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THE MYSTICIAN



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ISSUE 6

BSC Admissions Move Will Cost \$186,000

Alicia Larsgaard and Hunter Andes for *The Mystician*

Prospective students who are visiting Bismarck State College for the first time may not know where to locate admissions and enrollment services. Currently, this office is on first floor of Schafer Hall.

However, with campus improvement money available, there is a desire from administrators to move these offices to the front door of the campus – Jack Science Center.

The Operations Council recommended, and the Executive Council approved, moving the admissions and enrollment service office in Schafer Hall to the office

complex and the JSC 117 classroom next to the front door of Jack Science Center.

Karen Erickson, director of admissions and enrollment services said BSC's objective is to create a bright, engaging, easily found and accessed space for our prospective students and their families.

"From admissions standpoint, we are super excited to accurately serve the students we work with," Erickson said. "It's challenging now since half of our staff is split across the hallway and not able to respond. This opportunity would allow us to do even more in the future, because we'll be all in one place."

The money being used to fund this project was provided by the 2017-2019

legislature and can only be used for campus improvement. These funds have to be spent by June 30, 2019.

"The renovation budget for this project is \$186,000," Tamara Barber, associate vice president for finance and operations, said. "The project involves renovation of JSC 111 [current

**"We want admissions at the front door of the college."
-Dr. Larry C. Skogen**

administration office area] and JSC 117 [current math classroom] for admissions & enrollment services. JSC 120/120A [computer lab and monitor area] will be the replacement math classroom. Furnishings will be brought over from existing space and/or new items purchased with departmental dollars."

The BSC president wants to keep the campus up to date and functioning as well as possible.

"We've worked hard to make sure places around campus are updated, so people can do their jobs effectively," Dr. Larry Skogen, BSC president, said. "One of the places we haven't focused on, however, is admissions. We want

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A Bismarck State College student holding the door on the frigid morning of Nov. 15 for another student. The two women are entering Door A of Jack Science Center, which Dr. Larry C. Skogen dubs the front door of BSC. Photograph by Hunter Andes

2017-2018 BSC Mystic Volleyball Battle Comes to an End

Mason Thorenson for *The Mystician*

For the first time since 2013, the Bismarck State College Mystics Volleyball team came out on top with a Regional Championship. Despite being defeated in the District G championship by Central Community College, the Mystics wrapped up a successful season.

Although the taste of losing is bitter, the Mystics showed progress by defeating CCC in a set for the first time ever. Central Community College has been the District G representative for the last seven years.

The Mystics showed their significant talent in regionals by having three players round out the All-Region team.

Sophomore outside hitter, Sierra Graff and freshman libero, Sam Anklam were selected to the team along with BSC's very own Liza Doppler being chosen as the NJCAA Region XIII MVP. Freshman right-side, Caitlyn Inman also finished top 30 in the nation for hitting efficiency.

Graff, also sophomore captain, was pleased with the team's overall season, despite feeling some remorse over the tough loss.

"As a captain, after that match point you're always wondering what you could've done better to lead the team and get a different outcome," Graff said. "We did have our ups and downs, but

overall we did great."

The Mystics concluded the season with a 29-9 record – an improvement on their 18-14 record from 2016.

"After we started out 8-0, I really started to think this team was set to do something special," Jennifer Walsh, BSC's volleyball head coach, said. "It was special to the point that all the girls genuinely liked and cared for each other," Walsh said.

The team grew closer as the season went on and all had the same goal on their minds, with Wahpeton and Williston in their sights.

"We knew we could do it," Liza

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L:R Hannah Hanson, Jessie Oja, Caitlyn Inman. Photograph by Hunter Andes

BSC Plans Holiday Concert

The Bismarck State College Music Department will be performing its annual holiday concert Wednesday, Dec. 13, during finals week. Featured groups will be concert choir, men's choir, women's choir, wind ensemble and possibly some small groups. Christmas music will be a dominant theme.

BSC BookTalk is Around the Corner

BookTalk at BSC is the Bismarck State College Library's annual book discussion series. During the months of January, February and March, three books relating to a theme are read.

Attendees gather to talk about the books Sunday afternoons. In the past there are typically 30 to 35 readers who participate in each discussion. Discussion leaders provide background information about the books and authors and also guide the conversation. Through literature, the group is able to talk about important and complex topics in a comfortable way.

BookTalk discussions are free and open to all and are held in the BSC Library's conference room on the second floor of LEA Hall, Room 204, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. BSC librarians have organized and hosted BookTalk since 2000.

Finals Week

Finals week is Dec. 11 through Dec. 15. It is important that students not skip or miss any finals, as a final exam can be up to or more than 10 percent of a student's final grade in the course. With any questions regarding final exams, ask the professor of the course.

BSC Admissions Continued

admissions at the front door of the college.

"From an admissions perspective, it's ideal. What we are doing now has worked to some degree, but we don't know how many people we haven't had [enroll] because of admissions not being at the front door."

Schafer Hall isn't at an entrance to the college, so it may be difficult for newcomers to locate.

"We are making the best of what we felt was a decision that was made without consulting anyone who teaches in this building."

-Liz Braunagel

"Schafer Hall isn't the first building people see when driving up to the college—they have to go find it," Skogen said. "As important as Schafer Hall is, the icon building on campus is really Jack Science Center. Having it located at the front door of Jack Science makes admissions much more accessible. We will be replacing one of the computer labs in order to not lose classroom space."

Skogen said if there were concerns about improving admissions, he would be shocked.

Some faculty feel that the admissions relocation was not communicated as well as it could have been.

"As far as I know we are all adjusting to the fact that it will happen," Liz Braunagel, BSC mathematics department chair, said. "We are making the best of what we felt was a decision that was made without consulting anyone who teaches in this building."

Dr. Amy Juhala, BSC dean of arts

and humanities said she is doing her best to make sure the math faculty have everything they need for their students.

"We need to have a math classroom equivalent or close to equivalent to the one being replaced," Juhala said. "The initial plan was to take half of the computer lab, JSC 120. However, after taking a tape measure to the rooms, we concluded that the lab space wouldn't fit the 20-24 students as JSC 117 does."

The replacement room has to be equivalent to the one being replaced, so Juhala and the people helping her came up with a solution to make the square footage equal.

"By removing the closet and monitor area in the center of the computer labs, and incorporating that space as well, it equaled out to the square footage of JSC 117."

Juhala also recognized that JSC 117 has windows; whereas, JSC 120 does not, so she thought of a way to improvise. "Because there are no windows in this room, I would like a BSC art student to paint a mural after the remodel to make the room more welcoming," Juhala said.

Erickson said construction will begin after finals in May, and the project will be completed sometime in the summer of 2018.

"We work for the public," Erickson said. "We need to make sure we serve all those students. We are working as hard as we can to accurately serve them, and this move will help us do it even more. First impressions mean a lot to students."

Erickson said that to her knowledge, it won't affect any students who are currently attending BSC.

Skogen said by fall of 2018, the new admissions office should be operational.

