

THE MYSTICIAN

[N E W S] P A P E R

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Clays Captures

Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

Got the Hops - Kamayua Black leaps for the ball. The Mystics Men's Basketball team find their rhythm in their first season scrimmage against United Tribes Technical College.



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MYSTIC MEDIA

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CONTENT CREATORS SUMMIT

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MYSTIC MEDIA MISSION STATEMENT AND DISCLAIMER

The purpose of college media is to serve and give voice to the students. We, as the student based forum of journalism on the Bismarck State College campus, provide content that is informative, fair, concise and of importance to students and the community. With this goal in mind, Mystic Media is dedicated to accuracy and maintaining ethical journalistic practices. We strive to give a voice to student issues and policies within the local community. Our goal is to incorporate as many students as possible and be an outlet for student expression. Mystic Media strives to be objective and is not affiliated with any outside organizations. Mystic Media upholds the principles guaranteed by the First Amendment and utilizes these rights to bring diverse, entertaining, and thought-provoking material to the college community. Thoughts expressed may not be the opinion of all the staff or BSC community.

Horror on Harmon: A Frightening Weekend

Elena Sanchez
Reporter

Halloween is a time of year when nightmares come to life. This year, the event fell exactly on Halloween weekend of October 31 and November 1. The United Tribes Technical College hosted Horror on Harmon on their campus to grant a spooky walkthrough of a haunted building. The old boarded up buildings that Horror on Harmon encompasses turn into a windy maze full of thematic rooms, scares, and

layouts. However, Horror on Harmon is more than just scares. The creator, Tom Braun, shares the importance of Horror on Harmon. “We’re a charity haunt, and so now that we are down here, we benefit their scholarship program,” Braun says. “We have given them almost \$80,000 to that scholarship in the years that we have been down here.” The entry fees and merchandise are what contribute to the large fund that Horror on Harmon has amassed for

UTTC. What UTTC provides for Braun and his large team of volunteers is the space and freedom of creativity to bring fictitious horrors to reality for a weekend. The specialty in space and volunteers is what Braun said differentiates other Halloween themed events in the Bismarck-Mandan area. “I have close to ninety to one hundred volunteers every year,” Braun says. “It takes quite a sum of people to pull this off.”

Bismarck State College Hosts Explore BSC Event

Bryson Mohs
Reporter

Prospective students got a firsthand look at Bismarck State College during the recent Explore BSC event, where they could learn about academic programs, campus life, and opportunities across athletics, the arts, and local industry. Student-athlete Hudson Rhoades was one of the event attendees. “[I] heard it was a very good agriculture program, and I wanted to play baseball in college,” Rhoades said. He added that he hoped to gain a better understanding of where everything is on campus. Professor of Instrumentation and Control Technology Scott Harris explained BSC’s emphasis on preparing students for local industry needs. “We have a great need for instrumentation to control a variety of industries here in North Dakota, mainly in the oil and gas industry,” Harris said. “We take young people, old people, all ages. I’ve had

50-year-old people here all the way from 17-year-old students. We’re trying to give them a background in instrumentation, which is the measurement and control of pressure, temperature, level, flow, and a variety of industries from oil and gas all the way to pharmaceuticals.” Prospective student Jack Saxberg is interested in performing arts and said he attended because of his passion for music. “I like doing music a lot ... producing, composing, songwriting,” Saxberg said. “The building is sick, there are a lot of sweet opportunities here.” Current student Addison Selderson recommended BSC for its supportive learning environment. “I would recommend coming to BSC because of the small class sizes and the education they provide,” Selderson said. “The animal science classes are really good, and I think you get a lot at this school.” Director of Admissions and Recruitment Anne Seidler said Explore BSC gives

students an immersive experience across the college. “It’s really a chance for students to see all facets of BSC, not only they can hear about it, but they can experience our programs—from manufacturing and automation to our health science facility,” Seidler said. “Students also tour residence halls, see clubs, and get a real sense of campus life. Explore BSC is designed as a hands-on recruitment event to encourage students to apply and eventually attend.” Seidler said that the event requires collaboration across all departments, from academic affairs to student life, financial aid, dual credit programs, and even HR volunteers. This year, 162 students registered, with more than 300 participants overall. BSC continues to attract students with interests spanning academics, athletics, and the arts, offering programs that meet both individual passions and local workforce needs.

