

THE MYSTICIAN

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ASPIRING TO GIVE EVERY STUDENT A VOICE

bscmysticmedia.com



As part of ArtsQuest, Jon Offutt, a professional glass blower, demonstrated the process on April 29 and 30 for BSC students outside of LEA Hall. "I start with 50 pound bags of glass, shovel those little nuggets into my furnace, let them heat up and let the air rise in them over night. Let it cool a bit to make layers," Offutt said. (Credit: Kyleigh Hilbert)

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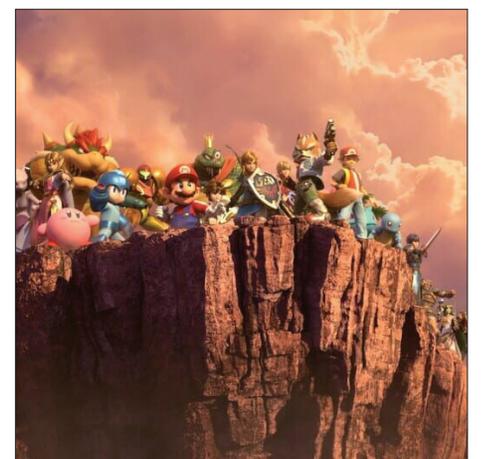
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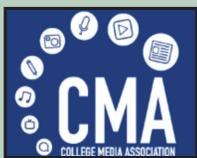


THE MYSTICIAN

Published by the Students – For the Students

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to Mystic Palooza! I assume you are here because where else would you get this final copy of The Mystician! Please enjoy the festivities to your heart's content! Hard work and time were put into this free community event by the staff and it will only make them glad that you have a good time!

In other news, this is my last Mystician as Editor-in-Chief. It is my last publication as a student of Bismarck State College as well. I am finally graduating from college after 5 years spent as a dropout, car washer and student after high school. In that time I found a passion for media that made me feel whole and happy with my life.

I'd like to thank all of the wonderful people that brought me to this point in my life. Thank you to Mrs. Hair, you encouraged me to write and tell stories when I was nine and I never stopped.

Thank you to my family, for their encouragement along the rough road I've walked. Thank you to all of the previous members of Mystic Media who laid the building blocks that I am glad to have added my own mark on. Thank you to all of the current Mystic Media staff that all created something genuinely amazing. Lastly, thank you to Dusty Anderson, Cole Bernhardt and karen Bauer who taught me all of the skills I needed to find jobs and work with the most amazing people!



There are so many others I cannot thank enough. If you know me, then thank you, I am certain you have helped me somewhere along the way.

What does the future hold for little old me? I can't say just yet, but some close friends and I are working on a really cool upcoming project. If you are ever in the mood, look up "My Book of Frights" on a podcasting app and look for my name to see a genuine labor of love.

It has been a pleasure to be Editor-in-Chief of The Mystician and I cannot wait to see what you all do next. You're going to be amazing.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

S	A	T	E		R	E	W	E	N		B	R	E	V	
A	L	A	T		E	N	O	T	A		M	A	D	A	
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M	A	L	G		A	M	A		D	R	A	M	A	H	S

CROSSWORD INFORMATION

BSC's own Language, Literature and Communication Department Chair (and crossword geek) Michael Tomanek has created and submitted this month's puzzle. Experiment, explore and try to find the answers yourself for the most satisfaction. Below is the answer key to this month's puzzle. P 14

By Robert Mechaley III EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, THE MYSTICIAN



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The Mystician 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 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 BSC 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.

Contact:

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with letters to the editor

or any concerns/comments regarding this publication.

E-mail: bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu

THEY BUILD HOUSES: BSC CARPENTRY STUDENTS TAKE PART IN LARGE UNDERTAKINGS

By Robert Mechaley III
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Along Silver Boulevard, the air rings with the sound of electric tools whirring tirelessly in construction. Workers stand upon and around large construction projects installing roofs and walls. In front of one particular house sits a trailer that reads “Bismarck State College Carpentry.”

BSC’s polytechnic mission involves various levels of hands-on training and experience. For each department under that umbrella, the degree for which they will be trained and in what manner varies widely. For the carpentry department, this means that their two semester long training involves constructing an entire house that people can live in.

“Each student has put in at least one window, each student has put in at least one door, each student has put in at least one wall,” Trenton Zainhofsky, carpentry class president, said.

The draw of carpentry varies from student to student. Zainhofsky’s father owns a construction business, and he wanted to learn more. Another large draw is the ability to make a living working outside and doing physical labor.

“I used to do concrete; I did that for a few years, so I got to understand the very beginning parts of building a house,” Jeremy

Wodworth, a carpentry student, said. “I always wondered what exactly it would look like after that process.”

There are more parts to the carpentry program outside of windows, doors and walls. In February 2021, the students got to display their personal work projects in a showcase in the Student Union. The pieces on display included tables, chests,

“I had a couple years of experience and a couple houses that I built previously, so I knew a fair amount coming into the process.”

**Trenton Zainhofsky,
Carpentry Class President**



Carpentry students in October 2020 standing in front of the house having installed the walls. The project began in last fall and is now available for sale. (Photos Provided)

benches and exquisite coat racks.

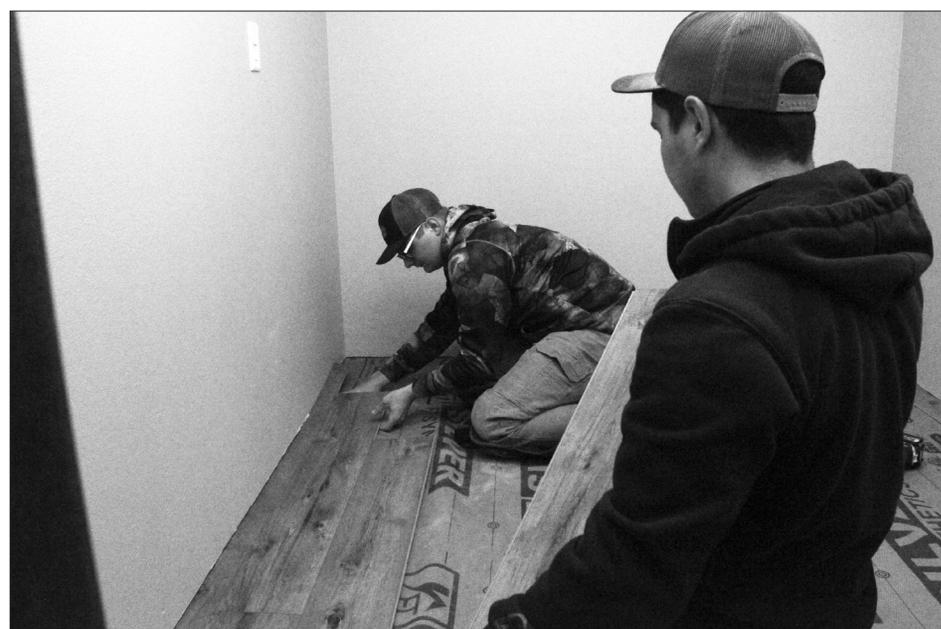
Another part of home building the students took part in was creating the cabinets in the kitchen areas. On site, students worked in varying degrees to install wood flooring and the closet of the master bedroom.

The work days are exactly that, work days. Students work on the house from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. with an hour break for lunch. In simulating a real work day, the students spend their time learning the ins and outs of the process in all they craft and build for one undertaking.

“I had a couple years of experience and a couple houses that I built previously, so I knew a fair amount coming into the process,” Zainhofsky said. “Of course there’s always more you can learn.”

Carpentry students at BSC can earn a diploma, certificate or a degree in

applied sciences. Information on BSC Carpentry can be found on their Facebook page or on <http://catalog.bismarckstate.edu/catalog/degrees/career-technical-education/carpentry-residential/carpentry-residential-diploma/>



Carpentry students Eric Patneaud and Aaron Wold install wooden flooring in the downstairs closet of the carpentry home. One of the objectives while building the home was to have it ready in time for the Parade of Homes. (Credit: Robert Mechaley III)

LINEWORKERS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS

By Kyleigh Hilbert
MYSTIC MEDIA COORDINATOR

In 1970, Bismarck State College introduced the Lineworker Electrical program, and 50 years later, it is still going strong. They are doing so well that, with a grant from North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, BSC is building a new training center and has waiting lists for students who are eager to be a part of the program.

During those past 50 years, BSC has also added several different energy programs, including Lineworkers, Mechanical Maintenance, Nuclear Power and Wastewater Technology.

These four programs are managed by Process Plant Technology Lecturer Kyren Miller who is a department chair for the NECE and energy programs. He also teaches the one-year lineworker program courses.

“We call it the three-semester program,” Miller said. “In the first summer semester, they take two courses that are required. Intro to climbing, where we provide them the equipment to climb, and the teachers teach them how to wear their gear.

They start with climbing to a 6 foot mark, then a 15 foot mark and then 32 feet while they also get comfortable wearing their gear.”

During the summer semester, the lineworker students are taught basic equipment operations, including how to run a skid steer, a digger derrick truck and backhoe.

After completing those courses, the students are given a short break until August when the rest of BSC students return for the fall semester, they return to start the core lineworker courses.

