



Rock Point  
P8

Michael Uslan  
P12

Sexual Assault  
P20

# THE MYSTICIAN

April 2016 Bismarck State College  
Volume 77 Issue 7



# Bismarck State College News Magazine

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## Revision:

In the March 77.6 edition, the article "Campus Living" required some correction. There are different budgets made for different departments on campus. Therefore, the Jack Science Center remodel budget is different than the residence hall budget. Also, Lidstrom Hall requires payment for laundry services.



**On the cover:**  
Mystic Media editors traveled to New York City over spring break to attend the College Media Association conference. They went to workshops and explored what the city had to offer.  
Photo by: John Bettger

## From the Editor's Desk

It is hard to believe we are almost to the end of the semester and summer is upon us. It always seems like this is the time my schedule gets busier and my planner fills up.

Since I returned from spring break, there has been something on my plate every minute of the day.

I'm sure everyone can relate – we are writing our final papers, giving our final speeches, taking the final tests. The word "final," often has the reputation of meaning "bigger."

At the peak of this busy time, we decided to publish the biggest issue of The Mystician this year, and I am so proud of the content and design.

Aside from that, our adviser has received some formal criticism of our publication in the last month. My thoughts on this are reflected in the paragraphs below:

## Letter From the Editors

Multiple concerns have been voiced to our adviser, karen Bauer, about content in previous issues. However, none of these have been addressed to the Mystic Media staff or editors. The editors make all decisions on what is published. Our adviser is exactly that: an adviser. She gives us advice and sparks discussions on what should or shouldn't be used in journalism. She provides us with knowledge and facts to make the right decisions, but ultimately karen does not decide what is printed – we do.

Therefore, the Mystic Media editors request that all concerns on anything produced or published be addressed to us at the email address provided on multiple pages of this news magazine. We take full responsibility, ownership and pride in our work.

Always,

Katie Winbauer  
Editor-in-Chief

# Contents

VOLUME: 77 ISSUE: 7



## Features

- 4 Jim Bonney
- 6 Stress Pets
- 8 Rock Point
- 10 Steve Lillegard
- 11 ArtsQuest
- 12 Michael Uslan
- 15 Movie Troll
- 16 New York City



## Scoop

- 18 News Briefs
- 19 Voting
- 20 Sexual Assault

## Drive

- 22 Baseball
- 24 Athlete Spotlight

## Happenings

- 25 Master Sword
- 26 'Boozin
- 28 #LetsGetMystical

## P.O.V.

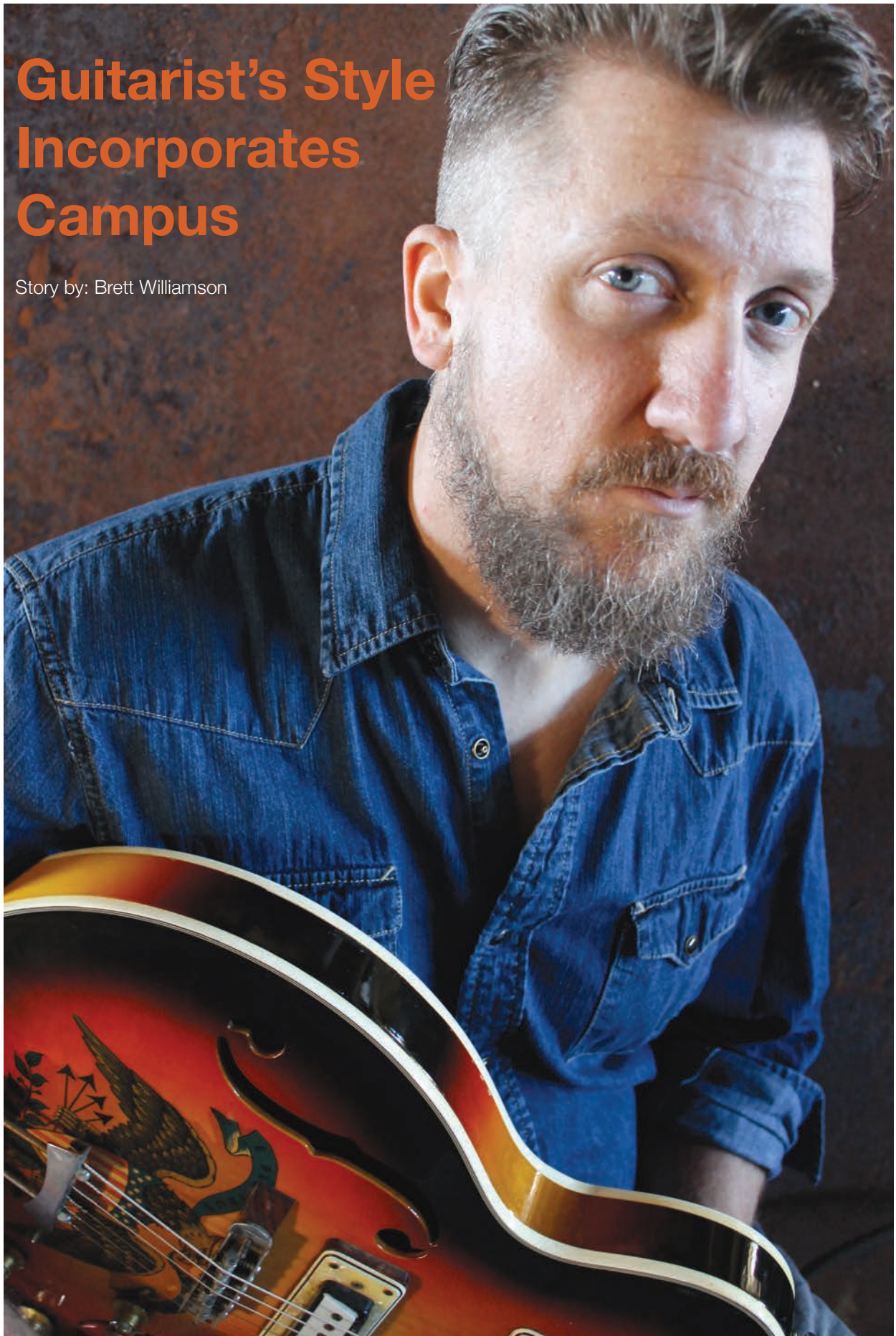
- 29 Staff Editorial
- 30 Encryption
- 30 Reuben
- 31 Voting





# Guitarist's Style Incorporates Campus

Story by: Brett Williamson





BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE'S Wind Ensemble has been perfecting the composition "DARKlightNESS" (Light Within Darkness) since the beginning of the spring semester.

The 29 BSC students and five guest musicians from the community will be premiering the arrangement alongside the composer and guitarist, Jim Bonney, as part of BSC's ArtsQuest 2016.