Students Work to Pay Tuition

Rachel Vitek for The Mystician

If a survey of an average classroom were to be conducted on whether students work while attending college, the result may show more yes answers than no answers. It may also show that students who receive ample scholarship money tend not to have a job.

Tuition can be costly for many students, which makes having a job necessary. Even though Bismarck State College's tuition is lower compared to North Dakota's universities, it still may be a large sum for some students.

"BSC is kind of affordable while working a minimum wage job," Paige Tierney, BSC sophomore, said. "But I don't exactly have a lot of extra spending money. I have to limit myself to the necessities."

Although college students are usually told that they should be worrying more about their studies rather than their financial situation, there are other reasons a student may want a job.

"I tend to pick my job over my classes the majority of the time. The chances of getting fired just seem a little scarier than missing a lecture."

-Paige Tierney

"I'm going to be applying for the nursing program," Tessa Grey, BSC freshman, said. "I'll be working at a nursing home as a CNA, because it's good job experience for my future."

Students may be forced to decide where their priorities lie. Picking between class and work may be harder than they expected.

"I tend to pick my job over my classes the majority of the time," Tierney said. "The chances of getting fired just seem a little scarier than missing a lecture. So far I haven't allowed it to affect my grades too badly."

Free tuition is something every student probably dreams about. It could take a lot of stress off of their shoulders and allow them more time to study.

"I think I'd still work a job," Grey said. "Not just because of the experience I am getting, but also because it would be nice to have that extra spending money. No one wants to throw all their time into homework and eliminate the fun, and sadly money is pretty necessary for most things."

Between going to class and driving to work, students still manage to find time to get their homework done before the next class. Free tuition or not, chances are students will find a place to work.

Happy New Year!



The Mystician



Published by the Students

Hunter Andes.....Editor-in-Chief
Amanda Joyce.....Associate Editor/Photographer
Brianna Svihl.....Graphic Design Editor
Michael Sims.....Graphic Designer/Photographer
Brett Williamson.....Contributing Writer
Tom Delozier.....General Reporter
Marcie Reinbold.....General Reporter
karen Bauer.....Adviser

Contact Editor-in-Chief Hunter Andes with any concerns or comments regarding this publication. 224-5467 or hunter.l.andes@ndus.edu

The next issue of The Mystician will be a Special Edition called The Spectator.

Help the Hungry and Homeless

Justine Smith and Emily DeSantis for The Mystician

More snow is right around the corner, so getting supplies ready for the North Dakota blizzards is crucial. Walking in the front door after a day's work is warm and comforting. For those that don't have a safe place, it can be cool and bitter.

On Oct. 26 the Ruth Meiers Hospitality House shelter, at 305 23rd St. in North Bismarck, shut down. With the winter quickly approaching, citizens may be asking why such a thing is happening to the homeless during a time when shelter is needed the most.

"I think it's so stupid they shut down the shelter right before the snow gets here," Chase Warburton, Bismarck resident, said. "I feel like there are people out there with money that should be doing something about this; it's unfair and cruel to put these people out on the street."

By 7 a.m. Oct. 27, residents staying at Ruth Meiers Hospitality House were to evacuate the premises or be charged with trespassing. These men will have no choice but to try and find a new shelter before winter fully sets in.

A local motel will take in people displaced at a cost of \$60 per night; however, they will not take anyone with a criminal record.

This not only affects the people that have no shelter, but also the citizens of Bismarck. Some residents are becoming worried about how the homeless population will affect them.

"I have people yelling at me for quarters because they know I'll have money left over from the washer and dryer," Lola Kostelecky, Bismarck resident said. "When I went to my local laundromat last Friday, a man stripped down butt naked and started taking a bath in the sink. I didn't say or do

anything, I just tried not to look and hoped he'd be done shortly."

According to data from the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development, North Dakota has had a 200 percent increase in homelessness in the last year alone. In a state with a population of 699,628 people, which means over 2,000 individuals are without a home in the state.

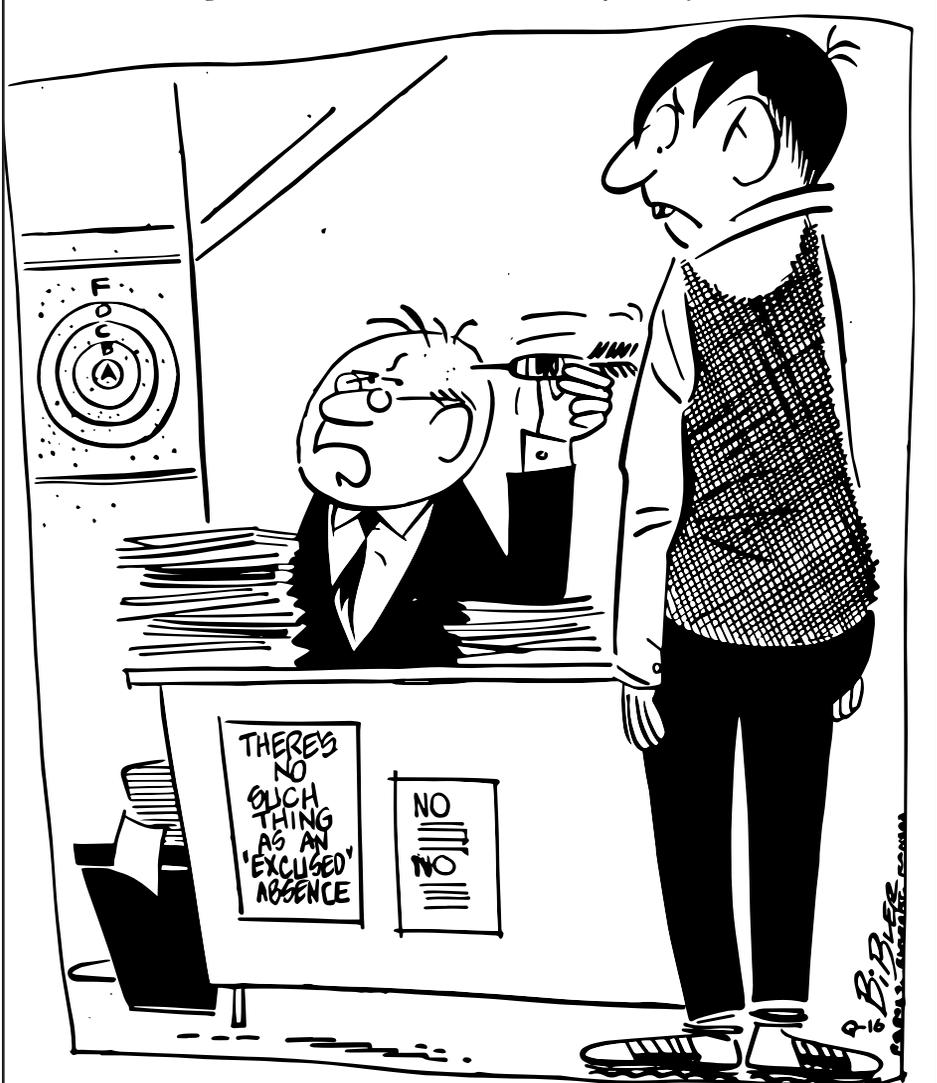
Some of these people are still around because the oil activity in West Dakota. After the oil boom slowly declined, many workers found themselves staying in the state, yet are not able to afford housing.

