

THE MYSTICIAN

VOL. 81 ISSUE 6 BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE BISMARCK, N.D. February 6, 2020

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GET REAL WITH YOUR ID



The exterior of the Department of Motor Vehicles on a foggy day. With frost on the trees and murky skies, there is still important business to get done at the DMV. (Credit: Robert Mechaley III)

Travel Restrictions Being Put into Effect Nationwide

By **Caden Shean**
REPORTER

Millions of people fly across the United States every year, whether it be for visits, business trips or vacations. Coming this fall, all that flying will become a little more difficult to attain.

On Oct. 1, 2020, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will have a law going into place that will force people to have REAL ID. This new rule involves any person 18 years or older to have either a REAL ID compliant driver's license, a state issued enhanced driver's license or another form of verification such as a passport or a military ID in order to fly in the United States.

A REAL ID will have a star in the corner or another shape. This way, officials are able to tell right away if it truly is real or not.

"This new law really will not affect me," said Jayce Zuern, a Bismarck State College freshman. "I do not fly very much, so the law will only make me want to get my REAL ID for just in case purposes."

The TSA is trying to crack down and make sure it is safer for all passengers

aboard the planes. Even though it may seem like a lot of extra steps, it is just to ensure that people are who they say they are.

"I feel we need to take a lot of safety precautions when flying," said Trystan Gregory, another Bismarck State College freshman, "I understand why they are adding in this new rule to make sure all passengers on the planes feel safe."

In order to get a REAL ID one will need to bring a few extra things to the DMV such as: an ID, a valid address, social security card, birth certificate or passport.

"I think it's good to ensure passenger safety but these extra steps are a little too much," Gregory said. "I understand what the TSA is trying to accomplish, but at the same time I feel as if it is too much just to fly."

Zuern added, "I feel that airports are

already very safe, so this new ID rule is not a necessity."

Some states will have the new rule

come in at different times whether it be earlier or on the set date. However, states like Oregon and Oklahoma were given an extension on this new REAL ID rule, while New Jersey is still reviewing.

"I feel that if all the other states are making this new rule go into place by the October deadline, that the other three states should be inclined to get the rules in place on the

deadline as well," Zuern said.

There still is a lot of time before this rule will go into place, but it is better to make sure to have the new ID sooner rather than later. For more information, visit tsa.gov/real-id. The website even has a countdown until the rule goes into place.

"I understand what the TSA is trying to accomplish, but at the same time I feel as if it is too much just to fly."

**Trystan Gregory,
Bismarck State College
Freshman**

-How do I get a REAL ID?

Check with your state driver's license agency. You will need to go in person to present documentation to verify who you are in order to get your REAL ID.

-Is my tribal identification an acceptable form of ID?

Yes, a federally recognized, tribal-issued photo ID is an acceptable form of identification.

-How do I know if my ID is in compliance?

To learn whether your state is compliant with the REAL ID Act, visit the Department of Homeland Security REAL ID page.

THE MYSTICIAN

PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS – FOR THE STUDENTS

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Letter from the Editor

Hello again readers,

Glad you could join us for another amazing edition of The Mystician. Time flies pretty fast here in the Armory, especially with one deadline next to the other right off the bat for a new semester. Already on Issue 6 and every week it gets sent off to print still feels like serious crunch time to me. As nice as releasing a complete newspaper is, sleep is also important. Just wish that I could catch some.

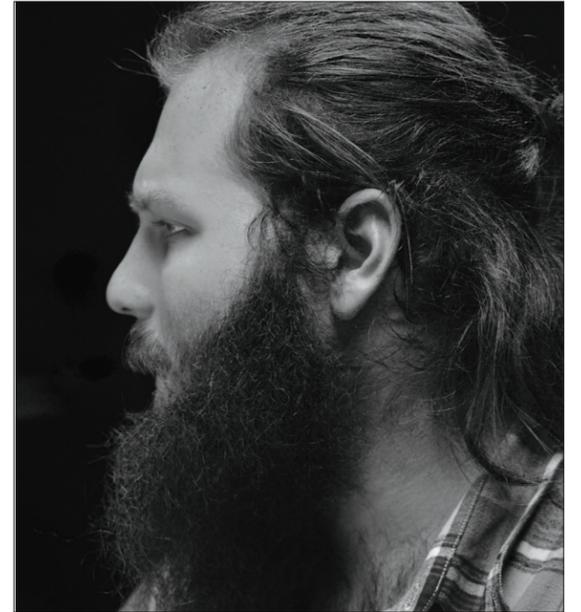
Though these deadlines feel well worth it. Not only am I, again, publishing a full and complete newspaper, but also because I'm able to enjoy a game of "Dungeons and Dragons" at the end of the week. For the uninitiated, "D and D" is a Tabletop Roleplaying Game (TTRPG) produced by Wizards of the Coast from back in my home state of Washington. At first these kinds of games started as theater exercises in high school for my drama club, but with time it developed into a full fledged hobby.

After a long period of not being able to play I have finally gathered a solid group of people to play with from old coworkers and fellow classmates at Bismarck State. It feels pretty great to finally crack out the rulebooks, dice and Dungeon Master screen since what feels like forever.