“The fall semester is all about learning how to work with their equipment and putting up lines,” Miller said. “Then when we come back from the holiday break, they are going to do more advanced construction and underground line splice, running trenchers and things like that.”

While some students do stick around to finish five more general

education courses to get a two-year associate’s degree, more than half of the students who are enrolled in the program, go on to be lineworkers right after graduation. And graduation includes a rodeo.

“We’ve been doing it for a few years now, we do what they call a lineman rodeo,” Miller said.

“It’s just a number of events where the students draft their teammates to do five different activities that they have to do, and the parents get to come and watch. They do these different skill sets, and we grade them on safety and procedure, time and quickness. Then we award them prizes that are donated by some of the vendors. What better way for the parents to see where their money is going towards.”

To help celebrate the 50 years of the program, the NDAREC awarded a grant to construct a new building for the BSC Lineworker Electrical program. This new building is a

\$6 million project and will be a brand new training center, with two classrooms, a truck simulator room and an indoor climbing arena.

Construction will begin this summer, with the new training center being completed by July 2022.

“We’re also doing a ceremony ahead of the lineman rodeo on May 6th,” Miller said. “Hopefully a few Senators will be there and Kelly Armstrong, and either the governor will speak or the mayor of Mandan, to do a dedication for the new training center. Along with a few people who were a big part in making the grant happen, we will have them speak for a bit.”

Miller was also able to go through some old pictures and locate a gentleman from the first class in 1970, who will also be there to celebrate.

BSC is the only school in the state that offers a Lineworker program, and has put out a large number of graduates who have found careers.

“We’re pretty excited,” Miller said. “Not a lot of programs can say they’ve made it 50 years successfully. We’ve got some great faculty members that have taken the program up a notch.”

“Not a lot of programs can say they’ve made it 50 years successfully. We’ve got some great faculty members that have taken the program up a notch.”

Kyren Miller, Department Chair for Energy Programs

Lineworker class posing at their graduation rodeo in 2019. The program involves a great deal of hands on experience and will be breaking ground on a new training facility in Summer 2021. (Photo Provided by Kyren Miller)



NEWS BRIEFS

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BSC LAUNCHES SONOGRAPHY PROGRAM WITH INDUSTRY AND GRANT SUPPORT

Responding to an increasing demand for sonographers across the state, Bismarck State College has launched a Diagnostic Medical Sonography program to train students for the high-wage, high-skill career. According to Job Service North Dakota predictions, the need for sonographers in the state will increase nearly 26 percent from 2019-2029, equating to more than 200 positions.

The foundational support for the new program came from Sanford Health, which provided the first commitment of support for the Sonography program director position.

Sanford Health established a scholarship endowment fund at the BSC Foundation to support students entering Health Science programs at BSC. In addition, both BSC and the BSC Foundation were awarded three grants totaling \$290K to purchase

equipment and supplies to start the new Sonography program.

The Otto Bremer Trust awarded the BSC Foundation \$80K to purchase ultrasound machines for student training.

BSC received \$50K from the ND Career and Technical Education Perkins Innovation Grant and \$160K from the ND Governor's Emergency Educational Relief Fund.

Together, these grant funds allowed the purchase of enough ultrasound machines and simulators to ensure all students receive hands-on training on the same high-tech equipment they'll be using in the workforce.

Enrollment in the sonography program is strong, with 35 students enrolled in pre-Sonography courses, ready to begin their technical courses in Fall 2021.

BSC ENROLLMENT NUMBERS AND STATISTICS

As we hit the middle of the spring term for most colleges, enrollment is continuing a downward trend nationwide. Overall undergraduate enrollment is down 4.5 percent compared to last spring, according to data from The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center.

Below is a look at new students admitted to DSU in the last four years. (The 2021 figure, last updated February 28, is not final).

2018: 299

2019: 300

2020: 340

2021: 317

Across the U.S. it's the community colleges that have been the hardest hit by COVID-19, with enrollment numbers down almost 9.5 percent from last spring.

Here, Bismarck State College saw a small decrease from spring 2020 to spring 2021, at 1.64 percent. BSC did see a large growth in several majors, including nursing and cybersecurity.

- Associate Degree Nursing up 20 percent
- Practical Nursing up 22 percent
- Medical Laboratory Technician up 23 percent
- Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) up 64 percent
- Cybersecurity AAS up 66 percent
- Cybersecurity BAS up 13 percent

Dickinson State will have a better idea of final fall enrollment numbers at the end of April when students begin to register for classes. President Easton attributes the spring growth to new athletic programs, adding a master's program, and bringing in students from Dickinson High School to take some college classes early.

Graduate school enrollment is a completely different story. In fact, it's growing more with each passing semester, up by 4.3 percent this spring. Interestingly, advanced healthcare degrees are rising in popularity right now, especially respiratory therapy.

STUDENTS NAMED PHI BETA LAMBDA (PBL) NATIONAL QUALIFIERS

Two BSC students were named Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) national qualifiers after participating in the virtual Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership Conference on April 9 and 10, 2021.

BSC Management student Julian Clemon, Bismarck, N.D., was awarded first place in the Personal Finance category, third place in the Job Interview category, and was elected to the 2021-2022 PBL State Leadership Team as Vice President of Communications.

BSC Energy Services & Renewable Technician student James Guidry, Sulphur, La., was awarded first place in the Computer Concepts, the Networking Concepts and the Statistical Concepts categories.

Clemon and Guidry are eligible to participate in the virtual PBL National Leadership Conference, June 24-27.

PBL is the collegiate division of the national association, Future Business Leaders of America, dedicated to inspiring and developing the next generation of leaders by preparing members for careers in business and business-related fields. The purpose of the BSC PBL chapter includes leadership, strengthening confidence, developing good working relationships within the community and encouraging community service. The BSC chapter adviser is Dr. Vickie Volk, BSC professor of Computers & Office Technology.

MANDAN PHOTO CONTEST IN 2021

March 1, 2021, Mandan, N.D. Photographers of all ages and experience levels are invited to enter Mandan's inaugural photo contest by capturing what is special about the community and surrounding areas in Morton County. The contest is open through Aug. 31, 2021.

Photographers can submit photos in one or more of the following categories: Opportunity, Community, Achievement and Fun.

One winner will be selected in each category plus the top youth entrant and a people's choice winner will all receive \$100 prizes courtesy of Corral Sales RV Superstore. Prizes will be awarded in the form of Mandan Bucks, which are gift certificates redeemable for merchandise and services at most Mandan businesses.

Contest organizers welcome additional prize donations for up to the top five finalists in each category and honorable mention awards, too.

The people's choice winner will be selected at a social at the Baymont Inn the fall of 2021. Stay tuned for details.

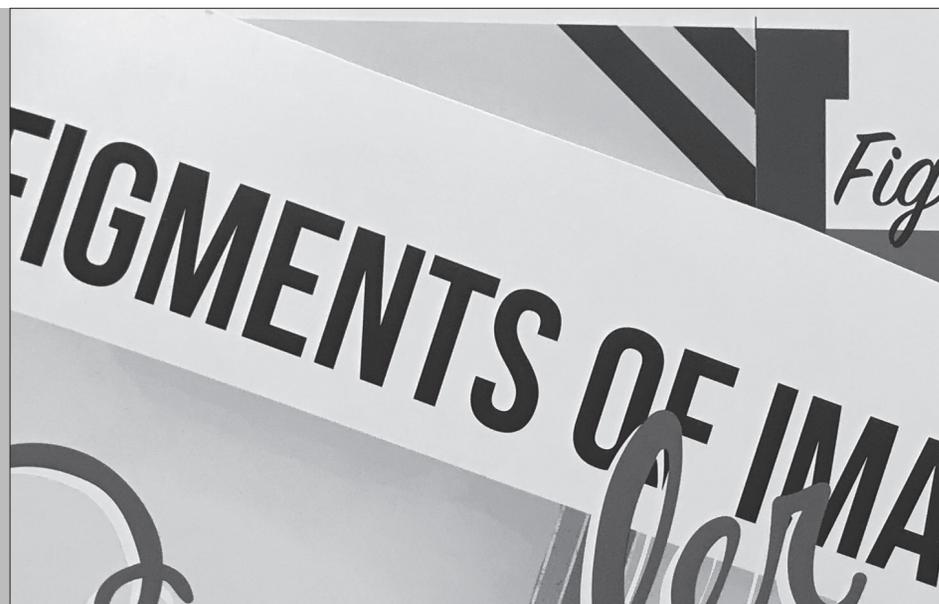
Winning photos will be featured in a public display in Mandan and may also be published in materials, such as the community calendar, and on websites promoting Mandan.

The full contest overview and rules are available at: www.cityofmandan.com/photocontest.

The contest is a joint project of the LPI Committee, City of Mandan Business Development and Communications Department, and Mandan Progress Organization.

NEW FIGMENTS OF IMAGINATION IS AVAILABLE NOW

Figments Class of Spring 2021 is proud to present: Figments of Imagination Vol. 29. The entire issue was put together by talented and dedicated students who worked hard to ensure that the tradition continued. Want to see the full, finished product for yourself?! Pick yours up today for free on Mystic Palooza Day!



