pain I was in mentally," Allender said. "There's not a day that goes by that I'm not grateful for recovery and for the help that I found along the way, and it was so hard speaking out."

Speaking out about mental health during her session was important to Allender, especially to a younger generation.

"I think it's important for young people, especially in the career field of content creation, where there's so much comparison and feedback instantly," Allender said. "You can really gain that approval and sense of self through your performance online and for me, that was really detrimental."

After her keynote session, Allender presented a breakout session that discussed how she set up collaborations, her brand, and the financial side. From being a keynote speaker and having her own breakout session, Allender plans to hopefully make a return to next year's Summit.

"I would love to come back if I came back as a breakout session," Allender said. "If I was to come back, I would hope to bring something very, very practical like that to the table again that these students can put into practice even immediately when they leave here today."

The first set of breakout sessions included the Reporters' Roundtable with four reporters talking about their experiences with journalism and answering students' questions. Grant Coursey, Jack Dura, Micheal Achterling, and Jacob Orledge discussed a variety of topics from what young journalists can expect going into the field to different tips that will help them.

For Dura and Coursey specifically, they came to speak to young journalists to connect with them. Dura is a reporter for the North Dakota Monitor and Coursey is a state government and politics reporter for the Bismarck Tribune.

"I believe a lot in encouraging journalists of the future," Dura said. "We need more storytellers, especially in North Dakota."

The Summit brought more than connection as both reporters felt that the event was beneficial and fun. Both reporters said they encourage other journalists and content creators to come to the Summit. Coursey is a repeat attender of the event whereas it was Dura's first time attending the event.

"It's always fun to sit down in a room with other journalists and talk to, hopefully, the future of journalism," Coursey said.

"I enjoyed asking my colleagues about how they got to where they are and tried to ask questions about things young journalists might want to know that I didn't necessarily have available to me when I started" Dura said.

It is unknown whether both journalists will return for next year's summit but both reporters can be found online. Coursey can be found through his work on his website grantcoursey.com or through the Bismarck Tribune. Dura and his work can be found through his author pages at apnews.com or northdakotamonitor.com.

For photographers, they also had breakout sessions available for them to attend. For Tanner Ecker, a photojournalist for the Bismarck Tribune, he collaborated with a photographer friend of his named Mike McCleary to hold a breakout session. Ecker explained that their session focused on composition and its importance to photographers.

"We kind of partnered up just to share the philosophy of how composition of photos really draws viewers and how to make that happen," Ecker said.

Their hope for the breakout session was similar to others: to connect with younger audiences and share their experiences, tips, and teach them something new. Ecker emphasized how sharing knowledge is powerful, especially to those entering the industry.

"We, as professionals, now have that experience, and we want to pass it along to the young ones, so they understand," Ecker said. "Photography is such a hard industry since it's competing with AI, and it's super competitive. So, it's really important, especially for the young ones, to understand how to get to that level."

Ecker encourages young photographers and students to take pictures whenever they can as it is best to take advantage of opportunities given. Additionally, if students wish to see Ecker's work, it is available on the Bismarck Tribune website at bismarcktribune.com, his own website at https://www.tannereckerphotography.com, or his Instagram @ecker.photography.

Elena Sanchez | Reporter

Words of Wisdom - Amy Allender speaking about her journey with mental health during the keynote session.

Elena Sanchez | Reporter

Welcome In - Matt Fern, Executive Director of Film North Dakota, giving the keynote introduction.

Content Creators Summit Offers Student Opportunities

Gracie Heinert
Reporter

Content creation can be more than just a hobby or something associated with influencers. For anyone interested in photography, writing, video, social media, radio, and more could lead to a career path. Bismarck State College's Content Creator Summit on Oct. 9 brought together professionals in these fields to help students explore these opportunities.

The event introduced students to different areas of creative media and featured more than 25 breakout sessions led by experts in media and other creative industries. Amy Allender, the creator behind "Hey Minot," was this year's keynote speaker

The Content Creators Summit was sponsored by Film North Dakota, North Dakota Association of Counties, North Dakota Public Information Officer Association, North Dakota Newspaper Association Education Foundation, Bismarck State College Foundation , and Bringing Humanities to Life.

Film North Dakota Executive Director Matt Fern said the event was created to help people understand the creative opportunities available in North Dakota.

"I thought this event would be a great way to help students explore those possibilities, get hands-on experience and meet professionals doing this work every day," Fern said.

The Summit covered a variety of creative fields and topics, including podcasting, photography, social media, television and commercial filmmaking, radio and newspaper journalism, public relations, and media law.

Through the sessions students had the chance to hear from professionals and learn more about what working in these fields looks like. The event also allowed students to make connections with people who have experience in the creative industry.

Fern said the Summit allows students to connect with people who work in these fields every day. He also explained how the event can help students who are interested in content creation but are unsure where to start.

"If you're interested in creating content but aren't sure where you fit, this is a great place to explore what's possible," Fern said.

The Summit showed students that content creation can lead to a variety of career opportunities and gave them a chance to explore where their interests could take them.

RA Spotlight

Natalie Lawrence
Reporter

Eden Dunn

Year: Sophomore

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Q: What hall do you live in?

A: Health Science Hall

Q: Where are you from?

A: I like to say all over the place, but the real answer is that I was born in Minnesota, grew up in Canada for my childhood, came back to the States and lived in Pennsylvania for about five years, and now I am here.

Q: If you could instantly become great at any skill, what would it be and why?

A: It would be cooking, because I love food, and I also love food that is homemade and great for you. Every time I try, it does not end up good, so I ended up resorting back to the Mystic Marketplace. If I could learn how to cook, I wouldn't need anything else in life and I would also spend less money trying.

Q: What is one thing on your bucket list?

A: To reach my fullest potential in life.

Q: If you could have dinner with any celebrity, fictional character, or historical figure, who would it be and why?

A: If I could have dinner with anyone it would be Deadpool, because that is my favorite character of all time, it would be a crazy, amazing dinner and I need to pick his brain to see what is going on in there. I also want to see how he breaks the fourth wall in real time.

Q: What is your biggest pet peeve?

A: Any type of mouth noises, ew, get that away from me.

Q: What is something you are proud of outside of being an RA?