Otherwise, we've been continuing to do some pretty amazing work over here at Mystic Media with both the MYX and MystiCast. All the Christmas music has finally been taken out of rotation over in the MYX studio and our DJ's are back in full swing producing live and recorded content. A new student has even appeared and I'm very interested in seeing what they'll be able to do.

MystiCast hasn't been slouching either as they prepare for a live show to kick the year off. They have their own share of fresh faces, but all the returning students are gearing up with cameras and have shot some wonderful footage. For those who tuned in to the live showing at the end of last year and loved it, you can now look forward to three in total this semester.

Thank you all once again for your support and we'll continue producing all that Mystic Media content you crave!



Robert Mechaley III EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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:

Robert Mechaley III, EIC,
with letters to the editor

or any concerns/comments regarding this publication.

E-mail: bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu

The next Issue of The Mystician will be published Thursday, Dec. 5.

Deadline for any copy to be submitted is Tuesday, Nov. 26.

Stop by Room 125 in The Armory for more information.

Event Calendar February - March 2020

Feb. 9

BookTalk (Lea Hall) 1-3 p.m.

Feb. 10

Game Day (SU) 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.,
Mystics Help Mystics (SU)
6 p.m.

Feb. 12

Dinner and a Movie (MM)
4:30-7 p.m.

Feb. 13

BSC Mystics W & M
Basketball vs. North Dakota
State College of Science
(Armory) 5:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Feb. 14

Chocolate Fountain &
Valentine Cards (SU) 11 a.m.

Feb. 17

BSC Closed-President's Day

Feb. 20

BSC Job Fair (NECE)
4 p.m.

BSC Mystics W & M
Basketball vs. United Tribes
Technical College (Armory)
5:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Feb. 23

BSC Mystics W & M
Basketball vs. Dawson
Community College (Armory)
5:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

Feb. 25

Mardi Gras (SU) 11 a.m.

Feb. 28-29

Class B Choir Festival (NECE)
5 p.m.

March 3

Grand Theatre Movie Night
Free Tickets (SRL)

Answers to the Crossword Puzzle on page 7

DOWN
1. Wings
2. Television
4. Helmet
6. Turnover
7. Commercial
8. Field goal
9. Penalty
10. Beer
12. Halftime
13. Shakira

ACROSS
2. Touchdown
3. Ring
5. Score
6. Tackle
11. Jennifer Lopez
14. Patriots
15. Tom Brady
16. Chiefs
17. Lombardi
18. Miami

Note from the Editor: It has come to my attention that along the tops of pages from the previous issue, it says that the number is 81.3. The volume and issue is actually 81.5, and I apologize for this mistake and if it confused anybody. -Robert G Mechaley III, Editor-in-Chief, Mystician



Come Join Us!
Tune in Live at
bscmyx.com



MYSTICAST

INTERSECTION REQUIRES ALERTNESS

Looking Both Ways Before Crossing the Street and Other Precautions

By **Roger W. Marks IV**
MYSTIC MEDIA COORDINATOR

Two minutes to class. One turn left and campus is in sight. Speeding five miles over the limit to make it in time. Then a pedestrian appears on the crosswalk.

For many students familiar with campus, Edwards Avenue and Schafer Street's meeting point is a tricky intersection. Depending on the direction traffic may be hard to see.

In the winter, the road conditions add to the loss of traction often at inopportune times. Traction is an issue

as the traffic from Edwards going up the hill can't stop lest they slide back down the hill either into the ditch or into cars along the road.

Coming from the Armory, traffic going slightly fast may find themselves sliding down the hill into the back of another vehicle or into the intersection.

Without adding in pedestrians the intersection is already hard to manage.

"I've heard that people who are trying to make turns at that intersection sometimes have trouble when they are trying to find out if people are coming up the hill or not." Mike Kuehn, a BSC Freshman said. "With pedestrians at crosswalks cause they are constantly

checking to see if people are coming up the hill. So they're not checking the crosswalks at all. So sometimes they almost end up hitting pedestrians."

While Mike himself has not been in one of those close calls, a BSC Sophomore and former Gaming Mystics President Morgan Drake has. Morgan has been on the campus for close to two and a half years. In that time Morgan has seen many abuses of drivers blasting through intersections. In relation to Edwards and Schafer, Morgan himself has slid into the intersection when the roads were slippery. Even when he was going 15, which is as fast as he is comfortable going on icy roads.

Morgan says "They would just drive as fast as they could down that hill and they wouldn't expect pedestrians to walk out in front of them."

Morgan has had "a couple of near misses" and suggests that all intersections should be a four way stops on campus. He believes that this will "reduce the likelihood" of incidents by making people stop before they do anything.

The bottom line is to watch both ways and take it slow for anyone who may be crossing.



Left: This intersection of the campus sees a huge amount of both foot and vehicle traffic and can become slick after it snows. Above: Obey street signs and watch for traffic at intersections. (Credits: Roger W. Marks IV)

STORE CLOSURES HIT BISMARCK HARD

By **Kaitlyn Fisher**
REPORTER

The nationwide publicly-owned furniture and decor store, known as Pier 1 Imports will be closing 450 of 942 stores in 2020. Bismarck's location at 715 S. Washington St. is one of the closing locations.

Due to local confusion with which stores are closing, Pier 1 posted a notice that the soon-to-be closing stores, have been removed from their mobile application.

