

THE MYSTICIAN

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**A STUDENT
JOURNALIST
SHARES FIRST
HAND EXPERIENCE
WORKING WITH A
PROFESSIONAL**

NEWS PAGE 7

BY JACOB IRVING

Bismarck State College's very own Aquatic and Wellness Center is a place just as beneficial as the college itself. While students and professors go to class to exercise their brains and gain knowledge, the Wellness Center is the perfect place to work out those other muscles and get a different kind of gains.

Personal development is not only about the mind, it is also about the body. BSC looks out for that aspect by providing students with free access to the Wellness Center. They have a ton of gym equipment, a full-fledged Olympic size swimming pool with lanes, and a heated pool for more

open swimming.

After a quick registration process, people are welcomed down the hall. There is a big play place for children with a cushioned ground, a big turtle to climb on, and even a little slide. Beyond that are the locker rooms with the works. They even have little machines to dry wet swimsuits. There are locker rentals available and even showers to use.

On the upper level is the gym. They have everything from free weights and squat racks, to ellipticals and treadmills.

There are wipes to use after working out on the equipment, so everything is clean and

ready for the next to use.

If walking into a gym is a little intimidating the Wellness Center has trainers that are more than welcome to help get on the right track. Not to mention, most of the equipment have guides and pictures of proper usage. It's the perfect place to start a wellness journey, or even to continue down your path to fitness.

If an individual isn't taking enough classes at BSC, taking the Wellness Center offers classes that can be fun and physical.

They offer over 25 classes: from Yoga, to Zumba, to Kickboxing, and even fitness

for kids. They have schedules available each month with multiple class times to fit any schedule. Most of the classes are held in the Wellness Center. No matter the weather outside you always have a place to go.

Come rain or snow their facility is available for the community to use. Go for a swim to cool off in the summer or to get an escape from the cold. Run for a while on the treadmill and grow those muscles. The Aquatic Wellness center is the perfect escape for the betterment of one's well-being.

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**HOLIDAYS FOR
EVERYONE**

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EVENT CALENDAR

DECEMBER 3
ELF ON THE SHELF TRIVIA
STUDENT UNION

DECEMBER 4
GRAND THEATER MOVIE NIGHT
GET FREE TICKETS AT STUDENT AND
RESIDENT LIFE

DECEMBER 5-7
ELF ON THE SHELF TRIVIA
STUDENT UNION

**HOT CHOCOLATE & CHRISTMAS
CRAFTS**
FREE, STUDENT UNION
11 A.M. - 1 P.M.

WINTER PLAY
GRUESOME PLAYGROUND INJURIES
SIDNEY J. LEE AUDITORIUM
7:30 P.M.

MEN'S BASKETBALL
ARMORY
8 P.M.

DECEMBER 8
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
ARMORY
12 P.M.

MEN'S BASKETBALL
ARMORY
2 P.M.

WINTER PLAY
GRUESOME PLAYGROUND INJURIES
SIDNEY J. LEE AUDITORIUM
7:30 P.M.

DECEMBER 9
WINTER PLAY
GRUESOME PLAYGROUND INJURIES
SIDNEY J. LEE AUDITORIUM
2:30 P.M.
SIDNEY J. LEE AUDITORIUM 7:30 P.M.

DECEMBER 10-14
FINALS WEEK

DECEMBER 10-12
ELF ON THE SHELF TRIVIA
STUDENT UNION

DECEMBER 13
SGA COOKIE WALK
ANNUAL STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION COOKIE WALK
STUDENT UNION 10 A.M.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT
SIDNEY J. LEE AUDITORIUM
7:30 P.M.

DECEMBER 14
BOOK RENTALS DUE

DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS DAY
BSC CLOSED

DECEMBER 31
NEW YEARS EVE

JANUARY 10
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
ARMORY
5:30 P.M.
MEN'S BASKETBALL
ARMORY
7:30 P.M.



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 Dylan Kahl, EIC with letters to the editor or any concerns or comments regarding this publication. E-mail bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu

The next Issue of The Mystician will be published Thursday Jan. 24. Deadline for any copy to be submitted is Jan. 14. Stop by Room 125 in The Armory for more information

**HAVE A STORY IDEA?
WE'D LOVE TO PRINT IT.**

contact: 701-224-5467
bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu
or stop by room 125 in the armory

NEWS



NDSMA FALL CONFERENCE

WORK STUDY BENEFITS

**UNCOVERING THE GROUND TRUTH
PROJECT**

GOAT YOGA AND COMICS

PHOTO BY BAILEY SCHMIDT



Britten Staskywicz, a library lab monitor at BSC, works at his desk during his work study hours.
Photo By Dylan Binder.

WORK STUDY BENEFITS STUDENTS

BY DYLAN BINDER

For those wondering how to be employed at Bismarck State College, gain real life work experience in a field of interest, and how to pay off student loans, look no further than work study.

Josh Brorby, Financial Aid Programs Coordinator at BSC, encourages students to visit their FAFSA account as soon as possible.

“Students can determine if they are eligible by looking at their Financial Aid award,” Brorby said. “Work study programs are on a first come, first serve basis. Students should stop into our office as soon as possible if they are interested.”

There are three elements that FAFSA uses to decide if a student is eligible: income reported, the number that are listed in a household and the number that are listed in the household attending college.

Even if a work study program is not listed under the financial aid awards, students may be able to partake in the program.

“We are given a certain dollar pool for students that are involved in work studies,” Brorby said. “Students could be involved if the amount of eligible students do not show interest in the program.” Said Brorby. If a student wants experience in more their field while getting help paying their student loans, then work study would definitely be beneficial.

“We usually try to fit work studies with the students’ career goals,” Brorby said. “There are some work studies that allow students to become math or reading tutor at local elementary schools. One elementary that we work with is Northridge Elementary.”

These work studies are an example of the relationship with them and the community.

Bismarck State College Student Employment Application

2018-2019 School Year

Name: _____ ID# _____

Last
First
Middle

Address: _____

Number
Street
Apt

City
State
Zip Code

Phone: _____ BSC student email address: _____

Major: _____

Were you employed at BSC during the last academic year? () Yes () No
 If yes, department where you were employed: _____

Please list skills in the following areas:
 Office Work: _____

Computer Experience: _____

As part of the Federal Work Study program, we are required to place some work study students in the local schools tutoring K-3 students in reading and math. Would you be interested in one of these placements? () Yes () No

If not, do you have a specific area you would like to work? () Yes () No
 If yes, list three choices in order of preference. (see work study job listing)

1) _____
 2) _____
 3) _____

Will you be living in the dormitories? () Yes () No
 Would you have transportation to an off-campus job site? () Yes () No

List any other abilities or special skills you have that would help determine the job best suited for you (use back of sheet if more room is needed):

Student Signature _____ Date _____

The BSC employment application students will fill out after their interview.

The work study process has many steps that need to happen before the student can start in the program.

“First the student needs to be involved with financial aid. Brorby said.

“Next, the student would fill out a work study form. After the form gets sent out, the student gets a list of the positions available, and if they are interested, there will be a brief interview with the instructor that runs the program.”

Work study contracts are only for one year and end in the spring. Depending on their FAFSA eligibility, students can apply again next year.

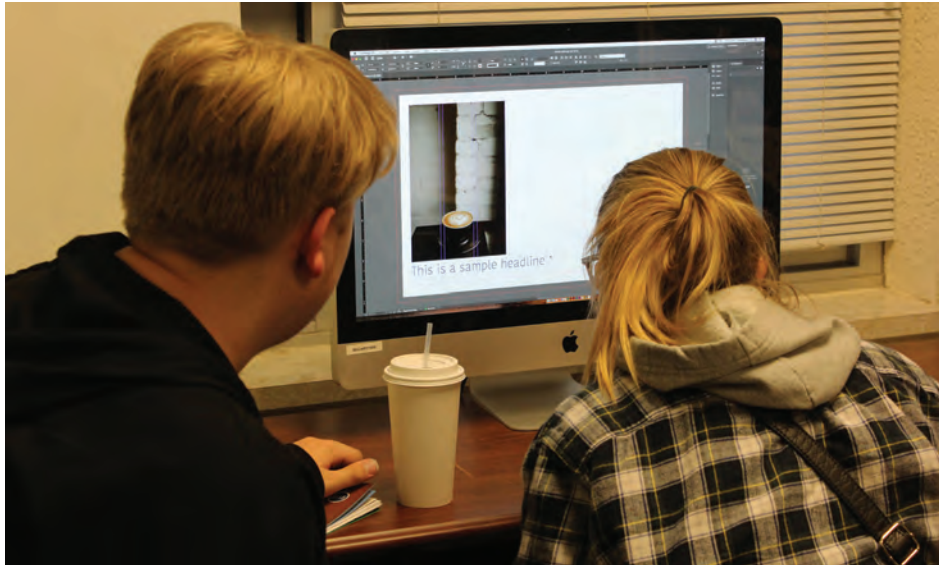
The income recieved from a work study is limited in the amount that is borrowed from financial aid. However, the work study program makes sure that the student is only working a certain amount of hours a day.