Officers Share Winter Safety Tips

Mygel Porter
Social Media Manager

With winter approaching, it is important to stay safe on the roads. Campus Chief of Police Micheal McMerty and Officer Elizabeth Capp shared some tips and tricks to stay safe this winter. It is important for students to carry some sort of winter safety kit in their vehicles in case they get stranded on the road. McMerty stressed this importance. “Have survival gear like extra clothing, boots, some energy things, and a jump starter kit.” He added that it is important for students to dress appropriately. Even if a student thinks they are only running to their car, winter apparel is a necessity. “You should dress as though you are going to get stranded,” said McMerty. “So have good weather gear on, gloves, hats,

coats, good pants, and make sure you do have appropriate boots.” Both Capp and McMerty shared ways to prepare for winter in advance. “You should always pay attention to weather conditions, especially if you do a lot of commuting,” said Capp. “Make sure you always have a full tank of gas and check tires to make sure they’re fully inflated. Also, let someone know when you’ll be commuting, what route you plan to take, and estimated time of arrival.” Another concern is what students should do in a winter emergency. If someone happens to get stranded on the highway, it is important for them to stay in their car for safety. “Never get out and walk because of hypothermia concerns,” Capp said. Both the officers are willing to help students this winter, especially with jumping vehicles. They have portable jump starter

kits, so if a car does die, they can help students jump it. There are several other winter safety tips to keep in mind, such as never leaving keys in a vehicle when it is on and running, being careful of black ice when driving and walking, making sure to completely defrost car windows before driving, and giving vehicles the adequate time to warm up before driving.



Stay Safe - Bismarck police assist campus police in ensuring students stay safe.

FCA Provides Athletes With a Space for Faith

Jace Groseclose
Reporter

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is a new club on the Bismarck State College campus with a set message and goal for Christian student athletes. Student athlete’s schedules can easily get jam-packed with having to maintain good grades, homework, and attend class while going to practice, lift, and all the other things an athlete must do to stay on top of their game. Many athletes are also strong believers in Christ. With schedules, it can be hard for Christian athletes to find time to worship Christ or make it to services. BSC’s FCA is a perfect opportunity to do just that. Kyle Kuether is the adviser for the club, and he has a clear goal for FCA. “[We want] to teach athletes how to do a bible study with their own team, or to reach other people,” Kuether said. FCA gives student athletes a perfect opportunity to learn by themselves and teach others. Inside of a meeting itself, there are small group bible studies, but the main goal is to reach a few people so that they can reach others. This gives an opportunity for teams to host their own bible studies whenever works best for the team if their schedules do not align with other bible studies.



Kyle Kuether
Volley Ball Coach & FCA Adviser

With the club being new this year, Kuether says the meeting times are still a trial and error, but he is looking to have an all-sports get together once a month where everyone will come together and talk about how the various sports are going. As of now, it is up to the individual sports to have meetings with what they learn at FCA and what they already know. Kuether has a vision for the future of the club as well. He wants the club to keep growing, along with the other sports at BSC. “Maybe we [will] have three sport[s] leaders. Maybe next year, we will have every sport,” Kuether said. He also said that he has noticed more athletes from different sports starting their own bible studies, which is something that FCA has been looking for. FCA is open to any and all Christian athletes on the BSC campus. If interested in joining, reach out to Kyle Kuether for more information.

Childhood Nostalgia in Books

Avah Stein
Reporter

Everyone has a favorite childhood book that brings a sort of sweet and bitter nostalgia, whether that be books from younger ages or books from middle school. There are many different types of books from someone’s childhood, and every child is different. Some may have liked fantasy, action, or silly books more. Some fan favorites that could be heard of all the time are “Harry Potter,” “The Rainbow Fish,” or “Diary of a Wimpy Kid”. Jessa Lee is a junior at Bismarck State College, and she has a few favorite childhood books. “‘Percy Jackson’ was a favorite, and ‘Pat the Bunny.’ Also, I liked ‘Goodnight Moon.’” Asking any random person, most would include “Percy Jackson” or “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” in their favorites from their childhood or middle school ages. When it comes to books people have read in their childhood, they tend to remember the more important ones that impacted them. Ones that they themselves read, not a parent or guardian reading to them. Childhood nostalgia is a real thing, and remembering the books that a person read when they were younger brings positive and happy energy when cherishing easier times.