The company has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

"The retailer has drafted a bankruptcy plan and last month made a presentation to creditors that envisioned a smaller company with about \$900 million in annual sales," reported in an article on Bloomberg Markets written by Lauren Coleman-Lochner, Matthew Townsend, and Katherine Doherty.

Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Protection allows a number of stores to remain open in an attempt to turn the business around during the long process.

Because of the wide variety of home

decor and furnishings within the internet market, customers are choosing to shop online, or with other retailers such as Wayfair and IKEA.

With the number of stores located across the United States and Canada, this downfall will have a huge effect on the 4,000 people employed.

"Pier 1 then reported a wider quarterly loss and confirmed it would reduce staff, shut almost half its stores and close some distribution centers," Coleman-Lochner, Townsend, and Doherty of Bloomberg Markets.



Pier 1 Imports on S Washington Street with closing sale signs. (Credit: Robert Mechaley III)

SPRING 2020

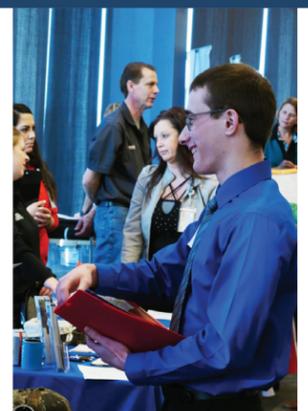
JOB & INTERNSHIP FAIR

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 20, 2020
4-6:30 P.M.

Bismarck State College
National Energy Center of Excellence
4th Floor, Bavendick Stateroom

Meet area employers, discuss your career options and kick off the networking you need to secure a bright future and a great career!

- Bring copies of your resume
- Dress for success
- Make your first impression count



REGISTER AT:
bismarckstate.edu/jobfair

The first 150 students to register receive BSC swag when you check in at the job fair!

QUESTIONS?

Contact
BSC Career Services:
bsc.careerservices@bismarckstate.edu

BSC BISMARCK
STATE COLLEGE

Registration not required.

News

Aspiring to Give Every Student a Voice

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



Jessie Meckle

Jessie Meckle serves as a Coordinator for the Bismarck State College Testing Services Center as well as Vice President on the Staff Senate. (Photo Provided by Jessie Meckle)

By Robert Mechaley III
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As higher education goes, a student can expect tests to be an important part in the life of a student. Whether it is in the form of entering college or placement for specific programs they are critical to the overall significance of a college or university. With this in mind, Testing Services is a department adhering to the standards set by the National College Learning Association to provide these tests and a suitable environment for them accounting for various needs.

“The biggest service we provide is the ACCUPLACER,” said Jessie Meckle, Testing Services Coordinator at Bismarck State College. “If you are applying to BSC and your ACTs are a little lower, and you don’t meet college level, then you can come take the ACCUPLACER here and hopefully raise your score and place into college level math or english.”

Math and English aren’t the only focus in regard to taking the ACCUPLACER exam. Limited enrollment programs such as energy and welding that require certain scoring allow a person to gain a seat in them. Testing services also extend to making up tests in the event of a teacher allowing it for illness, and cybersecurity exams are available to the public. Meckle serves another role outside of the department as the Vice President of the Staff Senate.

“If the President is taking on a lot of tasks, I assist her with that,” said Meckle. “Also if she has something like a deadline she can’t meet due to other responsibilities then she’ll delegate me to do some of those things.”

In communicating with the many staff representatives across the entirety of BSC, it is only expected that the President of the Staff Senate, Ashley Mattson, will require a helping hand in completing tasks.

Outside of the job, Meckle refers to herself as a “Home Baker” having taken no formal class on the subject.

“I have a ten-year-old son, and we like to bake together and make new recipes,” said Meckle.

She also has a one-year-old daughter with all of them having the family tradition of going to a Minnesota Vikings game once a year. Meckle has aspirations to further improve the Testing Services Center through research into new tests provided to the students and public as well as gathering student feedback on their ability to provide.

For more information on Bismarck State College Testing Services, visit their website from the BSC homepage under Academics and Academic Services. The Mystician will continue with Staff Senate Highlights in Volume 81.7.

NORTH DAKOTA WEIGHS IN ON MARIJUANA

By Azariah Irungu Njuguna
REPORTER

Marijuana is a sensitive subject that has been reviewed over and over. There is always the party that says it should remain illegal, while there is the other one that ‘fights’ for its legality because of the many advantages it has.

Though it is still illegal to be in possession of marijuana in the state of North Dakota, this might change because there is a ballot voting that will be in the fall of 2020 to finally decide if the majority of people want marijuana to be legalized in the state or not.

If it is ever to be so, here are some few benefits of smoking ‘pot’ for whenever it will ever be legalized. Research has found from a variety of sources that cannabis has a major role of relieving strong chronic pain. The cannabidiols in marijuana help in mending broken bones and also fight the growth and spread of cancerous cells.

Not only does it have physical benefits but also mental ones. Some of them include: treatment of depression and ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder), regulation of seizures, treatment of anxiety and also PTSD

(Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder). It also helps heal glaucoma, obesity and Alzheimer’s Disease.