“Students can only earn the amount that you borrow from financial aid. After students earn the amount that they borrow from financial aid, their contract expires, said Brorby. “Students average about five to ten hours a week at their work study, which gives them time to do homework and other activities.”

This program offered by BSC can help students gain experience in their field and can help pay off their student loans. For any questions regarding the work study process, make sure to reach out to Josh Brorby at (701) 224-2609, or by email at joshua.l.brory@bismarckstate.edu.

NDSMA FALL CONFERENCE

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY BAILEY SCHMIDT



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WORKED WITH ETHAN DEGREE TO GET A BETTER IDEA ON HOW TO DESIGN A NEWSPAPER OR YEARBOOK.

Student media can play a huge role in the future of a young journalist. The North Dakota Student Media Association (NDSMA) gives students an advantage for their careers by getting them get involved with workshops and competitions throughout their time in high school and college. On Nov. 9, NDSMA met for their second annual fall workshop at Bismarck State College.

“Students will have the opportunity to enhance their skills to help improve their school products, whether that be through photography, writing or design,” Jeremy Murphy, NDSMA Executive Board member said. “They also get to network and share their experiences with other students and professionals, which is invaluable.”

Murphy is a teacher at West Fargo High School and is the adviser for The Packer newspaper, The Yearling yearbook and Packer TV.

During the fall workshop, students in high school and college participated in sessions to learn and discuss topics involving the journalism field. These sessions included social media, ideas for stories, designing, photography and videography.

High Schools from around the state of North Dakota attended including: West Fargo High, Center-Stanton High, Mandan High, Fargo North High and West Fargo Sheyenne High. BSC also participated.

Speakers included J.R. Havens and Daniel Burbank from KFVR-TV who talked about getting out into the world and how to send work to newspapers, TV stations, etc. Reporters Blair Emerson and Jessica Holdman from the Bismarck Tribune explained the transition from being a student journalist to becoming a professional. Editor-in-Chief Alyssa Meier from the Washburn Leader-News helped students bring ideas for stories to light and discussed the importance of social media in the newsroom. Ethan DeGree who is a photographer and designer helped students learn more about Adobe Photoshop and InDesign and how they can make their newspaper, yearbook or literary magazine more appealing to the audience.

[The NDSMA workshops] give students experiences they otherwise would not get,” Katie Winbauer, president of NDSMA said. “Some of the students come from smaller communities within the state where they are not exposed to some of the things we cover in events.”

In April of 2019, NDSMA will schedule their spring conference.

“[This conference] tests students by having send-in and on-site competition in [different] categories,” Winbauer said. Individual awards will be given out as well with overall publication awards.

For more information, check out ndsma.com.



KATIE WINBAUER, PRESIDENT OF NDSMA GIVING THE OPENING MESSAGE TO THE FALL WORKSHOP



NDSMA LOGO



ALYSSA MEIER SPOKE WITH STUDENTS ABOUT CREATING NEWS WORTHY STORY IDEAS FOR THEIR SCHOOLS' PUBLICATIONS

GOAT YOGA AT THE KIRKWOOD MALL

BY DANIEL BURBANK

The idea of goats and yoga don't sound like a pair. Yoga is known for its relaxation, and a Jamestown, N.D. fitness center took that to a whole new level with goats.

The goats don't just offer a cute sight when trying to meditate, they actually do yoga with people. The furry, cute animals climb on the participants backs with some saying it helps balance energies and others just say it's fun.

Goat yoga was thought to have been popularized by a farm in Oregon by a woman looking to turn over a new leaf. Lainey Morse was having a birthday party when a yoga teacher asked her about a crazy idea.

Morse, originally from Phoenix, A.Z., moved out to the countryside and before long the idea exploded with hundreds on a waiting list hoping to score a spot in her class.

On Nov. 3, 2018, a section of the Kirkwood Mall was cornered off for sold out classes of this growing trend. This was all part of Bismarck's first goat yoga class. Some of the youngest classmates feed the goats to past the time.

"It's kind of a 4-H project gone wild," said Sarah Wilson, Co-owner of J.S. Wilson Farms in Jamestown, "and so ever since the kids got the goats we've been getting requests for goat yoga."

The 4-H program teaches animal management through North Dakota State University, and the Wilson children began

learning after purchasing their first goats. Before long, a fairly new trend has been growing in popularity.

"That's what we're learning is people are interested in goats," Wilson said. "But they maybe have never had any first hand experience with farm animals". The idea of goat yoga was brought to life by the J.S. Wilson Farm and I Will Fitness and Training. Both from Jamestown, the partnership wasn't just about the yoga, it's how the two families met.

"This summer we got a phone call from Sarah Wilson saying she has some questions about yoga," MacDonald said.

In January of 2018, Wilson's daughter Molly suffered a concussion. The ER nurse who helped her get through and understand what was going on was Rachel MacDonald, a yoga instructor at I Will Fitness and Training.

"We knew it was meant to be and we got everything going and we started our first yoga classes a few weeks after meeting," MacDonald said.

The families have been good friends ever since.

Now the Wilson Farm and fitness center are taking their healing on the road to help others.

The Jamestown pair plan to have more classes, hopefully at the Kirkwood Mall in the spring with baby goats.

"The baby goats are softer and lighter which is easier to snuggle with," Wilson said.



DANIEL BURBANK BEGINS THE SESSION BY GREETING A GOAT. PHOTO SUBMITTED.

MIDTERM ELECTIONS SHOW BIGGEST VOTER TURNOUT

BY MORGAN DRAKE

The 2018 elections have come and gone, and with them, the highest voter turnout in North Dakota midterm election history. A total of 329,104 voters made their voices heard on Nov. 6, passing three measures and electing the first all-Republican congressional delegation in 60 years.

In the senate, Democrat Heidi Heitkamp was defeated by Republican Kevin Cramer, who ran on a platform strongly aligning North Dakota with President Trump. The incumbent senator will serve out the rest of her term until January of 2019.

Republican Kelly Armstrong defeated Democrat Mac Schneider in the race for Congressional Representative by a margin of over 60 percent. Armstrong will be taking Kevin Cramer's seat in January.

Incumbent Secretary of State Al Jaeger had a big win on election day as well, running as an independent on the ballot

and still securing his sixth reelection in a row. Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem also secured reelection.

North Dakotans passed three measures this election. Measure 1 was passed by a margin of only three percent. This measure will bring about changes to the reporting of income tax for politicians running for office. It will also make North Dakota the 48th state to create an Ethics Commission to oversee its elections.

Measure 2 was also passed, which will change wording in the N.D. State Constitution to read that "only" American citizens with N.D. ID cards can vote in state elections.

Measure 4 was the last measure passed. It will make custom red license plates available to volunteer first responders upon request. It also grants first responders free access to N.D. National Parks.

LIMITING THE USE OF PLASTIC STRAWS

BY BAILEY WILHELM

A simple object used for slurping smoothies, sodas and slushies is causing a global crisis. The decision to eliminate plastic straws from our food industries has been on the rise for the past few years.

A disturbing video of a sea turtle with a plastic straw up its nose had gone viral during 2015. This helped embark the strawless movement. Americans use up to 500 million plastic straws per day. Most of those straws end up in the oceans, contaminating the water and killing marine life.

The Conserve Turtles website stated that "over 100 million marine animals are killed each year due to plastic debris in the ocean. Currently, it is estimated that there are 100 million tons of plastic in

oceans around the world. It is expected that another 60 billion pounds will be produced this year alone."