"My understanding is that they ran out of money and had to close their doors," Michael Tomanek, assistant professor of English at Bismarck State College, said. "I am aware that through the United Way they can get vouchers for Motel 6, and the police department is working with agencies to help make these accommodations. It is \$60 a night, and I don't believe the residents are the ones that pay. I am also aware that there is a church in Mandan called The Spirit of Life that takes people in."

The rate of homelessness is growing in population in the Bismarck area, and the closing of the the Ruth Meiers House has put many people that were staying there in dangerous situations – such as sleeping on the street.

There is a food banquet offered at Trinity Lutheran Fellowship Hall that offers free meals every Thursday starting at 5:30p.m and the third Saturday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Donations of clothing, food and money can be given to church organizations, the Salvation Army, River of Hope or Goodwill to help these people in need.

Comic below was published in Volume 13, Number 5 of The Mystician Jan. 29, 1960.



"See me tomorrow—I'm busy grading finals now."

Merry Christmas

EVENT CALENDAR

Christmas Tree Decoration

Dec. 1
11 a.m.

Alabama Concert

Dec. 1
7:00 p.m.

Merry Mystic Media Club Christmas Day

Dec. 5
11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Chocolate Fountain (free)

Dec. 5
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

BSC Winter Play

Dec. 7-10
Thursday – Saturday: 7:30 p.m.
Sunday: 2:30 p.m.

Annual Holiday Concert

Dec. 13
7:30 p.m.

Cookie Walk

Dec. 14
10 a.m.

Finals Week

Dec. 11-15
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BSC Christmas Break

Dec. 18 – Jan. 5

Christmas Eve

Dec. 24

Christmas Day

Dec. 25

New Year's Eve

Dec. 31

New Year's Day

Jan. 1

Next Issue of The Mystician

Jan. 2018

The Spectator

Dec. 5

STAFF

editorial

There are plenty of things to do during winter here in North Dakota. Many of them involve snow and other snow related activities, but that's what we get for choosing to live in the arctic tundra of no trees.

Talking about winter activities may sound cliché; however, if a Hallmark movie can re-use the exact same story line for every movie, we here at The Mystician can share our favorite cliché winter activities.

Sledding is fun, especially with a group of friends. Going to the Tom O'Leary sledding hill is a popular family activity; it's a great way to get out and make the most of those snow days.

Along with sledding, outdoor ice skating is another fun tradition. It's fun being able to go and skate around at night and watch the neighborhood kids play a game of hockey. If you suck at ice skating, the little skating benches are helpful. The best part of skating is not being able to stop, barreling into someone, and falling into a snow pile.

As fun as this all may sound, some of us don't enjoy the thought of potentially hitting a tree with a sled or breaking our ankles trying to skate. For the people who fall into that category, no pun intended, looking at Christmas lights is probably the way to go.

It's always been a big tradition to look at the pretty lights and enjoy the songs of the people caroling. It's quick and easy to make a cup of hot chocolate at home, and a stroll through the neighborhood looking at everything.

Bringing your dog with and letting them play in the snow makes for an even better time. If you're not up for walking, go for a drive and crank up

the Christmas music while trying to find the best decorated houses.

For those who don't enjoy leaving the house to venture out into the cold weather, fear not. What is easier and more relaxing than staying in the house and watching Hallmark movies all day? Make something warm to drink and bake some cookies to go with it. It's always a fun time when others are involved, so find go find somebody cuddle with.

The best part about this activity is not having to deal with North Dakota's refreshing 60 below windchill while binge-watching Hallmark and stuffing down cookies.

Playing board games and reading books also helps in getting arctic life off the mind. There's plenty of books at the Bismarck State College Library for everyone to enjoy.

Everyone has at least one game that they love to play, maybe it's a card game like Cribbage, Pinochle, Uno, Apples to Apples, or Cards Against Humanity; or perhaps it's a board game like Chess, Checkers or Monopoly.

There's nothing that will put you in the holiday spirit quite like destroying friendships through a hand of cards.

All in all, if you can't think of anything to do over the holidays, volunteering is a great way to give back to the community and to help yourself feel good. You can volunteer for the Red Cross or the Salvation Army, or go to a local soup kitchen and lend a helping hand. After all, the true meaning of the holidays is to cherish what you have and give to those less fortunate.

A very Merry Christmas to you all at BSC. For your safety we advise you to not forget about leaving Santa his cookies and milk.



Hello again, we've almost made it to the end of the semester—one left for all you sophomores and super sophomores out there. Don't drop out and don't skip finals; you

will regret that decision in the future.

I am excited to announce my biggest surprise of the semester: The Spectator. It will be The Mystician's last publication of the semester. I'm reviving this to capitalize on the opportunity to show photographs that didn't make it in The Mystician, and recap some of the ones that did. The Spectator was a photo essay The Mystician staff started in 1977. It continued only for a few years.

Also, if you are wondering why some of the text in this issue is green, here's the answer: In the 1950s and 1960s, the Christmas issue of The Mystician was printed in all green ink. I thought it would be appropriate to honor past editors, by making parts of the current publication reflect a time since past.

Looking back at this semester, it's crazy how it's flown by. It seems like only yesterday I was writing my first letter to the editor and meeting the new reporters on staff. It's unbelievable how fast things go when you are actually enjoying what you do.

For the freshmen who are reading this, I would like for you to pay close attention. Right now, most of you are taking generals. You may have somewhat of a plan of action going forward, but chances are you have no idea what you want to do with your life.

Back when I was a freshman, I was one of the people who had my entire life planned out – literally down to when I was supposed to inhale and exhale at the age of 57. Don't do that to yourself. As freshmen, you don't necessarily need to know what you're doing. Yes, have an idea, take the generals, get involved with things you enjoy, and

Letter from the Editor

make up your mind in the spring.

Don't fret over the time it takes to get an education, that's not what it's about. It's about learning who you are and what you want to become. I do understand that everybody has a different situation; however, try your hardest to stick with it.

In 2015, if someone were to have come up and told me that in 2017-2018 I'd still be at BSC majoring in secondary English education and mass communications instead of out in the workforce as a surveyor, I would have said they were nuts. People change – passions change. I had a passion for government and politics when I came to BSC; let's just say I got to experience how politics really work my freshman year.

Losing the passion for being a surveyor and politician was honestly one of the best things that ever happened to me, as it led me to the path that I am now on.

The solution that I found is this: Take life as it comes, and don't try to dictate what your future may be. Do think real hard, however, about the thing in which you excel in. It may be the simplest thing, which is overlooked. Are you good at arithmetic? Consider taking a class from Joe Vuolo or Ivan Tschider, two men who I respect tremendously. Interested in English? There's not one English teacher in LEA Hall I wouldn't recommend taking a class from. Maybe journalism – be it newspaper, television or radio—Karen Bauer, Dusty Anderson or Cole Bernhardt will teach you what you need to know.

Don't limit yourself. This is college, you have many doors you could open. The question is: Which door will it be?