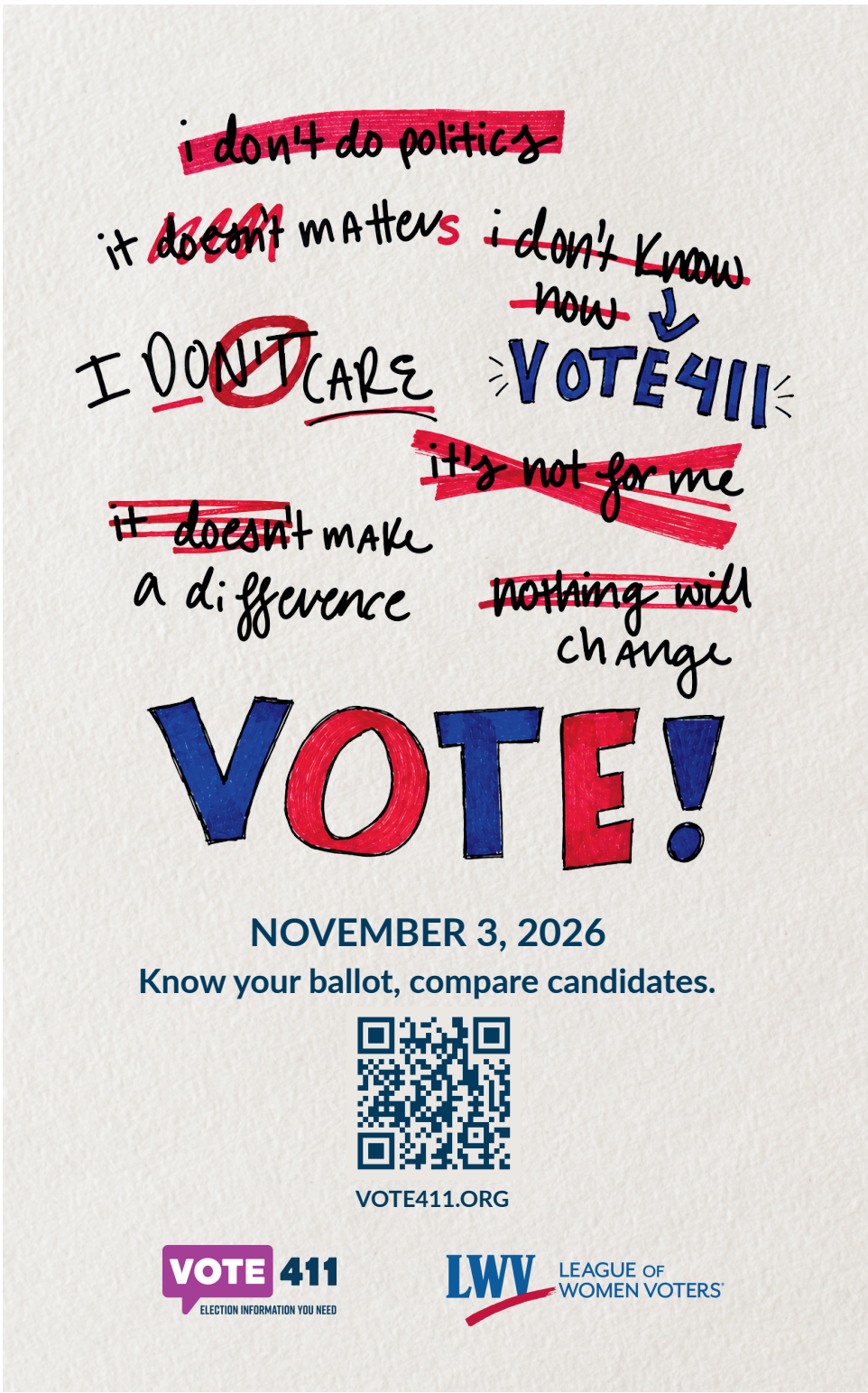
A: I am proud of the life I was able to build here at BSC, meeting the fantastic people I see every day, making my friends– the best people ever, taking all of the opportunities I could here on campus, and ultimately breaking out of my shell, and challenging life to give me all that its got.

Q: One word your friends would use to describe you?

A: Kooky

Q: Dream Vacation?

A: I like telling people that it would be Miami because I have this running bit where if I could be anywhere, it would be Miami, but the truth is,this is very secret information, that it would be the Dolomites in Italy.



Meet the Homecoming King and Queen

Bismarck State College wrapped up its Homecoming week on Sept. 26. Throughout the week, there were many campus and community events. Students participated in laser tag, beep bingo, painting activities, and a tailgating party. An Alumni Panel discussion occurred in the Student Union and students were encouraged to ask questions about career success. Homecoming Week concluded with BSC's Wizard Walk.

The Homecoming court was announced on Sept. 25. with Jah Gulley being crowned Homecoming King, and Piper Harris crowned Homecoming Queen.

Ephraim Grady
Reporter

Jah Gulley

Homecoming King

Q: Where are you from?

A: I'm from Lockhart, Texas.

Q: What is your favorite musician?

A: I'd say my favorite musician is probably Rod Wave

Q: What is your usual DoorDash order?

A: Probably be McDonalds, anything off the menu, I really do love McDonalds.

Q: What is your reaction to being selected?

A: Honestly shocking, I didn't think I'd win, especially being from Texas. I didn't know enough people knew me to win, but definitely thankful.

Q: Speaking of Texas, how was it going from Texas to Bismarck?

A: A huge difference. I mean, Texas is a very fast state, especially where I'm from. The weather as well, night and day difference. But I mean I like it. The people here are very nice, and I'm kind of adapting to the cold

Q: What was the reason you went to college?

A: Honestly, if it weren't for basketball, I don't think I would be in college. I've already graduated with my bachelors and masters, so I'm just playing basketball.

Q. What was your favorite part of homecoming?

A: I'd say the volleyball game. Our sports just moved to 4 years. Everybody didn't compete as hard as they wanted to, so with the girls knocking off a big team like that was real nice.

Submitted

Homecoming Royalty - Homecoming king and queen Jah Gullley and Piper Harris pose for a picture

Piper Harris

Homecoming Queen

Q: Where are you from?

A: Mandan, ND.

Q: Who is your favorite musician?

A: Rascal Flatts.

Q: What is your usual DoorDash order?

A: I don't usually DoorDash, but if I did it would probably be Pancheros.

Q: What was your reaction to being selected?

A. Surprised!

Q: What was the reason you went to college?

A: The reason I went to college was to get my degree as well as continue my athletic career at a higher level.

Q: What was your favorite part of homecoming?