"Recycle!" may come to an individual's mind, but straw size is the biggest hurdle. Small items like straws and bottle caps end up falling through recycling cracks when entering landfills. Tiny plastic items are easily ingested by marine animals in the oceans.

In late September of this year, the Governor of California, Jerry Brown, "signed into law a first-of-its-kind bill."

The bill stated that sit down restaurants in California are not going to serve any drinks with straws starting in 2019. This is unless the customer specifically asks for one, according to the CNBC website.

JOIN BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE'S FIRST EVER FILM CLUB

The meetings will continue in January 2019 at the Basin Auditorium in the National Energy Center of Excellence.

The soul purpose of film club is to watch, discuss, and analyze films with significant cinematic or cultural footprint

and that many people have not watched before.

If you have any additional questions contact Joshua Kern. joshua.kern@bismarckstate.edu

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PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KAREN BAUER

STUDENT JOURNALISTS EXPERIENCE

ONCE IN A LIFETIME CHANCE AT A STORY

BY BAILEY SCHMIDT

A 4:30 a.m. wake-up call can be a difficult one for most, but for some future journalists from Bismarck State College, it can become an adventure.

BSC Mystician adviser Karen Bauer was contacted on Nov. 1 by Jody Santos from Journalists For Social Justice who is a producer for the GroundTruth Project out of Boston, M.A.

“We are working with Google News Initiative and the Society of Professional Journalists to build teams of university students,” Santos said, students will have “their iPhones or video camera, [they] will be covering local polling places and tracking voter disenfranchisement (and

the possibility of voter suppression in North Dakota).”

Bauer was excited to share the news with her students.

After hearing about the opportunity, I jumped on it right away, along with two other students; Jacob Irving and Daniel Burbank.

On the morning of the midterm elections on Nov. 6, 2018, us students and Bauer met up at BSC around 5:30 a.m. We packed the car full of snacks and camera equipment and made our journey to Prairie Knights Casino and Resort to meet up with Santos before heading to Fort Yates, N.D.

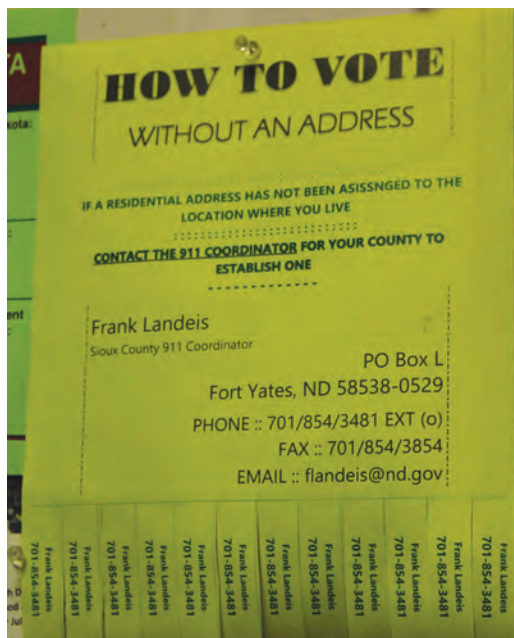
TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE

(Top) Students of BSC interviewed former Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Councilwoman, Phyllis Young. Young talked about the main struggle with voter suppression in the reservation areas around the state of North Dakota. After the interview, Young thanked the younger generations for wanting to get involved with the current situations.

(Middle) Located in the Sioux County Courthouse in Fort Yates, N.D., a message was posted on the bulletin board to help those in need to vote. Many people had trouble finding a correct address for their home.

(Bottom Left) Jacob Irving (left) interviewed Robert Bruz, a community member of Fort Yates, N.D. He commented that he didn't have trouble voting during the midterm elections on Nov. 6, 2018, but he knew people that didn't have a valid ID or driver's license. If an individual does not have an ID, they can apply for a Tribal one.

(Bottom Right) The “magic school bus” was the main transportation for traveling around the reservation to bring community members to the voting polls.



PHOTOS BY BAILEY SCHMIDT



PHOTO BY BAILEY SCHMIDT



SANTA CLAWS



LIP STICK



WANT TO HAVE YOUR CARTOON OR ILLUSTRATION PUBLISHED THROUGH THE MYSTICIAN?
STOP BY ROOM 125 IN THE ARMORY.



HALO 3 REVIEW

WINTER FASHION TRENDS

MYX FYX AND GAMES

THE  **80.5 SECTION B**
MYSTICIAN

PHOTO BY BAILEY SCHMIDT

HALO: PART 3

BY NIKOLAS ZURAFF

In 2007, the final installment of the “Halo” trilogy was released in stores. “Halo 3” was the game that completed the story of Master Chief and Cortana. The third game in the trilogy also spawned other games, a few years after its release.

The year is 2553, the second year of fighting the Covenant. It’s the final days of the war. The Covenant is winning.

The Master Chief, Cortana, Sgt. Major Johnson, Arbiter, and Commander Keyes are tasked with finding a system known as the Ark. They are also tasked with killing the Prophet of Truth, the only prophet that remains alive.

While pursuing the prophet and the Covenant, the protagonists discover there is another Halo in construction to replace the first Halo ring that the Master Chief and Cortana destroyed a year earlier.

With time running out, the Master Chief, Arbiter, and Cortana decide to fire the unfinished Halo ring and destroy the Flood, another enemy they mean to stop. In doing so, they’ll win the Human-Covenant War and avenge their comrades.

The Master Chief and Arbiter also become mutual friends, agreeing to set aside their differences, help one another, and work as a team. Caught in the crossfire, Earth was devastated during the Covenant and Flood invasion and millions were killed.

“Halo 3” had an intriguing gameplay. The plot was intense and I liked the characters. The missions were really challenging. Not to mention the aliens known as the “Brutes” were worthy adversaries. The graphics were immersive and the sound effects were phenomenal, as well.

“Halo 3” didn’t get its own remake like “Halo: Combat Evolved” and “Halo 2” did, but it never needed one. The action was stupendous, making it one of the most action-packed games in the “Halo” trilogy. The dialogue also gives you insight on what will happen in the future.

“Halo 3” was the ending to the trilogy. The protagonists truly suffer and struggle in the game. On top of that, major characters are killed off. It shows how devastating the war was, and how it came to affect the characters in different ways.

I never cared about characters in a video game in such a big way. This game makes you sympathize and woe for the protagonists, because of their conflicts throughout the story. I played the game in 2012, I was thirteen years old at the time I played it.

I was satisfied with the ending to the trilogy, it was a sad game and it made me realize the realities of war, even though the war in the game was entirely fictional. The war affected the characters in many ways, they lose people they care about. They can only stand by and do nothing, as they watch their friends die. Plus, the characters have to make difficult choices they don’t want to make.

I enjoyed the final missions in Master Chief and Cortana’s adventures. For those who love trilogies, action and science-fiction, I recommend this game.

I feel that everyone will be as satisfied as I was when I first played “Halo 3.” If you enjoy action and science-fiction, then consider playing the “Halo” series. You will not be disappointed.

WINTER FASHION TRENDS BLIZZARDING THEIR WAY TO BISMARCK

BY PETRA DAVIDSON

The cold weather is starting to appear again in Bismarck, North Dakota, so grab some hot chocolate and throw on the hottest styles because it’s going to be a long winter. Through the years of low rise jeans and cami tank tops, the winter trends of 2018-2019 have many assortments to fit anyone’s fashion tendencies.

One of the most trending items of clothing is fur. Fur coats, fur jackets, fur shoes, fur just about anything. Many stores have drifted from selling real fur pieces because of the controversy, so faux fur has become the alternative. Out of Town in the Kirkwood Mall is adding different types of textures into their store, including faux fur.

“I think it’s just for our area, but it takes a little bit longer for people to catch on to it, but you’re seeing it everywhere,” Nicole Wojahn, an Out of Town employee said.

Other items to shop are graphic tees and the color burgundy. Layering is a staple way to stay warm during the cold months. Throwing on a graphic tee and burgundy cardigan could spice up a dull wardrobe. For the days that drop below human functioning temperatures, it’s hard to maintain a trendy appearance. Grab a trench coat and huge wool or flannel scarf, and the look is complete. Not only is it cute, it’s also functional.

A winter trend slowly making its way into stores is animal print. Snake, leopard, zebra and tiger prints are huge on the fashion runways. Brands like Balenciaga and designer Tom Ford incorporated the up and coming prints into their shows during the 2018 New York Fashion Week.