"The piece is homage to great guitar sounds that have been enshrined in the electric guitar panthium," Bonney said. "What I am trying to do with this concerto is say, 'what if we take those [guitar] sounds and put them in a new setting – a new space in which they are performed – a new ensemble that's playing it, and – what happens to those sounds when we revisit them?'"

The three-movements composition will incorporate the musical stylings of legendary guitarists such as David Gilmore, Eddie Van Halen, Les Paul, Jimmy Page, Jimi Hendrix and Tom Morello. Bonney said each movement has its own feel and influences.

"Resetting what these musicians have done, with this piece and with this ensemble, I think creates something new and interesting," Bonney said. "It takes a mixture of audience and brings something of interest to them. It's not just for the wind ensemble audience. It's just not for the rock and guitar player audience. I think it creates something for both and maybe even further."

The day of the ArtsQuest performance will be the first time Bonney and the BSC Wind Ensemble come together. They will have a short practice before the premiere performance.

"They [BSC Wind Ensemble] have a surprise coming; they have only heard half of the piece," Bonney said. "The other half comes together when I get there. My part really enmeshes with them. It is not a flashy, showy guitar part, but a very textural guitar part. It really makes the ensemble complete when the guitar combines with the Wind Ensemble."

The premier will take place at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 18, at the Sidney J. Lee Auditorium. The event is free of charge.

Bonney's career covers a spectrum of different types of musical mediums. He is credited for works on multiple AAA video games, television programs, trailers and documentaries. His credits include "BioShock Infinite," "King of the Hill" and "Buffy the Vampire Slayer."

**"It's just not for the rock and guitar player audience. I think it creates something for both and maybe even further."**

**-Jim Bonney, composer and guitarist**

"I worked on 'Mortal Kombat: Armageddon,'" Bonney said. "I did one third of the fight music. I did all the music for the single player campaign and I did half of the music for the go-kart secret game."

Bonney said writing music for video games is different than writing traditional songs and concertos. He also said that there are many factors that have to be taken into account while writing video game music.

"With something like Mortal Kombat, there is a tradition that needs to be upheld," Bonney said. "I would listen to the old compositions to try and put a new spin on them. There is also an aspect of it that is entirely functional. It has to loop; it has to be a certain length of time; and it has to be able to react to

certain elements. If the music goes too fast, it will make the play experience feel slower. And if the music goes too slow, it works in the opposite direction."

For many gamers, music can make or break the atmosphere within their gaming worlds.

"One thing I learned about doing music and sound design for video games, especially something as visceral as Mortal Kombat, is you have to take the energy up, like, ten times higher than you would in something like a slot machine or television show," Bonney said. "It can be difficult."

In addition to Bonney's music being heard throughout the realms of "Mortal Kombat: Armageddon," his voice can be heard as the character Sub-Zero.

He did the voiceover work for the character's in-game sounds.

"It's weird to punch a character in the game and hear yourself go 'Ugh,'" Bonney said with a laugh. "My sister actually voiced the character Sonya Blade in the game. So it is also weird to punch that character and hear my sister's voice."

His audio production company, BigLoudSound, is a full service music production company. A few of his clients include Midway Games, 2K Games and NASA. Bonney is currently working the upcoming game "Mafia 3," and the Kickstarter game, "Perception."

*(Brett Williamson is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.)*



# Stress Pets Visit the Union

Story by: Alexis Larson



## In the photo:

Stress pets were in the student union March 2. They will be back during finals week in May.

Photo by: Jordan Bitz

THERE IS something relaxing about wet, sloppy kisses. For many people, interacting with a pet is the exact thing they need when they've had a stressful day.

On March 2, Bismarck State College's student union was flooded with animals. These pets were all certified therapy pets. Each animal had to go through a 10 point step test to become a certified therapy pet.

According to [www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com), "multiple studies indicate that pets are powerful forms of stress relief, lowering not only blood pressure but also harmful stress hormones like cortisol, which is associated with depression and anxiety, and elevating beneficial ones like oxytocin, which is linked to happiness and relaxation."

BSC student Eli Akin didn't know what to expect when he came into the student union for lunch.

"I have got to say it helps me a lot. I just found out something that really threw me through a curve yesterday, so it's really helped me calm down a lot," Akin said. "I grew up on a farm, and I only get home once a month if I'm lucky. This was a nice change of pace."

Joan Morton was one of the volunteers who brought in dogs, cats and bunnies to BSC. Morton brings therapy animals to relieve the stress during hard times of college or life.

"It really helps people who don't get to go home very often, who have family pets at home or may be feeling home sick," Morton said. "Animals always seem to show affection. They don't judge anybody because they love everyone."

Morton has been bringing stress pets to schools and nursing homes for four years. One animal in particular is Frankie, the golden retriever. She participates in obedience, agility and hunting.



**“Animals always seem to show affection. They don’t judge anybody because they love everyone.”**

**-Joan Morton, stress pets owner**

Johanna Bjork, the campus reference and instructional librarian, organized this event and was in charge of bringing the therapy pets to campus for the last four years.

“I knew some people in town that did have official therapy animals,” Bjork said. “They’d go out and travel among the schools, preschools, churches and other areas. So I had some connections, and when we started the Stress Ball here at BSC, I recommended we bring in therapy animals. Other libraries across the

nation have also begun to bring in therapy animals to their campuses.”

The Student Government Association took note of the success it had on campus and will therefore be bringing

back Joan Morton and her therapy animals during finals week.

*(Alexis Larson is the MystiCast Producer. Reach her at [editor@mystician.org](mailto:editor@mystician.org).)*