Don’t get too excited just yet because the drug is still illegal even though being caught with less than five hundred grams of it will only lead to a misdemeanor with a ticket for a fine but with no probability of jail time. Though the rate at which states are legalizing and decriminalizing marijuana is gradually increasing, North Dakota has yet to do so and we only have to wait for the bill to be reviewed. So the best advice to the public would be to stay off marijuana unless one needs it for medical purposes and even then, one will be required to have a medical card and have to be at least the age of 21.

The card must also have been issued by a viable and accredited marijuana doctor, and even if with that some restrictions apply. One is that the state does not permit edible forms of cannabis.

North Dakota’s qualification for the North Dakota Compassionate Care Act include: Cancer, HIV/AIDS, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Crohn’s disease, Fibromyalgia, spinal stenosis, glaucoma and epilepsy.



With a bill returning to the ballot, remember to do research on Marijuana use and laws before voting in fall 2020. (Graphic Credit: Dylan Kahl)

NEWS BRIEFS NEWS BRIEFS NEWS BRIEFS NEWS BRIEFS

CAMPUS WILL BE TREATED TO FINE DINING

Students Get the Movie

Mystic Marketplace has planned Dinner and a Movie for Wednesday, Feb. 12. Dinner will be served a la carte from 4:30-7 p.m. and is open to students, staff and faculty. Prime Rib with potatoes, vegetables, and a dinner roll will be offered for around \$15. Anyone is welcome to come for supper.

FOR STUDENTS ONLY: Beginning at 6 p.m. the Mystic Marketplace will be showing the movie “Sixteen Candles.”

BSC Men’s Ensemble Will Serenade Your Sweetheart on Valentine’s Day

Heart-felt notes – the musical kind – and flowers provide a package of love in vocal serenades by the Bismarck State College Men’s Ensemble Friday, Feb. 14.

For \$30, the tuxedo-clad, a cappella ensemble will surprise your Valentine on campus, at their workplace or another pre-arranged location with a love song and a fresh, long-stemmed red rose.

The ensemble performs for sweethearts on campus until 2 p.m. on Valentine’s Day, and then director Dawn Hagerott takes them into the Bismarck-Mandan community from 2 to 6 p.m. to serenade those special someones.

Serenades can be booked through Feb. 12 by contacting Hagerott at 224-5768, or Dawn.Hagerott@bismarckstate.edu. All proceeds go toward BSC music scholarships.

Book your serenade for the wonderful BSC men’s Ensemble soon to surprise a loved one out there. (Credit: Submitted Photo)



STAFF ED

Valentine's Day: Romance or Friends?

Valentine's Day is the one day a year where everything is about love. Grocery stores are stocked with plastic hearts filled with mediocre chocolates. There's relentless advertising on television and the radio talking about your one true soulmate and how to keep them. Of course, they are all trying to sell their products such as an expensive diamond ring because nowadays that's the only way to express your love, right?

No of course not, but the holiday has slowly evolved into a marketing strategy rather than a day meant to be spent with the one you love. It seems that most people are not in opposition to

celebrating the day. Instead, criticism for the holiday seems to come from the constant advertising and marketing ploy the day has evolved into. The idea behind Valentine's Day itself is a fairly liked holiday. Showing your love doesn't have to be expensive, and it is nice to have one day a year designated to it.

In a recent trend, holidays seem to be taking a turn to celebrate friendships. An idea that could easily be applied to this upcoming Valentine's Day. "Friendsgiving" and "Friendsmas," both were quite popular among this generation this past year and support the trend of celebrating the holidays

with friends.

The celebration of Valentine's Day does not need to be strictly romantic. It can be platonic too. Some have deemed this upcoming holiday "Galentine's Day." Girls get together with their gal pals and celebrate their friendship. Boys, can do this too, maybe call it something along the lines of "Palentine's Day"? Spend some time with your boys and show them that you value their friendship. Or, if this sounds unappealing, you can subtly celebrate time with your boys during events such as the Super Bowl, and leave the more girly romantics to the girls. They surely

won't mind.

Whomever you decide to spend Valentine's Day with this year, know it doesn't need to be someone you are in a romantic relationship with. Let your friends know you love them and care about them on this day, too. Even with the insufferable amounts of advertising, the holiday is truly a special day to show you care. Oh, quick PSA though, if you do happen to be in a healthy and loving relationship, maybe keep the PDA and excessive amounts of online posting about it to a minimum; some of us are single and don't need to be reminded about it every hour.

MALARD'S MUSINGS

Dear Professors



By Brenna Malard
EDITOR and COLUMNIST

In every one of my classes, I've been told something along the lines of "I'm not here to baby you" or "you are old enough to get your work done without me telling you to do so," yet those same professors are the ones giving out points for whether or not you show up to class. This is still "babying" us and not allowing us to make our own decisions. If students want to slack off and not show up to class, they should be able to because they paid for it.

In a select few of my classes, students cannot earn a grade higher than a C if they miss more than four days of class. If you miss more than this, you'll most likely fail out of the class. In another class, showing up warrants points that fluctuate based on the day and are worth 10 percent of one's final grade. One day showing up may be worth five points, the next it might be 25. While it differs from class to class, the same principle remains—if you miss a class you're punished for it.