Rodeo ready has taken a turn for the clothing racks as fringe and cowboy boots come back into style. The western trend expanded as designers, such as Isabel Marant, added prairie dresses into their catwalks. Stores like H&M and Free People offer cheaper versions of these high fashion designs to have it accessible to everyone.

Whether a day at the office or a night on the town is the agenda, a day to night look is idealistic.

“There’s a lot of Christmas dresses, that I haven’t really seen in the past,” Abby Allen, Lot 2029 employee, said.

Lot 2029 sells many different options for an evening look. Many textures are used to create a unique dress fit for any occasion. Allen says that many of the dresses she is seeing this season are a shorter dress with long sleeves. Styling this with a pair of tights and knee high boots would make this an outfit ready for North Dakota weather.



PIECE ON THE RIGHT
FROM LOT 29

PIECES ON THE TOP AND
BOTTOM RIGHT
FROM OUT OF TOWN
PHOTOS BY PETRA DAVIDSON



WISH LISTS INCLUDE TOP TEN TECH GIFTS

BY AMANDA JOYCE

It's the holiday season again, and though there are many things that people find important during this time, one thing that always manages to fight its way to the top, is holiday shopping.

Some people prefer waiting in line outside of their favorite store overnight to get the best deals on Black Friday, while others prefer shopping online.

The extra committed start shopping

for the holidays months in advance, and there's always a regifter who wraps up old gifts they've received, then gives them to another person pretending like they're new.

Either way, whatever the preference, if there's a gift to be given, everyone wants to get the best deal and find the perfect gift.

Here's a top ten list of the most popular tech gifts under \$100.

- Amazon Echo Dot 2nd Gen: \$34.99
- Red Dead Redemption 2: \$59.99
- Tile Mate Slim: \$29.98
- Skullcandy Ink'd Wireless Earbuds: \$39.99
- Polaroid Snap Instant Digital Camera: \$89.99
- Roku Streaming Stick: \$42.99
- Pansonic 3D VR Headset: \$45.99
- Fujifilm Instax Mini 9 Instant Camera: \$56.00
- Cheerwig Quadcopter Drone with HD WiFi Camera: \$37.98
- Crosley Cruiser Briefcase Portable Vinyl Record Player: \$47.95



PHOTO BY BAILEY SCHMIDT

MYX FYX

Disc Jockeys:

- Amanda**– Mandi- Joyce's Choices Radio
- Christian**– Swag Bear- The Chap Recap
- Jake**– Jacob Zane- The Zany Hour
- Dylan**– Binder- Binder's Best Hits
- Daniel**– DJ Burbank- The Burbank Network
- Justine**– MJDJ- Mary Jay Show
- David**– DJ Hov- The DJ Hov Show
- Levi**– The Animal- Fly with the Animal
- Emily**– The Emily Show

The MYX is Bismarck State College's student run internet radio station.

It is a class that can be taken for credit, but it is also open to any student on campus. Students can produce anything from their own radio shows to podcasts and anything in between.

If you are interested in having your own show, participating in live events, or just have music suggestions, feel free to visit the station in the basement of the NECE building or email Cole or Emily.

cole.bernhardt@bismarckstate.edu or emily.desantis@ndus.edu

Visit bscmx.com or download the tunein app and search "Bismarck State College."

Emily's Top 20 Artists and Songs of November

1. Maroon 5- Girls Like You
2. Travis Scott- Sicko Mode
3. Marshmallow and Bastille- Happier
4. Juice WRLD- Lucid Dreams
5. Post Malone- Better now
6. Kodak Black- ZEZE
7. 5 Seconds of Summer- Youngblood
8. Lil Baby & Gunna- Drip Too Hard
9. Halsey- Without Me
10. Shek Wes-Mo Bamba
11. The Chainsmokers- This Feeling
12. AJR- Burn The House Down
13. Demi Lovato- Sober
14. Flora Cash- You're Somebody Else
15. Ariana Grande- thank u, next
16. Post Malone- Sunflower
17. Lauv- I Like Me Better
18. Panic at the Disco- High Hopes
19. Lady Gaga- Shallow
20. Kanye West- I Love It



Concerts Coming Up:

- Hairball**- Fargo Civic Center- December 07
- Old Dominion**- Bismarck Event Center- December 13

Answers to the puzzles from the Nov. 1 issue of The Mystician.

SUDOKU KEY

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

WORD SEARCH KEY

B	U	T	H	A	N	K	F	L	N	E	S	S	D	
T	N	N	Y	T	K	C	D	J	W	B	H	D	S	Y
T	S	R	M	A	H	D	K	K	V	D	H	A	O	L
O	A	Q	R	L	E	F	S	E	Y	W	O	J	T	I
R	A	D	F	O	O	D	F	Y	E	V	M	E	A	M
T	Y	E	K	R	U	T	Y	Q	V	F	D	L	T	A
Y	T	F	A	I	P	O	C	U	N	R	O	C	A	F
E	F	Y	O	M	X	S	Q	W	R	P	K	S	P	M
K	I	N	M	S	D	G	N	I	S	S	E	R	D	I
R	K	C	F	N	O	X	Q	A	D	I	U	V	E	K
U	M	Q	E	C	P	N	V	Z	P	Y	F	G	H	Q
T	T	I	C	R	A	N	B	E	R	R	I	E	S	H
L	R	B	J	L	L	A	B	T	O	O	F	W	A	V
F	F	Q	U	S	P	O	V	O	D	D	S	S	M	J
S	S	O	T	A	T	O	P	T	E	E	W	S	F	O

SUDOKU

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

Watch for the answers to this Sudoku and Word Search in the January 24 issue of The Mystician.

WORD SEARCH

Holiday Special

G	F	E	L	I	Z	N	A	V	I	D	A	D	S	K
F	R	O	S	T	Y	Y	D	X	G	D	I	K	N	W
X	G	I	N	G	E	R	B	R	E	A	D	B	O	A
T	W	I	N	K	L	E	L	I	G	H	T	S	W	N
B	A	X	T	J	I	N	G	L	E	E	A	V	M	Z
E	S	H	Q	B	X	N	P	K	I	N	A	R	A	A
L	S	G	H	A	N	U	K	K	A	H	E	O	N	A
L	A	B	T	K	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	S
S	I	V	R	U	R	W	G	M	E	N	O	R	A	H
F	L	L	N	R	J	A	H	S	J	C	L	A	U	S
M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	E	W	R	E	A	T	H
S	P	H	A	P	P	Y	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	S
F	H	F	A	M	I	L	Y	S	I	L	V	E	R	W
E	X	L	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	E	L	V	E	S
D	R	E	I	D	E	L	H	O	L	L	Y	Z	S	G

CHRISTMAS DREIDEL EGGNOG ELVES FAMILY
 FELIZ NAVIDAD FRIENDS FROSTY GINGERBREAD HANUKKAH
 HAPPY HOLIDAYS HOLLY JINGLE BELLS KINARA KWANZAA
 MENORAH MISTLETOE SANTA CLAUS SILVER BELLS SLEIGH
 SNOWMAN TWINKLE LIGHTS WASSAIL WREATH YULE

P.O.P! Person on the Pavement

Mary Woods



Hometown: Piedmont, South Dakota
Favorite quote: "Don't be mean, it makes people look normal." -Bob Goff
Favorite Christmas song: "Little" Town by Amy Grant
If you could be a character in a holiday movie, who would you be and why: Jude Law, duh.
Hot chocolate or eggnog: Hot chocolate
Decorating cookies or gingerbread houses: Decorating gingerbread houses
Finish this thought, "It wouldn't be the holidays without...": snow and family."

FACULTY 5!

Barb Thorsen



1. Name and job title: Barb Thorsen, Assistant Professor of Art.
2. What is your favorite part of the holidays? Baking with my kids and grandkids.
3. What is your favorite thing about BSC? The colleagues and sense of family. Students keeping you young and engaged.
4. What is your favorite part about meeting new students? The opportunities to discuss things in class and the advising.
5. If you were stranded on an island, and could only bring 5 things, what would they be? A tent, matches, a knife, freshwater, tea.