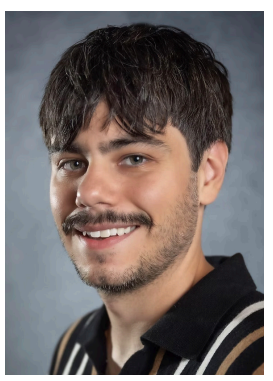
A: My favorite part of homecoming was having my volleyball and basketball teammates and my family all cheering me on when I won.

Pleased to Meet You

Chase Grinsteiner
Reporter

Dylan Kahl

Assistant Professor for Graphic Design and Communications



Q: What do you do at Bismarck State College?

A: [I] teach Graphic Design & Communications

Q: If you could choose one song to play every time you walk into a room, what song would you choose? Why?

A: "Money for Nothing" by Dire Straits

Q: If you had to explain your current job to a 5-year-old, what would you say?

A: [I] teach people how to make logos.

Q: From your perspective, what is the best part of BSC?

A: The opportunity to grow, especially for marketing, to be able to take what you know and use it to get the most out of it. You get hands-on learning here because of the smaller community.

Q: If there was a movie made about your life, who would play you and what genre would it be?

A: Dylan 'O' Brien or Logan Lerman because I've been told I look like him. Action Comedy.

Q: If there was a student whose dream job was yours, what advice would you give them?

A: Learn to play the role of the fool, be okay with falling on your face or being stupid sometimes.

Q: What is your favorite season?

A: I used to think summer but now I think fall, you can bundle up for the colder days and still have hope for some warmer days as well. Summer has too many crazy thunderstorms. Now that I have a house I'm more worried about it getting destroyed.

Editorial

OUR VOICE

Letter from the Editor

Liberty Friez
Editor

Dear Mr. Stenslie

During a conversation in the office about past classes, I brought up that part of my sixth grade reading class was about birds. Then I brought up a few other things I learned and quickly discovered that there are quite a few subjects I was taught simply because my sixth grade reading and social studies teacher wanted to. So this letter goes out to him.

In sixth grade, we were separated by reading scores and placed in reading classes. I was placed with my social studies teacher, Mr. Stenslie. Four days a week, we would read, but every Friday was dedicated to birds. On those days, we learned and researched one or two birds. This led up to the end of the year where we took a bird test. If we could name forty out of the fifty birds we learned, Mr. Stenlise took us on a field trip to go birding. You best believe I was getting all fifty birds correct. I genuinely loved it but I thought that all the other classes were doing the same thing.

The next thing we learned from him was chess. We had an entire chess unit during my reading class in the middle of our school year. Why? Couldn't tell you. We watched a chess movie, learned different plays, and then spent a few days competing against each other. I can't name a single move now as most of it went over my head.

We also learned about WWII. This may not sound odd but I found out a few years later by my tenth grade history teacher that we were not supposed to learn that in sixth grade and it was not a part of the standards. We ended up learning about the war in both my reading and social studies class. I personally appreciate that I had learned it at this stage and feel like I have a much better understanding of the history because of it.

This isn't to say Mr. Stenslie was a bad teacher. He was far from it and he is still regarded as one of my favorite teachers ten years later. To have a teacher that passionate about birds, chess, and history gave me a better appreciation for all, one that I may not have otherwise, and I attribute much of my own want to go into teaching to Mr. Stenslie.

Campus Convict

Got Problems? Zach Has Time. Roommate driving you crazy? Relationship hitting a wall? Get some real perspective. Scan the QR code or visit our Instagram @bscmysticmedia to submit your questions to The Mystician's newest advice column. Hosted by Zach Schmidkunz, who writes directly from inside prison after serving a lengthy sentence, this column offers a heavy dose of reality with zero judgment. You bring the campus drama; he'll bring the survival strategy.

My Opinion of Your Opinion

Brennan Friebel
Reporter

I love opinions. Opinions are a fundamental pillar of humanity. If we didn't have opinions we'd more closely resemble bees. Most people don't think alike and that's a good thing, it allows more nuance and complexity when talking about a subject. However, there are multiple ways people can have, what I consider to be, a bad opinion.

The first type of bad opinions are the ones that aren't opinions. People can claim "In my opinion!" all they want, what they're saying is objectively false. For instance, I can say "The sky is blue." and they would interject with "Well I think the sky is red." This is a bad opinion because it isn't even an opinion, it's just factually wrong.

The second type of bad opinions are propaganda opinions. These opinions come from people who simply repeat the opinions of their favorite idols, even if it contradicts what they actually think. For example, my friend watches Harry Potter and has said they're meant to be in Ravenclaw. About a week ago I saw them wearing a Hufflepuff scarf, even though they have said in the past they genuinely hate Hufflepuff because they're basic and boring. I asked them why and they said it's because their favorite podcaster has recently started talking about how much they love Hufflepuff. They still hate Hufflepuff.

The third type of bad opinions are hypocritical opinions. This is when someone has two different opinions that contradict each other. I knew someone who said they loved fishing alone because of how quiet and serene the lake was, and in the same breath asked me if I wanted to go fishing with them. I asked them why, and they told me they needed a fishing buddy to not get bored out of their mind. A more extreme example is someone I went to choir with in high school. They're a protestant, but believed the earth was only around 400 years old and every year before that was made up by atheists and government officials to try and prove that evolution is real.

In my opinion though, your opinion matters. The reason bad opinions exist is because you don't know if your opinion is good or not, and everything isn't cut and dry. With time opinions can change. Even if you're scared you will be scrutinized for an opinion you have, your voice deserves to be heard, so don't be hesitant to throw your opinion out there.

What Really Grinds My Gears

Zach Schmidkunz
Reporter

As you read these words, I need you to picture me delivering them in my best Peter Griffin impersonation. Imagine me, pinching the bridge of my nose with my fingers, and letting out that long, exhausted sigh.

You know what really grinds my gears? The state of men's fashion in 2026. Most of you will probably think, "Who is he to talk about fashion? All he wears is white, grey, and khaki." Lock me up for having an opinion then why don't you.

However, when I sit and daydream about the day I get to go clothes shopping and I picture which clothes I'm going to purchase so that I can somewhat fit into society again, I sure as heck don't see myself squeezing into a pair of tapered pants that make the lower half of my body look like an upside down traffic cone. And I certainly don't foresee myself being caught dead in public as the fat guy wearing daisy dukes. Not happening.

Let me first address the whole tapered pants issue. I'm fully aware that I've been out of society for a while, and while I was expecting the fashion trends to be different, I'm completely baffled that we went back generations in time to where we now are stuck in a trend that used to seem ludicrous to us. What genius was able to somehow convince all of the men in the world that wearing pants so tight it cuts off the blood flow to your ankles was a good idea? If you need to perform a reverse trust fall into a pushup position when you drop your keys on the sidewalk in order to pick them up, "bro," your pants are too tight.