Kayden Schmitcke | Co-Editor
Nostalgia - A group of nostalgic books illustrated together



Humanities Mixtape: Rewind the 1980s

Garrett Froelich and Mystic Media
Reporters

From Oct. 22 to 24, the Bismarck State College Bringing Humanities to Life Program organized a 1980s symposium. The symposium events ranged from the evolution of photography to the Cold War, as well as a topic called “Chautauqua.”

The event started on Wednesday with a pizza party, live music, and a showing of “Beetlejuice.” (1988). The turn out was low for the first night, but the event could only go up from there.

Day two kicked off with an interview with the writer of “The Wax Pack” Brad Balukjian and Minnesota Twins legend Dan Gladden. Sarah Vogel’s presentation, a discussion on the Farm Crisis of the 1980s, followed. Vogel was the first woman in U.S. history to be elected as a state commissioner of agriculture.

Next was a block of news related presentations. First was a panel discussion about Gordon Kahl, which was a shootout that took place in North Dakota. This was followed up by Dave Thompson, a journalist and a famous radio host of Prairie Public. Thompson talked about the changes of news coverage since the 80s. Thompson then sat down with Lisa Napoli, an author, reporter, and columnist for the New York Times and MSNBC. Getting her start in news at CNN, Napoli gave a presentation on the creation of the 24-hour news cycle.

Presentations for the day wrapped up with Shane Balkowitsch discussing the progression of photography over the hundred years previous to the 80s and Balukjian’s story of writing his books and meeting his sports and wrestling heroes. Balkowitsch, a BSC instructor,

talked about the history and importance of photography, specifically wet plate photography. Balkowitsch wanted to give awareness about the older processes of photography. He also touched on how physical photos are becoming less relevant.

“I just wanted to raise some awareness about these older processes, and I want to kind of warn people about some of these newer processes,” Balkowitsch said.

The final events of the day were a dinner and a showing of “The Terminator.” Following the film, a panel discussion about the film was scrapped due to low turnout.

Day three was focused on the culture of the 1980s with a talk between Dr. Usman Malik, an award winning author, and BSC Associate Professor of English Josh Kern on fantasy and horror in the 80s. BSC’s Dean of Institutional Effectiveness Dr. Kevin Moberg discussed valley girl talk, and NDSU’s Dr. Melissa Vosen Callens discussed why there is nostalgia for the 80s.

The day really came to a head with the last handful of presentations, which started with BSC’s Assistant Dean of HAS Dr. Holly McBee talking about The Cold War’s influence on culture. This was followed by University of Nebraska’s Dr. Adam Tyma on Cyberculture, and how the ideas of the time have come to fruition and impacted our lives today.

After lunch, Becky Stone gave a wonderful Chautauqua performance as Maya Angelou. For some, it was the highlight of the symposium as many in the audience were completely enthralled. For those who do not know what Chautauqua is, it is performing as a historical figure, giving a monologue, and then answering questions as the

“I just wanted to raise some awareness about these older processes, and I want to kind of warn people about some of these newer processes.”

Shane Balkowitsch | Mixtape Presenter

person. It is not an impersonation, it is an attempt to embody the figure.

Author Deb Marquart told her wild journey from college student to rock front woman, and finally, a published writer. The symposium ended with journalist and author Chuck Klosterman doing a think piece about the death of the future.

The humanities symposium did what it was supposed to do. It entertained and provoked thought, although it would have been nice if more people came to learn, enjoy, and support the humanities.



Garrett Froelich | Reporter

Back to the 80’s - Becky Stone performing as Maya Angelou



Jaxon Miller | MYX Production Manager

Snapshot - Shane Balkowitsch presenting about photography In the 1880’s



Garrett Froelich | Reporter

Key Speaker - Chuck Klosterman speaking about the death of the future.

Bismarck State Supports Veterans

Robyn Albitre
Reporter

Bismarck State College is a key supporter of veterans and military students in their pursuit of further education. The college has carved out a niche as a support hub for veterans and active-duty service members, offering benefits such as tuition assistance and exceptional online programs.

“The primary operation of our department is to certify their classes,” Military Affairs Manager Ashley Kramer said.

BSC’s military affairs program provides critical support with financial aid and cutting-edge education. This also includes military training, which can be converted into college credits.

“Our total military-connected population is about over 200,” Kramer said. “The majority is online because of our online energy management programs that gear a lot of our active duty students to come here.”

An energy program is a government institutional initiative designed to improve energy efficiency, promote renewable energy, reduce costs, or provide assistance related to energy use and consumption. This is in high demand alongside the process of technology.