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SPORTS

SPORTS SUPERSTITION

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY HUNTER ANDES



SWENSON (CENTER) GUARDING WHILE PLAYING AT CREIGHTON - PHOTO SUBMITTED DOUG SWENSON

SWENSON'S STORY SWISHES

BY LEVI HOLZER

When it comes to being North Dakota tough and living out his dream, look no further than Doug Swenson.

A farm boy who grew up 100 miles west of Halliday, N.D., he loved playing basketball and caught the eye of Bismarck State College Athletic Director Buster Gilliss, who asked him to be part of the 1995 recruiting class at BSC.

Having a basketball program that was up-tempo fast-paced and had talents like Godwin Owinje, who went on to play at Georgetown University, and Masai Ujiri, who is currently the president of the Toronto Raptors, is what made Swenson commit to BSC.

"A guy can come here for two years, impress some people and get a chance to play at the Division I level," Swenson said.

Impress is exactly what Swenson did in his two years at BSC. He averaged 22.9 points, 12.7 rebounds and 5.9 blocks per game. In his sophomore season, he was selected as the Mon-Dak Region XIII MVP and NJCAA First Team All American also forcing 195 block shots with a career total of 366 block shots. Both of those numbers are still the current records at BSC.

Being the all-around big force, Swenson was on the court and caught the eye of former Creighton University Men's



SWENSON'S SENIOR PORTRAIT AT CREIGHTON - PHOTO SUBMITTED DOUG SWENSON

Basketball coach, Dana Altman.

"It was eye-opening and glad I had Coach Gilliss having my back and helping me go through the process," Swenson said.

At Creighton, Swenson was two time Missouri Valley All-Conference player. He

won the sixth man of the year award in 1998 and earned two-time Missouri Valley All-Defensive Team Honors.

During his senior season, he was selected to play in the NCAA Final Four All-Star game and was the MVP. In his two

years at Creighton, he averaged 11.6 points and 4.8 rebounds per game while having a total of 109 blocks and 683 points.

After his collegiate years, he signed a professional contract with the Chicago Bulls on Oct. 4, 1999. Being only under contract for 24 days in a training camp, he got to experience being coached by the father of the triangle offense Tex Winter, who recently died Oct. 10 and the 1966 Texas Western National Championship coach, Don Haskins.

Swenson also got to experience playing with guys like Dickey Simpkins and Tony Kukoc that were apart of the championship in 1996-98 for the Bulls.

"It was great to be around guys like that," Swenson said.

Swenson then played in the International Basketball League for the Las Vegas franchise before it folded midway in his second season on the team.

"I got to experience a lot of thorough basketball and see the business side of things but was nice to return home and get into another line of work" Swenson said.

Swenson is huge supporter of Athletics at BSC along with other former alumni athletes who you can see at home games in the Armory.

UPCOMING BSC BASKETBALL SCHEDULE:

FRIDAY DEC 7

WOMENS BASKETBALL

STONE CHILD COLLEGE VS BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE @ 6PM

MENS BASKETBALL

STONE CHILD COLLEGE VS BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE @ 8PM

SATURDAY DEC 8

WOMENS BASKETBALL

GILLETTE COLLEGE VS BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE @ 12PM

MENS BASKETBALL

GILLETTE COLLEGE VS BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE @ 2PM

FRIDAY DEC 14

WOMENS BASKETBALL

ANOKA-RAMSEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE VS BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE @ 5PM

MENS BASKETBALL

ANOKA-RAMSEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE VS BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE @ 7PM

LET'S GET REAL

BY LEVI HOLZER

It seems like forever since I wrote an opinion piece with my busy schedule of trying to organize my life. In case anyone cares about what I do with my life and all the things I am involved in here we go.

After changing my major five times, I am proud to say that deciding on Mass Communications, I have found my home and enjoy seeing what my future could possibly look like. As for those who do not know what I do in the communications program, allow me to be elaborate.

This year I decided to start a new branch within Mystic Media to promote athletics, with a sports talk show called Sports FYX. It was something I wanted to

do to help with the great athletic program here at BSC and get more recruits the best I can.

Basketball is taking up a large portion of my time here at BSC. Once again I'm doing the play by play for all of the Mystic's homes, and I'm the acting Sports Coordinator for Mystic Media.

As much as I enjoy doing these things, I'm running out of things to talk about. If there are any sport topics anyone would like to hear my opinion on, feel free to message me on Mystic Mobile at Levi Holzer, or my email, levi.g.holzer@bismarckstate.edu



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.BSCMYSTIGS.COM

DIVISIONS PROVIDE A VARIETY OF OPPORTUNITIES

BY MATT GUENTHER

When it comes to Bismarck State College and their sports programs, it's obvious that they compete at the junior college level known as the NJCAA. For men's and women's basketball the last couple seasons, they have been competing at the Division I level while volleyball and baseball remain in Division II. This is a topic that is not known by most people that follow athletics at BSC, but it is something that helps the college financially.

"It is more economically sufficient for our basketball programs to play at the Division I level since we would be spending a lot more money on travel at the Division II level," said Buster Gillis, BSC Athletic Director and Head Men's Basketball Coach

Conference play and tournament locations are what placed these programs in the divisions they are today. If the basketball programs remained in Division II, a lot more money would go towards travel for conference and tournament play. Although every BSC sports program is part of the MonDak conference and compete against the same teams, they are still part of different divisions in the NJCAA. This doesn't show favoritism to

any specific sport, but rather allows each program to raise money each year and use it in a more positive manner.

"I feel we all experience the same things but at a slightly different level, however we enjoy every moment of it and never take our opportunities for granted" said Seth Brewer, a Bismarck State college baseball player.

For the three divisions that make up the NJCAA, the differences are the amount of scholarships provided to the athletes at each level and the strength of the competition they face.

Division I receives the most scholarships as athletes in that category can receive full payment based on their talent. Division II athletes receive scholarship money but cannot receive full payment, and Division III athletes cannot receive any scholarship money at all.

The competition is also very diverse with Division I having the highest level of play, Division II being in the middle and Division III at the bottom.

Although this may seem odd it still allows athletes to compete at different levels, improve their talents, and get noticed by bigger schools. Which is the main focus for junior college athletes.

EVERYONE HAS A RITUAL

BY BAILEY WILHELM

Michael Jordan. Serena Williams. Cristiano Ronaldo. Tiger Woods. Rafael Nadal. Aside from being the best athletes in their sport, these people have something else in common: pre-game rituals and superstitions.

A pre-game ritual is a belief that isn't always based on actuality.

Michael Jordan, known as the greatest basketball player of all time, led the Chicago Bulls to six NBA championships. He wore his collegiate University of North Carolina basketball shorts under his Bulls uniform shorts during every NBA game.

Serena Williams, a tennis player who has won 23 grand slam single titles does not change her pair of socks during tournaments.

Cristiano Ronaldo, a professional Portuguese soccer player, taps his right

foot on the grass before placing his whole body on the field before prior to a soccer game.

Tiger Woods is best known for his red shirt apparel during his golfing tournaments on Sundays. However, this superstition was decided long before he turned pro.

Rafael Nadal, Spain's national tennis player, lines up every one of his water bottles forward toward the baseline.

How many individuals have superstitions or rituals? It may be while performing during a sports game, a choir performance, a test, doing homework, or even eating a meal.

Rituals are broad and may be different. They can affect people's mindset and help them focus better on the goal at hand.

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OPINION



**BEING JEWISH DURING
THE HOLIDAYS**

**BENNIGANS AND
BISMARCK BREWERY
REVIEW**

THE SAUDI PROJECT

PHOTO BY JACOB IRVING



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome back to the last issue of the year. It has been a ride these past couple of months bringing an informative and entertaining newspaper. We have had some really good feedback and some constructive criticism that has helped make this paper better with each issue. Last issue however, was a step backwards.

As I talked about in my previous letter from the editor we had fallen short due to procrastination and it led to many errors in that shouldn't have happen so I apologize for not catching those mistakes before we went to the printers. Learning from that mistake we started on this issue earlier and took our time crafting something that will be our strongest issue yet.

What readers can expect next semester are things that I'm very excited to start working on. For those who have been missing The Spectator, which was reintroduced by our previous editor-in-chief we have not forgotten about it, but have decided to change it up a bit. Instead of being published twice a year, one in December and the other in May, we will publish one large edition

in May. It will also be in a magazine style format instead a newspaper. The last thing that I find very exciting is that we are not the only ones that are going to be putting pictures of people on campus but are opening it for the readers to submit their own photos of them and others hanging around campus that they have taken during the school year. It will be almost like a yearbook in a sense and that hopefully almost everyone can attribute to and be proud of.