BISMARCK STATE CHARGES TOWARD POLYTECHNIC MODELING FOR SPORTS

By Dante Ames
REPORTER/COLUMNIST

Polytechnic institution. A confusing term for many. There is no need to be discouraged or shy away from it. Put simply, a polytechnic institution is a technical school offering instruction in many industrial arts and applied sciences. This means more opportunities for students and athletes who attend. This also means more four-year degree options.

Bismarck State College is providing students with unique opportunities that give hands-on learning experiences.

Specially-created programs offer majors within several career areas: Cybersecurity, Agriculture, Business and Law, Communications, STEM, Transportation and Construction, Energy and Health Sciences. Under these areas are over 40 different programs for students to choose from. These programs will help students through work-learn opportunities such as internships, professional practice and field experience that will

“We’re making gains; we’re making moves and as far as the athletic department; we’ve got to make those movements too.”

Thai Haggin, BSC Athletic Coordinator

be useful when they leave school.

“I like the move of us going to four years,” BSC Athletic Coordinator Thai Haggin said. “It does a lot for the college; it says a lot for us. We’re making gains; we’re making moves and as far as the athletic department; we’ve got to make those movements too. What does it look like? Not sure yet, but when the time comes we’ll have to do more digging; we’ll have to

do more studying about it, making sure we’re going that way, too.”

Haggin said that with more four-year programs, students could stay longer. Moving BSC toward a polytechnic school will make the school a four-year junior college.

“As far as athletics go, we have been

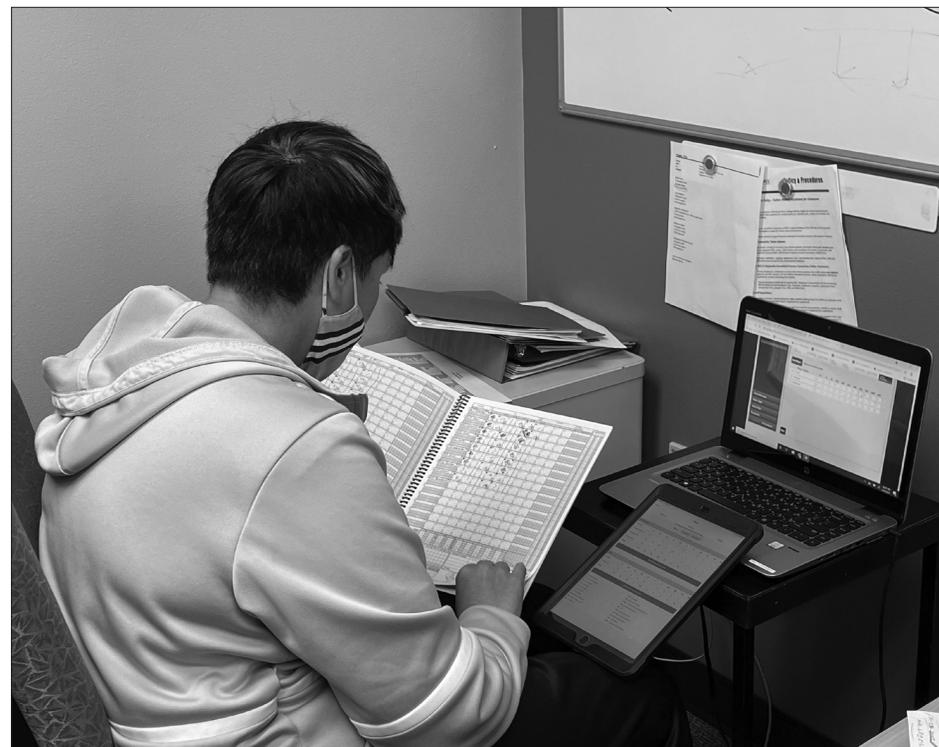
exploring going the four-year route,” BSC Director of Athletics Buster Gilliss said.

Gilliss said he’s had meetings with the commissioner of the North Star conference of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA),

“They’re excited about the possibility of BSC joining the conference,” Gilliss said, “and I think we would be a really good fit.”

For the full list of up-to-date programs go to Bismarckstate.edu.

RIGHT: Banners and other BSC marketing now state that the school is a polytechnic institution. (Credit: Dante Ames)
BOTTOM: Thai Haggin has spent the year 2020-2021 working as the Athletic Coordinator for the Mystics. Buster Gilliss and Haggin are gearing the program toward the new educational mission.



MY IDEAL BRONCOS DRAFT OUTCOMES



Caden Shean

THE MYSTICIAN
SPORT
REPORTER/
COLUMNIST

At the time I type this out, the 2021 NFL draft is about a week away. Now when you are seeing this, the draft will have already happened. I just want to be able to get what I want to happen with my Denver Broncos draft out there, and be able to see if my predictions were correct following the conclusion of the draft.

The Broncos are coming into the draft with the 9th overall pick in the 1st round and there are plenty of ways they could go about it. The Broncos have holes to fill at quarterback, tackle and linebacker. The cool thing is that they will be able to fill one of those

positions at that spot regardless. There has been plenty of talk about Denver moving up to draft a quarterback in a heavy quarterback class with five projected to go in the top ten. The first and second picks are already set in stone with quarterbacks Trevor Lawrence and Zach Wilson going off the board but after that, who goes where is up in the air. We are bound to get one of three players I want in Denver and I will break those choices down.

No matter what, if I were in charge with that 9th pick there is one player and only one that I would trade up for, and that is Trey Lance out of North Dakota State. Denver cannot get into the top three picks and it is looking like the first three picks, will be quarterbacks. None of them will be Trey Lance. I may have a lot of bias with being from North Dakota, but I genuinely believe Lance has all the makings to be a top-tier NFL

quarterback, and Denver has the tools for him to be successful right away. If we trade up for him I will be okay with the decision but more ideal if he falls to us at pick nine, making him my first choice for the Broncos to draft.

Another quarterback linked to Denver is Justin Fields out of Ohio State. I would not be upset if Lance is gone and we take Fields but he is not one of my top three choices. If Lance or Fields do not come to Denver, I do not see the Broncos taking a quarterback in this draft.

Option two is linebacker Micah Parsons out of Penn State. Parsons should and will be the first defensive player to come off the board in this year’s draft. The middle of Denver’s defense last season was below average. The linebackers were solid in the run game, but struggled against the pass as they lacked that speed needed to keep up with receivers and tight ends in the league. Bringing in a guy like

Parsons would be a solid move and a great pickup if Lance is gone.

Build the offensive line for option number three. Penei Sewell would be an ideal option for the pick. As I mentioned before, if we do not get a quarterback, we need to protect Drew Lock. I said from the get go I still believe in Lock but this will be his last year to prove he has what it takes in the league. He has the weapons and now just needs an offensiv line to protect him, and Sewell to me is the best option in the draft at the tackle position.

Lance, Parson and Sewell make up my top three choices in terms of need for Denver. Those would be who I target if I was leading the draft. Here are my predictions and a little of what I would do. Now, just have to wait and see the results from round one of the NFL Draft.

MY FINAL SEND OFF

By Caden Shean
SPORTS REPORTER/COLUMNIST

Coming into college I was in the same boat as many in terms of not knowing what I wanted to go in for. I had interests but never fully knew what I wanted to do. To be honest, I still do not know what I want to do but at least have an idea. The first semester of freshman year was mostly just trying out different classes.

One of those interests I had coming into college was broadcasting. Growing up I always loved sports and to be around

them. Now once that came to an end, I still wanted to stay around it in some way. Whether it was broadcasting, coaching or even officiating. I never even

thought about doing any of those three while in college, mostly just getting school done and going from there. That was until I learned about the mass communications program here at BSC. That is when the second semester came around and things started to pick up.

I am not going to lie, if it was not for my mother, I do not know if I would have ever actually attempted to try broadcasting, let alone in college. She told me “you’ll be on Sportscenter one day.” Now I know that is a little stretch, but I mean the confidence she had in me made me want to go give it a shot. Next thing you know, with no

“If it was not for my mother, I do not know if I would have ever actually attempted to try broadcasting, let alone in college. She told me ‘you’ll be on Sportscenter one day.’”

Caden Shean

true preparation, I was thrown into my first broadcast for BSC basketball in the winter of 2019.

Two-and-a-half basketball seasons, and one volleyball season later, I have officially called my last game for Mystic athletics. The memories I have made along with the skills I have developed will go a long way with whatever field I choose in life. But that is not the main purpose for my send off.

The whole purpose was to not only say to always keep your options open as you never know what can happen, especially in college. Also, this is a thank you. Thank you for the friendships I have made throughout my time broadcasting and being able to get to know so many of the players throughout the last few years on a bigger level than just their names. I know some of the friendships I have made will go on

long past our college days. Also, the kind words and comments by staff, family, players and players’ families never fell short of putting a smile on my face. Thank you is the best way I can put my appreciation.

All in all, I will be forever grateful for my time at BSC. It came and went within the blink of an eye. I do not know what is next for me but what I do know is this: I’m Caden Shean and thank you for allowing me to be The Voice of the Mystics!