**In the photo:**  
Students were able to hold and play with pets in order to relieve stress.  
Photo by: Jordan Bitz

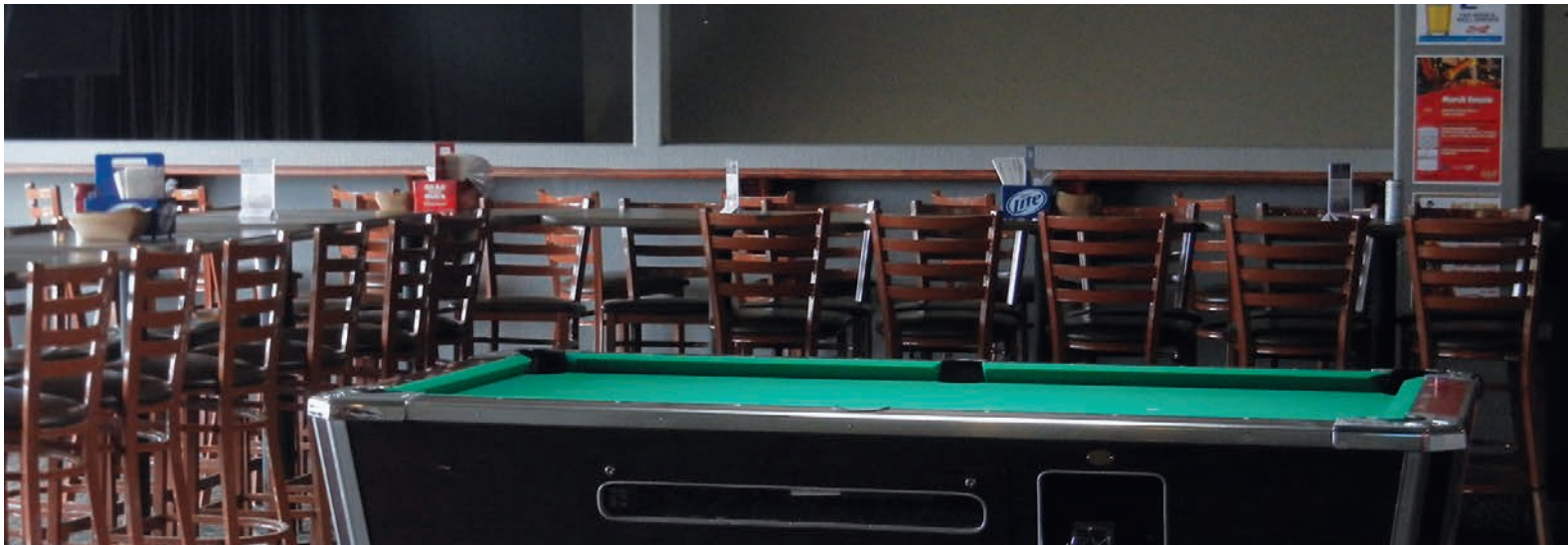


**In the photo:**

Frankie participates in obedience, agility and hunting training along with the 10-point step test to become a certified therapy pet.  
Photo by: Jordan Bitz







# Local Bar Changes Image

Story and photos by: Ashley Thorpe

COLLEGE STUDENTS are always looking for something to do on a weeknight. Look no farther than the banks of the Missouri River.

"There's beer pong every night upstairs," Jacey Kramer, new manager of Rock Point, said. "On Tuesday's, we do karaoke from 6 p.m. on and then there's specials going on every night, as well."

Formerly known as Captain Freddy's, the new 21 and up riverside location is called Rock Point. The switch happened on Feb. 1 and officially reopened on Feb. 17 with Pop Evil, a

nationally known American rock band.

Kramer, one of the new managers, is good friends with the owners and said she was excited about taking over Captain Freddy's. However, Kramer is unsure as to why the change in management was made.

"You know, I honestly have no idea," Kramer said. "Two of the owners that we're in with have VoDo Entertainment and they were bringing the bands here when it was Freddy's. They talked to [the owners of Captain Freddy's] and decided we were just gonna take over as management for it and do all the

concerts here and turn it more into a concert venue and bar."

The switch over to the concert venue and bar idea has been a solid one. The new management got rid of College Night, but the entire menu been

changed to accommodate the pub environment, and the new management is bringing in national bands as well as local bands.

"We're bringing in a lot of big bands," Kramer said. "We just had Hawthorne Heights. We had Pop Evil our first night. We have THC, the Texas Hippie Coalition, on April 20. There's a lot of big ones coming."

A major aspect to the success of Rock Point is the pub's ability to keep prices low for the customers interested in the concerts.

"We've been selling out a lot of our concerts, and we're trying to keep our ticket prices low, too," Kramer said. "The most expensive we've had is \$25. So we're keeping them as low as possible to get entertainment here."

The previous Captain Freddy's advertised live bands for every Friday and Saturday night. However, for Rock



#### In the photo:

Captain Freddy's opened as Rock Point on Feb. 17. The pub and bar has a new name, new menu and new look.



Point, those two days aren't always concert nights.

"It all depends on when we book the bands," Kramer said. "We try to do them between Thursdays and Saturdays, mainly. But there's some that it only works on a Tuesday or Wednesday. So it's pretty much when we can get them is more or less how it goes. On weekends, we're trying to have music every weekend, whether it be local or national, so there's always something going on."

The new menu that Rock Point has constructed is very different from what the menu used to be. Options are pizza, Philly cheese steaks with beef or chicken, cheese curds, jalapeno poppers and poutine, which is a

Canadian dish with fries, cheese curds and gravy.

"We completely got rid of the old menu," Kramer said. "It's all a bit more pub food now."

The reactions that Kramer has heard from the public since Rock Point has opened have been mainly positive.

"We've gotten really good feedback, so far," Kramer said. "People are really liking it, so that's a plus."

*(Ashley Thorpe is the copy editor for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)*



**In the photo:**

Rock Point is open to people ages 21+. There is a full bar and pub food options.

**In the photo:**

Rock Point has patio seating as well as the indoor bar and upstairs loft.





# Alumnus Exhibits Sculptures

Story by: Krystle Jackson

STEVE LILLEGARD, a Bismarck State College alumnus, will be exhibiting his sculptures at the Elsa Forde Gallery in Schafer Hall April 13 - 15 with an informal artist meet and greet April 13 at 4 p.m.

Steve Lillegard was raised in central Montana. His artistic talents were supported by his mother, Elisabeth.

"My mother went to art school in Boston and she used to decorate the house when we were growing up," Lillegard said. "She painted a hallway with chalkboard paint so there was one section for every kid. We drew on the wall all the time, and as I grew up, I just kept drawing."

She would also take him to museums on family vacations to see work from master artists. Lillegard went on to major in fine arts at Montana State University.

Inspired by his time living in Montana, Lillegard's bronze-casted sculptures have been featured in several galleries, and he showed his work at BSC's alumni art show in 2015.

Lillegard's sculptures have a western and wildlife theme, which show historical accuracy and an eye for detail. The depictions of characters and animals of the Old West have a realistic look, as if they were captured in motion.

"Living in the west, the history and the wildlife has always interested me," Lillegard said.

Lillegard was invited to BSC as part of ArtsQuest 2016. ArtsQuest was developed out of a need to bring in artists, scholars, musicians and authors

to have students exposed to a larger community outside of the college.

"The benefit for Steve is to show his work in this area, to get some people from the community to come up that might not have known about his work," Barbara Thorsen, assistant professor of art, said. "Or they're artists themselves and want to meet him and exchange ideas."

In addition to the meet and greet, Lillegard will also spend a few days in the classroom with students to discuss his sculptures and what it is like to be an artist after college.

"I always liked sculpture, even as a little kid, but I never thought that was something I could make a living at until I went to an art show and saw someone else doing it," Lillegard said.

Giving art students the opportunity to meet with someone who makes his living through art helps them to see what options are after graduation, Thorsen said.

"It has been a great opportunity for the college to not only serve the students but also get the community to come up and interact with the students," Thorsen said. "We're planting seeds; we're a transfer school. We want to enhance our classes by bringing in artists such as Steve."

For more information on Steve Lillegard and his work visit [www.slillegard.com](http://www.slillegard.com).