More details of that will come in the next year.

Until next time,

Dylan Kahl

**HAVE A STORY IDEA?
WE'D LOVE TO PRINT IT.**

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or stop by room 125 in the armory

GET YOUR SASS BACK TO CLASS

BY AMANDA JOYCE

Alrighty everybody, it's that wonderful time of year again where no one can properly park and accidents are happening left and right. For those select people that attend our school, whose brain cells are so small in number, that feel the need to take up multiple parking spots and have the back end of their vehicle sticking out making it impossible for others to park, the next message is for you. I will find you, and I will block you in.

There are several other common annoyances that I feel like I must point out, though these don't only occur in the winter, it seems like the idiots seem to come out of hibernation in the winter months solely to

annoy me.

Why do people feel the need to drive bumper to bumper when it's icy outside? Do you realize when you ultimately slam on your breaks, you'll either rear end someone, get rear ended, or fishtail and possibly cause a worse accident? Not only is it inconvenient to other drivers, it's rather annoying.

Please, stop being stupid, learn to drive better and park your vehicles correctly. With that being said, for those who are still going to continue doing the above annoyances, I hope you fail your final exams. For those who agree with me, good luck on your finals, enjoy your break and for the last time this year, get your sass back to class.

STAFF ED

The holiday season can be either a joyous time, or a stressful one. Regardless of what holidays are being celebrated, there's always something to be commercialized. We here at The Mystician felt a need to speak out on the commercialization of the holidays. Whether it's a good way to get into the holiday spirit, a time to see friends and family, or a time to shop, everyone feels differently about this time of the year.

There's always going to be advertisements for commercialized holidays, and this time of the year is easily the most advertised. It's understandable to start advertising in November, but when it starts at the end of September that's a bit much. Companies need to make money and selling advertisements is the most effective way to get to where they need to be, but by advertising the same things constantly gets to be overbearing and by the time the holidays actually get here, most people are sick of them and want them to be over.

Anything can be turned into a way to sell plastic toys, with that in mind, Christmas is probably one of the least offensive forms of commercialization. Companies are trying to get their deals out to the public, but advertising it too much can annoy some consumers. Advertising a couple of months in advance is acceptable, but advertising too much never helps in drawing people to your business.

There are many who enjoy holiday commercials. Holiday junkies who loves everything Christmas related, understand that this time of the year is based on the

best deals and gifts they can get for their loved ones. Seeing advertisements and commercials on TV helps get the word out.

Holiday commercials help get people into the holiday spirit. It's understandable why some people get annoyed with them starting so early, but it's a good idea, because some people like to start shopping early or they just like the atmosphere.

If you're Jewish, you may not have had as much of a hands-on experience with the Christmas celebrations. Hanukkah is more about tradition and family than about gifts and presents. When thinking of Hanukkah, it's of latkes (potato pancakes), the menorah, and eight nights of friends and family. When thinking of Christmas, it's the tv commercials and movies and a pile of gifts under a tree. Although Hanukkah is also known as The Festival of Lights, it doesn't get as much attention as the Christmas decorations.

One of the bigger things people don't realize, is that commercialism is an escapable thing. Living in America, the companies selling these toys can advertise year round and not make many sales, but during the holiday season, they could sell twice that amount. If they're going to advertise the same holiday, they should add new products to make up for it.

People critic based on what they remember, what they like, and what grabs their attention. Either way, everyone will feel differently about this time of year, but if there's one thing everyone can agree on, it's that no one can pass on a great ugly sweater.

SMALL TOWN STRUGGLE

BY MACHAELA GERMANN

Whoever decided that North Dakota was a habitable place was wrong. I'm not going to say that I like them less than the song "Let It Go" in Frozen, but it's a close second.

I'm sure the pioneers were very tired from their long journey but they already made it this far North, why not keep going? Winter was not fun for them in the 1800's and sure as heck is not fun for us in 2018.

Winter in North Dakota is nice when the wind isn't blowing, said every North Dakotan ever. The problem, is that the wind makes its presence known five out of the seven days in the week.

It's not fun being pelted in the face with snow when walking outside. Nor is it fun to drive in blizzards. (Side note: who else feels like they are going into another dimension when they are driving in the snow?)

Winter is the only time people in North Dakota actually take the speed limit seriously. The snow is not the problem, since majority of people have

heavy enough vehicles, or four wheel drive, to plow right on through the small snow banks that build up.

The problem is the ice. Black ice will humble any person in seconds. Another common problem, is that out of state drivers feel like they know how to drive better on the roads and constantly pass "slow" drivers. I think they learn their lesson when they end up in the ditch.

Living in a small town and having to drive miles to get anywhere instantly gets ten times harder when it snows out. Are the roads good? Probably not, but guess what? School doesn't care. I can honestly say that I have never had perfect attendance in high school due to winter. The only way to get out of our house in winter, is to have someone bring in a tractor to scoop the drifts out of the way.

It all comes down to the fact that Antarctica stays warmer than North Dakota in winter, and the fact that people still decide to call this place home. Why? I'm not sure, yet here we are.

WHERE IS THE LINE?

BY ALEX HILZENDEGER

How much should we be willing to tolerate if it meant making a lot of money? How about cooperating with mass state sponsored discrimination against women? But what if you were a school making \$20 million? This is the question that Bismarck State College has to deal with.

This past September, BSC announced that they had finalized a partnership with Saudi Arabia, to provide energy sector training to Saudi students at the National Power Academy located in eastern Saudi Arabia. The program is estimated to bring up to \$20 million to BSC.

However, this energy program

exclusively teaches male students and would not allow women to be hired as teachers or to be staff. Cultural differences between countries are understandable and natural, but discrimination such as this is something BSC should not accept. This is a moment where BSC should have stood strong and demanded an equal program.

Officials at the National Power Academy have also asked for a program that would be for Saudi women in retail sales. This isn't established yet and if it does get established it will most likely have only male instructors. This also brings up the question of why Saudi women should be

limited to working in retail while the men go into any field they choose.

The money BSC will make from this deal will no doubt have some positive impacts on our campus but where do we draw the line? It is not right for BSC to turn a blind eye to the discrimination we are condoning while we reap the benefits of the deal.

Saudi Arabia's discrimination is not its only transgression. The United Nations has accused them of committing war crimes and human rights violations during its conflict in Yemen. Saudi Arabia has also repeatedly crushed dissent and clamped

down on the press. The latest example of this has been the murder of Turkish journalist, Jamal Khashoggi. BSC should not want to be associated with a country like this.

BSC President Larry Skogen was right when he told the Bismarck Tribune, "I don't think I can go into a foreign country and impose my mores against them."

BSC doesn't have to force change on Saudi Arabia but it also shouldn't be an accomplice and aid them in their discrimination.

So how much should we tolerate if it meant making a lot of money?

BENNIGANS BRINGS NEW EXPERIENCES

BY EMILY DE SANTIS

If you're looking for a place to have great food, drinks, and atmosphere, then Bennigans is the place for you. They are dedicated to providing guests with genuine, high-spirited services that you would experience in any neighborhood pub. From my own experience, I can say with certainty that is true.

When I heard about a Bennigan's

opening in the Mandan area, I was honestly surprised. I feel like Mandan has really been expanding their food options with the grand opening of both Bennigan's and Culvers.

Bennigan's has a broad menu, featuring classic Irish pub items, such as bread pudding, Irish dip, and a Monte Cristo sandwich. Not only do they have Irish

favorites, but they also have modern items such as popular beers, and my personal favorite, the signature chicken tenders.

The building itself is new and modern. It's located at 1506 27th St. N, Mandan, ND 58554. It's decorated nicely and the staff are all pleasant, it's an overall awesome experience.

It has become somewhat of a tradition

for me to go to Bennigan's, and if I had to choose, I would say that the nachos, chicken tenders, and the bread pudding are all my favorites.

No matter what your age, Bennigan's has options for you. From a great menu to a whole bar, I highly suggest that you give Bennigan's a visit. Surely they'll have something you'll enjoy.