I figured that there must be a reason professors choose to do this. Maybe there's a policy that they have to follow implemented by the college? There's not—I checked. However, I did find that if a student starts to badly fail a class and does not regularly attend, a professor can academically drop them from the class. They have the power to remove a student from their class if warranted. With this in mind, if they have this direct power, why do they need to make up a rule for attendance points anyway?

If one does decide to stop coming to class, this is going to show in their grades on assignments, quizzes and tests. There's no need for a policy to then punish them based on not being in class because they'll suffer from not knowing the material. It's only hurting the students who may need to miss a day or two and are then punished for it with these points. If they can get an A and miss a few classes, I think they should be

able to do so.

Please note that this is in no way a challenge of authority to any of my professors, but rather the opposite, an invitation for a discussion on the merit of a policy like this. I think all of my teachers are highly qualified, academic educators. However, I struggle to understand something that only aims to benefit them when they have another option to correct a student's behavior.

It's contradictory for professors to claim they don't have time to coddle students but do so anyway in the form of attendance points. We're not in high school anymore; students can be held accountable for their actions, and poor attendance will be reflected in their assignments and tests. There's no need for a policy like this when a method to drop students is already available to them. It's just a way to micromanage students without actually having to call it that.

LETTERS TO PETRA

By Petra Davidson
MYSTICAST EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

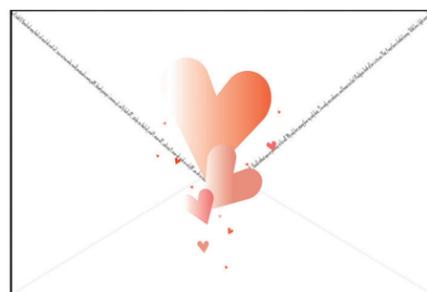
Dear Petra,

Is it alright to want to be single? I don't see any reason for me to get into a relationship at the moment.

From,
Anonymous

Dearest Anonymous,

Throughout my years of living, I have always been a single gal. There are moments where I wish I had a man but then I remember that I am a strong, independent woman. For you, however, I believe that you should do whatever you feel most comfortable with at this time of your life. If that is to be single, then be single. Even if you end up being a single 40-year-old, living with your cats, your life is your life. Some people believe that having a boyfriend/girlfriend, especially during the Valentine's season, is necessary for



personal happiness. I would disagree with this statement because only you can make your happiness. You shouldn't want to get a significant other in order to feel that joy. My advice to you would be not to completely shut yourself off to love, but to go with the flow and if you find someone, then embrace the opportunity. My singularity has taught me many things the biggest ones being, I don't need a man, yet I want a boyfriend. I hope you live it up being single because you should.

With love,
Petra
Song suggestion:
"Acappella" by Karmin

SHOWER THOUGHTS

Mamba Mentality

By Michael Kuehn
REPORTER

The recent death of one of my childhood heroes, Kobe Bryant, got me thinking... why does the death of someone that we may never meet affect us so greatly? Is it because we look up to them? Is it because they inspire us to do great things or go to great lengths? Or maybe we simply enjoyed the entertainment they gave to us. No matter the specific reason, there's something to be said about a person who is able to affect so many people in such a large fashion.

Growing up in the 2000s and loving basketball, nobody was bigger than LeBron James, Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant. The basketball world made LeBron the poster boy of the future, calling him the next "MJ" or "GOAT". Shaq's utter dominance made him a conversation piece at any moment while discussing basketball. With Kobe though, something was different.

Kobe translated to so many things outside of basketball. Kobe had the best clothes of any NBA athlete. The snakeskin printed sweatpants, the "Mamba Mentality" sweatshirts and t-shirts, and of course the best basketball shoes out on the market.



Every kid wanted something "Kobe" to wear. Kobe also affected the way people played the game of basketball. His term "Mamba Mentality" wasn't just a brand, or a quote, it was his way of life and the way he and so many others modeled their game after.

"To sum up what mamba mentality is, it means to be able to constantly try to be the best version of yourself." Kobe said from a story for ET Online with Leana Taylor.

The emotional attachment I developed to Kobe and the emotional attachment many others develop with their childhood heroes is special. Celebrities' influences reach far and wide across and give us an escape or a way to model our lives. The most important thing Kobe brought to my life was being a great role model for how to handle success and being a family man. Kobe's legacy and example of how to live a meaningful life is something I'll never forget.

Do you have an opinion? I certainly hope you would! Write into us at the email: bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu if you'd like to have a Letter to the Editor from you to us, featured in our next issue.



Coach Keeran speaks to his players after observing their batting practice in The Armory. The Mystic Athletic Department found the new coach after a long search, just in time for the season. (Credit: Robert Mechaley III)

NEW COACH STEPS UP TO THE PLATE

New Coach Keeran Brings Credentials and Spirit

By Michael Kuehn
REPORTER

Spring is right around the corner and that means baseball. As the Mystics baseball team gear up for their 2020 spring season, a new face is in the building and ready to lead on the field.

On Friday, Jan. 17, Bismarck State College announced the hiring of the new Head Baseball Coach, Michael Keeran and assistant coach Jacob VanVacter.

Keeran was a former assistant for Valley City State University and was a part of a program that placed third in the North Star Athletic Association (NSAA) 2019 regular season standings and contributed to the Viking's NSAA championship game appearance.

"I coached at Valley City last year and had a lot of success there," Keeran said. "We got all the way to the conference championship and had a couple all-conference guys along with two independent pro players now."