Caden Shean, Travis Askerooth and I were all student interns tasked with streaming all of the Mystic home games while audiences weren’t allowed to watch in person. Working with Caden was a genuine pleasure. The 2020-2021 Athletics season here at BSC is something I think neither of us will forget well into the future. Thank you all for watching and allowing us to become real sports broadcast professionals by tuning in game after game. (Credit: Robert Mechaley III)

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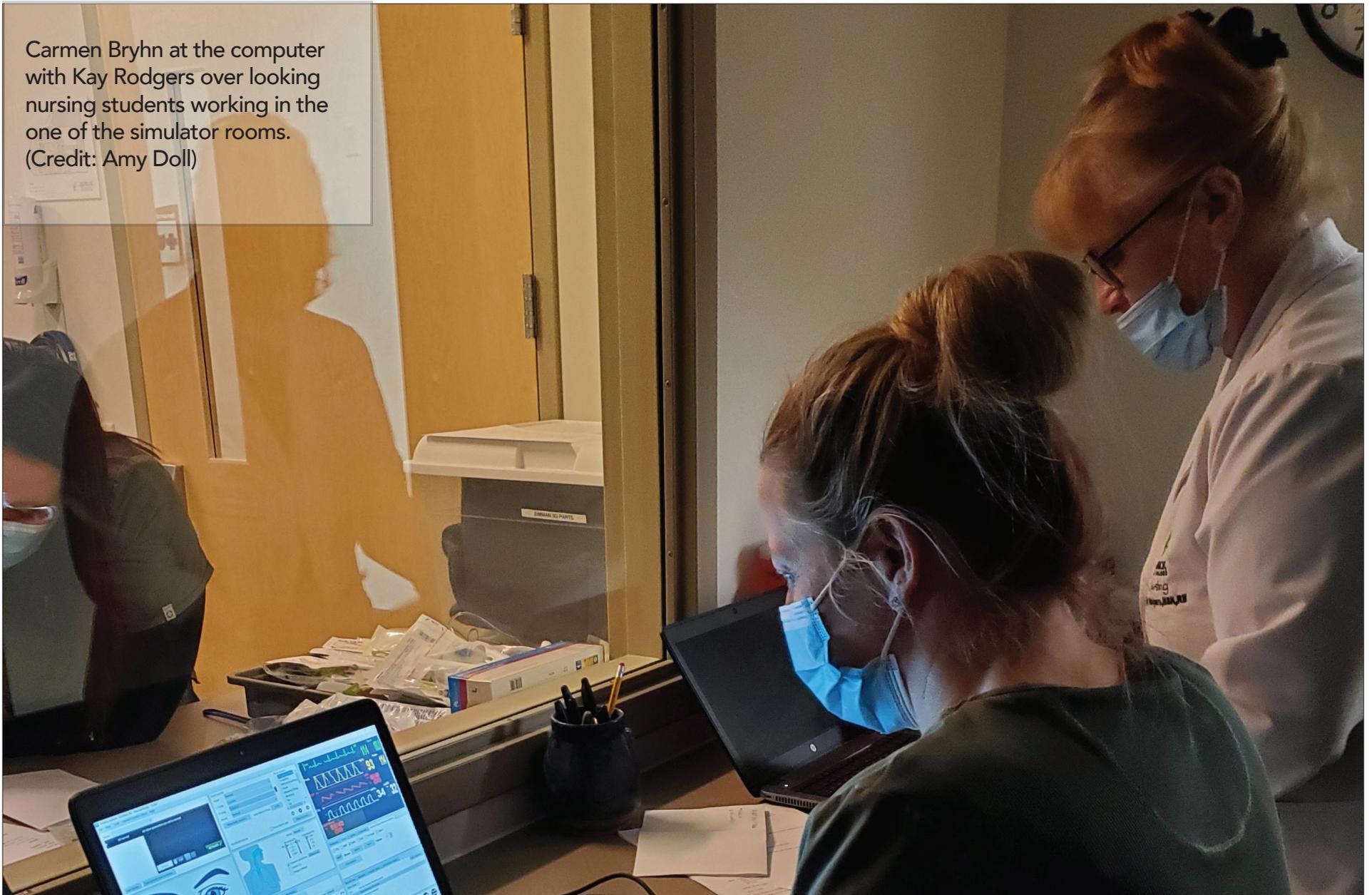
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REAL-LIFE SIMULATION:

Carmen Bryhn at the computer with Kay Rodgers over looking nursing students working in the one of the simulator rooms. (Credit: Amy Doll)



By Amy Doll
REPORTER/COLUMNIST

We're all given one life to live. Throughout this life it seems that we are searching for who we are and who we want to be. If we're lucky we can find our identity, and in some cases we can have several.

On this day, the identity is Janice. Janice is a female in her sixties presenting to the ER and will be transferred to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). She's lucky enough to have many nursing hopefuls looking after her and caring for her, trying to figure out what may be the main issue.

Janice has gone through many identities in just a week span, because she is a simulator.

At Bismarck State College, there are 38 nursing students studying to be Registered Nurses (RN). While studying, nursing students are put through the wringer when it comes to medical issues and studies. The use of simulators in the program help prepare the students for real life experiences they may encounter in the

workforce. Wednesdays are typically a simulation day for the students.

Janice is as close to a human patient as they can get: being able to breathe, blink, have IVs inserted and medications given. She is able to talk and interact with students with the help of a speaker run by an instructor behind the scenes. She can also have her movements changed by the use of a computer. There are also other simulators that can be used such as a pediatric patient and a maternity patient who can deliver a baby.

But on this particular Wednesday, the focus was all on Janice.

It all starts as a typical shift would on a hospital floor. The students are in groups of three to four and given roles such as RNs, Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) and an observer. Report is given from the head nurse about

Janice's symptoms and current status. There are tasks given and steps that need to be completed.

"All of us nurses are CSI," said Kay Rodgers, BSC Assistant Professor of Nursing, MSN, BSN, RN.

Once report is finished, it's off to the races.

When the students are finished with

Janice, they are able to discuss with the instructors about how they felt, things that were done well and things that could be improved.

"We do our best to mimic what is learned in class to apply that to the

simulation," Rodgers said.

Just when you thought it couldn't get more real than that, Fridays come around.

Friday simulations are the icing on the cake, the full Monty and the cream of the crop. There isn't just one simulation on this day but rather several all happening at once--a full

hospital simulation. Students are really put to the test with emergency room and floor patients. More roles are added such as doctors, managers and house supervisors in which the students are to call with any questions and things that may be needed.

Several people are also in the ER waiting room seeking care, while others are waiting for a bed placement after a separate patient is discharged.

"So they have to triage the patients and decide who's the priority care," said Carmen Bryhn, BSC Clinical Nursing Instructor, MSN, BSN, RN.

"That's what we do on Fridays, so they have a whole floor to take care of as well as an ER to really figure out their priorities and their meds," Bryhn said.

Besides simulators, people are put into certain roles to make everything as real as possible. Select students are given roles such as patients, concerned family members and observers. There are characters such as someone seeking mental health services, a concerned mother looking for care for her 3 month old child, family

"It's real life because, you know, your patients are all going to need something at once."

*Carmen Bryhn
MSN, BSN, RN*

NURSES GAIN EXPERIENCE THROUGH HOSPITAL-LIFE SCENARIOS

looking after their elderly mother and a wife wondering why her husband is having chest pain. These individuals are encouraged to really play up those roles and to seek out information to make the experience more genuine. It goes to show that the students aren't only dealing with all of the needs of the patients, but the needs of the families as well.

"It's real life because, you know, your patients are all going to need something at once," Bryhn said.

If the stress and adrenaline of that wasn't enough, a code blue was called on one of the simulator patients, and CPR had to be administered. Once the code blue is recognized, those playing doctors, nurses, LPNs, managers and anyone else who is readily available run to the scene and CPR compressions are started immediately. The room is filled with anyone trying to help and to keep the patient's wife calm. While CPR is still ongoing, they are able to know if chest compressions are being done correctly and if the patient is recovering via the simulation computer. After several minutes of CPR, defibrillating shocks and medications given, the patient woke up and all was clear in that moment. Despite that high-stress situation, things remained calm, and everything was taken care of with a good outcome in the end.

After everything and everyone has been taken care of, the students and facilitators gather in a classroom to discuss the event. Asking how the students felt was the first topic brought up.

"I learned a lot," said a student sitting within the group.

"It's cool to see the different groups and different dynamics," another student added.

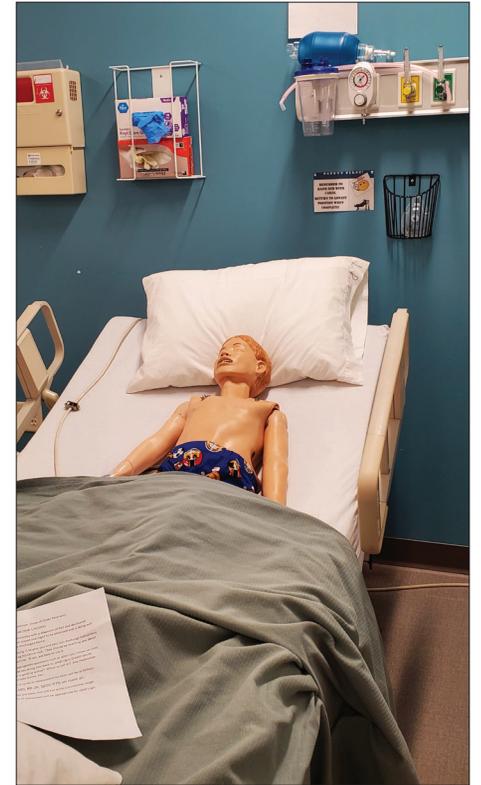
"Calm, organized chaos," Anna Anderson, BSC Assistant Professor of Nursing, MSN, RN, CNE, said.