*(Krystle Jackson is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach her at [editor@mystician.org](mailto:editor@mystician.org).)*



## In the photo:

Steve Lillegard is exhibiting his sculptures April 13-15 in the Elsa Forde Gallery in Schafer Hall. Photo submitted



# ArtsQuest

ArtsQuest is an extended month-long campus celebration of music, art, theater, literature and film. ArtsQuest highlights the talent of Bismarck State College students and brings performances and presentations by guest artists to campus. All ArtsQuest events are open to the public with most presented at no charge. ArtsQuest will be April 6 - May 4. For more information and schedule of events, go to [www.bismarckstate.edu/community/humanities/artsquest.edu](http://www.bismarckstate.edu/community/humanities/artsquest.edu).

At 7:30 p.m. April 12, there will be the Collage Concert in the Sidney J. Lee Auditorium. It will be an evening consisting of entertainment featuring Bismarck State College instrumental and vocal groups, visual art improvisation and student readings from *Figments of Imagination* literary arts journal. Admission is free.

From 4 to 6 p.m. April 13, a "Meet the Artist" event will take place for the opportunity to meet bronze sculptor Steve Lillegard in the Schafer Hall lobby. Visit the Montana-teaching artist and former BSC student, who is visiting in conjunction with his exhibit in Elsa Forde Gallery.

At 7:30 p.m. Friday April 15, the Choral Concert will take place in the Bavendick Stateroom in the National Energy Center of Excellence. The concert will feature the Bismarck State College Concert Choir, Men's Ensemble, Women's Ensemble and Chamber Singers in a "Pops + Classical" program with the BSC Jazz Combo. Admission is free.

On Monday April 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sidney J. Lee Auditorium, the Bismarck State College Wind Ensemble will feature guest artist Jim Bonney. Bonney is a prominent video game music composer for games such as *BioShock* and *Mortal Kombat*. Bonney will be playing guitar alongside the ensemble on his latest composition *DARKlightNESS*. Admission is free.

April 18-21 is "Everyone Can Be a Superhero" Drive. Food staples, paper goods and personal hygiene products are being accepted for the Bismarck Emergency Food Pantry. Drop off items at NECE reception desk, BSC Bookstore or the April 21 Michael Uslan event.

May 1-3, the Bismarck State College Visual Arts program will be hosting an outdoor raku clay firing demonstration west of the Library, English and Art building. All participants may pick up clay from the LEA ceramics department and must have their objects complete by April 23. The firing times are 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday.

The Festival of Short Plays will be presented at the Sidney J. Lee Auditorium May 4-5 at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The festival features a series of one-act student-directed plays for adult audiences. Admission is free.

Readings from the newest edition of *Figments of Imagination* literary journal will be from noon to 1 p.m. in LEA Hall on the first floor.

**In the photo:**  
Steve Lillegard's  
"A Parting of  
Ways."  
Photo submitted





# Comic Book Authority Visits Campus

Story by: Brett Williamson



FOR MICHAEL Uslan, comic book historian and writer, his life changed with one comic book while growing up in New Jersey during the '50s.

The impact of that one comic book led him from comic collector to the executive producer of every Batman film since 1989. He is credited for the original four Batman movies, the Dark Knight trilogy and this year's "Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice."

Uslan will be visiting Bismarck State College as part of ArtsQuest 2016 to share his tale of taking Batman from the pages of DC Comics to the silver screen and his experiences within the comic book industry.

"Comic books have been my passion since I was little," Uslan said. "It was my escapist entertainment. It was a world I could retreat to with the greatest superheroes on the planet, and I would allow that to carry my imagination rocketing off to outer space, or

alternate universes or beneath the sea. It is inspirational."

Before his 1989 Batman film changed the world of comics and film, it was a time when comics were considered taboo and a source of youth corruption. This was a time before the blockbuster superhero films the world sees today.

"In the early '50s, American parents, educators, administrators and clergymen were convinced comic books were a tool of the devil designed to create a generation of juvenile delinquents," Uslan said. "A lot of the aura of those times lingered over and as the people from that era, who were young adults, moved into position of authority and business, took with them that prejudice against comic books."

After securing the permissions to Batman for a motion picture in the late '70s, Uslan spent the next decade trying to convince Hollywood it was time for the comic industry to expand.

According to Uslan, it was an uphill battle for him to share his vision of Batman with the world.

"It was an endurance contest," Uslan said. "I was turned down by every single studio in Hollywood. They told me 'I was crazy,' 'you can't do serious comic book movies,' 'you can't do dark superhero movies' and 'you can't do a movie from an old TV series.' It was the epitome of frustration. The world at that point was not ready to embrace anyone outside of Superman as a comic book character that could be of value and could be made into a blockbuster motion picture."

Eventually, his vision of Batman was released in 1989, and broke box office records.

The success of "Batman" demonstrated that theater audiences were willing to accept a realistic interpretation of comics. The film laid the framework for modern day theatrical comic book storytelling.





Uslan is also credited for two Swamp Thing films – 2008’s “Catwoman” and the “Where on Earth is Carmen Sandiego” television program. Currently, he is working on the production “Captain Marvel” and soon-to-be released “Lego Batman Movie.”

Uslan said even though he worked with a variety of different comic titles over his career, Batman is still his favorite superhero.

“Batman had no superpowers, that is why I love the character so much,” Uslan said. “When I was eight, I believed if I worked out really hard and my dad bought me a cool car, I could be Batman. He had the greatest super villains in history. Ultimately it is the supervillains that defines the superheroes.”

Aside from contributions to film and comics, Uslan was the first professor of comics. He lectured the first fully

accredited comic book college course at Indiana University.

“Comic books as a legitimate American art form are as indigenous to this country as jazz and need to be recognized as such,” Uslan said. “Comic books and superheroes are our modern day mythology. It’s this mythology that is now being welcomed by not only people across borders, but people across cultures around the world. If we look no further than that, then comic books have made a true, amazing, educational and artistic contribution to the global society.”

Uslan’s presentation will start at 7:30 p.m. April 21, at the Basin Auditorium in the National Energy Center of Excellence.

Story continued on next page



**In the photo:**

Michael Uslan is credited for producing the original four “Batman” movies and will be at Bismarck State College Thursday, April 21.

Photo submitted



Story continued

This is a free event and there will be a Batman, Superman and Wonder Woman themed costume contest scheduled before the presentation at 7 p.m. Prizes will be awarded.