WOMEN SUCCEED IN STEM

BY BAILEY SCHMIDT

Society has said that women should either stay at a desk and type or take notes or stay at home and clean. What is the fun in that? Why can't women do something amazing such as becoming an engineer, teach a neuroscience college class, or even drive a skid steer and pour concrete for a construction company. Why can't we be something?

Ever since I was a little girl, I wanted to be a construction worker like my dad. I remember wearing my own little tool belt around the house while wearing a dress. As I grew up, I was criticized for wanting to go into a male-dominated field. Everyone said that I shouldn't because of my size and because I was a girl. I did my best to follow my dreams and not let anyone get to me.

I graduated from high school early because I wanted to get started on my career. I was accepted into the building construction program at the North Dakota State College of Science.

Before college started, I wanted a job with a construction crew. I asked around to different companies. No one would hire me. I couldn't even get interviews. I have experience and the knowledge to do so, but they just said no; and I knew why.

Walking in on that first day of classes, I discovered I was the only girl out of 15 guys. I was feeling out of place which has never happened before.

Everybody would stare when I walked into class, my toolbelt didn't fit and they would've had to special order me one, and my feet wouldn't touch the pedals on the Bobcat. I felt defeated.

I changed my major that same week.

After I switched, I received many messages on why I changed.

I changed because I felt out of place. I changed because I was afraid of never getting an internship for credits. I changed because I didn't want to constantly one-up the boys. I changed because I knew I would get ignored during an important job. I changed because I knew I could be somebody in a different field. I changed because I saw a different future for myself.

Women are constantly being asked to prove what they can do.

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs are letting more and more girls into these fields because they have the qualifications, but women still feel the need to be at the top of their classes just to show what they can do.

According to The Atlantic website, only "18 percent of American computer-science college degrees go to women." In some colleges in the United States males "proudly" call themselves "male feminists."

In the article, the author interviewed Janet Shibley Hyde who is a gender-studies professor at the University of Wisconsin.

"Some would say that the gender STEM gap occurs not because girls can't do science," said Hyde, "but because they have other alternatives, based on their strengths in verbal skills."

Even though I didn't go through with my main dream I have had since I was little, I want girls to know that they shouldn't give up like I did. I want them to stop thinking that they need to act a certain way or prove what they can do just to do something that they love. Women can do anything they set their mind to.

SAMPLE BEER AT THE BREWERY

BY JUSTINE EMILY SMITH

The Bismarck Brewery is a restaurant and brewery, located at 110 Canada Ave. across the road from North Walmart. It has a beautiful rustic feel, with stain glass windows upstairs in the brewery that you can look out of to see the restaurant below.

I don't usually drink darker beers, but when my family comes up to visit, it's a nice change of pass for my taste buds. It's a good idea to start out with one of their smaller beers, as to get acquired to the taste. My favorite beer from their menu is Ghost in the Machine.

If you want to sample more than one, ordering a flight is the way to go. A flight is four or five small beers, ranging from lightest to darkest. They do this because your palate changes with each beer darker than the last. The more hops, the better.

For those of you that don't know what hops mean, let me explain. Hops is known for being bitter, but there are plenty of beers out there that aren't as bitter. Hops is healthier, and balances out the sweetness of the sugar from the grains.

Their menu is shown on a big flat screen, so the whole table can decide at once. They also show the worker's tweets about what's happening for the day. The staff visited with my family for a while and tweeted about us having a good time. It's very modern, but still has class.

Along with board games and beer magazines, the Bismarck Brewery is a nice place to spend time with friends and family. I would recommend it for going out with friends, hanging out with your family, or for a quick bite to eat.

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WHY IS K-POP-ULAR?

BY RJ TAARE

Are Korean songs invading your Spotify's playlist nowadays? Check it right now, and you'll notice that BTS aka Bangtan Sonyeondan or Bulletproof Boys is the main culprit for the K-pop epidemic in Spotify.

Some may not like it, the way some of our parents don't like our life choices, but the K-pop genre is here and it's most likely an unstoppable force that will continue to invade Today's Top Hits in Spotify.

So how does K-pop dominate the music industry despite, its foreign language? Worry not, I'm here to explain.

K-pop is aesthetically pleasing to watch. Its music videos feature pop art as a theme throughout almost every music video they present. Vibrant neon colors like lollipop candies are employed throughout the duration of the music video. If Andy

Warhol was still alive, he'd be proud that his art is represented in this manner.

The same pop art-esque approach is used in a K-pop band's outfit. It's never the casual white shirt and jeans for a music video. They wear outfits that are grandiose, and impractical, but stylish. Simply witnessing a K-pop band's outfit is like a fashion week catwalk, and it is a wonderful sight.

K-pop continues to entice its audience with the use of vibrant colors from their music videos and outfits.

K-pop appeals to a vast group of people because the genre still has its Westernized roots, but with an Asian kick.

Ever wonder why PSY's Gangnam Style was such a global hit? Because it is upbeat, flashy, and familiar due to the EDM-like beats.

What really makes it viral are the dance moves. That's where the Asian choreography seeps in and attracts plenty of people. Sure, a person might watch Skrillex bang his head to a beat, but in K-pop, the band invites you to dance with their sick and savvy moves. K-pop isn't far from today's pop music.

The K-pop genre wouldn't be this successful without the active role of its fanbase. Think of the fanbase as a K-pop band's lifeline. Loyal and dedicated fans are there to chant with the K-pop band's songs. Some will even camp outside a concert venue for days in order to guarantee a good view and to show extreme love and support to their favorite band. K-pop's fanbase is infectious, but in a good way.

When BTS had a concert tour in the

U.S., fans from all over the world such as Korea, Japan, and London were there to cherish BTS's presence. It doesn't matter what the costs and sacrifices most of them must take. All that matters to a fan is to be that light towards BTS's success.

It's honestly amazing how K-pop unites people no matter where they come from, and that's a fantastic feat. K-pop wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the fanbase who provides their undying devotion to their favorite bands.

Ultimately, K-pop is spreading its influence rapidly because of the genre's creative take towards their music videos and outfits, familiar Westernized beats accompanied with an Asian groove, and enthusiastic fans.

RECYCLING WON'T STOP THE CYCLE

BY RJ TAARE

Only nine percent of the plastic waste in the world is being recycled. According to the National Geographic online article "Here's How Much Plastic is Littering the Earth," 79 percent of it is either piling up in landfills or littering the environment as trash. That means that the rest of the plastic waste is floating around our ocean.

With that in mind, stop recycling! "But RJ, even if it's a small percentage at least I can still help the planet by recycling, right?"

Correct, but my opinion on recycling is similar to Trump's famous meme: "Sounds good, doesn't work." There are reasons why I stand with that belief.

Recycling is only good as long as there is a market for it. Recycling is a business. Recyclable process are processed, auctioned and bailed toward the market. If there are no buyers for these materials, then that means it doesn't get recycled.

In previous years, most of the recyclable materials were bought by China. However, today China's demand for these materials is decreasing. According to the article "Recycling is Big Business, but is it Profitable?" on the website Plastic Today, the reason China is refusing recyclable materials from the United States is because most of our plastic materials are dirty and full of debris, which means that at least half of today's reusable items are not being recycled.

While the things in our blue bins are not being recycled, we are still mass-producing plastic to meet demand.

According to the U.S. National Park Service, plastic waste takes at least 450 years to break down. Mother Earth is not willing to wait that long before we feel her wrath.

Producing plastic has a detrimental effect on our planet. The plastic industry

creates greenhouse gases, which is one of the culprits of climate change.

In addition, the plastic waste that deteriorates are mostly in the ocean, which means that our seafood may contain microplastic. Want some salt with that plastic fish? Psych! Your salt has plastic too. Before those recycled items are purchased, the negative effect of plastic will make Earth uninhabitable first.

If recycling isn't that effective, what's the best solution?

Reduce our plastic waste.

Want some single-use straw with that unlimited refill soda? Maybe skip it this time.

Does a banana really need a plastic bag when it comes with a biodegradable casing? Maybe not.

What, your burner phone is going to self-destruct in five seconds? Maybe tell the FBI or CIA that they're hurting our planet.

Jokes aside, we can help the planet if we make a smart choice of reducing our plastic waste. For example, bring your own water bottle, bring your own utensils for leftovers, opt for package-free soap and more. Combine recycling and reducing waste and we'll have ourselves a better duo than the Jenner sisters.