Until next time, Merry Christmas; Make sure to pick up The Spectator.

Hunter Andes
701-224-5467

Mission State of The Mystician

The purpose of college media is to serve and give voice to the students. We, as the student-based forum of journalism on the Bismarck State College campus, provide content that is informative, fair, concise and of importance to BSC. With this goal in mind, The Mystician staff is dedicated to accuracy and maintaining ethical journalistic practices. We strive to give a voice to student issues and policies within the local community. Our goal is to incorporate as many students as possible and be an outlet for student expression.

The 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.

Letter To The Editor

I believe that The Mystician gives very important news about BSC that students would otherwise not know about.

–Walker Schwengler Nov. 9, 2017

A 55-Year-Old Sophomore Offers Advice

Tom Delozier for The Mystician



Not to sound like an old man, but many things were different when I was in high school in 1979. My senior year, I asked an adviser about going to college and she laughed at me and told me I needed to go get a job because I wasn't college material. I can't imagine that happening today.

I decided to go to Penn State. Classes there were huge, I'm talking about 300 students in one class. I wasn't there for very long, because it looked like America was going into World War III. I dropped out of Penn State and enlisted in the Marine Corps. I was in it for ten years. During that time, I met my wife, got married, and had three sons. After I left the Marine Corps, I got a job managing a fast food restaurant.

Later I got connected with some of my high school buddies. They tried to talk me into playing football at Kentucky. I trained with them to get ready and at the last minute, Kentucky asked me if I took the ACT. I had no idea what that

even was. Because of that, Kentucky never happened. Instead, I spent years working different jobs. Eventually I got into Corrections and became a Corrections Officer. I worked at four different prisons in my Corrections career, that is until I got hurt during an inmate fight and suffered major knee injuries.

My wife was attending Bismarck State College when I had to retire. She spoke to a BSC staff member and told her about my situation. They asked about the possibility of me becoming a graphic designer. It made sense, I have always loved art and creating things. Even back in high school I was an award-winning artist. My wife and I agreed that it was a great idea for me to become a graphic designer. I started the process of attending BSC, and joined the graphic design program. I had not been in a classroom in over 30 years, so I had very little knowledge about current technology.

On my first day, I met the three graphic design instructors: Tom Marple, Jason Lueder, and Sean Thorenson. I was taught the old school way of going to class, which is to sit down and have nothing on your desk while paying

attention to what the teacher had to say.

On day one of actual classes things went well. I met with all the instructors and they seemed very nice. However, class with Mr. Marple scared the hell out of me. He made sure to lay down the rules, and there was no nonsense about his teaching.

Mr. Lueder's class was very business-like and I could tell he took his job very seriously. He also scared me, but mostly it was because I had never really worked with a camera before.

Eventually I had Mr. Thorenson. He was a little calmer but he was more of the technology guy out of the three, so his class was more in depth in the computer. I was barely able to turn on a computer, and yet they wanted me to do some of the most highly technological things in the class. One major thing I had to learn, was how to use a Mac computer. Most graphic designers use them so I really practiced using mine at home.

We had projects with deadlines, but this area I excelled in. After all, in the Marine Corps you met deadlines or died trying to get them done. Back then, I had to do whatever it took to get the job done. With pride, I can say

while I was in college I never had a late project. The reason for that is because the graphic design instructors care. They worked with me. I was behind on the technology, so the students who just graduated high school knew so much more than me.

My freshman year was tough, but I gained a lot of knowledge. My sophomore year was more fun; we got to create our own projects. The instructors treated us like employees working in a job, which is great to get you ready for the working world.

In 2016 I graduated from the graphic design program. I carry my degree like a badge of honor. For the rest of my life, I will never forget my instructors. They deserve medals for putting up with me. The great part is how much I love BSC. I am now finishing up my second degree in mass communications. Thanks to my wonderful instructors, I will always believe that a degree from BSC is just as good as any degree from any other college in America.

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES . . .
It will drive them crazy.

It's Not Just a Game

Rachel Vitek for The Mystician



It's just a game. There's no reason to cry. There is more to life than sports. It doesn't even matter.

I've heard people make these comments

and others similar in nature when referring to a game that was lost. When they see someone cry after a game, there are always those people who make comments like this: In a few years, you won't even think about it. These people are obviously the kind of people that never participated in an organized sport.

Athletes put their all into each and every game they play. It's wired in them to have the will to win, and they all work hard to reach the peak of their performance. If they fail to reach their goal, it feels very similar to the disappointment a student feels after studying their butt off and receiving an F as the outcome.

In the bigger picture, high school sports might not look important. They are supposed to be something fun to participate in, while working

hard to graduate and move on to college. For some students, sports are much more important than any simple hobby. Some students would never be able to afford college if it weren't for a sports scholarship. Other students like myself, would have never found the motivation to keep their grades up without the need to stay off that ineligibility list.

When an athlete cries after a loss, it doesn't mean that person thinks their life is over, it just means that they put their heart and soul into that game and the disappointment has overwhelmed them. They put so much time and sweat into the sport, and in that moment, it feels like all of that was for nothing.

They'll go over the game in their head for days, but eventually they'll begin to push it aside. The disappointment never really goes away though. It will settle in the back of their mind, and when meeting up with teammates later on in life, they will all still sit and reflect on how great they could have been.

All the non-athletes may not understand this feeling, but they all should attempt to accept one fact—sometimes it's not just a game.

Get Your Sass Back to Class

Amanda Joyce for The Mystician



Well, it's that horrible time of the year when North Dakota freezes over and snow starts accumulating everywhere. I can't even begin to explain the

number of accidents I've witnessed due to the snowfall. I absolutely hate the cold; therefore, I am deemed as a weaker link among the state's population, and natural selection will be coming for me.

Good, I hope it does. Natural selection can look for me in the giant two-foot snow and ice piles, but I won't be there. I'll be at my house, hiding under 25 pounds of blanket whilst drinking gallons of hot chocolate and watching Christmas movies.

I know there's so many things to love about all the seasons, and I have to admit winter has some great ones. Such as the fact that all the bugs freeze

and descend back into the seventh level of Hell where they belong, or that it's now acceptable for me to wear layers of sweaters and super fuzzy socks, even though I've been doing it all year. To be fair, I'm cold even when it's 75 degrees outside.

Another wonderful thing is I can go into hibernation over Winter/Christmas Break and not have to worry about leaving my house. At least until I have to go to the store to purchase more hot chocolate or soup, because I consume large amounts of that as well. Perhaps I'll just send my family out to retrieve those items for me. Either way, I will stay warm through the winter.

Whether you agree with me or not, it's safe to say that we are all looking forward to the break, and the fact that we will get to enjoy sleeping in since we no longer have 8 a.m. classes. Until that glorious time comes to save us, stay warm this winter, drive carefully and get your sass back to class.

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual writer and not necessarily shared by Bismarck State College or The Mystician staff.



Photograph Above L:R Nelson Abrego, Cece Carlson, Max Rebhun, Breanna Sailer and Nichole Mickleson.



Nichole Mickleson acting out her role.