Keeran's past record includes, two stints in the Pioneer Collegiate Baseball League (PCBL). In those two years, he accomplished an overall record of 67-11 with two championships.

"In the summer is where my bread and butter is and where I've had my most success," Keeran said. "I coached in the Pioneer Collegiate Baseball League the past two summers. One season with the Albert Lea Lakers and

another with the Bancroft Bandits."

Keeran's coached 12 professional baseball players and had players in the MLB Affiliated, American Association and International Professional Leagues. Before coaching at VCSU, Keeran was an assistant coach for Grinnell College where he helped the team reach a school record of 24 wins.

"After graduating, I coached at Grinnell College for softball, that was something different for me. I embraced it," Keeran said. "I think it made me a better coach and a better person to be able to coach a different type of athlete. Not necessarily a male and female type thing either."

Keeran coached the Midwest Conference Player of the Year and an All-American in 2018. Keeran also coached high school baseball in Iowa for Clear Lake High School from 2013-2016.

While coaching at Clear Lake Keeran won state championships in 2013, 2015 and 2016.

"I was very blessed to be able to coach as assistant head coach at Clear Lake High School for four years where I went to school," Keeran said.

Keeran credits his knowledge of the day to day coaching tasks to his time with Coach Casey Olney at VCSU.

"When you get here at 9 a.m., you're here and moving until 9 or 10 p.m. at night," Keeran said. "You'll always be doing something whether it's academics or recruiting, or off the field fundraising. He gave me a lot to do in that area."

Keeran also touched on his high standards he wants for the program and hopes for the 2020 spring.

"Biggest thing is toughness and confidence. We need to bring our hard hat and lunch pail to practice

everyday," Keeran said. "Hoping we can win the MonDak Conference and win the regional tournament. Also to help our sophomores get to four-year

programs – quality four-year programs that are places they wanna be and are excited to go to."

Keeran brings with him Jacob VanVacter as a new assistant coach to the Mystics staff. VanVacter spent time with Keeran on both the Bancroft Bandits and Valley City State University. In his time at VCSU, VanVacter coached three 1st Team All-Conference pitchers, coached the recipient of the Newcomer of the Year Award and broke the school record in strikeouts.

VanVacter headed a pitching staff in Bancroft that broke several PCBL records posting a 2.49 ERA and 488 strikeouts. Seven of the pitchers he coached signed with pro teams along with one catcher. Coach VanVacter prepares to lead an experienced Mystics bullpen.

"It's deep and it's really good. There's three horses at the top with Ryan Bourassa (RHP), Carter Stonecipher (RHP) and Blake Anderson (RHP). And then the guys 4-8 hold a lot of depth for us as well," VanVacter said.

The Mystics are coming off a very successful season in which they won the MonDak Conference. Coach Keeran and Coach VanVacter will join Coach Dakota Greer and try to repeat in the MonDak conference to continue that success into the Regional tournament.

"Biggest thing is toughness and confidence. We need to bring our hard hat and lunch pail to practice everyday"

Michael Keeran, Head Coach of Mystics Baseball



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DAY TO DAY BELIEFS AFFECT LIVING

By Travis Askerooth
REPORTER

A person backtracking because they saw a black cat crossing the road, detouring into the street to avoid walking underneath a ladder or holding one's breath while going past a graveyard seem like silly things that some people do. What do all these have in common? These are superstitions that some people believe.

According to Merriam-Webster, superstition is a belief or practice resulting from ignorance, fear of the unknown, trust in magic or chance, or a false conception of causation. Superstitions can come from certain daily or customary experiences or being told about them by family members or peers. Sometimes, superstitions can be considered a good thing for people. For example, while watching a football game, to assure that the favorite team wins, the person wears lucky socks. Another example is that a person locks the car three times to make sure the car is truly locked. Finally, superstitions can be as simple as stepping over a crack because as children, we believed that it would break our mother's back.

When it comes to superstitions,

sometimes people won't notice that they are doing the same thing over and over and only notice if they stop and recognize the pattern or if a peer asks them about the superstition.

"Before all my sports, I have to do the exact same routine," Brooke Peterson, Bismarck State College freshman, said. "Like before basketball games, I did my right shoe, then my left shoe."