Plastic is being produced so abundantly that recycling is not enough anymore. Recycling is a billion-dollar industry, and we can't rely on that alone to save our planet.

By reducing our waste, as well as recycling, we can make a better place for the future generation.

Next time you put a stopper in that coffee cup, maybe stop and think about how something so small of a waste can create such a huge impact on our planet.

SHOP THE THE BEST THRIFT STORES IN TOWN

BY MORGAN DRAKE

With the Christmas season around the corner, it seems like a good time to start buying gifts right? So many things aren't on sale yet, and it feels like stores have started doubling their prices nowadays. So what do you do when you have to find the perfect, most unique gifts, and you're on a budget? It's time for you to take the plunge into the warm, well used waters of thrift store shopping.

Let's start with the thrift store you're likely to be most familiar with. Goodwill. Goodwill is a locally operated, nonprofit that relies primarily on individuals donations.

This is a great place to find books and kitchenware, with an especially large selection of pans, which are usually donated by older folks who don't know about the other thrift stores in town. I have had mixed luck finding nice clothes here, and the toy selection is also rather haphazardise. The next store to visit is

Seeds of Hope, in downtown Bismarck. Here you'll find more clothes than at any other store. This thrift store feels almost like a small house supply store, with furniture and sports equipment, as well as a reasonable electronics selection for younger kids. Don't forget about the basement, which has a huge area just for more clothes and shoes, as well as the seasonal hallway that gets decorated with themed items depending on the time of year.

Finally, my personal favorite, is Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. This place has it all, a great selection of kids toys, a huge array of well priced furniture, and a wall of knick knacks that range from electronics to dart boards, phone cases, kitchen equipment, and even some older antiques. Thrifting is a great way to finish up your holiday shopping if you're looking to find that one gift that'll really stand out in your family's White Elephant circle.

CLEARLY, WE ARE BIASED

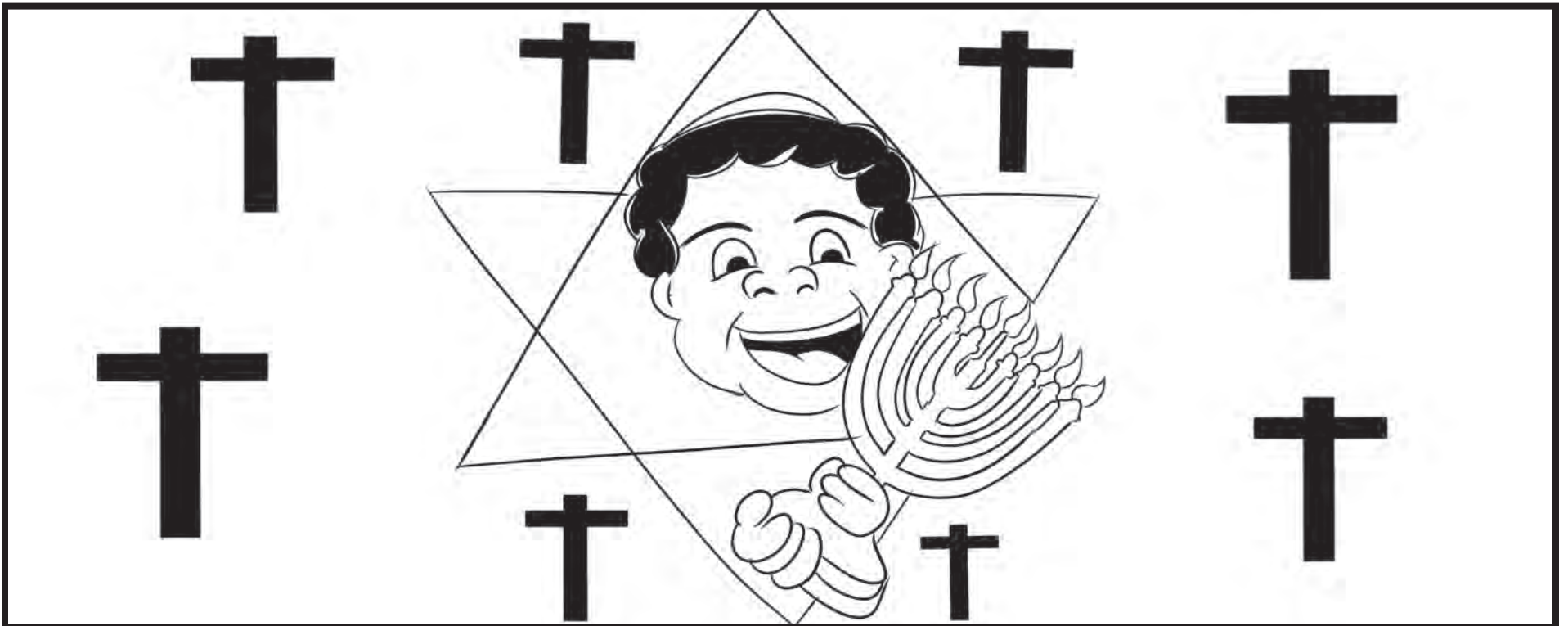
BY MORGAN DRAKE

In today's media there's a lot of talk about bias. People see reports that don't line up with what they've heard, or there's a fact about something that seems almost impossible. Nowhere is this "bias" present more vividly than in political coverage. These days, any and all negative coverage of a politician can be seen as biased, because if you're bashing one candidate and not the other, then you clearly hate them and are actively trying to destroy their career.

I would posit this-, what if the bias isn't on the part of the news and media, but on the part of the reader? What if their bias is what's causing them to look at a political

cartoon and see a republican smear campaign. What if it's that bias that causes the reader or the viewer to watch only one news source because they think that everything else is fake news? Newspapers can never be one hundred percent free of personal beliefs, but that doesn't mean everything printed is full of lies.

I simply ask this- the next time you pick up a paper or turn on the news and see something being covered that you don't want to believe in, ask yourself why you believe it? Is it because it sounds implausible? Or because you don't want to hear it.



OY, VEY! GOYIM EVERYWHERE

BY JACOB IRVING

According to jewishvirtuallibrary.org, in 2017 there were only 400 Jewish people in all of North Dakota. As one of these 400, I feel very isolated in a land full of churches. Even at BSC, I have only met one other Jewish person. With the closest synagogue in Fargo, it is hard to keep a connection with the faith I was raised with. I have had to rely on my own traditions in keeping the spirit of Judaism alive in my little part of North Dakota.

I come from a town in the Bay Area of California, next to the town of Napa. There were synagogues and congregations in every town and county. Driving around during the holiday season I would see houses with blue and white lights instead of green and red. Those are the colors of

the Israeli flag and represent the Jewish faith. There were houses all over with mezuzahs, hanging dreidel lights, and stars of David.

One of my favorite holiday things here in town is the Menorah that sits in the Capitol building during Hanukkah. It is a welcome reminder that not all is forgotten when it comes to the Jewish people in North Dakota.

Other than that, there is not much here. I drive around during Hanukkah and see no Jewish lights. I see no sukkahs being built for sukkot. I've seen no gatherings during Passover, nor Friday night Sabbaths. I look on doors for Mezuzahs and see none. I'm sure many people have no idea what these things are or mean, but to

Jews, these are integral parts of life. Not having them near is like not seeing turkeys around Thanksgiving. It just feels strange.

During the holidays, I like to do as I did with my family: I light candles and say prayers, I make traditional foods and savor each moment. I make plenty of calls to my family and love to share everything with my friends who have never had the experience.

Judaism and Jewish people have been in weird situations forever. Out here alone in Bismarck, N.D., I feel, myself, to be in a weird situation--trying to keep the oil burning alone after the fall of the temple.

But the faith has not been lost. Here in Bismarck everyone loves their traditions. The faith here, while different than my

own, is kept very much alive and strong. This inspires me to do the same with my faith; to live and share my traditions with the people of Bismarck as much as the people of Bismarck have shared theirs with me.

I welcome anyone and everyone to open their eyes and hearts to another religious perspective this holiday season. Invite those of other faiths to share in your traditions and be open to the wonders of theirs.

I hope everyone has the chance to experience the love that I know to come with these holiday times.

Happy Holidays, Habari Gani, Feliz Navidad, Maligayang Pasko, and Chag Same'ach. Any way you choose to celebrate, may it be filled with joy.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM

THE MYSTICIAN