How I Learned to Drive

Captures Human Behavior

Story and Photographs Marcie Reinbold for The Mystician

“Sometimes in order to tell a secret, you have to teach a lesson first.” This is a quote and the first line in Paula Vogel’s award-winning drama, *How I Learned to Drive*.

The lesson will be taught and the secret will be revealed when Bismarck State College presents the play Dec. 7 through Dec. 10. Directed by Dan Rogers, former BSC professor, it will be performed by BSC students and local residents.

The play is set in multiple locations, but the focus is in rural Maryland, where one of the main leads, Lil’Bit, played by Breanna Sailer, is raised.

It dives into some uncomfortable and taboo subjects in everyday life that people usually avoid talking about, such as manipulation, sexual abuse, and bullying. Rogers assures viewers that it was written to keep the emotions real, but not be overwhelming.

Formatted in the Brechtian style, *How I Learned to Drive*, focuses on the distancing effect and provokes self-reflection.

“What Dan [Rogers] highlights is that it’s just a very different style of play,” Nelson Abrego, portraying the Male Greek Chorus, said. “There isn’t really a fourth wall there and we want the audience to know that we are switching between characters; that’s part of the gimmick of the show.”

Rogers said the actors never actually physically touch. However, that doesn’t defer from the mentality the actors need while acting their part.

“During some of the first rehearsals, many people had emotional reactions,” Cece Carlson, who plays the Teenage Greek Chorus, said. “Some actors cried or felt guilty.”

“We had a representative from the Abused Adult Resource Center here

to talk about what she works with and people who have been exposed to sexual abuse,” Max Rebhun, known as Peck, said. “It’s not something I had to deal with first hand, but it was nice to know that there is a resource for people who were exposed to this stuff.”

Rebhun also explained his own emotional tribulations while preparing for his character. While most people felt shock and sadness, Rebhun said he felt an immense guilt with his part, being a character who has some unsavory roles to play in this production.

“The subject matter is dense and I was definitely feeling more shameful going into this subject matter, having to portray this kind of person,” Rebhun said. “I’m going to have to portray this and it’s like – how am I going to do this? Are these people going to judge me for playing this character?”

While the cast and crew said they

have had a rough time with the play, each of them agree in what the story can bring to the table.

For Rebhun, it opened his mind again to understanding something that he has not experienced himself, thus becoming more sensitive to the topic.

For some actors, going through the story of Lil'Bit has made it easier for them to explain the issue to people.

Nichole Mickleson, who plays the Female Greek Chorus said that at first when she told her parents about the play they were grossed out, but once she was able to explain it, they were a lot more open and understanding to the concept.

Abrego said it has made him more aware of the things happening around

four years. I auditioned not really knowing if I could emotionally handle this role, and then I got it and couldn't be more thankful. It has helped with my healing process."

Rogers said he has his own hopes for what the play could accomplish.

"I always say I act for two people: One is the person out in the audience whose story we're telling, the other is the person who has not experienced what the people in the play have," Rogers said. "Hopefully their response is: 'Oh, I didn't understand. Now I do.'"

Producer Danny Devlin said that while the play is running, there will be a representative from the Abused Adult Resource Center in the audience, in the event that a person would need to

"For me, theatre has always been a safe place to explore difficult issues and challenging ideas. It's a play—the stage is a safe space to use imagination and capture human behavior. Sometimes that scares people; sometimes people are offended by what is happening on stage. For me, it's about issues that need to be looked at, need to be talked about, and need to be sorted through. [We] need a greater sensitivity, understanding and awareness."

– Dan Rogers

him, especially on social media. The stories people read and usually brush off are more apparent to him. Particularly in popular shows where the young actors are being sexualized by the adult fans.

"I did emotionally struggle with the script at first," Sailer said. "I was a victim of abuse of several sorts for

speaking to someone immediately.

Rogers added to the possibility of more positive things coming out during the production.

The only way to know for sure, is to join the cast in the Sidney J. Lee Auditorium and watch this award-winning presentation that is being performed by BSC students.



Breanna Sailer on stage in the SJL practicing her part for *How I Learned to Drive*.

How I Learned to Drive

December 7-9 at 7:30 p.m.

December 10 at 2:30 p.m.

Sidney J. Lee Auditorium in Schafer Hall

Tickets available for purchase
online at www.bsctheatre.com or call 701-224-5677
\$12 in advance/ \$15 at the door

Reduced rates for students, faculty and staff with valid BSC ID



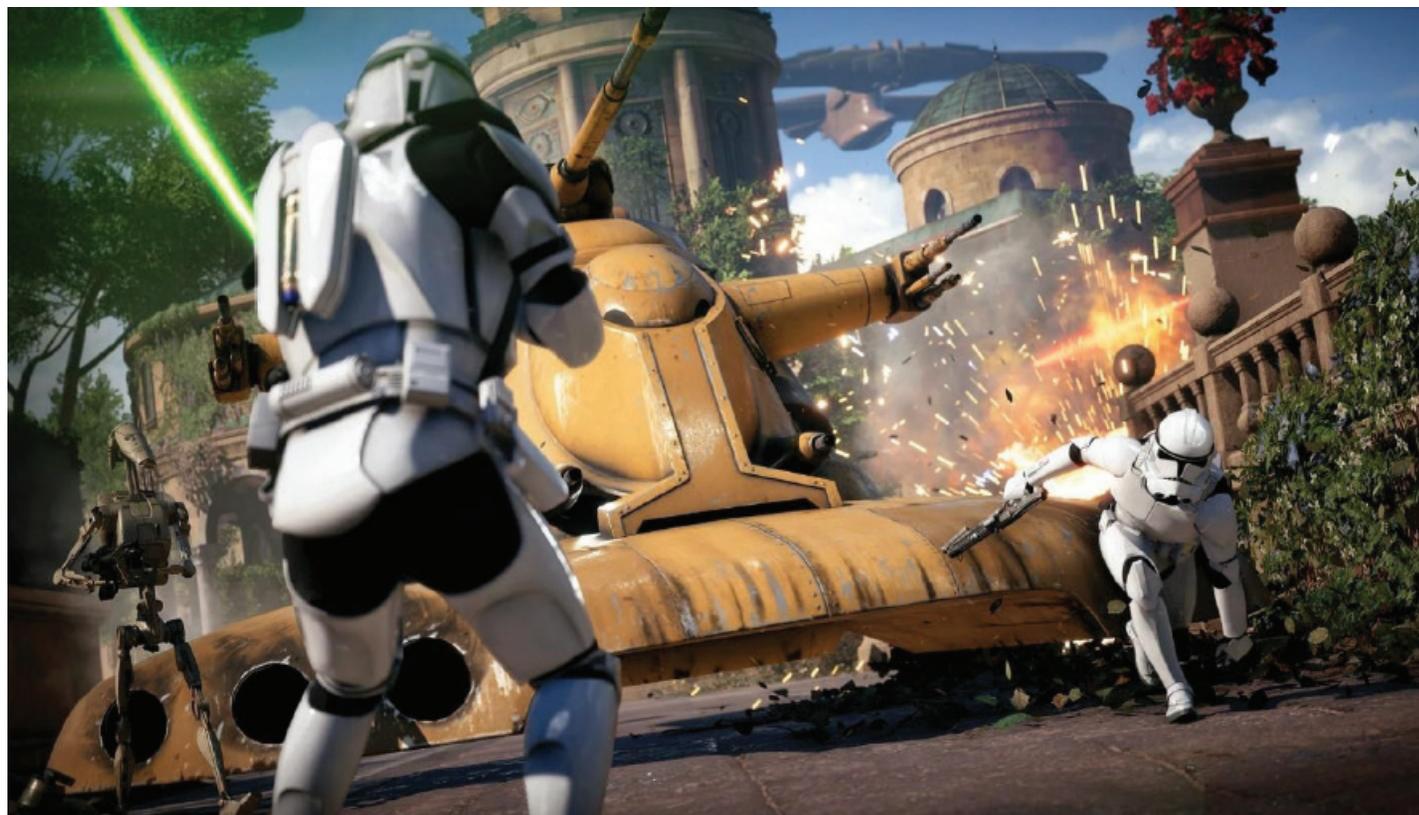
L:R Tim Bjugstad, Nelson Abrego, Mike Garvey, Nichole Mickleson and Cece Carlson practicing a musical bit.