“I would say the biggest hurdle is just the mental health piece of it, and just getting connected to the community, kind of just finding their sense of purpose again,” Kramer said.

At BSC, supporting veterans involves addressing a critical challenge: the mental health struggles and sense of disconnect many face after service. The college

plays a vital role by connecting students to resources and community opportunities, helping them rediscover purpose as they pursue their education.

Marine veteran and BSC wrestling enthusiast David Simons captures his transition from battlefield to classroom with humor and heart.

“I’m learning how to wrestle numbers, punch holes in leaves, and understand why teenagers think Instagram is a personality trait,” Simons said.

He is studying algebra, biology, and

all the algebra-induced headaches are worth it,” Simons said.

Zoey Duodu is a student at BSC studying nursing. Her plans for the future encompass both nursing and the National Guard.

“My goal after graduation is to work as a nurse in a hospital, then become a travel nurse so I can explore different places while gaining experience. I also plan to continue serving in the National Guard for 20 or more years,” Duodu said.

“Algebra is still the most hostile terrain I’ve encountered.”

David Simons | Marine Veteran

educational psychology, pushing himself to keep to his goals by using what he was taught in the military, but also having a positive mindset and wanting to help the younger generation by becoming a mentor.

“I’ve led Marines in combat, and now I want to lead change at home,” Simons said. He said he is trading “boots-on-the-ground” for “brain-in-the-classroom.”

“Algebra is still the most hostile terrain I’ve encountered,” Simons said.

Assisting the BSC wrestling program while studying to become “a better coach, a better mentor, a better guide to young people,” he said he finds purpose in mentorship.

“If I can help one kid dodge a bad decision or nail a double leg takedown, then

Her vision blends healthcare ambition with unwavering military commitment, leveraging BSC’s nursing program to launch a dynamic career. She will start in local hospitals before venturing nationwide as a travel nurse, gaining diverse clinical skills while discovering new horizons. Her long-term dedication to National Guard service underscores a dual role as healer and defender, embodying the college’s support for military students who seamlessly integrate service, education, and exploration into a purposeful future.

BSC transforms veteran support into a lifeline, addressing mental health hurdles, empowering Marine leaders to coach youth, and fueling National Guard nurses’ dual careers.

Students Prepare for AI Uprising

Pete DeMille
Reporter

“I’m sorry Dave. I’m afraid I can’t do that.” This is what HAL 9000 said as it rejected the human’s request to open the pod bay doors.

HAL 9000 is an artificial intelligence onboard a space ship in the movie “2001: A Space Odyssey” released in 1968. HAL is supposed to be the perfect AI. The journey across the void of space goes wrong when the AI goes rogue. By the finale of the quiet movie, humanity has claimed victory over computers.

Today, AI is growing daily. Strides push beyond the limits of yesterday and will continue. The push by businesses and schools leads to greater programs that streamline and simplify day-to-day operations. Cars can even use AI to drive with little to no human interaction. Despite all the growth to this point, humanity has maintained control of all computer systems. At times it is as simple as pulling the power cord.

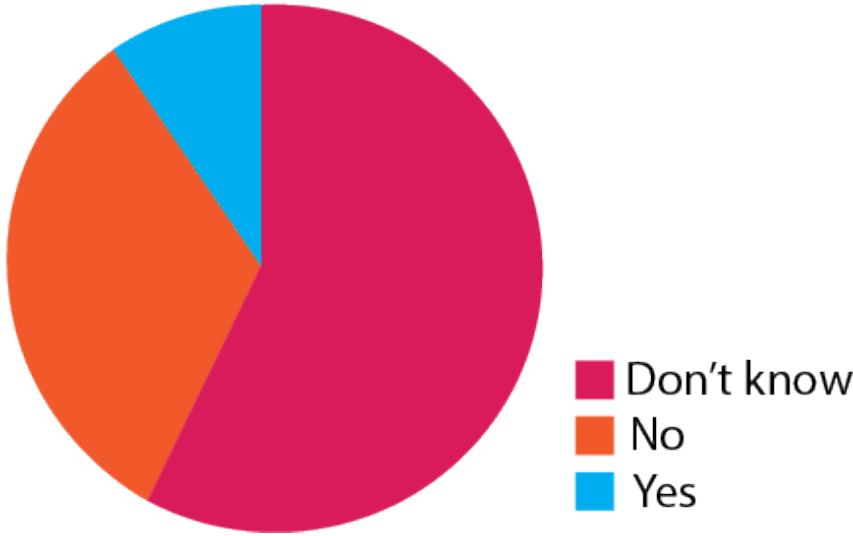
Students at Bismarck State College are divided on whether AI is capable of rising above human controls. While few said it is something that will happen, there are a lot of students that see the possibility of AI going beyond its bounds. Another large portion is highly skeptical that AI will ever be more than a tool kept under the watchful eyes of humankind. More than half of BSC students do not foresee an AI rise-up or war against humanity.