And now to the most critical part of my rant, this issue of men wearing short shorts. If you want to wear a pair of shorts that rest above your knees and you don't want your legs to get all twisted up when you run, by all means go right ahead. However, if I'm walking past the bench press station in the weightroom, because that's where beefcakes like us hang out, and you yell at me for a "spot," I don't want to end up spitting out my water because I "spotted" what appears to be some gum stuck to the side of your leg because your shorts are so short.

The Fab Five from Michigan went through cultural warfare in the 90s by wearing their basketball shorts past their knees. They went through a lot just to give our legs some extra breathing room, but today, all that hard work is being thrown away.

Men, as we roll into the last half of the 2020s and into 2030, let's create a new fashion trend. Leave the tight jeans to the guys who ride bulls, and leave your sister's volleyball shorts at home. Now, if you'll excuse me I need to go find a good hiding spot away from the volleyball team and bull riders.

Prison Food vs. Campus Food

Zach Schmidkunz
Reporter

When people ask about prison life, the first question is always about the food. So, when asked to compare Bismarck State College food to my experience with prison food, I chuckled—it shouldn't even be a comparison. But because some BSC students think they have it rough, I won't hold back. Prepare your stomachs for a gastrointestinal showdown.

Having spent over twenty years at maximum-security NDSP, I know institutional food. Overcrowding and rising costs tanked the quality, and I've tasted some pretty gross things. For the juiciest details, ask me in person—I'm still incarcerated and want to avoid disappearing for saying the wrong thing.

The DOCR provides three daily meals at uncommon hours. They must meet a certain calorie count, and we'll leave it at that. Most lunches consist of a soup and a sandwich. Interestingly, prison bread snaps in half rather than bending like store-bought bread. What's that you say? Bread isn't supposed to snap? I thought not as well.

Most suppers consist of potatoes, noodles, or rice, under some sort of "sauce." The food used to be bland and monotonous. However, since my move, it has improved. Feeding several hundred fewer residents means there is actually some effort put into the cooking. It's taken some getting used to flavor.

The tray at supper that night didn't quite look as appetizing as this photo looks. As you take a look, have you ever had meat that is all the same size cubes?

As you ponder your ten choices for lunch, be grateful for the luxury of having a choice. I know, I know, if you don't like the food don't come to prison.

Zack Schmidkunz | Reporter

Dinner Time in Prison - One meal provided for inmates in prison.

Pete DeMille
Reporter

Food options at Bismarck State College are limited in variety. Students and staff can choose between the marketplace to get cafeteria food or hit up the coffee shops to grab a quick bite. Outside of these two food sources, everything else is a trip off campus.

How does BSC cafeteria food compare to the food served to the incarcerated people in prison?

There are some good dishes served on campus. The Mystic Bowl is one of the most popular and draws the biggest lines. The shrimp burger is one dish I really like.

Aside from that, I avoided the baked salmon because it just did not look very appetizing. Instead, I grabbed the BSC version of a Big Mac. Well, it was just a hamburger with special sauce on it.

The items I have just listed are some of the main courses and specials, but those eating at the Marketplace can get chicken, sub sandwiches, pizza, or salad any day of the week. It is common to see a sandwich line going to the entry door of the serving area. Drink options are not limited at all. There is a whole section of pop, coffee, and other liquids.

Overall, the food provided by BSC is 3.5 out of 5. This score takes into account the quality of food and price. Most students can find better deals off campus. On most days, I do find the food of the Mystic Marketplace to be worth buying.

Pete DeMille | Reporter

Dinner Time on Campus - One meal provided for students at Bismarck State College.

Students Share Their "Dancing with the Stars" Opinions

Jessa Lee
Reporter

Students are sharing their thoughts on the latest season of "Dancing with the Stars," from their favorite celebrity contestants to who they believe will be eliminated next. A recent student survey revealed a mix of viewing habits, standout performances and predictions for the rest of the competition.

When it comes to watching the show, students do not always tune in consistently. 20% of respondents said they do not watch regularly, while 80% said they do. Despite these varying viewing habits, students still find ways to keep up with the competition. About 90% said they stream the show, while 10% follow it through social media.

When asked about their favorite teams, Connor Wood, Ezra Frech and Jenna Dewan ranked among the top choices. However, not every contestant has earned the same level of support. Tatyana Ali was named the least favorite team by 40% of respondents, while Jackson Olson received 30% of the votes. Students also predicted that Tatyana would be the next contestant eliminated.

Looking ahead to the finale, students have several ideas about who could win the Mirrorball Trophy. Ezra Frech and Maura Higgins were named as potential winners, showing that students have different opinions about who has the strongest chance of taking the title.

Super Bowl Night also gave students plenty to discuss. When asked to identify the best dances of the night, respondents highlighted performances by Guillermo Rodriguez, Julia Stiles and Jenna Dewan. These performances stood out among the competition and left an impression on the student audience.

Students also revealed what matters most when deciding who deserves their support. About 70% said they vote for their favorite celebrity, while 20% said they vote based on their favorite pro dancer. Only 10% of respondents vote for their favorite dance. This suggests that personal connections with contestants may matter more to some viewers than individual performances.

One contestant, in particular, has students calling for a little more recognition. When asked whether they wanted "justice for Guillermo," 90% agreed. The response suggests that many students believe Guillermo deserves more appreciation for his performances.

As the competition continues, students will be watching to see whether their predictions come true. With strong favorites, unexpected eliminations and memorable performances, the race for the Mirrorball Trophy is far from settled.

Illustration by Kayla Hilzendeger | Graphic/Web Designer

Staff Opinion

If you were going to be reincarnated, what do you want to come back as?

Elena Sanchez
Reporter

Hot, Mysterious, Rich Lady Supremacy

If I were to be reincarnated, I would want to be reincarnated as a hot, rich, and mysterious woman. More as one of the Olsen sisters type of mysterious rather than Dakota Johnson kind of mysterious. There's just something so idealistic about the affluent lifestyle that draws me in, especially when it seems so lowkey. Other than the materialistic idea of reincarnation, I would think if I wasn't human, I would try to be reincarnated as a panther or a fox. Who wouldn't like to be a feline or canine type of animal? Plus, feline animals are seen as a symbol of wealth in some countries. Perhaps the materialistic ideal still follows me...