"I hope students walk away with the notion that you folks at this stage are on

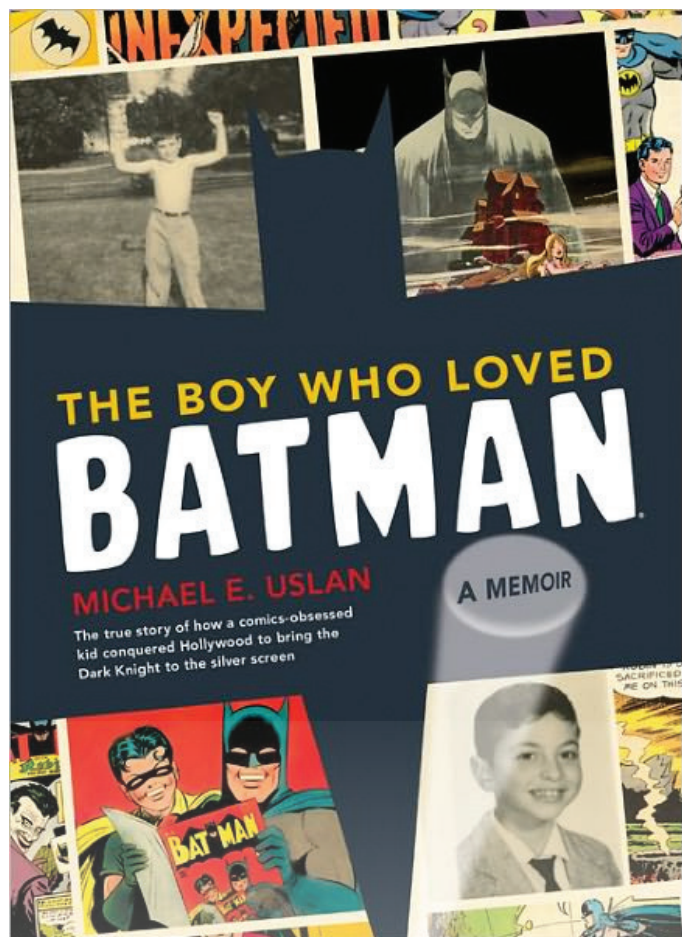
a mission to discover your passions in life," Uslan said. "It's great to go down many different paths, and it's just as important to learn what you don't like as you do like. Once you fix on your passion and identify what your dreams might be, then if you are willing to forfeit

what has become a multigenerational misguided sense of entitlement that the world owes you something or the world is going to come to you, and get up proactively off the couch and make things happen, then you can make your dreams come true."

From the boy with a comic book to the man that gave superheroes and supervillains a new breath of life for the modern age, Uslan gives a piece of advice for anyone wanting to pursue a career in film or writing.

"It's hard and doesn't happen overnight," Uslan said. "It takes passion, dedication, the ability to control your frustrations, to stick to it and to make a commitment — these are all very hard things to do. If you have the easy way out in life, and you don't have the passion coursing through your veins ... go find something easier to do. If my admonishments are not scaring you off, then you are probably already halfway there toward a path to success."

*(Brett Williamson is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.)*



**In the photo:**

Michael Uslan is a comic book historian and writer. He has been the executive producer of every "Batman" film since 1989. Photo submitted





# Titanic Collision

Story by: John Bettger

**Trigger Warning: Movie Troll reviews contain spoilers and strong language not appropriate for little whiny sissy-britches.**

THE FOLLOW-UP movie to “Man of Steel” and the second installment of DC’s Extended Universe has arrived. “Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice.”

Bring a neck brace. This one hurts a bit.

The first 15 minutes open with a series of clips. Since “Man of Steel” is the sole precursor to “Dawn of Justice,” the viewer needs a quick briefing on the main characters. This is followed by an additional 15 minutes of plot set up. Now that a full fifth of the movie is over, we can move from pre-dinner drinks and on to the meal.

At this point, everyone will notice this is not the normal superhero movie we have all become comfortable with. The movie is cold, dreary and grim

There is no comic relief. No sunny disposition. Not a single witty one-liner. There is a persisting serious tone. Batman grits his teeth against PTSD and Superman is suffering under an existential crisis.



And that’s what this movie aims for. It isn’t another origins story, and it isn’t for the layman moviegoer. This is an appeal to the hardcore comic book fanbase.

The moviegoer may also notice, and likely complain about, a lack of explanation.

Not once in the whole movie is Wonder Woman named. We are told nothing of her origins, powers or motives. That’s the point. Do we really need to be introduced to Wonder Woman? No, this

movie doesn’t cater to the ignorant. The expectation is: if you’re a superhero fan watching a superhero movie then you already know who the superheroes are. If you don’t, then pick up a comic book and start where it all began.



While I am thankful for being spared the annoying corny quips, the movie is damn near a silent film. But I’m sort of digging that. As in a comic book, so much is told through the actions of the characters. Does Superman really need to say, “I got you” when he catches Lois Lane falling from a skyscraper? Hell no. I can already see that. Cutting the dialogue down to the essential and letting the visual cues tell the rest was a good decision. If you’re blind, then perhaps an audiobook would be a better means of entertainment.

Perhaps Dawn of Justice can be considered a drama. There are numerous conflicting allegiances and rivalries, like some sort of bizarre love heptagon. It could very well take a dozen viewings to sort it all out. Wonder Woman v Doomsday v Batman (v Alfred) v Lex Luthor v Superman (v himself (v The Daily Planet)) v the American government v Doomsday. I don’t know anymore. Let’s move on to dessert.

Disasterporn. UrbanDictionary.com defines the term as, “A movie with lots of destruction and explosions and disasters. For example: Independence Day, The Day After Tomorrow, 2012.” Though not quite at the level of total world destruction, Dawn of Justice deals with a crippling blow to the downtown Metropolis infrastructure.

As they say, leave no skyscraper uncollapsed. This is the big buildup we were edging for. A release of titanic proportions. Que full CGI mode.

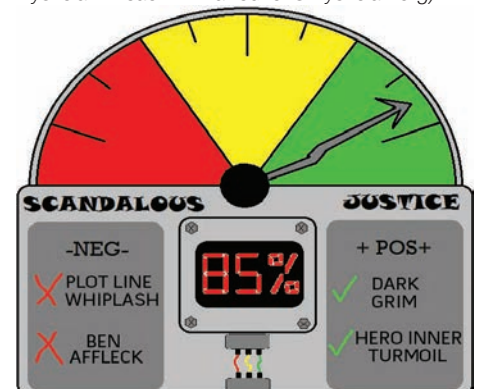
Batman, Wonder Woman and Superman team up in a 3v1 face off with Doomsday, a forbidden mutant “Kryptonian Deformity” created by Lex using the dead remains of General Zod and a splash of his own blood.

Batman evades. POOF! Wonder Woman deals damage. THWACK! Superman takes a beating. CRASH! Both Superman and Doomsday fall dead after being weakened by Kryptonite. Doomsday lands a critical hit to Superman; arm bone spur to the chest.

Superman is buried in his mom’s backyard. The film’s last few frames suggest his resurrection.

Where does that leave us? Dawn of Justice cuts through all the BS introductions and gets to the good stuff. No fluff or back patting. Just raw story. The DC Extended Universe is set up for the following upcoming movies: Wonder Woman (2017) and Justice League Part One (2017). DC departs from the gag reel norm and blazes a trail for a more serious, adult tone superhero franchise. Just keep doing you DC.