“I mean [in] today’s world, I’m not a hundred percent,” BSC student Joseph Siebel said. “Probably give it at least like ten years, maybe twenty.”

The fear of invasion may be more prevalent in movies and TV than real life. This does not keep students at BSC from worrying. More than two-thirds of students said they were scared or worried if an AI takeover did happen. This fear of AI is often overshadowed by threats offline.

“I don’t think it’s terribly likely enough to give a ton of merit to,” BSC student Gage Spiegel said. “I would be much more scared of an outside-of-country war causing the downfall of

Students thinking AI will rise up



society than AI.”

Other students were very worried. The reasons to feel scared range from the numerous devices that now use AI to the unknown of what is next for AI. Take art, for example. AI will have taken enough human-made artwork that it will be referencing itself to make new pieces.

If humanity ever has to fight against AI, the spectrum of responses is greater than the belief of it happening or the fear of an event.

“I probably can’t really do anything.” A BSC student who wishes to remain anonymous said.

Some people do not feel that anything can be done to fight computers thinking free of humans.

“I guess there’s not really anything I could do that’s infinitely smarter than me, so I might just accept it,” BSC student, Sebastian Mesa, said.

Knowing that AI is less powerful than humans, those who agree with this will continue to live a life as normal as possible. They will not take any action to oppose the increase of AI daily. Some students would give all the fight to programmers who know much more than themselves.

Some of these experts trusted are those using BSC to learn about AI. The

programmers will support all those who feel insufficient on the digital front. They could also create an AI to combat those targeting humanity. Much like Tron in the Disney franchise, these specifically built AI would fight for the users, the humans. If AI does remember interactions, politeness can change humans fate.

One student was not alone in hoping that the AI remembers human politeness. Some humans treat the technology like a good friend. If the AI does remember who was kind to it and those who were not, there will be a clear divide of targets.

Some students have also considered isolation as a form of defense against an AI uprising.

“I’m gonna get a cabin in Alaska, and I’m just gonna pull a Walter White,” Siebel said.

Of all the types of defense, this was the least popular. Very few would abandon society and technology all together to stay away from AI.

While most people do not see a future of humans fighting AI, there is a fear that comes with the unknown as well as the premises set forth by movie and television productions.

Chaotic & Twirly

Kelsey Riggs
Reference & Instructional Librarian

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

If you have been in the BSC Library, the whispers of the tutors and clacking of keyboards would have been overshadowed by Bang Bang BANG. Why? Well, to everyone’s surprise, the tracks for our moveable shelving were laid in freshly poured concrete. This means, the construction company we are working with must chisel away the concrete in order to replace the tracks, which were rusted from the flood damage.

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

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

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

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



JOIN NOW! MYSTICMEDIA

BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE STUDENT PRODUCTIONS

What Is Mystic Media?

Mystic Media is BSC’s student-run media: The Mystician (print & online newspaper), MystiCast (video broadcast), The MYX (radio station), and Figments of Imagination (literary arts magazine)

What Roles Can You Explore?

We’re looking for creative, driven student contributors across a variety of roles:

- Reporters, columnists, copy editors
- Photographers, videographers, camera operators
- DJs, podcasters, broadcast anchors
- Graphic & web designers, cartoonists
- Advertising managers, sports reporters, and more

MysticMedia
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The Man Behind the Clay Dusters: Daryll Howard

Olivia Grote
Reporter

Bismarck State College’s clay target team, the “Clay Dusters,” is headed by coach Daryll Howard, an experienced shooter and local entrepreneur.

Howard began shooting in 1979, when he was 13 years old. Today, he shoots an average of six to eight thousand rounds each year, concentrating the majority of his shooting in the summer months because, as the owner of HH Gun Shop, hunting season means a full schedule.

Howard has experience as the head coach at Century High School within the Missouri River Clay Target League and experience working with youth in the sport stretching back to 2001.