MASTER SWORD REVIEW

Star Wars Battlefront II: The Jedi, Sith and Corporate Greed

Brett Williamson for The Mystician



Hunkering down behind the ruins of a downed starfighter, enemy blaster fire is beating the ground around you. In the distance clashing lightsabers can be heard as you release the heat from your overworked E-11 blaster. As your squad lays in ruins, it is up to you to hold back the advance until reinforcements can arrive ... this is Star Wars Battlefront II.

Star Wars Battlefront II was released by Electronic Arts Dice Nov. 17 for PC, Xbox One and PS4 home consoles.

As follow up to its 2015 predecessor, Star Wars Battlefront II promised to build upon the past rendition and make a more immersive Star Wars experience – not without stirring up some controversy.

In-game microtransaction, paying money for items within a game after paying full price for the game, has become a cancerous staple of modern gaming.

EA Dice finally hit a nerve with gamers in Star Wars Battlefront II when these transactions affected the gameplay – creating a pay-to-win atmosphere.

Gamers that pre-ordered the game got early access before the official launch.

During this period, gamers had the option to pay real world money for items called loot boxes. These boxes contain random weapons and character upgrades that benefited the recipients.

While these boxes are also earned

through normal gameplay at a slow rate, it was the ability to purchase as many of the boxes with crystals, that are purchased with real money, that created an unfair advantage.

The country of Belgium went so far as classifying this transaction as gambling because of the randomness of these boxes. EA Dice, and an embarrassed Disney, at the last moment, decided to pull this aspect from the game hours into the launch.

“We’re turning off all in-game purchases,” Oskar Gabrielson, EA Dice general manager, said. “We will now spend more time listening, adjusting, balancing and tuning. This means that the option to purchase crystals in the game is now offline, and all progression will be earned through gameplay. The ability to purchase crystals in-game will become available at a later date, only after we’ve made changes to the game.”

With all this aside, Star Wars Battlefront II is still more than any Star Wars fan could ask for as a game. Experiencing the greatest battles of Star Wars lore in the first person with a group of friends will make even the coolest cat squeak like a Star Wars nerd.

Players will fill the role of troopers spanning the many eras of the Star Wars universe.

The player will fill the role of a stormtrooper during The Battle for Hoth, a separatist battle droid

advancing through the streets of Tweed and a New Republic shock troop trying to stop the Star Killer Base from firing its planet killer weapon.

Star Wars Battlefront II allows for the player to fill a specific combat role during battle rather than playing as a standard trooper as in the previous version. Gamers can play as assault men, heavy gunners, specialist snipers and officers. In addition to these roles, players will gain points during combat to spend for hero units, such as Yoda and Darth Vader, and pilot special vehicles, such as X-wings and AT-ST chicken walkers.

There are multiple modes of play that also include a single player campaign that takes place after the events of Return of the Jedi and leading into The Force Awakens. While the campaign only takes a handful of hours, it is a nice tour of the Stars Wars universe and gives players a chance to cut their teeth before the epic battles that are multiplayer.

To get the full effect of Star Wars Battlefront II, gamers will want to play Galactic Assault.

This is a 20 vs. 20 player online battlefield in which the two teams battle for control of a map by fulfilling mission objectives.

A standout is the Endor battle map. This time around on the forest moon of Endor, the Rebel Alliance is required to hack a computer station and steal an

imperial walker. As the Empire, it’s their duty to stop the hack or bring down the walker if the hack could not be stopped. Whatever team fulfills their objective is the winner. Players are ranked by performance and are rewarded with credits to buy loot boxes.

The star battles have also been overhauled. With a new control system and bomber classes added to the starfighters, it is actually worth playing this time around. Rather than that hollow deathmatch feel of its predecessor, Star War Battlefront II’s star battles are objective-driven missions in 12 vs. 12 warfare.

The star battles are refined to the point it could have been its own separate game. Players’ ships can also be leveled up and be equipped with specific skills and weapons obtained via loot boxes.

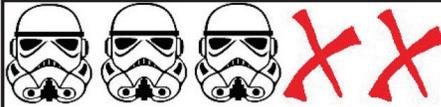
Entering the galactic arena can be daunting at first. After being blown up, shot between the eyes and run over, probably more times than you will be able to count, you will eventually get better.

As players gain items and begin to understand game mechanics, they will move from a bullet sponge to dog of war in matter of hours.

To get a leg up on the character upgrade system and battle mechanics, check out Youtube.com. There is a great selection of videos explaining how to excel in combat.

† R.I.P. †

Master Sword Review
Sept. 2015 – Dec. 2017

| |
|--|
|  <p>3 OUT OF 5 GUILTY PLEASURE STAR WARS FUN</p> <p>+ BEAUTIFUL GRAPHICS + IMPROVEMENTS FROM 2015 + MULTIPLE CLASSES AND HEROES - LOOT BOX SYSTEM - GRINDING FOR PURCHASES</p> |
|--|

[Editor’s Note: After four semesters of reporting and five semesters of writing Master Sword for The Mystician, Brett Williamson decided it was time to end this chapter of his life in order to focus on his degree. Thank you, Brett, for your dedication to The Mystician. Master Sword will be greatly missed.]