Student observers give information on what they saw and things that can be worked on. Those who played the roles of patients and family also give insight to what they experience and how they felt afterwards. As more discussions go on, a sense of relief and accomplishment can be seen within the group as they chat.

Simulations like these will help prepare the students for not only a nursing environment, but with passing boards as well. The National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) is what the students will take to assess their knowledge and skills to become a licensed RN.

"You're only a student for so long. I know it seems like forever, but you're only a student for so long," Anderson said.

Even while living in a fast-paced world, much like a hospital floor, it can be hard to imagine everything a nurse may have to go through on a daily basis. This training goes to show that nurses are a vital part of our healthcare system.



Training simulators meant to serve as practice. (Credit: Amy Doll)

BOTTOM: The hallways and fixtures of the health science building are meant to mimic as much of a hospital as possible. (Credit: Robert Mechaley III)



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FRIENDS VERSUS ACQUAINTANCES



Jon Fettig

THE MYSTICIAN COLUMNIST

Not every person is gifted with good connections to enjoy life. With making connections comes understanding different points of view, and those viewpoints can include what is a friendship versus an acquaintance.

Making connections for me is very broad in the aspect of who your friends are or if they are your connections. Having a friendship can mean different things for everybody along with different preferences. But some people have experiences where they discover that it's not worth the stress to try to create friendships,

especially when all you're going to have in the end is acquaintances.

This is what I've had to come to terms with after trying to fit into circles of people I thought I'd want to be in. I'd always had high expectations on making connections and experiencing what I like to call out-of-the-ordinary exciting things. But I had no understanding of what's realistic and had to eventually learn to accept things as they are. This is part of what led to me becoming more of an introvert and doing what I need to do to make myself happy.

I would eventually meet a couple of people because of curiosity from those connections that ended up somehow translating into a brother-like friendship. If it wasn't for the uniqueness of these few awesome friends, I would've probably been worse now than I was in terms of being alone. I started experiencing what I knew I would love to have in a

connection.

We would meet up and do a lot of fun exotic things. We would do things like walk in the rain at night, stay the night in a minivan in the Walmart parking lot while on trips, make slushies with fresh snow, explore the Forks in Manitoba and an underground mall in downtown Winnipeg, hike Yosemite in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. A friend is someone who makes the most of one's company all while showing appreciation for each other.

With the few connections I've had, I have discovered that I needed to appreciate what I had for the moment. I started noticing as things progressed with my destiny that I would basically be a tool to others if I were to think that I needed all the friends I can get to enjoy things. But I have always been a firm believer in the awesomeness of experiences out of the ordinary with those friends and accomplishing

things in the process.

Unfortunately, that would not be the case everywhere I went. In this case, those people that are around but are not known other than their presence are acquaintances.

Acquaintances to me were always people that would be in those circles, but there would be no connection. Other than a few good connections I've ever had, so many more people eventually became acquaintances. I have often wondered about this, but then I would realize that I'm either too different, or I am as real as it gets.

But whoever I have turned out to be, I've learned to adapt to being my own best friend. By doing this, I've become aware that I need to be the one who makes me happy and depend less on other people to help with that. Because to me asking for this stuff is like asking for others to be perfect.

EXPLORE THE TRAILS BY BSC



Hello my fellow Mystics, I've discovered a hidden secret behind the NECE—you guessed it, there are trails! With finding new exotic trails, comes the excitement of wanting to get out and get some fresh air. What better way to enjoy that fresh air than with some first class scenery of the good old mighty Missouri River along with the surrounding Bismarck-Mandan area. Now with finals coming up, you have a place to go away from campus to reboot your mind. Don't miss your opportunity to escape after a crazy finals week and go on a new adventure to kick off the summer in fashion.



EVERY STUDENT'S VOICE

QUESTION: WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN ON CAMPUS NEXT YEAR?

ASPIRING TO GIVE EVERY STUDENT A VOICE:

This is our mission statement at The Mystician. It is often said that in higher education, we grow as people and become who we are through learning and experience. We know you would like to let yourselves be heard, and this new addition to our student newspaper is just the way to do that. You will often see our reporters and columnists out and about getting interviews. If you would like to have your voice heard here, answer openly and honestly to them and allow your picture to accompany your opinion. Photos from unsplash.com.

THERESE: A DANCE AND MORE FREE STUFF INSTEAD OF FOOD

TREY: TRACK TEAM, FOOTBALL, AND FANS

KENNETH: IF THE PANDEMIC PERMITS IT, IT WOULD BE FUN TO SEE MORE IN PERSON EVENTS. ALSO MOVIE NIGHTS @ THE BOWL WOULD'VE BEEN FUN TO SEE

JON: WILLISTON STATE AND DCB-BOTTINEAU AND SOME AREA COLLEGES LIKE UMARY HAVE HOCKEY PROGRAMS. SO I THINK IT WOULD BE GREAT TO SEE BSC HAVE HOCKEY

FAITH: DANCE

JOY: PROM

SAMATHA: BINGO OR MORE MOVIE NIGHTS, LIKE THE DETECTIVE PIKACHU AT THE BOWL WITH BIGGER PRIZES

LEXIZ: MORE FUN EVENTS, SUCH AS A DANCE

DACOTAH: MORE CARNIVALS AND FESTIVALS

CASSIE: ARCHERY (I KNOW THAT'S DANGEROUS)

CAIN: DANCES, MORE GATHERINGS TO ENCOURAGE A GREAT CAMPUS LIFE

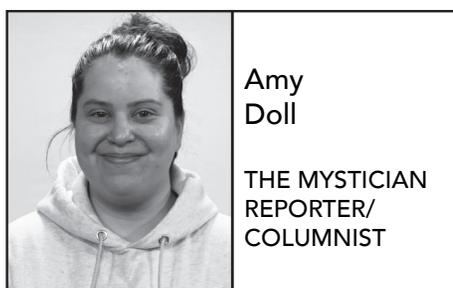
BROOKE: MORE CARNIVALS

MACAULAY: FOOTBALL, TRACK TEAM FANS



Students at the Mystic Media Booth at the Renaissance Themed Carnival. (Credit: Jon Fettig)

FOLLOW YOUR DAMN DREAMS



Amy Doll

THE MYSTICIAN
REPORTER/
COLUMNIST

When did we start selling our souls for a paycheck?

I get it. Toilet paper is expensive, rent is outrageous, and debt interest will sneak up on you quickly. Money talks and even shouts at times.

But good grief, is it worth it?

Most of us have been there: the

crappy job. The kind of job where you only go because you need the money. The kind of job that you countdown the minutes until you can leave.

The kind of job where you cry in the bathroom while on the clock--totally normal, right?. You're only there to get by, because toilet paper is expensive.

In elementary school, they tell you to go for your dreams. Shoot for the moon, and if you miss, you'll fall amongst the stars--or whatever.

You graduate with the thoughts of changing the world and loving what you do everyday.

So you try it, you go out there to live your dreams. That is until others start ragging on you about them--telling

you not to do something because it won't make you rich or successful. Sometimes they don't stop, and they beat your dreams out of your head. From then on, you start to settle--settling at a mediocre job where, though they may pay well, you're miserable. Yet, you stay for years because.... toilet paper.

For me, my turning point came last summer. I was tired. So, so tired. One morning as I was getting ready for work my body froze. I just couldn't feel this miserable anymore. I needed to make a change. I needed a fresh start. I NEEDED to follow my damn dreams. I took a "sick" day and finally submitted my application for school.

It was one of the best feelings I've had thus far.

A lot of us may have turning points in our lives, and that day was mine. I still hear the opinions of others telling me that I won't find a job or make a lot of money.

The only difference this time is that I can brush it off.

I don't have to become rich from my career to feel fulfilled or happy. I'm proud of how far I've come and have so much hope and excitement for where I'm going.

Toilet paper is important, but happiness is essential.

TRY FLYING DURING COVID



Caitlyn Inman

THE MYSTICIAN COLUMNIST

The itch to travel is strong in the winter; especially when living in a place with tough and long winters like North Dakota. Spring break has always been the prime time for families to travel and head somewhere warm for a week.

While airlines were starting to shut down during break last year, this year I was dying to go on a little getaway. I was skeptical at first of how safe

flying would feel, but I ended up being pleasantly surprised.

The first thing that I liked was how willing everyone was to wear their masks. There have always been people who do not think it is necessary and will fight to not wear one, but in my experience, everyone wore their mask and wore them correctly.

Another positive note was the social distancing at airport restaurants. The tables were spread apart, every other booth was filled, and every other seat was set up. I never once felt crowded or unsafe while eating and getting ready for my next flight.