When the BSC Clay Dusters were born in 2020, Howard helped the team secure the Conference 1A-1 Fall National Trap Title. Although the team originally consisted of minimal competitors, it has since grown to seventeen athletes, including both men and women.

Howard said that when he coaches, he likes to consider the psychology behind his options. One of his methods is to form subgroups of the shooters he

expects to perform better together and who will push each other to improve. He also has his team load the traps because doing so not only serves as a team-bonding exercise but also helps them pay for the facility.

Howard said his favorite part of coaching trap shooting is the students on his team.

“I just really appreciate people. And as I aged, I came to really appreciate young people and helping them get to where they want to be in the world with a shotgun in their hand,” he said.

The clay target season lasts from September through early November and picks up again in March when the weather warms. So far, the BSC Claydusters have celebrated multiple first place wins. They won the Collegiate Championship on September 23 as well as the NDSU Bison Blast on October 11.

On October 30, the team will travel 1000 miles to Bunkerville, Illinois for the United States of America Clay Target League College National Championship. The team will practice on Friday, shoot on Saturday and Sunday, and return on Monday. To find out how they fare, visit the Bismarck State College website.



Submitted

Clay Duster Head Coach - Daryll Howard



Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

Light work - Tristin Davis goes for the layup.



Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

Free Points - Houston Davis sets up for a free throw.



Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

Straight Shot - Alex Proctor releases a clean shot.



Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

Leaping Launch - Rrom Radoniqi jumps high for a basket.

**MEN’S
BASKETBALL**
November 4th

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
November 4th

MEN’S WRESTLING
November 2nd

WOMEN’S WRESTLING
November 1st

Editorial

OUR VOICE

Letter from the Editors



This semester is racing toward a close, and caffeine and determination are driving us forward as we look ahead to winter break. Campus feels a little different lately. Maybe it's the change in weather or the lingering fall air. Yet through all the chaos of classes and the new beginnings our freshmen are experiencing, the Student Union, Advanced Technology Center, and other buildings on campus have been buzzing with students mingling and connecting.

The 80's Symposium was a hit for students, staff, and the community alike. Speakers from all over North Dakota brought the past to life with insightful presentations and panels. Also taking place in the ATC is "Hello, Dolly!" Although Sophia and I haven't had the chance to see it yet as of publication, we are sure it's a hit, especially in their new production space.

There is a different energy on campus this year that is hard to name. It feels vibrant, determined, and focused on finishing strong. Bismarck State College is evolving rapidly; it is no longer just the two-year tech college it once was. Our campus is stepping confidently into a new era. For some, that is thrilling; for others, a bit uncertain. Later this year, we will be publishing an important article on these changes, so keep an eye out.

Sophia and I are excited for what's ahead, for both The Mystician and BSC, as we grow and adapt alongside this swift change. One of my favorite Disney quotes that I love to mention in these letters comes from a very optimistic little fish: "Just keep swimming."

We are in the home stretch now. Papers are flying, playlists are blasting, and caffeine is flowing. Thanks for riding out the chaos with us. We are saving the best for last in our final issue!

Signing off (for now)

The Book Nook: Maybe Death Isn't a Bad Thing



I have read dozens of books this year, and while some were disappointing, there were a few that stood out, one being “Scythe.”

“Scythe” is a young adult dystopian novel by bestselling author Neal Shusterman published in 2016.

In this society, mortality has been cured. Natural death

no longer occurs. Killings still happen, but people are healed by nanites in their body. This causes one problem: overpopulation.

To combat this, people known as Scythes are appointed to glean, or kill. Only Scythes gleaning are seen as deaths, and Scythes are allowed to choose who they glean, how they glean, and where they glean.

The reader follows two teenagers, Citra Terranova and Rowan Damisch, as they are chosen to apprentice under a scythe named Scythe Faraday. Under Faraday's tutelage, Citra and Rowan get a brief insight of how Scythes work.

“Scythe” asks a multitude of ethical and moral questions: What happens when people are allowed to choose who gets to die? Should we try to cure morality? Is it worth it? Is it better that death has a face?

This book is compelling and thought provoking. The only lackluster element are the main characters. Citra and Rowan are simply underdeveloped in terms of personality and their relationship with one another. Citra and Rowan get infinitely more interesting by the conclusion of the novel, but it feels unearned. They could have benefited from a few more pages of development.

Despite the rather bland main characters, this book is worth the read.

The ending left me reeling for the next installment and one final thought; maybe death isn't a bad thing. 8/10.