Kayla Hilzendeger
Graphic/Web Designer

For the Travel and the Faith

If reincarnation was a real thing, I would want to come back as myself but so that I would be able to travel everywhere and anywhere without having to worry about expenses, language barriers, or time off. I would never want to have to worry about working to pay for these trips. Not that I would even necessarily want to be rich, but I just wouldn't want to worry about a bill. Don't ask how this would be possible though I haven't figured that one out yet...

Anyways, I would want to know many languages so that anywhere I went I would know what people are saying. And finally, I would not want to have to worry about needing to take time off from work (because I wouldn't have to have a job to worry about). I would probably mostly visit landscape focused places because I love to spend time getting closer to God and taking in everything He has blessed this earth with, especially in the form of nature.

Micah McAfee
Reporter

I Would Want to Be...

I feel like the amount of good options are limited, so I would want to be a whale. Specifically a blue whale. And why? Well firstly they are massive, meaning that they have few predators. They draw in huge amounts of water to gather krill for food. While they also get to sing cool whale-songs that allow them to communicate over long distances, which also means that they can hear from miles away. And they still maintain a semblance of intellect and emotion AND they get to dive underwater? Sign me up! I've watched Finding Nemo, I'll fit right in. Though I suppose being endangered would not be very fun...

Zach Schmidkunz
Reporter

#Fat Life

If I were able to be reincarnated and come back as somebody different, I would definitely come back to life as a fat guy. While it's true that being so lean and physically fit in appearances definitely has its perks, it can be so incredibly exhausting. I just want to be able to sit back, relax all the time, and not have to wear an artificial stomach at Christmas time when I dress up as Santa.

Mygel Porter
Social Media Manager

Yearning for Riches

When I first got the prompt of what would I want to be reincarnated as, I was thinking more like animal wise until one of my friends said she chose "nepo baby." So I will be stealing her idea. The thought of never having to work or worry about money ever brings my mind to such a happy place. Also the opportunity to get into any program or activity I want would be awesome. Many people combat this lifestyle with "what would you do if you don't work though? You'd be so bored."

That thought process blows my mind. Like hobbies exist! I would be scheduling hobbies like I schedule myself between three jobs.

Pickleball at noon, fancy lunch at one, guitar lessons at three, crocheting at 4. If I had all the free time in the world I would pick up so many hobbies, especially if I had the money to actually invest in it.

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

Want to Share Your Thoughts

We want to know what your opinions are on our Staff Opinion Questions! How do you Respond? It's simple!
Scan the QR code. This will direct you to the Editor-in-Chief's email address. Send your "Staff Opinion Response" submission. Make sure to include your first and last name. Also, remember to title the email "Staff Opinion Response".

I would want to come back as a 16th century English princess. I want to know what it was like from first hand experience. Have people clothe me and do my hair. Get to practice embroidery. Learn a few languages. Live in a castle with horses and jewels and a large library with an unlimited amount of books at my disposal. I wouldn't even know of Colleen Hoover. Maybe I get married off to a German king at 14, maybe I catch the flu and die, maybe I live to be queen and change the course of the country. Who knows what would happen?

Most likely though I would live a very short life and die giving birth to my fifth german child at 20. Still, I would choose to come back as a 16th century princess in a heartbeat.

Liberty Friez
Editor

Princess In Every Life

If reincarnation was real, I wouldn't want to come back as a different person, but I would see it as an opportunity to try things that I haven't been able to do in this life. Which would require lots and lots of money. So not to be cliche, but I would really like to be rich in my next life. This would give me the opportunity to do things like travel to another country, go scuba diving, or own my very own private yacht. I wouldn't want to come back as anyone other than myself, but having pockets that are a little deeper the next time around wouldn't be so bad.

Kerstin Hilzendeger
Layout Editor

Round 2: More Money, Less Problems

Out of the many options to choose from, if I had a choice to be reincarnated as anyone or anything, I would choose to be a nepo baby. A nepo baby or nepotism baby is a term for a person who achieves success thanks to the fame, wealth, and connections of their parents. As a nepo baby I would want to pursue a career in singing like Gracie Abrams and Phoebe Bridgers. If I were bad at singing, then I would pursue acting and if I were bad at that, I would live off of my trust fund. I could also just be like Hailey Bieber and have the connections to marry a pop star and start my own makeup brand. I feel like any road you take as a nepo baby is pure bliss.

Natalie Lawrence
Reporter

Nepo Baby

Illustration by Kayla Hilzendeger | Graphic/Web Designer

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Bismarck Takes Two of Three in Busy Volleyball Week

Isaiah Johnson
Reporter

The Mystics played three matches in four days at the Bavendick Center, totalling 14 sets. Dickinson State, Montana Western, and Montana Tech were the visitors, and Bismarck managed to win two of those contests, setting them up for a run at the Frontier Conference Tournament in Helena.

On Wednesday night, the rival Dickinson State Bluehawks came to town on Volley for the Way Night. Both teams wore pink to support breast cancer awareness and delivered a thriller on the court.

The Blue Hawks built a steep advantage, winning sets one and two by narrow margins. Carmen Pallone, Aubrey Allison, Rylee Kogolshak, and Geraldyne Fernandez were excellent for Dickinson State. The Mystics showed some resilience and came back to win the next two sets. In the decisive fifth set, BSC built a lead and took the victory. The sets were 21-25, 23-25, 25-23, 25-22, and 15-9. Freshman Jordyn Rossow broke out in that game for her best game as a Mystic, putting up 14 kills at a .394 percentage. That result tied up the season series between the Mystics and Blue Hawks. It was Bismarck's first win against Dickinson since both teams joined the Frontier Conference last season.

Montana Western came next on Friday night. The Mystics had beaten the Bulldogs in Dillon earlier in the season, giving them a 2-1 record versus Montana Western.

The Mystics pulled out a tight set one victory, but the Bulldogs jumped out with the next three, evening up the season series. The Mystics could not stop Kennedy Lingenfelter, and Madisyn Frazier picked up 25 digs. The final result was 25-23, 20-25, 23-25, 21-25.