–Hunter Andes, EIC

SUDOKU

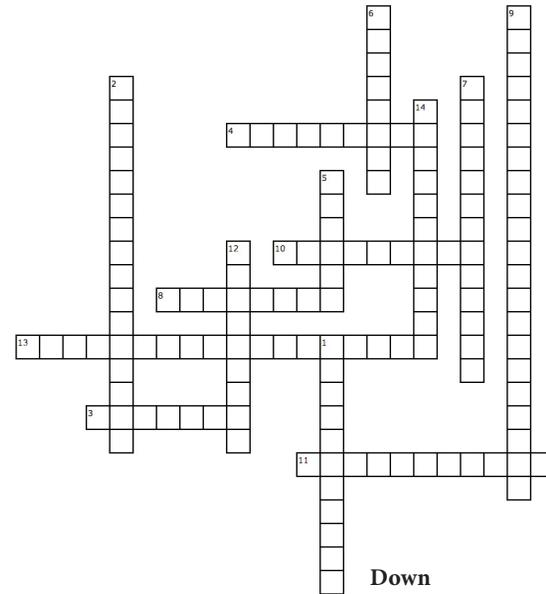
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Answers from issue 79.5 Below

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

CROSSWORD



Across

- 3. A man that helps people dream at night
- 4. Warming up with hot cocoa by the ___
- 8. What is the name of the activity in which you go door to door and sing
- 10. Popular candy during holiday season
- 11. The time that ll college students pray for
- 13. Emotional blues that happen during the winter

Down

- 1. Place you can go to volunteer
- 2. Dancing and singing man with a carrot nose
- 5. Drink associated with Christmas
- 6. Intense snowstorm
- 7. Which street goes all out for decoration in Bismarck? (known as "Candy Cane Lane")
- 9. The name of the popular twelve verse song for the holidays
- 12. Process of clearing the snow
- 14. A good way to solve those Blues

Answers from issue 79.6 Below (Upside Down)

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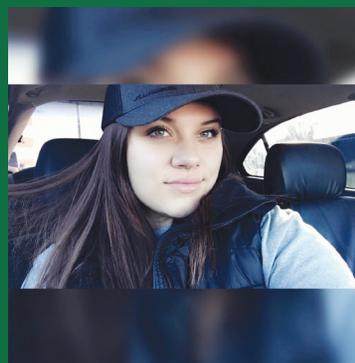
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| 5 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 1 |
| 6 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 7 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
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| 4 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 3 |

Campus Camera

Do you want your post to be featured in the next issue of The Mystician?
Upload your picture to Instagram, tap Add Location, type in Bismarck State College,
possibly see your photo in the next issue.



@jdhoward26



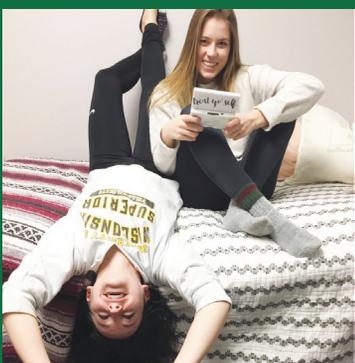
@makeemad



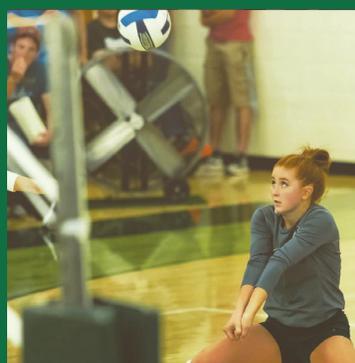
@bscmysticsvb



@leah_woods



@swanson_kenny



@sam_anklam



@amy_jacobson



@bailey_wilhelm

Movie Honors Minot Veteran

Levi Holzer for *The Mystician*

When it comes to war movies, I have been a huge fan of them ever since I could remember. Staying at home and watching movies on Netflix is the lazy approach, but going to the theatre and eating some popcorn is a fun thing to do once in a while.

Now playing at Grand Theatres, *Thank You for Your Service* is a drama/biography directed by Jason Hall and produced by DreamWorks Studios and Reliance Entertainment.

The movie is based on the 2013 novel, *Thank You for Your Service*, by David Finkel. This production was Hall's first major motion picture he directed.

The movie starts with Sgt. Schumann and his unit looking for a sniper on top of a building in Iraq and suddenly soldier Emory gets shot in the head. Sgt. Schumann struggles to take Emory down to the medic and drops him on concrete.

It transitions to Sgt. Schumann returning home to his family and struggling after re-living tragic events from the war. He ends up seeking help through Veterans Affairs and with his loved ones.

The film had a budget of \$20 million and made close to \$4 million on opening night. It's rated R and has a runtime of one hour and 49 minutes.

Miles Teller, who plays Sergeant Adam Schumann, is the main actor in the movie. Teller starred in *Footloose* and *The Fantastic Four Now*.

The film is meant to tell the story of how Sgt. Schumann dealt with the deaths of his men.

Tausolo Aeti, played by Beulah Koale, dealt with his brain injuries from the bombings; Will Waller, played by Joe Cole, dealt with surviving explosions; Michael Emory, played by Scott Haze, dealt with the after effects of being shot in the head.

Once the soldiers returned home, they had to find ways to come to terms with what they went through.

This movie is based on Adam Schumann, a North Dakotan from Minot, and about his experiences in Iraq.

David Finkel, the author of the book, met Schumann when he returned home. Finkel also wrote a book about Schumann titled *The Good Soldiers*.

This was a powerful and very eye-catching movie. The way the cast and crew put it together gave their audience an idea of the struggles soldiers and their families deal with when they return home from war.

"The story of this movie is beyond great and like no other war movie I have seen before", Levi Mckitrick, a North Dakota State University student said.

I would recommend this movie to anyone who likes to see great war books turned into action films and enjoys being on the edge of seat.

Jazz Music Fills SJL Auditorium

Hunter Andes for *The Mystician*

Bismarck State College just wrapped up another one of its jazz concerts.

This year's fall concert was a tribute to two famous men of jazz: Dizzy Gillespie and Thelonious Monk. In 1982, Gillespie performed in the Sidney J. Lee Auditorium at BSC.

"These two were huge figures in the 1940s and 50s when bee-bop, the modern jazz style, got started," Michael Langer, BSC adjunct professor and new jazz director, said. "They came out of the old big band swing groups of the 30s and the 40s and started a whole new jazz language, and were really huge stars for the rest of their lives."

Langer said the BSC jazz ensemble and jazz combo groups performed a wide variety of jazz styles including works from both Gillespie and Monk.



Dr. John Darling and Trevor Murphy playing their saxophones in jazz concert practice Nov. 13. Photograph by Hunter Andes

BSC Fall Semester 2017 Final Exam Schedule

All exam sessions are approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes in length and are given in the regular classroom unless scheduled otherwise by the course instructor.