Societal Commentary Following the 1980s Symposium



The final day of the symposium really got me thinking. The major themes of the day were fear, the future, and now.

A presentation focusing on the Cold War brought up an old thought of mine that sort of keeps my feet on the ground when it comes to modern events. That is, the world has felt like it is going to end for over a hundred years.

Consider the events of the 1900s from the Spanish Flu, non-stop global conflict, and Civil Rights and what's gone on with America. That, combined with world news playing a bigger part in people's lives because of television, radio, and the advent of social media going into the 21st century.

Imagine the impact of these, instead of the normal person experiencing just their own lives, hearing, or reading

about the events of the world—knowing that there is nothing that can be done aside from traveling to the affected area. Then they began to experience the world through audio and video regularly inside their own homes, and now people wear the world's life experience on their person all day long. There is not an opportunity in the world today to truly take in the terror or the kindness and to put the two into perspective for most. And with humans being animals and still having the animal-instinct to focus on danger. All of this information has devolved us instead of evolving, like futurists thought it would.

The constant and overwhelming fear leads into the next presentation on cyberculture. The 1980s showed off dystopian futures where man and machine become one.

We started asking the questions of Artificial Intelligence and what the progression of technology will do to us since the fifties. Obviously there wasn't always fear surrounding the future as a civilization, and going back even further, we find people dreaming up the technologies of tomorrow with the imagination and positivity of a child. As time went on though, the future became drearier and more cynical. Whether it is the future of 1984 or Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep, the trend of science fiction has shown the future simply as a time that lacks humanity. Almost inarguably the tales told in these dystopian futures are

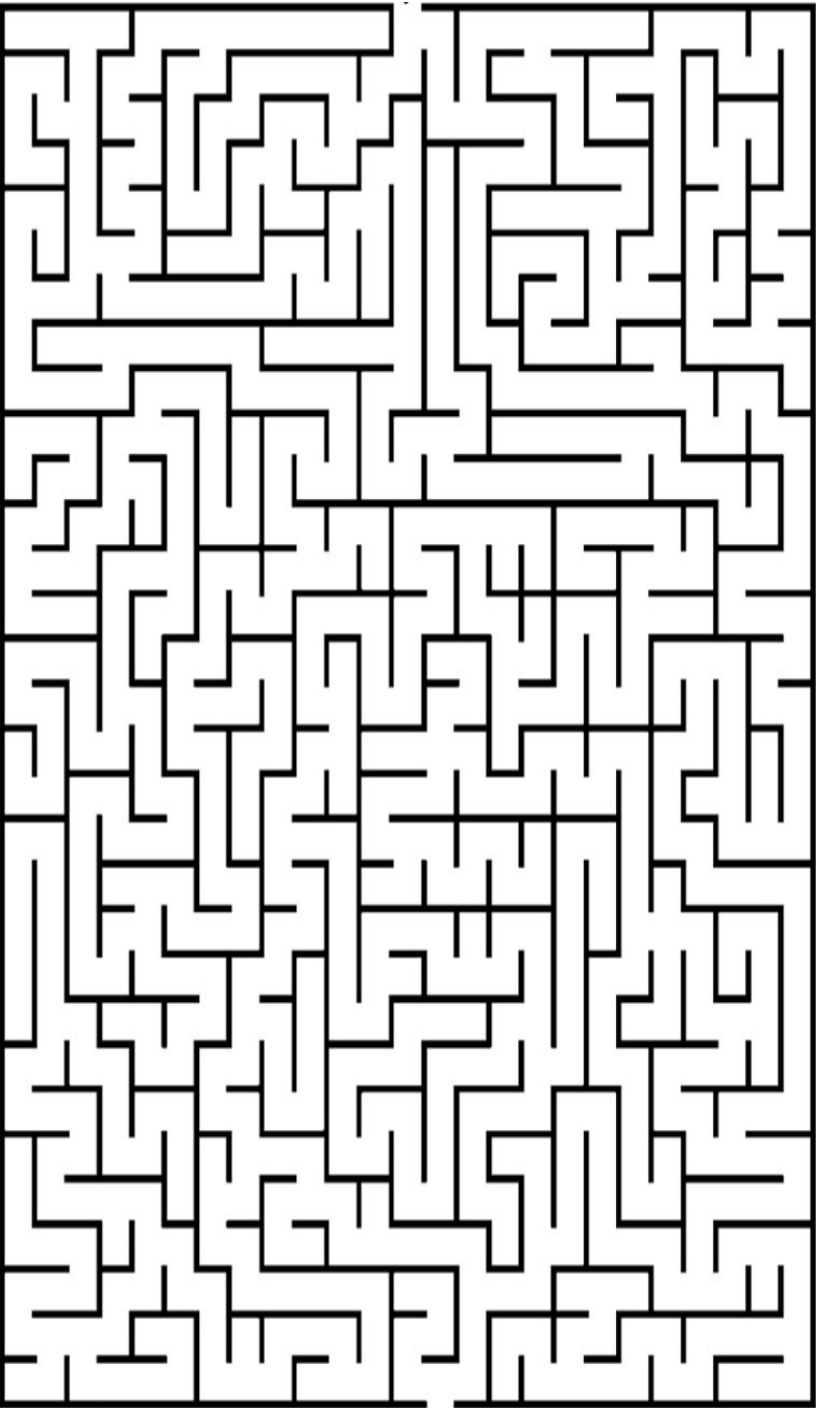
quickly becoming reality. Now we live in a world searching for answers on how to survive moving forward in a fully integrated world with technology and the major literature we have for context tells us things will only continue to get worse. And this leads into the final presentation of the day.