Now for the flight itself. At the gate before entering the plane, the person scanning the tickets checked to make sure everyone had their

masks on and that their masks fit protocols. They are strict about what kind of masks are worn. There was a lady in front of me who had a mask of mostly mesh. She was kindly asked to take one of the masks that the airline provided and step to the side to put it on. She did not argue and put on the mask given to her.

The second I stepped on the plane, one of the flight attendants handed me a wipe. As soon as I took my seat, I used it to wipe off my hands and the tray table. I have been on many flights in my life, and I was extremely impressed with how clean the plane felt and looked. I am not quite sure if this is all airlines, but Delta made it so that only every other seat was filled for social distancing.

Snacks looked different than

usual. There were no options for food or drink unless you had a seat in first class. You are handed a Ziplock bag that includes a small bottle of water, a bag of almonds, a cookie, a wipe and napkins. As much as I love airplane pretzels and having a cold glass of Coca-Cola on the plane, the way they did everything was safe and sanitary.

There are many people who are still scared or skeptical to fly. As the summer season approaches, I have full confidence in saying that the airlines and airports made me feel safe and comfortable. Plan that trip and spend some time with your family this summer because life is too short to be scared any longer.

IT'S YOUR WORLD—WHAT DO YOU WANT

By Kyleigh Hilbert

MYSTIC MEDIA COORDINATOR

"It's your world do what you want" are the words my boss at the community swimming pool I worked at in High School said to me. He said this when my co-workers and I were joking about not wanting to work that weekend. We joked how we might just leave and go on vacation because we were over yelling at kids to walk and not run at the pool. Instead of him saying no, he said he didn't care what

we did and that it was our world and we should do what we wanted.

Obviously, what my boss said to me when I was 17 years old, stuck with me. Whenever I think about things that don't seem appealing or I dread doing, I think about what he said and remember that I really can do whatever I please, to an extent.

I look at some people in my life and how their job isn't their favorite and maybe they dread going to work everyday. Or they are unhappy with what they are doing with their

life. It happens all the time, people assume they have to continue doing things that don't make them happy but really no one is forcing them to do those things. Maybe they do it because it's what everyone else does or maybe they just need to pay the bills, either way it isn't worth being so dissatisfied.

Why are we wasting our time doing things that don't make us enjoy waking up every morning. Working jobs that we feel forced to keep.

It's the "social norm" to go to college, get a degree and work until we

can retire. And finally, when we retire at an old age, we can go on all those vacations that we always wanted. Why wait though? We aren't promised that we'll live to retirement age, we aren't promised anything. We should be running to do all the things we love like it's our last day on Earth.

Because in the end, it is your world, so why don't you do what you want to do?

THE BATTLE CONTINUES: COFFEE VERSUS TEA



Jessica Linder

THE MYSTICIAN COLUMNIST

We are a nation divided. No—a world divided. The line has been drawn, and it is clearly visible. On which side you stand is decided entirely by your taste buds.

On one side, you have the people who worship what is sometimes referred to as "The Nectar of the Gods"—coffee. On the other side of the line are those who swear by the perfect cup of tea.

Most Eastern countries prefer tea, where most Western countries prefer coffee. It makes sense when you consider where the coffee bean

is harvested and where tea is most abundant.

Right now, Brazil is the leading country in coffee production. South America has a firm foot hold on the coffee bean.

For me it comes as no surprise that China tops the list of tea suppliers. They can produce almost two million tons of tea a year. India and Kenya follow behind respectively to make the top three countries of tea producers.

Across the world, Australia is the country that does not seem to favor one over the other. They balance in the middle at having 49.7 percent coffee drinkers and 50.3 percent tea drinkers.

Some of you are not part of this age-old debate. Some of you, the ones who drink neither coffee or tea, sit on the sidelines and stare in horrid fascination. How can people be so passionate over bean juice and leaf water? How can something as simple

as a beverage divide our world?

Alas, I fear my fate is sealed. I will always be on one side of this great and noble debate.

I stand firmly on the side of coffee. Although, by the time I am done doctoring mine with creamer and sugar, the dark rich brew is considerably paler. Be that as it may, I still claim it as coffee.

I did not wake up one morning as a shiny new adult and immediately enjoy my first cup of coffee. The bitter brew took some time for my taste buds to enjoy and get on board with. I wonder if I had started with tea first, would I prefer that instead? Unfortunately, being firmly raised in the heart of North America, coffee was the first subconscious option.

I have tried tea. I have tried many, many kinds of tea. I want to like tea. If I keep trying different kinds, I am hoping I will stumble upon the perfect blend so that, I too, will be a tea

drinker.

Tea just does not have enough kick to it, taste wise. I cannot get past the blandness of most teas. It really tastes like I am drinking a cup of warm water.

Maybe I need to try cold teas, you know, since I prefer to drink cold water. Even though I lived in Georgia for a few years, their sweet tea holds little appeal. Many other types of teas and flavors can be served chilled though. Could I consider myself a tea drinker then? I think further research is needed.

Our world today is in a constant state of turmoil. There seems to be a never-ending list of things we want to see fixed, changed, or just made better. I would love if the only conflict we have is this coffee vs tea debate. The world would be a better place if our only worry is what we are drinking in the mornings.

SELF-CARE IS IMPORTANT IN THE TIME OF COVID

By Madalyn Olsen
THE MYSTICIAN COLUMNIST

Our society encourages the idea of an aggressive, busy, productive lifestyle. Our culture has been living these fast-paced, busy days for the last decade. The overwhelming feeling of busy-ness is catching up to people, and now everyone has been promoting self-care.

Self-care really made a name for itself when COVID-19 came to be. Before COVID, people lived a hustling life that was easy to get caught up with the idea of having it all. We all want to excel at work, impressing our employers, getting an extra side hustle

to make ends meet—all-while trying to maintain relationships with family and friends. Then boom—COVID hit. We are all at home with no social or work life and all this free time nobody knows what to do with.

The idea of establishing a self-care routine has been proven to reduce stress and build confidence. Many people in their early 20s have preached many ideas that fall into the self-care category. Many say that a social detox, baths, an established morning routine, earlier bedtime and healthy eating are all great ways to start.

My name is Madalyn, I am a 20-year-old girl who is taking 21 credits, working 30 hours a week

to maybe one day have the job of my dreams and being a girl boss. However, I am the best advocate for self-care. I have made self-care a priority, just like many people my age, especially in the last year.

Mornings are my absolute favorite time of day, so I have established a morning routine. I start off every day, even the weekends, by waking up by 6:30 a.m. I journal, make my bed, drink celery juice and have my morning Matcha Latte after my meditation. This has helped me create time for myself with no phones, and no personal interaction. It's just me and my thoughts, and I really have time to be in tune with my mind and body. Now, I know mornings are not

everyone's favorite but that's okay, it's all about finding what brings you joy and makes you feel the most relaxed. However, I do encourage you to take time by yourself and enjoy time away from others.

I have also really upped my skin-care game in the last year. I have spent my free time learning about the skin-care industry, and it made me want to dive in deeper. I found that skincare is like meditation. Taking my time and really taking care of skin has made a difference in my mental and physical health. And trust me, when you feel better, and you can see the results, you will want to keep taking time for yourself.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT THIS SEMESTER

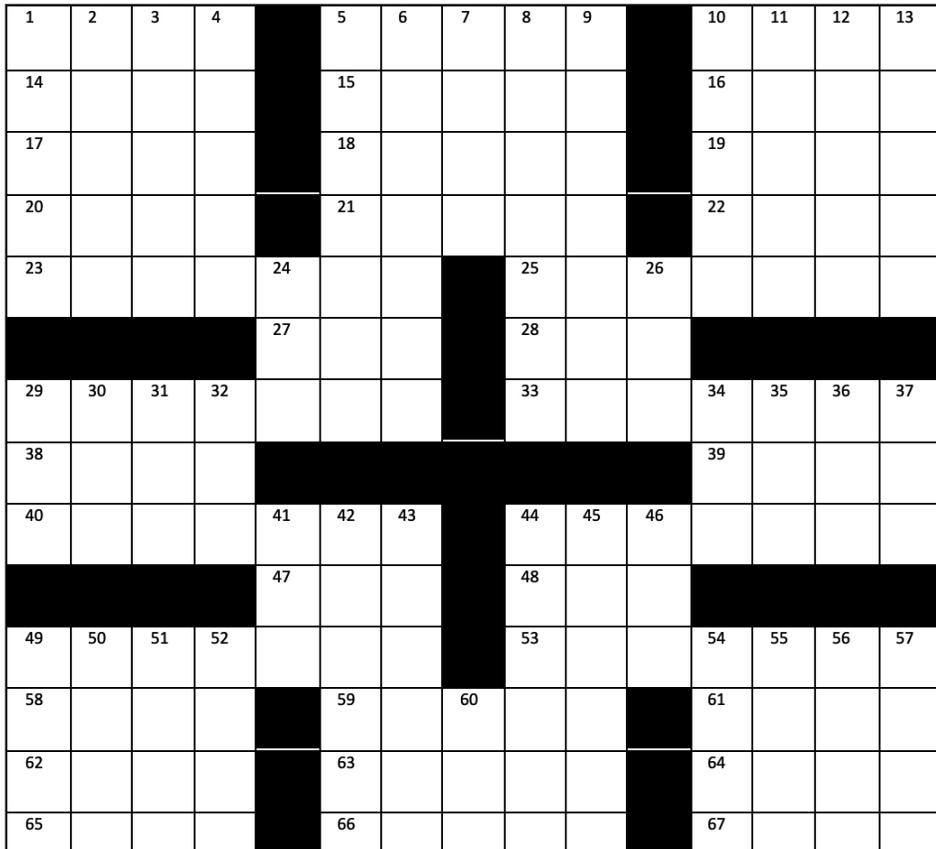
We appreciate each and every time you picked up a copy of the newspaper, tuned into The MYX or watched a new episode of MystiCast. All of this wouldn't be possible without you. Thanks!



ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

CROSSWORD MAY 2021

BY MICHAEL TOMANEK



- ACROSS**
 1 Phony
 5 Theater subject
 10 '80s rock style
 14 Bell serving?
 15 More uncommon
 16 "Or _____!"
 17 Soon
 18 Dueling swords
 19 Spanish nosh
 20 Child's hideout
 21 A sudden outburst
 22 Prayer ender
 23 Skillful handling
 25 Karma or oatmeal?
 27 "That girl!"
 28 Snooze
 29 Favre successor
 33 Reading tool
 38 One of five lakes
 39 Animal House attire
 40 Introduction
 44 Bunny variety?
 47 Half dozen
 48 Floral wear

- 49 Hungarian dish
 53 To waste away
 58 Radius partner
 59 Negatively affect
 61 This, for instance?
 62 Sandler or Ant
 63 Solo
 64 _____dega Nights
 65 Action word
 66 More recent
 67 LAX and BIS guesses
 68 Weapons
 69 Russian rulers
 70 Exam

- DOWN**
 1 Support personnel
 2 Hilton site?
 3 Squirrel snack
 4 Three-card _____
 5 Chest of drawers
 6 Hip hop artists
 7 51 of interest?
 8 Business discussion
 9 London's Gunners

- 10 Reach or annoy
 11 Spitting animal
 12 Colorado ski resort
 13 Intended
 24 Pronoun
 26 Pampering place
 29 Dem's opponent
 30 Bobby on skates
 31 Cease
 32 Ink type
 34 Pig's home
 35 Wail
 36 Id's counterpart
 37 Utter
 41 "Made in the _____"
 42 Removed
 43 Breathes out
 44 Student's organizer
 45 Mail carrier's deliveries
 46 43-down's release
 49 A tropical fruit
 50 Less fresh
 51 Disengage
 52 Flock members
 54 Group of eight

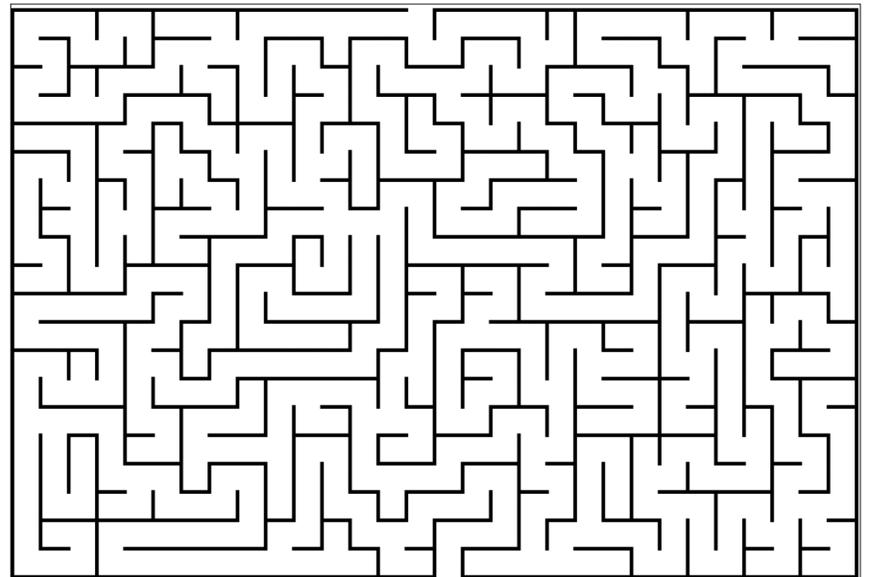
WORD SEARCH



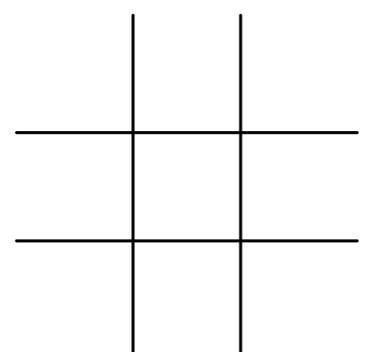
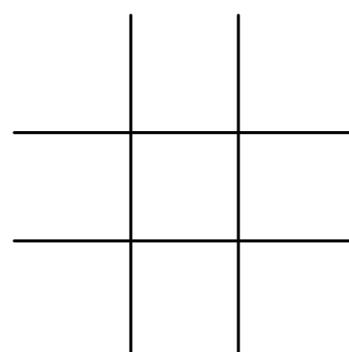
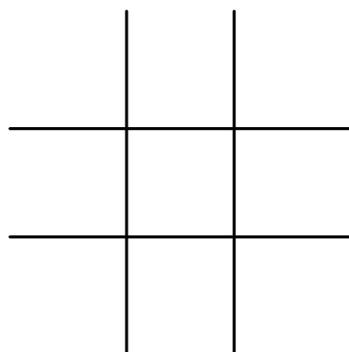
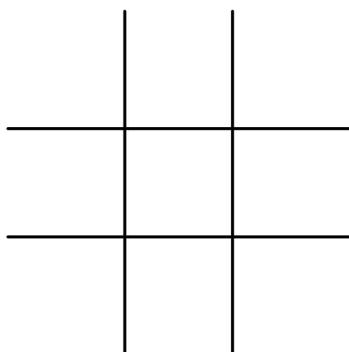
- SUMMER
 NO SCHOOL
 VACATION
 FINALS WEEK
 TEST
 SUNSHINE
 WATER
 LEMONADE

- MYSTIC PALOOZA
 WATERMELON
 MAY DAY
 RAINDROPS
 SWIMMING
 BASKET
 CINCO DE MAYO
 MOTHERS DAY
 UMBRELLA

MAZE



GRAB A FRIEND AND PLAY A GAME OF TIC TAC TOE



STATE FAIR BRINGS BACK LIVE MUSIC

By Elliot Hellman
REPORTER

The year 2020 was trying for everyone. Fear reigned supreme as no one knew what would happen next. Self isolation, masks and face coverings, businesses closing and special events being put on hold for the foreseeable future. The question on everyone's mind; when will we go back to normal? While that answer remains a mystery, it seems there's a light at the end of the tunnel for the return of normalcy. Businesses are re-opening, fans can go watch their sports teams.

And concerts are coming back.

The Red River Valley Fair is back and bigger than ever. The fair had to cancel plans due to the pandemic last year, but this year they won't be stopped.

"We plan on having a normal fair," Red River Valley Fair General Manager Cody Cashman said.

Cashman talked about steps the fair is taking to stay safe

"What we're gonna try to ask people to do is get vaccinated" said Cashman. "We're not gonna require that at all, but what's lucky now is they just came out with a report that half of the nation's adults are vaccinated, and that's who's coming to the fair ... adults for the concert part of it."

This year's Red River Valley Fair will put on eight concerts along with monster trucks and race events. This year's lineup includes: Skillet, Chris Young, Styx, Ratt, Tom Keifer from Cinderella, Kix and Trace Adkins along with three unannounced concerts that will be free for the public.

"We're pretty fortunate," said Cashman. "We're gonna be one of the

ones out there that actually gets to have a concert this year."

Cashman did not disclose any information about the unannounced acts.

With the global pandemic still lingering, most would think bands would not be ready to pull the trigger on playing live shows again, which would make concert booking very difficult. In the case for the Red River Valley Fair, COVID-19 actually helped with booking.

Cashman said they had kind of a good problem with booking bands. Cashman said people knew that North Dakota would not have the struggle that everyone else has to be open and have events because of the state's population density and low covid numbers. "Most talent agents saw that and they saw it as an opportunity."

Sadly, in this day in age, not everyone is ready to go back to

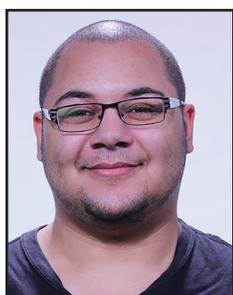
normal. There are still those who are not ready to return to a maskless society yet. There are also those who choose to criticise others for trying to go back to normal in the midst of the pandemic. Cashman understands there are people who will not like this and that there are people who may be uncomfortable with the thought of being at a non-socially distanced show.

"If you don't feel safe coming to the fairgrounds, don't come" Cashman said.