Logan Hoff | Sports Information Director

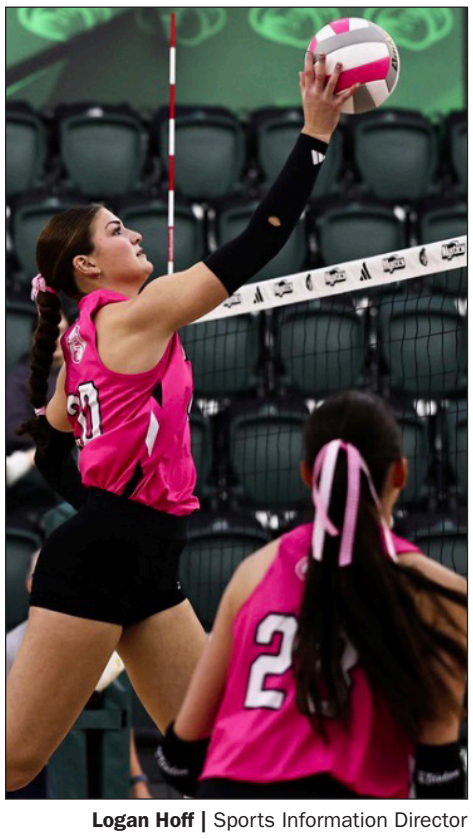
Go for the Hit! - Molly Adams prepares for a hit as Bently Solem sets up the ball for her at Wednesday's game in the Bavendick.

A match against Montana Tech on Saturday afternoon closed the week for the Mystics. The Orediggers were 3-0 against the Mystics coming into the matchup and sat in second place in the Frontier Conference standings.

The Mystics pulled off a comeback in set one, rattling off four straight points after trailing 22-24. The Orediggers stormed back in set two, riding the firepower of Talan Dodson to win by 10 points. BSC turned the tides again in the third set, dominating for most of the set and weathering a comeback attempt from the Orediggers. Again, Montana Tech put up a solid set four and won by an eight point margin. Going to their second set five in their last three games, the Mystics again showed some resilience and picked up their first win against Montana Tech. Redshirt freshman Maddie Gefroh delivered a clutch performance, coming off the bench for eight kills with a .375 clip. Set scores were 26-24, 15-25, 25-21, 17-25, 15-10.

Bismarck's sophomore outside hitter McKenna Brendel put up 40 total kills on the week to go along with 13 digs and five total blocks. Transfer middle blocker Ellie Baumstarck had 18 kills and 24 total blocks, with 11 of those blocks coming against Montana Tech. Junior libero Piper Harris totalled 83 digs and transfer setter Aislyn Hogan put up 127 assists, with 51 against the Blue Hawks. Junior outside hitter Reese Duchsherer tallied 42 kills and 29 digs, managing two double-doubles in the first two games of the week

The Mystics volleyball season is reaching its twilight, with one more home weekend for the team. They will play Valley City State on October 30 at 6 p.m. and Mayville State on October 31 at 2 p.m. on Senior Day.



Logan Hoff | Sports Information Director

Attack! - Aven Kelly jumps for the ball with an impressive vertical. Bently Solem is prepared for anything that will happen next.

Logan Hoff | Sports Information Director

Cheer! - Teammates gather around to celebrate a point added to the score board after a great volley.

Esports Teams Start Season Strong

Pete DeMille
Reporter

Bismarck State College Esports has returned for its 2026-2027 season. This season brings two teams of "Rocket League," a team of "Valorant," "League of Legends," and "Overwatch." Heading into week three of play, all teams have at least one win.

"Valorant" is 1 and 1 in the results column. Week one saw a loss 2-0 at the hands of Grand View University from Iowa. Redemption came for Mystics players in week two. BSC topped Buena Vista University 2-0 in a come-from-behind victory thanks to a strategic timeout by coach Paul which took Mystics gamers from down by 6 to a definite victory. Week two play of the game went to Berry "seethru" Henry for his clutch defuse of the spike. The Beavers from Storm Lake, Iowa could not beat their tails hard enough to dam up the Mystics roll.

The BSC League of Legends team is undefeated at 2 wins. Pacific Northwest University was brought down 2-1 followed by a 2-0 victory against Grand Valley State University. The team from Washington and the other from Michigan were unable to defend any lane on the field.

Top "Rocket League" players at BSC are all veterans for the Mystics. At 1 and 1, it is a mixed season so far. Week one was led by Gran "risser" Risser with a triple flip reset to score. That was fuel to overtake Southwestern Oklahoma State University in a 4-2 win. Week two was not a repeat as BSC got wrecked 0-4 by Colorado Mesa University.

The second "Rocket League" team is ahead after a week one win versus Colorado Mesa's second Rocket League team. It was a 4-0 game sweep.

Overwatch is new to the BSC lineup for this year compared to last year's games. The Mystics started with a win that kept Murray State University out of the rounds won. The best of five series only had to go three rounds with Bismarck State winning each one. Sean "skirtie" Purdy was awarded the play of the game for a quadruple kill. The "Overwatch" team also beat Purdue Jasper 3-0. Brock "fbplayer" Delaplane was the best on the team for the week two win.

Arts & Entertainment

Theatre Spotlight

"Into the Woods" Moves into the Wings of BSC Theatre

Lena Lucka
Reporter

With the showing of "Daddy Long Legs" finishing in September, "Into the Woods" moved into the wings of Bismarck State College theatre. Even though "Into the Woods" isn't opening until early November, theatre productions must start early. And where does any good musical start? With set.

BSC Associate Professor of Technical Theatre Dean Bellin is behind the choreography of the lights, sound, and set for "Into the Woods." Bellin stated that they began working and that the set is planned to be big. Bellin gave some background on some one of the trickier characters to portray like the giants and Milky White, a milk cow.