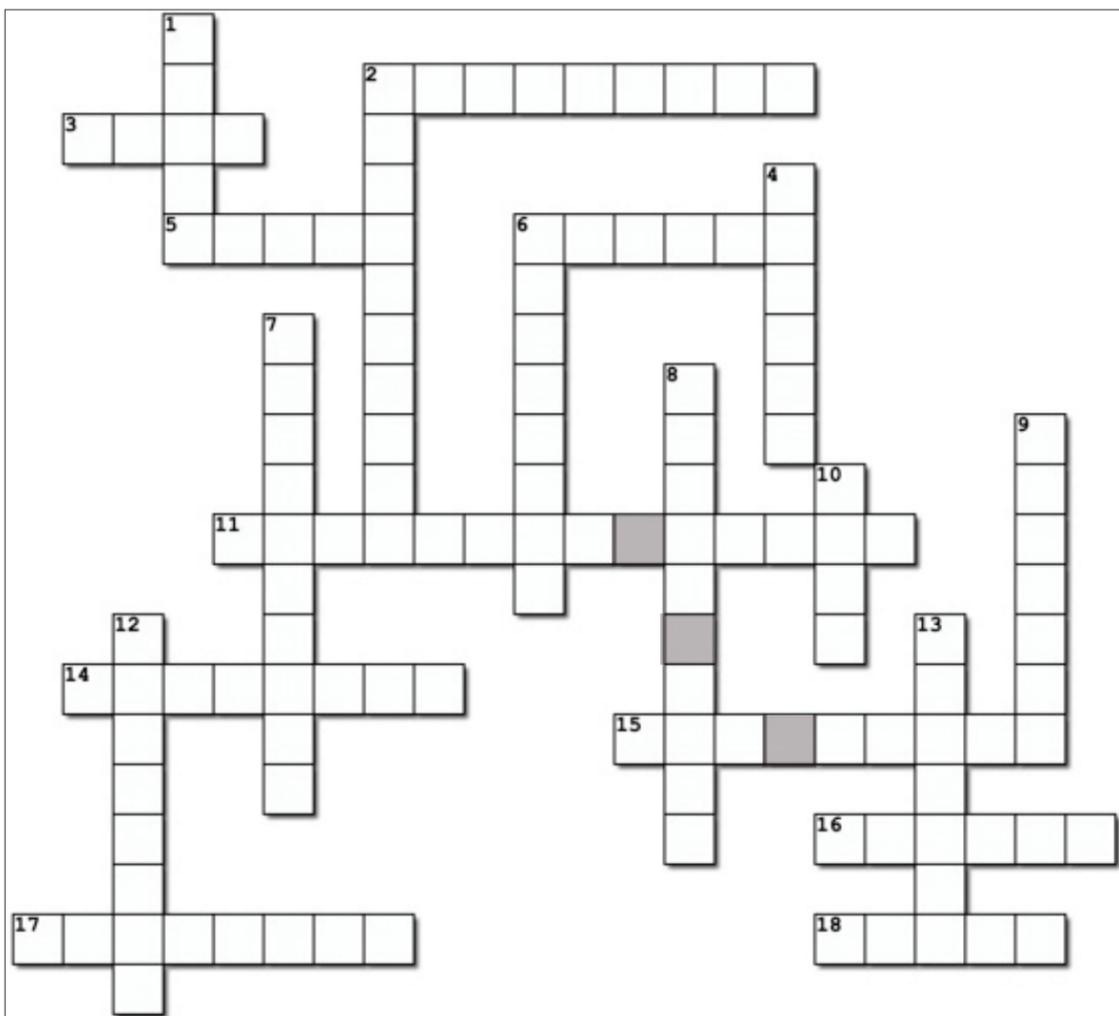
Sports superstitions seems to be a common thing that happens during or before games. Most sports superstitions seems to correlate with wearing specific clothing, eating certain foods or doing a repeated action.

"I am a very superstitious person," Sydney Andersen, a BSC basketball player, said. "I actually like to put my shoes on the same way before every game. I do my right foot then my left foot. Start on the right foot, right? Before a game, me and my old teammate liked to be the last two out of the locker room. She goes before I do, and we hit the top of the door."

Superstitions are wide and varied. Some people have the same superstition, but some are unique, like Sydney's. Next time a black cat passes by, give it a pat or walk underneath a ladder. What is the worst that can happen?

Left: Sam the black cat walks under a ladder. These are two commonly held and widely known superstitions rolled into one. It is unsafe to walk under ladders, but black cats are definitely neither lucky nor unlucky. (Credit: Petra Davidson)

FOOTBALL GAME DAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 2. A six point play
- 3. Awarded to each individual player
- 5. The final determines the winner
- 6. Bringing an opposing player to the ground with force
- 11. One of the Super Bowl 54 Halftime performers known for "On the Floor"
- 14. Most team Super Bowl appearances
- 15. Player with most Super Bowl MVPs
- 16. Team that represented the AFC in Super Bowl 54
- 17. Who is the Super Bowl trophy named after
- 18. Location of Super Bowl 54

DOWN

- 1. Millions will be eaten
- 2. How to watch the big game
- 4. Protective gear for the head
- 6. The accidental act of giving up possession to the opposing team
- 7. Only a good thing if your team isn't playing
- 8. A three point play
- 9. Team violates a rule
- 10. An adult beverage
- 12. Intermission with performance and entertainment
- 13. One of the Super Bowl 54 Halftime performers known for "Hips Don't Lie"

BSC THEATER PRESENTS: KISS ME KATE

By **Haylee Hebdon**
REPORTER

“To flee or not to flee, that is the question..” Why not flee from school work and come see the spring musical?

This upcoming April 1-5, Bismarck State College’s Theatre program is performing the 1948 Broadway musical “Kiss Me, Kate!” Written by Bella and Samuel Spewack with music and lyrics by Cole Porter, this romantic comedy was turned into a movie in 1953.

The storyline goes into the production of William Shakespeare’s “The Taming of the Shrew” with its on-stage and off-stage conflict between the show’s director, Fred Graham and the star and leading lady of the show his ex-wife, Lili

Vanessi. To add to the conflict, a second romance happens between Lois Lane, an actress playing the role of Bianca and her boyfriend Bill, who gets caught up with some gangsters.