*(John Bettger is the content editor for The Mystician. Reach him at editor@mystician.org)*







# New York City

## Through My Lens

Photo Essay by: John Bettger

Displayed here is a selection of photos taken over spring break 2016 during my attendance of the College Media Association conference in New York City. My first time in the concrete jungle is the fulfillment of a childhood dream. New sounds. New foods. New stories to tell.









# News Briefs

## Mystic Media Mayhem

As always, when the new edition of The Mystician comes out, Mystic Media hosts Mystic Media Day. This one will be a little different. Mystic Media Mayhem is from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. May 6 on the grass between the Armory and the National Energy Center of Excellence.

There will be live bands and music, food trucks and other entertainment. If your club would like to reserve table space, contact The Mystician at [editor@mystician.org](mailto:editor@mystician.org).

## Legacy Grad

Bismarck State College National Alumni Association is beginning a new tradition in 2016 by honoring graduates who share a legacy with parents or grandparents who also graduated from BJC or BSC.

As a legacy grad, you'll receive a special cord to wear at Commencement to commemorate this special connection with your family. You must attend commencement in order to receive the cord. For more information or questions, contact Rita Nodland at [rita.nodland@bismarckstate.edu](mailto:rita.nodland@bismarckstate.edu) or call her at 701-224-5692.

## Registration

Summer 2016 registration began March 21. Fall 2016 class registration will be starting April 4-22. Sign up early and get in those desired classes if you are currently a student at BSC. For more information visit [www.bismarckstate.edu/academics/registration/register/](http://www.bismarckstate.edu/academics/registration/register/).

## Hay Fever

Bismarck State College Alumnus, Brandon Wetch, is the director of the Dakota Stage play "Hay Fever."

Hay Fever is centered around the Bliss family, who have all invited guests to stay at their house without informing anyone. Parlour games turn to hatred; romantic alliances split and reform with frivolous ease.

Hay Fever is at Dakota Stage May 5-14 starting at 7:30 p.m. and May 15 starting at 2 p.m. Ticket prices are \$21 for adults and \$18 for students, seniors and military. Tickets can be purchased at [www.dakotastagetld.com](http://www.dakotastagetld.com).



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Find the editors in the Armory  
-Room 125-





# Voting in N.D.

Story by: Meghan McNeil

NORTH DAKOTA is home to a variety of relaxed laws concerning voter rights, but according to N.D. Voices, an electronic voting information system, not even half of the state's population make their way to the voting booth. One reason for this could be the lack of public information regarding the topic.



#### In the photo:

Heather Kaiser is a sophomore at Bismarck State College and voted in the last election. She said students need to decide if voting is crucial in American society.

Photo submitted

North Dakota holds true to most common state voting laws. A voter must be 18 years of age, a resident of the United States and a resident of a certain district for at least 30 days prior to voting.

The similarities with North Dakota legislation ends there. To vote, residents do not need any prior registration.

North Dakota is the only state in the union to totally ignore voter registration laws. Although there is no registration, involved citizens must show voting staff a valid I.D., an I.D. issued by a tribal government or any identification issued by the secretary of state at each designated voting area.

Bismarck State College sophomore Richard Hagen chose not to vote last election.

"I don't pay much attention to politics and I think our government is so corrupt as it is," Hagen said. "Part of me believes the campaign is nothing more than a show to make it appear like democracy is a system."

It is unclear whether this ideology is present within the half of North Dakota voters that do not show up to the polls.

BSC has encouraged its students to take part in voting activities. BSC sophomore Heather Kaiser made the decision to vote in the last election.

"My experience was decent. I did pre-voting. My friend had to leave town back to college, so we went early and grabbed a form, so we could vote together," Kaiser said. "Her family was very well-informed, and the lady

who gave us the form was good at explaining what to do."

Kaiser encourages students to participate in voting and to not be afraid to ask questions.

"Students must decide whether voting is a crucial part of our democratic society," Kaiser said.

Perspective voters can be on the lookout for school district elections April 1 - June 30, city elections June 14 and North Dakota governor and general elections Nov. 8.

*(Meghan McNeil is the scoop editor of The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)*

Photo taken from [www.vote.nd.gov](http://www.vote.nd.gov).

## ID REQUIRED FOR VOTING

### Requirements for Identification (NDCC §§ 16.1-05-07 and 16.1-07-06)

#### ➤ Identification must include the voter's:

- ✓ Name
- ✓ Residential Address
- ✓ Date of Birth

#### Acceptable Forms of Identification:

##### ➤ Voting at the Polling Place – A Valid North Dakota:

- ✓ Current driver's license
- ✓ Non-driver's identification card
- ✓ Tribal government issued identification card
- ✓ Long term care identification certificate (provided by ND facility)

##### ➤ Voting Absentee or by Mail – A Valid:

- ✓ North Dakota form of identification listed above
- ✓ Passport or Military ID – Only for North Dakota residents living outside the United States who do not possess one of the other forms of identification.
- ✓ Attester – An applicant without an acceptable form of identification may use an attester. The attester must provide his or her name, North Dakota driver's license, non-driver's, or tribal identification number, and sign the absentee/mail ballot application form to attest to the applicant's North Dakota residency and voting eligibility.

**Voice Your VOTE**  
NORTH DAKOTA VOICES COUNT  
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Updated July 2015



# Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Story and photo by: Katie Winbauer





THIS YEAR is the 15th anniversary of April being sexual assault awareness month.

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center coordinates the awareness month campaign each year and promotes prevention of sexual violence through “research, resources and collaboration.”

Laura Palumbo is the communications director for NSVRC and said there are many new audiences participating in the campaign, which, this year, is themed “prevention is possible.”

“Over the years, we’ve seen participation grow, and people who are involved engaging their communities in more active ways,” Palumbo said.

Recent publicity of incidents such as Ke\$ha’s court case against her former music producer, Dr. Luke, and Lady Gaga opening up about being raped when she was 19 years old have gained national attention.

Gaga performed the song “Till it Happens to You,” alongside dozens of sexual assault survivors at The Oscars, which aired Feb. 28.

Vice President Joe Biden introduced her by saying, “Too many women and men, on and off of college campuses, are still

victims of abuse.” He also vowed to intervene in situations where consent has not been given.

Palumbo said public attention to sexual assault has empowered people to talk about the issue and learn about how they can be a part of the solution.

“High profile cases about sexual violence as well as public officials taking a stance on the issue of sexual assault have really opened up the conversation,” Palumbo said.

Another campaign that has used celebrities and athletes is called NO MORE. This campaign is not owned by one organization; it is available to all those “who are committed to help end domestic violence and sexual assault.”

NO MORE has launched several public service announcements that have featured celebrities and NFL players.

The website [www.nomore.org](http://www.nomore.org), has information and resources for anyone interested. It also has a quick escape feature which will redirect the open page to Google if the “Esc” key is pushed.