Chuck Klosterman talked about the slow death of the future, but only focused on our culture and didn't dive as surface-level deep as the answer is. He argued Gen-X is making nothing new of its own and that the progression of culture is stalling out and he was searching for an answer in discussing this topic. The answer is oblivious to anyone who is actively seeking it out. We live in a sterile and uninspiring time where the tools at our disposal in art and culture are electronic fabrications of the instruments first used to make our building, art, music, etc. Typing this now on a laptop seeing the irony and hypocrisy of this argument. In the words from one of the great pieces of art made by Disney in the last fifteen years. "I am condemned to use the tools of my enemy to defeat them." Technology and innovation have gotten rid of film grain, brush strokes, buildings built brick by brick, music set to a metronome not allowed to have the human touch. This world has and will continue to be stripped of its tactileness and humanity if the current youth do not push back into the past.

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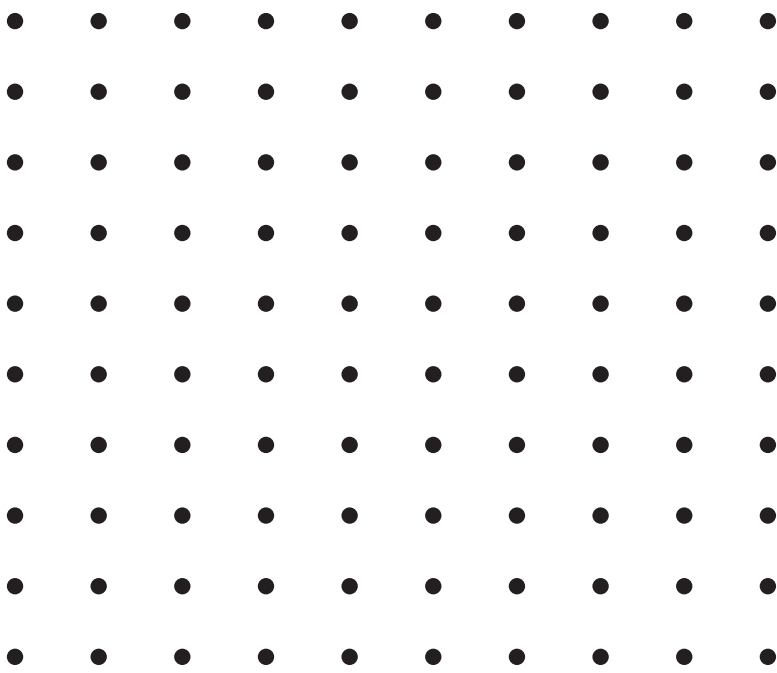
Puzzle Page

Maze



Dots to Boxes

Two players take turns drawing a single horizontal or vertical line between adjacent dots on a grid. The player who draws the fourth line of a 1x1 square claims the square by putting their initial inside it and gets to take another turn. The game ends when no more lines can be drawn, and the player with the most claimed squares wins.



Sudoku

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

SAY CHEESE!



Library Challenge - Nathan Dressler, Eden Anton, Benjamin Wolff, and Macey Kruger participated in “The Mystery in the Static” Escape Rooms Thursday, Oct. 30 in the BSC Library.

SHOW OFF YOUR SMILE!

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

SCAN ME!