The musical is divided into two parts, Act I and II.

Act I starts off with the cast rehearsing the opening for the play meant to be shown that evening. Fred and his ex-wife Lili are arguing because he wants to pursue another young actress, Lois, who happens to be dating Bill. Lili plans revenge by getting engaged to Washington insider, Harrison Howell. Bill, on the other hand, gets involved with gangsters and ends up dragging Fred into the mess to save himself.

In Act II, Harrison runs into Lois looking for Lili, and they both come

to a realization turned into a secret. Meanwhile, Lili ends up being dragged into Fred’s mess and is held hostage in the theatre by the gangsters who perform a tribute to Shakespeare.

Shaylyn Lefor, BSC student and RA in Swensen Hall, has been involved with plays in the past with the campus theatre department.

“I have high expectations because one, it’s Dani Devlin’s show. He does a pretty good job usually,” Lefor said. “Two, I know most of the people who are in the play, and I feel they’re going to do a good job of their parts.”

The BSC Theatre performs for Bismarck State College students and the Bismarck/Mandan community.

“Dean and Dani are very qualified for what they do, and they do it on a tight

budget,” Lefor said.

BSC Theatre puts on three major show productions every year: a fall play, winter play, and a collaboration with BSC’s Music Department, a spring musical.

“In a musical, I look forward to the singing and dancing,” Lefor said. “I love watching the performers—I think it’s so cool how they put it all together.”

For the fall play, the BSC theatre performed “She Kills Monsters” and the winter play was “All In Timing.” Those who missed the fall and winter shows still have a chance to see BSC’s Theatre Department in action, along with those who attended before.

Come see “Kiss Me, Kate!”

STUDENTS ENJOY ACTIVITIES ON CAMPUS

By **Kyleigh Hilbert**
REPORTER

A barbecue fountain, chocolate fountain, Christmas-themed pancake breakfasts, and crafts are just some of the creative activities that Student and Residence Life has put on throughout this school year. Usually set up in the Student Union during lunch hours, Student Life staff can be found with a table of all sorts of foods and crafts for students.

“The Office of Student and Residence Life organizes events and activities on campus,” says Leah Diehl, Student and Residence Life Coordinator. “We receive feedback from previous years’ events, track attendance and take recommendations. The office receives input from Student Government and other organizations for activities to schedule. Employees do research and receive information from college specialty agencies regarding popular activities around the country.”

Starting the new academic year back in August 2019, Student and Residence

Life hosted an outdoor movie and a club fair. Doing this on the first days helped new students get out and meet new people. Many students say that they were thankful for these activities because they were able to meet some of their best friends during those first few days of living on campus.

“Student activities, student organizations, and other events are planned with a purpose to involve students in campus life outside of the classroom environment.” Diehl said, “Activities and events are opportunities for a variety of things, including, to develop leadership, socialize, learn about topics in an environment outside of the classroom, cover social responsibility, apply civic lessons, invest time in college, and a variety of other things.”

Another familiar face at the Student Union who works with Student and Residence Life is Student Life Assistant Cassandra Vega.

“For the instance of the Jewelry Making activity today, I got supplies,”

Vega said, “and for food events, I go through the Mystic Marketplace for a catering request.”

Vega works alongside the Student Life team to come up with these different activities and plan them out.

“We do have a budget though and we

are given a certain amount throughout the year to use on these activities,” Vega said.

Vega also released information that students can expect a Mardi Gras event in February, a Carnival in April, more food events and a party at the end of the year.



Students enjoy free food, massages and club fairs as activities on campus. Watch the website news calendar as well as the MysticMobile app for events. (Photo Provided)

BINGEWORTHY

By **Roger Marks IV**
MYSTIC MEDIA COORDINATOR

Peaky Blinders (2013- Present) is a drama set in Birmingham after the Great War (WWI). It is available on Netflix and also aired on BBC networks overseas. Although set one hundred years in the past, Peaky Blinders doesn’t fail to fit in with today’s top showrunners.

Thomas Shelby (Cillian Murphy) is a strong-minded protagonist and always one step ahead of the average man.

Occasionally, he will run into someone that he underestimates and pays for it.

One of the things that the show does well is making its villains seem like they need some planning to take down. The show also has wonderful supporting characters and their respective arcs are at times more satisfying than Thomas’.

This is done on purpose to pull together the theme of a family. That’s what the Peaky Blinders are, mostly made up of the Shelby family. The characters react wonderfully together and the close family friends are treated as part of the family, with exceptions.

Welcome to Peaky Blinders

Another thing that the show does well is the portrayal of mental problems; specifically focused on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Many characters have their own journeys through this disease and all experience, deal with and emerge differently.

While the show holds its historical integrity, it feels modern. There are specific scenes where modern punk rock will be inserted typically over a slo-mo shot walking through a factory floor, which has become the show’s staple transition scene where no other would make a smoother entrance. There are

some critiques to this method, but some shows need their little thing that sets them apart, aside from their obvious movements.

Lastly the show doesn’t fail to get to the countryside and show off some green hills and open expanse. These scenes are often used to clear the characters’ heads and offer time to reflect. If you have some time to reflect on how much you need a break, then take a little walk to the edge of town with the Peaky Blinders because it is Binge Worthy.