Palumbo said she has noticed more people are aware of how to access resources, but it is also important to help all people understand how

the issue affects everyone, not just those who are victims.

According to a survey conducted by the Association of American Universities, 23 percent of female college students said they had experienced a form of unwanted sexual contact. Along with that, 63 percent of student responders said they believed a report of sexual misconduct would be taken seriously by campus officials.

Palumbo said student activists have played a significant role in putting sexual violence on the public radar. She also said students have powerful voices and can be a part of changes.

Taking steps on campuses to create spaces for discussion and raising awareness are ways Palumbo said students can have roles in preventing sexual assault and violence.

For immediate counseling, contact the Abused Adult Resource Center by calling 701-222-8370 or 1-866-341-7009. Bismarck State College also offers free, personal counseling in the Mystic Advising and Counseling Center, which is located in the student union.

*(Katie Winbauer is the editor-in-chief of The Mystician. Reach her at [editor@mystician.org](mailto:editor@mystician.org).)*

## Get Involved

- Join the #30DaysofSAAM instagram contest. Spread the word about Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). Each day in April, post a photo that reflects the day’s theme.
- Participate in SAAM Day Of Action, Tuesday, April 5. This nationally recognized day provides an opportunity for preventionists and advocates to engage with their communities and kick off SAAM events that are planned throughout April.
- Wear Denim on Denim Day, Wednesday, April 27. For the past 17 years, Peace Over Violence has run its Denim Day campaign on a Wednesday in April in honor of Sexual Violence Awareness Month. The campaign was originally triggered by a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court where a rape conviction was overturned because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans, she must have helped her rapist remove her jeans, thereby implying consent. The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim.





**In the photo:**  
Brett Schweitzer, Kole Bauer and  
Chance Kurle are sophomores on the  
Bismarck State College baseball team.  
Photo submitted

# Baseball Coach Looks to Build on Last Season

Story by: Ashlee Hilzendeger

BASEBALL SEASON is underway at Bismarck State College.

This is Joe Mueller's third year as the head baseball coach, but he has been coaching at various levels for 18 years.

He said this season the coaches are looking for their 12 sophomores to bring "leadership and experience" to the team.

"All of our returners, starters and non-starters, had a big role last year and will

expand on those this season," Mueller said.

One of those returners is Kole Bauer. He is one of seven returning starters this year.

This spring, Kole will be playing third base, which is a little different than the shortstop position he played last season.

Bauer said he envisions a bright future for this year's baseball team.

"Seven returning starters and added pieces will help us get to the next level this season," Bauer said.

Mueller said the freshman are expected to play a huge role in the depth of Mystic Baseball this season.

"Jared Walters and Spencer Gillund are both quality infielders who will see time in the infield," Mueller said. "Seth Gilliss and Curtis Stahlecker will provide pitching depth. Tyler Famias is a great



hitter and will DH (designated hitter) quite a bit for us. Trever Leingang has emerged as our number one catcher and has done a great job behind the plate.”

This season, Bauer wants to improve on his hitting compared to last year, but said defense is a key area the team wants to improve on.

“We are looking to build on last season and challenge for a Mon-Dak and Region Championship,” Mueller said. “We will need to grind out at bats, be solid defensively and pitch very well in order for this to happen.”

*(Ashlee Hilzendegeer is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)*

# See Them in Action

Saturday, April 9 - at Dakota County Technical College, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Sunday, April 10 - at Dakota County Technical College, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Saturday, April 16 - at Dakota College at Bottineau, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Sunday, April 17 - at Dakota College at Bottineau, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

**Saturday, April 23 - Williston State College, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.**

**Sunday, April 24 - Williston State College, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.**

Friday, April 29 - at Century College, 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Saturday, April 30 - at Century College, 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

**\*Bold: Home event**

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# Athlete Spotlight:

Story by: Katie Winbauer

## Avery Privratsky

Year: Sophomore

Sport: Softball

Position: Universal Player

Favorite softball player: Jennie Finch

Avery Privratsky is one of the two sophomores on the 2016 Mystic softball roster.

Privratsky started playing when she was in fifth grade and has continued ever since. She said she is happy that BSC has a softball team so she can continue her career.

This season the Mystics have 14 women on the softball roster. Privratsky said she expects "to have fun and play hard."



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# MASTER SWORD REVIEW



## Street Fighter V: Not Yet Complete

Story by: Brett Williamson

THE STREET FIGHTER franchise defined the fighting game genre in 1991, with the release of the critically acclaimed Street Fighter II. The publishing company, Capcom, won hearts around the world with a new spin to the fist-foot gameplay. Adults and children alike would storm the local arcades, to pump the arcade machine full of quarters to showcase their abilities upon one another. This was the renaissance of gaming.

The Street Fighter franchise continued for the next 25 years with a series of sequels and spin-off games. The series mainstays, Ryu, Ken, Zangief and Chun-li, became some of the most recognizable and iconic characters in the gaming industry. Capcom with the Street Fighter series defined the standard of gaming.

In July 2008, Street Fighter IV hit the arcades. With annual updates to the roster every two years, by the end of Street Fighter IV's life cycle, players had the largest Street Fighter game to date. The game gave players 44 unique playable characters, multiple modes of play, continued story, online and ranked play. Following the success of Ultra Street Fighter IV, Capcom decided it was time for a new version.



Capcom released Street Fighter V on Feb. 11 for the PlayStation 4. Upon release, the game offered 16 fighters, a three round story mode, no arcade mode, no challenge mode, buggy servers and a list of DLC. The game was incomplete; an unannounced paid beta.

This release is nothing short of deceiving the longtime fans and robbing wallets of

a hard earned \$60. While the graphics and sounds are great, there is just not a whole lot for gamers to do in the game.

A justification for the state of the release is that the game has shifted gears to a competitive circuit. But if this was the case, why do players spend 20 minutes in an online lobby awaiting fight queues? Why can players quit mid-match to avoid a loss to their record? If this was supposed to be an online competitive game, one would think Capcom would have put more focus on their server optimization and penalizing "rage quitters." The inability to properly launch an acceptable online experience only supports the fact that this game is incomplete.



For the game that practically invented arcade mode, the lack of arcade mode is a slap in the face. In one bad decision, Capcom alienated a large fraction of their fan base. Not all gamers enjoy online modes of play. Many gamers enjoy playing the game alone unlocking achievements at a casual pace. The online environment of Street Fighter V can be toxic at times. For those that can play well, they will most likely spend a few rounds a night being cursed up and down just to have your opponent disconnect in final moments of the match to avoid a loss on their record.

The 16 characters are fairly balanced for a new release. There is no problem with having a fighting game with only 16 characters, but don't announce another five DLC characters before release that require players digging back into their wallets to pay more cash for characters that should have been released with the




game. Capcom claims characters can be purchased with in-game fight money. The details for the in game currency have not been officially released yet, but rest assured, if you want a free character, prepare to grind for those points.