TO DETERMINE YOUR TEST SCHEDULE: From the column on the left, match class start time and first day of the week your class meets, with the Final Test Day, date and time columns on the right.

| Class Start Time | 1 st Day of Week Class Meets | Final Test Day | Date and Time |
|------------------|---|----------------|------------------|
| 7:00 or 7:30 | Monday ----- | Monday | Dec. 11 7:30 am |
| 8:00 | Monday ----- | Wednesday | Dec. 13 7:30 am |
| 9:00 | Monday ----- | Tuesday | Dec. 12 10:00 am |
| 10:00 or 10:30 | Monday ----- | Wednesday | Dec. 13 10:00 am |
| 11:00 | Monday ----- | Monday | Dec. 11 12:30 pm |
| 12:00 | Monday ----- | Wednesday | Dec. 13 12:30 pm |
| 1:00 | Monday ----- | Tuesday | Dec. 12 3:00 pm |
| 2:00 or 2:30 | Monday ----- | Thursday | Dec. 14 3:00 pm |
| 3:00 or 4:00 | Monday ----- | Friday | Dec. 15 7:30 am |
| 7:00 or 7:30 | Tuesday ----- | Tuesday | Dec. 12 7:30 am |
| 8:00 | Tuesday ----- | Thursday | Dec. 14 7:30 am |
| 9:00 | Tuesday ----- | Monday | Dec. 11 10:00 am |
| 10:00 or 10:30 | Tuesday ----- | Thursday | Dec. 14 10:00 am |
| 11:00 | Tuesday ----- | Friday | Dec. 15 3:00 pm |
| 12:00 | Tuesday ----- | Friday | Dec. 15 12:30 pm |
| 1:00 or 1:30 | Tuesday/Thursday ----- | Tuesday | Dec. 12 12:30 pm |
| 2:00 | Tuesday ----- | Thursday | Dec. 14 12:30 pm |
| 2:30 | Tuesday ----- | Monday | Dec. 11 3:00 pm |
| 3:00 or 3:30 | Tuesday ----- | Wednesday | Dec. 13 3:00 pm |
| 4:00 | Tuesday/Thursday ----- | Friday | Dec. 15 10:00 am |

FINAL EXAMS FOR EXTENDED DAY (EVENING) CLASSES WILL BE GIVEN AT THEIR REGULAR TIME DURING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 11-15, 2017.

Comic below was published in Volume 15, Number 4 of *The Mystician* Dec. 22, 1961.

"His last class was too much for him ..."

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Mystics' Basketball Season is Off to a Good Start



Brody Nieuwsma and Drew Pearson showing their talent in practice Nov. 15. Photograph by Hunter Andes

Levi Holzer and Mason Thorenson for The Mystician

The Bismarck State College Mystics' Basketball team have begun the season with a positive start. After falling to both Miles Community College and Gillette College in the first two games, the Mystics have rebounded well by winning two straight.

Friday, Nov. 10 and Saturday, Nov. 11, the Mystics defeated Presentation College and Sissiton Wahpeton Technical College to even their record.

The BSC Mystics returned six sophomores and brought in six freshmen for the 2017-2018 season.

North Dakota Mr. Basketball Finalists, Tronis McKay, from St. Michael, and KyJuan Johnson, from Minot High, were two of the top recruits who signed to play for the Mystics.

Buster Gilliss, Mystics head coach, tried to focus on recruiting players from around the state and local schools.

"We have some athletic ability and good shooters who have some potential to be good players this season," Gilliss said.

It's still early in the season and with a long road stretch ahead, Gilliss is hoping that the team chemistry will strengthen and allow for the players to adjust to playing with one another in the early on games.

"The team chemistry is really good," Kaelen Johnson, sophomore forward, said "As soon as we met each other, it felt like we already knew everyone."

It may be too early to predict the outcome of this year's season; nevertheless, the Mystics believe they can go far and be able to compete for a chance to appear in the National Championship Tournament.

This team's variety in size and versatility will play a major role in the outcome of the 2017-2018 season.

There have been some significant early injuries to the Mystics team. Sophomores Michael Olson and Kiton Ademoso have been unable to play the early games due to leg injuries.

In the last game, the Mystics also lost sophomores Grant Kohlus to an ankle injury, and Jesse Roberts to a ruptured spleen. Despite the injuries to some key players, the Mystics are still hopeful that the season will end on a good note.

"We believe that we can make it to Huchtinson while trying to put BSC back on the map," Johnson said.

The next BSC home games are on Dec. 1 and Dec. 2 in The Armory. They will take on Miles Community College and Little Big Horn College in the Lane Johnson Classic.

BSC Mens Upcoming Home Basketball Games

| | | |
|-----------|---------|-------------------------------|
| 8 p.m. | Dec. 1 | Miles Community College |
| 2 p.m. | Dec. 2 | Little Big Horn College |
| 8 p.m. | Dec. 8 | Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College |
| 2 p.m. | Dec. 9 | Gillette College |
| 7:30 p.m. | Dec. 11 | Dakota College at Bottineau |
| 7:30 p.m. | Dec. 29 | Dawson Community College |



Bobcats' Season in Full Swing

Westin Loughheed for The Mystician

The Bismarck Bobcats are in the full swing of their season right now and are in an intense battle with other Central Division teams.

With a record of 8-7-2, they are currently sitting in third place in the division. Only one point separates them and the division leading Brookings Blizzard with 19 points. This shows how tight the Central Division is.

The Bobcats are led this season by a group of producing forwards. Leading the team with 16 points is forward, Ty Ennis, who is nearly averaging a point per game so far in their 17 games played this season.

Adam Stacho, a rookie who is committed to play college hockey at American International College (Division I) leads the team in goals with eight.

Grand Forks native and Northern Michigan commit, Grant Johnson is tied for the league lead in assists

with 10. Recently, it was announced that Johnson will be joined at Northern Michigan University by fellow teammate Tanner Vescio who announced his commitment to play.

"Tanner is a player that has great skill, vision and work ethic that makes him valuable on the ice, but

"Tanner is a player that has great skill, vision and work ethic..."
-Layne Sedevie

his contributions as a character guy in our locker room have been just as important," Layne Sedevie, Bobcats head coach and general manager, said.

According to the Bobcat's website, Vescio is one of four current or former Bobcats players to commit to a Division I program in 2017-2018.

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Kristina Lucier and Sam Anklam reacting to a play on Oct. 25.



Mystics' Kristina Lucier and Alyssa Beck.

Mystics Continued

Photographs by Hunter Andes for The Mystician

Doppler, freshman outside hitter, said. "We just had to work as a team."

Everybody had a role on the team; to be successful, each role needed to be fulfilled. From the beginning, Graff strove for this year's team to be unified.

"I didn't want any separation between freshmen and sophomores," Graff said. "Since we are a two year school, our connections mean so much on the court."

This philosophy prevailed as the Mystics went on to win the Regional Championship by defeating North Dakota State College of Science. They won all three sets while tallying 46 kills with a hitting percentage of .413 as a team.

"Any time you can win the Mon-Dak regular season championship and then the Region XIII Championship, I consider it a very successful season," Walsh said.

Going into next year, the Mystics will lose five sophomores who include, Sierra Graff, Hannah Hanson, Jaycee Walter, Alyssa Beck and Allie Mischel.

For next year's players, however, there is always room to improve. The Mystics will soon begin their offseason lifting and conditioning program along with the start of the spring volleyball season Feb. 1, which runs through April 30.

"We see a lot of growth in the freshmen during this time," Walsh said.

The Mystics will look to defend their regional title and redeem themselves in the district playoffs next year. For 2018, there are ten freshmen returning and they'll have an opportunity to leave their fingerprints on a team that has already progressed significantly.



Jaycee Walter spiking the ball down on North Dakota State College of Science.



L:R Hannah Hanson, Paige Schweitzer, Alicia Larsgaard, Allie Mischel and Sierra Graff celebrating after a successful play.



Mystic jubilation after the Lady Mystic Volleyball team won the regional title Oct. 25.



Liza Doppler exercising her talent Nov. 3.