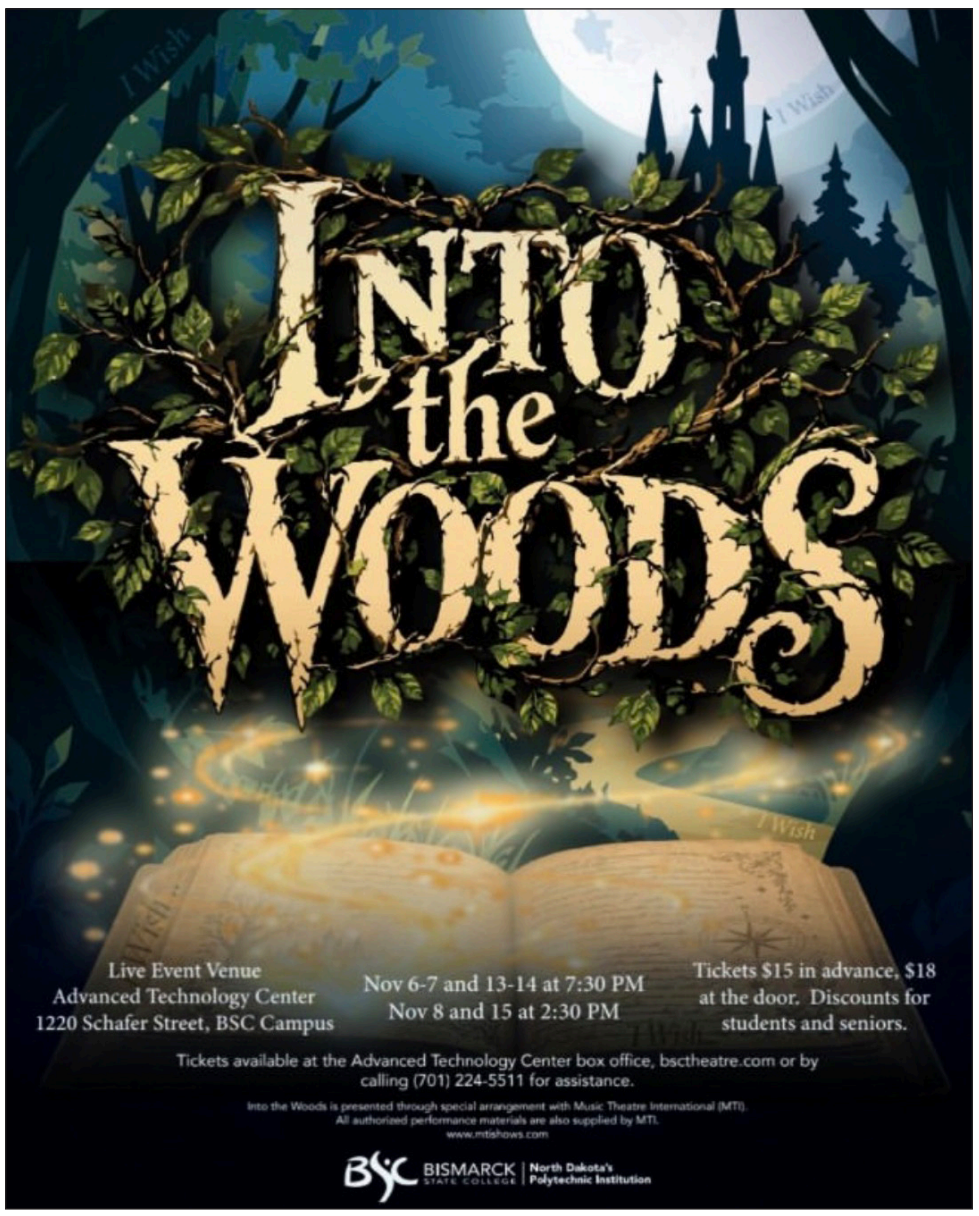
"We're working on being really creative with the giant," Bellin said.

There are between 400 and 500 individual cues planned for the show. Cues are called by a stage manager for either a light to change, music to start, or set to move.

Bellin shared his favorite part of lighting and building sets. He enjoys being able to see how the actors interact and what lighting has to offer. When it comes to building sets, Bellin expressed how much he loves to bring dreams to life.

"There's never a bad day in the shop," Bellin said.

"Into the Woods" will be showing Nov. 6 – 8 and 13 – 15.



The Music Behind "Into the Woods"

Cheyenne Hayes
Reporter

While the actors focus on their characters, the music is another major part of bringing "Into the Woods" to life. Much of the play's dialogue is delivered through song, making the music an important part of telling the story.

Brittany Bearsheart, the Music Director for the production, said one of the challenges is the amount of overlap between characters' vocal parts. With multiple characters singing at once, performers have to pay close attention to their own parts while also listening to the other voices around them. The lyrics are especially important because they aren't simply explaining the action. The songs help tell the story.

The songs that will be in the production are "Into the Woods," "Agony," "I Know Things Now," "On the Steps of the Palace," "It Takes Two," "Last Midnight," and "No One Is Alone."

As the newly announced cast prepares to begin rehearsals, the performers will have to learn how their individual vocal parts fit together. Musical rehearsals will focus on bringing those separate parts together to create the larger sound of the production. For the cast, learning the music will be an important step in preparing to bring the story of "Into the Woods" to the stage.

"Into the Woods": The People Behind the Characters

Jada Moran
Reporter

Some of the names and faces of the cast for "Into the Woods" may look familiar, and some may look new. Before going to see the show, let's take a look at who the cast is beyond their characters. Max Wilder will be playing the Baker, Kaitlyn Delabarre will be part of the ensemble, and Reese Dever will be playing Little Red Riding Hood.

Question: What made you interested in theatre?

Max Wild : "I've always been interested in studying theatre at Bismarck State College. I've also enjoyed the show Into the Woods."

Kaitlyn Delabarre: "My first production after COVID, I watched "Beetlejuice," "Hamilton," "Legally Blonde," and a lot more musicals."

Reese Dever: "When I was younger, I loved to dance, so theatre sounded interesting with the performance part of it."

Question: How long have you been participating in plays?

Max Wild: "Since I was five, so maybe 15 years straight."

Kaitlyn Delabarre: "'Into the Woods' is my 17th production; 5-6 years in theatre."

Reese Dever: "Since 7th grade, so about 6 years."

Question: What is your favorite part of being in a play?

Max Wild: "Dimitri from the show 'Anastasia.'"

Kaitlyn Delabarre: "Ensemble and also Catherine in Murder, and Actually."

Reese Dever: "Ariel in 'The Little Mermaid.'"

Question: What is the hardest part of being in a play?

Max Wild: "Memorizing the show, lines, and understanding who you are playing as a character."

Kaitlyn Delabarre: "If you really enjoy theatre, there's not really a hard part; it's also hard to be a negative in theatre."

Reese Dever: "Sometimes it feels like a lot with dances, remembering lines, blocking."

Question: What are you in college for?

Max Wild: "Theatre Arts and Education."

Kaitlyn Delabarre: "General Education transfer degree to fire science."

Reese Dever: "Elementary education."

Kayla Hilzendeger | Graphic/Web Designer

Rehearsing - Reese Dever practices her emotions and facial expressions for the scene.