There is no other feeling like going to a live concert. Bands have tried virtual concerts within the past year, but they don't have the same feeling as being in the presence of the band. 2020 has taken away the excitement of seeing live music, but now the light at the end of the tunnel grows closer. Now the excitement can come back.

Concerts are coming back.

SUPER SMASH BROS DIVIDING ITSELF FOR DECADES



Dante
Ames

REPORTER/
COLUMNIST

Smash Bros. games are not the typical fighting game from the 20th century. The goal is to deal damage to one's enemy and then knock them off the stage, thus taking one of their lives.

Although each game has the same goal of defeating one's opponent, the games are different, each having developed its own unique, deep and intriguing meta-game.

Smash 64 places emphasis on first hits and combo execution. In Super Smash Bros 64, the pace is somewhere in the middle of the other games. Characters are slower, but because of multiple long combos, the matches are not long. Edge-guarding is an important factor since most of the characters have poor recoveries and are usually limited to one option as a result of not having a side special or air-dodge. Air-dodging grants the player's character invincibility for a brief period of time while airborne and does not exist in SSB64. Side-stepping does not exist in SSB64. This means that a player's options for combating a grab are move away, pivot, attack or roll.

Super Smash Bros Ultimate is the

most current installment in the smash series. It is frequently updated with bug fixes and currently has over 80 playable characters.

Melee matches are the fastest out of the series. Players are vulnerable when off the stage, thus edge-guarding is a valuable skill to master. Air-dodging grants the player invulnerability and stops the character's momentum. This makes them go into a helpless fall state afterwards, which creates a high risk, high reward system. Side-stepping is usually only used to directly counter a grapple. Any use of it in other situations will often result in a harsh punishment.

Brawl matches are slow-paced compared to the other titles. As in previous titles, players are still at a disadvantage when attempting to recover because of edge-guarding. Players can air-dodge as many times as they like with minimal lag in between, but players can not directionally air-dodge. Most characters' out of shield options were weakened or removed entirely for Brawl. Side-stepping became more commonly used because of this.

"I personally think Ultimate is my favorite because of the roster music and the mechanic fixes they did," Gamer Brian Roehm said. "Shulk is a huge example with his mode swapping. Smash Ultimate doesn't bring out just some characters in the spotlight, it gives all of the characters a chance to shine."

Smash Ultimate shows match

speeds ranging from lightning fast to a turtle-like standoff.

Because of many characters' recoveries improving and the ability for multiple players to grab the ledge in Ultimate, edge-guarding does not have the advantage it has had in previous titles. Directional air-dodge returns in Ultimate, albeit slightly altered. Although it will put the character into a free fall, the player still has the option to do a neutral air-dodge and not enter free fall afterwards. A player air-dodging will also receive a small amount of lag, leaving them open for an assault. Side-stepping and rolling are more important than in previous titles. Most characters have frame data on their roll that is equal to or better than the best rolls from the other games. Repeated dodge-rolling will incur lag.

"Ultimate is my favorite by a long shot. I find the gameplay much

more enjoyable. When people play Smash Ultimate, it's for sure a faster-paced game than ever before in the franchise," Vice President of Gamer's Club Jackson Hellman said.

Although each community has its differences, they all end up loving the same franchise. SSB64 has a unique combo and poke system, Melee provides more action-packed gameplay in terms of mechanical depth and game-speed, and Brawl is a slower-paced game overall compared to the others. To be one's best in a competitive game is always the goal, but players must not forget that at the end of the day, Smash is a game that brings friends together and is meant to be enjoyed in a fun environment that feels rewarding whichever way one chooses to play it.

(IGDB.com)



HOW CORONAVIRUS HAS AFFECTED THE CINEMA WORLD

By Azariah Irungu Njuguna
REPORTER

There was a time when one could just pull up to a movie theatre at midnight after a long day of work as a way of unwinding and enjoy a movie—a time when hundreds would flock to the theatres bumping each other on the line to watch a movie premiere—a time before COVID-19.

When the dreaded virus struck the country for the first time in the beginning of 2020, people thought it would be a slight issue sorted out in a few days, but unfortunately for them, months later, they found themselves cooped up in the house for hours on end without a chance to go to the movies to enjoy their favorite films.

Not only the movie-goers felt this negative shift but also the film industry itself. 2020 was a horrible year for Hollywood and the whole world when it came to entertainment. Globally, the entertainment sector lost a total of \$2.1 billion, losing 5.6 percent of its total revenue in 2020 alone.

Since China was the first country to be affected by COVID-19, Clark Travis

of the Business Insider said that they had already lost \$2.1 billion by March 2020. This effect, according to the PricewaterhouseCoopers, will take until post 2024 for the global revenues to be recovered.

Though Hollywood felt the pain where it hurts most, their pockets, not all hope was lost. When the \$900 billion stimulus relief plan was signed by Congress, a SAVE OUR STAGES ACT was put in place within the relief, which aided 70 percent of mid-sized and smaller movie theatres to avoid full bankruptcy or even being closed permanently. This Act proved helpful since it saved 70,000 jobs according to the National Association of Theatre Owners. Big corporate theatres such as AMC theatres were unfortunate to not receive the financial aid like the rest. Cineworld, America's second largest cinema chain closed its theatres in October 2020.

COVID-19 has claimed many lives and forced many businesses closed, but the film industry is trying a comeback during the pandemic by letting some productions go back to shooting.

The "Jurassic world: Dominion"

crew was one of the first ones to be given the thumbs up to continue filming last year in England. Production was different, with social distancing policies in effect for everyone on set and an announcement over the amplifier every five hours to remind everyone to change their masks for new ones.

When it comes to new releases and the current future of theatre, a lot of controversy and opposing opinions are spewing all over the globe because of the current and maybe or maybe not, permanent solution for theatres, direct-to-consumer platforms. Such platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, Apple TV+, Disney+ and HBO Max have been in popular use but this is when their popularity has reached their highest ever.

Just after one and a half years of streaming service, Disney executives announced in its annual shareholder meeting, that Disney+ had just surpassed 100 million subscribers by March 2021. HBO Max, which is probably the fastest rising in popularity, has gained 44.2 million subscribers in less than a year since its launch.

Warner Bros., the parent company of HBO Max, has scheduled all its 2021 films to be released on HBO Max the same day they hit theaters, all 17 movies, with some of them being highly anticipated blockbusters such as 'Kong vs Godzilla and Mortal Kombat'. This decision sparked controversy and mixed reactions by both fans and those in the industry, everyone with different viewpoints. Warner Bros. major director Christopher Nolan has been a great opposer to this decision, stating that such big films with potential of making hundreds of millions of dollars at the box office should not be released on streaming services accessible by a \$15 monthly subscription.

Though the emergence of streaming sites has caused controversy over box office numbers and sales, the advantages cannot be overlooked. Not only have they enabled one to continue watching and keeping up with films during this pandemic, but also provided a means where one can do so at the very convenience of their homes so as not to risk catching COVID-19 for two hours of enjoyment at the cinema.

WHY I WATCHED A SIX-HOUR REVIEW ON A 90S' JAPANESE DATING SIMULATOR

By Robert Mechaley III
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In 2014, I wrote my first game review on "Xenoblade Chronicles," a 2010 Japanese Roleplaying Game released for the Nintendo Wii. It was bad. I got in some fun one liners and made apt comparisons with exuberant prose, but there was no real substance. It would probably be a fool's errand to try and find it on the free GoDaddy website my friend ran that hosted it, and I don't think I would want to look for it. Believe me when I say it was bad and that I was trying too hard to be Tim Rogers.

William Timothy Rogers Jr. is a quite lauded name in video game circles. He wrote some of the most formative reviews for future video game journalists and developed one of the best simple Esports games out there, "Videoball." One of his largest claims to fame that he will reference to this day is the creation of ActionButton.net, a website hosting his and others various

reviews on video games, including the "ActionButton.net Manifesto."

In 2020, Rogers would bring Action Button back as a YouTube channel, creating video essays on recent and old games that tend to be on the three hour side. With all of his emphatic words and well edited comedy bits, he takes a kind and offbeat approach to looking at his review subjects. Surgical precision is applied to each subject, leaving no stone unturned and no related article unread.

On New Years Day 2021, Rogers posted a video on the Konami dating simulator, "Tokimeki Memorial." That video is six hours long.

Like the madman I am, I watched the entirety in one day while sick in early April and again in mid April to make sure all the details were correct. In short, the headline is a lie, I spent 13 hours watching a review about a Japanese dating simulator.

What can seem like a substantial time sink was well worth it in the end. Rogers has a way with talking about a game that borders on arcane.

The web he weaves of his experience inside and out of the game is paced in such ways that no matter how exhausted and sick you are, you cannot look away. Exploring the story of "Tokimeki Memorial" can suddenly take a much needed detour into Rogers' own love life and intimate moments at White Castle. The way he says the full title of everything cited like a bibliography has a degree of charm and academic earnestness that makes the experience seem less of a waste and bears more resemblance towards reading an academic work.

If that does not sound like a fun time, congratulations, then it is not and should be avoided by you at all costs. But if you would like to sit down at various moments over the next month to explore what it takes to woo fictional character, Shiori Fujisaki, then Action Button is for you.

William Timothy Rogers Jr. (Credit: Wikipedia)