Kayla Hilzendeger | Graphic/Web Designer

Narrator Ben - Benjamin Wolff narrates the story as Max Wild and Kat Elrod act out the scene

Kayla Hilzendeger | Graphic/Web Designer

In the Line - Benjamin Wolff, Marisa Angermeier, Peyton Schock, and Rebecca Wilhelmi line up and talk through a scene in rehearsal

Bismarck State College Students Show Off Their Favorite Halloween Looks

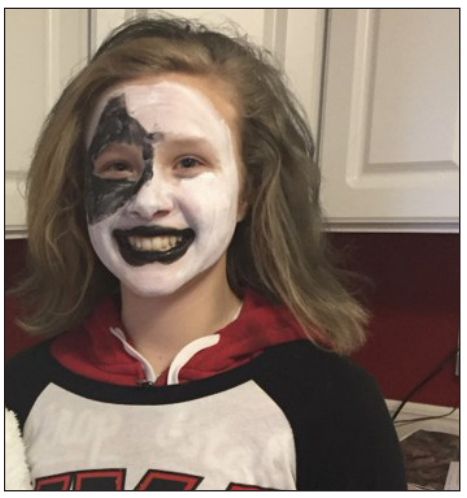
Maren Gaebe & Madelyn Gefroh
Reporters

Halloween is a time to get creative, dress up, and become someone or something completely different. Bismarck State College students have worn all kinds of costumes over the years, but which ones are their favorites?

Students shared a variety of unique and creative Halloween costumes they have dressed up as over the years. Their favorites included a zombie cheerleader, a pumpkin, and Rapunzel dressed as a bride. Other students chose an Oompa Loompa, the lead singer of KISS, and Abby Cadabby from "Sesame Street." Another student chose to dress up as a crazy cat lady, while one chose a classic Halloween look as a bat. One student even dressed up as a stepbrother from the comedy movie "Step Brothers." From funny outfits to favorite characters, students found different ways to express their creativity and celebrate Halloween.

Submitted

Fear the Cheer - Olivia Welch dressed as a zombie cheerleader.



Submitted

Rock Legend Replica - Cierra Mack dressed as the lead singer of KISS.

Submitted

A Perfect Pumpkin - Kennedy Senn dressed as a pumpkin.

Submitted

Disney Dress Up - Gracie Rauschenberger dressed as Rapunzel as a bride.

Photo Contest Winner

Greg Fuher

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Screams and Scares at Fort Lincoln's Haunted Fort

Kylie Quandt
Reporter

Fort Lincoln State Park has been full of history, stories, and scares. This year, Fort Lincoln is opening its Haunted Fort once again.

The Haunted Fort's story first started when the Custer House was being reconstructed in 1989. The reconstruction pushed forth spirits of the ones who once lived and died there. Many encounters of this haunted spirit involved a mysterious woman in a black dress to weeping voices along the boardwalk. These encounters sparked the idea for the Haunted Fort. The first Haunted Fort started in 2002 and has been evolving ever since. Bigger and better scare houses, more scare actors, more costumes, and more screams.

This year the Haunted Fort will have four different houses. These houses include House of Krampus, Dr. Slaughters Gulch, Carnival Nightmares, and the Jack Attack. The houses each specialize in their own scares which can include clowns, pumpkin-slatchers, deadly outlaws, and so much more.

Mina Klein who has been a Customer Service Associate at the park for a year explained the history and some information about the Haunted Fort.

"It was established in 1907 by Teddy Roosevelt," Klein said. "One of its purposes was to protect lands and preserve history."

Klein then talked about the supernatural rumors of the park.

"Whether or not it's actually haunted is debated among staff and visitors alike," Klein said.

She said you will not find any plaques that tell you about the rumored hauntings.

Klein then explained the history of the Custer House saying, "The ghost of Libby Custer, the widow of General Custer, still haunts the grounds waiting for his return."

Klein says she has heard stories of people seeing her shadow in the window, hearing voices, or hearing the boot steps of soldiers in the house. With even a report of someone seeing a woman in a long dress walking along the road late at night towards the park.

The park has grown over the years in addition to the haunted houses there is a merch store, a food truck, dirty sodas, laser tag and even paintball. The area is open every Friday and Saturday but the best nights to come is Halloween weekend.

"On Halloween weekend they have Darkness Unleashed where all the lights are turned off," Klein said.

Students can buy tickets online to attend. If you want to participate in the scares, you can volunteer to be a scare actor on the Haunted Fort's website. Even if you have attended before do not get too comfortable because there are more scares and screams every year. Are you brave enough to make it through?

Submitted | Haunted Fort Facebook

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	**2** **Lego my Ego** Details Coming Soon	**3** **Hair Clip Craft Day** When: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Where: Student Union	**4**	**5**	**6** **Into the Woods** When: 7:30 p.m. Where: ATC Live Event Center	**7** **Into the Woods** When: 7:30 p.m. Where: ATC Live Event Center
8 **Into the Woods** When: 2:30 p.m. Where: ATC Live Event Center	**9** **Popcorn** When: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Where: Student Union **Bowling Night** When: 7 p.m. Where: Midway Lanes Tickets at Info Desk **Patriotic Concert** When: 7 p.m. Where: Sidney J. Lee Auditorium	**10**	**11** **BSC Closed** **SGA Annual Taco Run** Donation/Fundrasing Event	**12** **Winter Survival & Consent Isn't Cheesy** When: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Where: Student Union	**13** **Into the Woods** When: 7:30 p.m. Where: ATC Live Event Center	**14** **Into the Woods** When: 7:30 p.m. Where: ATC Live Event Center
15 **Into the Woods** When: 2:30 p.m. Where: ATC Live Event Center	**16** **Popcorn** When: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Where: Student Union **Men's Wrestling Dual** When: 2 p.m. Where: Amory **Game Day** When: 7 -9 p.m. Where: Student Union	**17** **Pass it on Appreciation** **Grand Theatre Tickets** When: All Day Where: Tickets at info desk **Taco Run** When: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Where: Student Union	**18** **Pass it on Appreciation**	**19** **Pass it on Appreciation** **Great American Smoke Out: Stress Less, Breathe Better** When: 11a.m. - 1 p.m. Where: Student Union	**20** **Men's Basketball** When: 5 p.m. Where: Bavendick **Women's Basketball** When: 7 p.m. Where: Bavendick **Women's Wrestling Dual** When: 7 p.m. Where: Armory	**21**
22	**23** **Women's JV Basketball** When: 5 p.m. Where: Bavendick **Men's JV Basketball** When: 7 p.m. Where: Bavendick	**24** **Women's JV Basketball** When: 5 p.m. Where: Bottineau **Men's JV Basketball** When: 7 p.m. Where: Bottineau	**25** **BSC Closed**	**26** **BSC Closed**	**27** **BSC Closed**	**28**
29	**30**					

Illustration by Kayla Hilzendeger | Graphic/Web Designer