The game itself plays fairly smooth. There is no problem pulling off super moves and classic 2-in-1 combos. The V-system is an interesting new approach to the game engine. The biggest let down of the gameplay is the one super move per character. This makes the gameplay feel limited and predictable when laying out a strategy mid-match.

This game receives an incomplete rating. I am sure, with time, this game will come together with multiple updates and trips back into my wallet. Buyer beware, if you are looking to play a story driven Street Fighter with multiple modes and characters, look somewhere else. If you are new to the series and this game sparks your interest, I suggest Ultra Street Fighter IV. It has more to offer than Street Fighter V with its reasonable price, roster and modes of play.

*(Brett Williamson is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach him at editor@mystician.org)*

	<b>INCOMPLETE GAME</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Smooth Fighting Engine</li> <li>+ Looks Great</li> <li>- No Arcade Mode</li> <li>- No Story Mode</li> <li>- DLC To Complete Game Roster</li> <li>- Rage Quitters Go Unpunished</li> <li>- \$60 Price</li> </ul>	



# John and Kate Take Downtown

Story by: John Bettger and Katie Winbauer

Photos by: Katie Winbauer

As if we needed an excuse to take a trip downtown, this month we decided to do a beer review on four bars in the downtown Bismarck area. At each establishment, we tried at least four beers, typically flavor specific to that bar. Here are our favorites:



## JL Beers



**Favorite Beer:** Founders Mango Magnifico

**Food:** Yes - burgers and sides

**Atmosphere:** Cozy, city-feel

**Ranking:** 2

This was our first stop of the night. We each ordered a flight of four beers after reading through their menu, which describes the taste and alcohol percentage of each beer. To go with the brews, we also ordered burgers and fries, which were delicious. We sat at the bar rail and interacted with the bartenders. This is a great place to start your night.

**Favorite Beer:** Strawberry Wheat

**Food:** Yes - Fireflour Pizza next door

**Atmosphere:** Loud, lively

**Ranking:** 4

This was our second stop of the night. This time, we shared a flight of five beers. The cool thing about Laughing Sun is they brew their own beers on-site. There was a band playing when we got there. Listening to them was fun, but it was hard to have a conversation. After we finished the beers, we were chased out by the noise. This is a great stop if you like craft beers and live music.



## Laughing Sun



# Blarney Stone

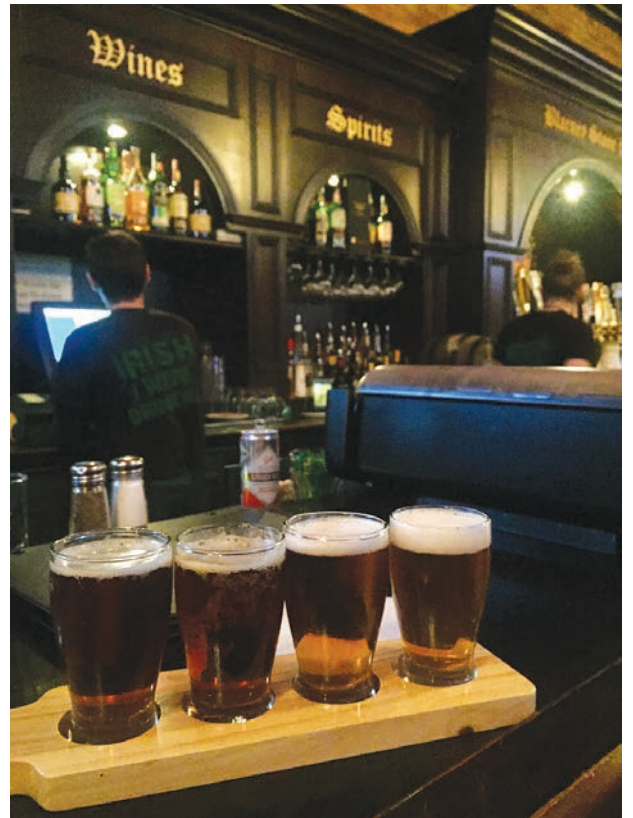
**Favorite Beer:** Guinness Blonde American Ale

**Food:** Yes - Irish dishes

**Atmosphere:** Spacey, authentic pub

**Ranking:** 1

This was our third stop of the night and where the party really got started. We shared a flight of four beers and then each ordered Hard Pear Ciders, which is a Magners Irish Pear Cider beer mixed with Absolute Pear Vodka. And, of course, after we finished all of those drinks, we ordered breakfast shots. Overall, this was our favorite place to go. The food and drink offerings, authentic atmosphere and size makes Blarney Stone the ideal downtown pub.



# Luft

**Favorite Beer:** Ciderboys

**Food:** Yes - appetizers

**Atmosphere:** Open-air, rooftop

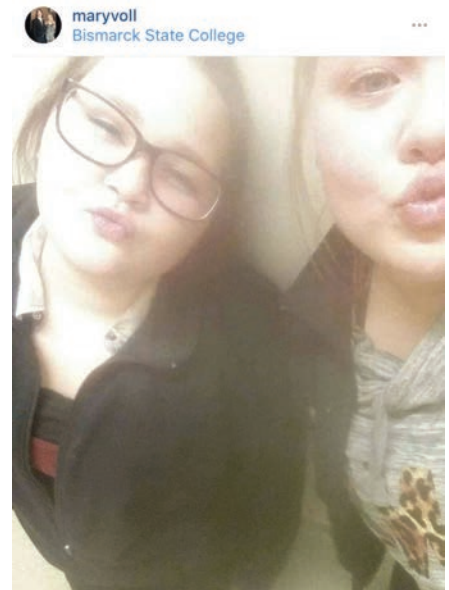
**Ranking:** 3

This was our last stop, but technically our fifth. After we grabbed a couple drinks at 510.2, we walked upstairs to the Luft. We each ordered tall beers and sat at the bar rail. The Luft is different than the typical Bismarck bar. They have plants, outdoor furniture, a retractable rooftop and firepits. Being on the rooftop gives you a unique vantage point of downtown Bismarck. There is a community feel to this bar, and it is a good place to hang out with friends.

\*After leaving the Luft we were picked up by a sober, designated driver. We encourage everyone to call a taxi or friend after drinking alcohol.



# #LetsGetMystical



Want your posts featured in The Mystician? Use #LetsGetMystical on social media and see your posts in the next month's issue!

\*Nothing drug or alcohol related will be tolerated.





# Staff Editorial: The Trump Card

## Contributors:

John Bettger	Meghan McNeil
Jordan Bitz	Anika Rovig
Andrew Dill	Devin Stelter
Michael Kashey	Ashley Thorpe
Alexis Larson	Brett Williamson
Erik Mattheis	Katie Winbauer

Contact Us: [editor@mystician.org](mailto:editor@mystician.org)

## Mission Statement:

The purpose of college media is to serve and give voice to students. We, as the student-based forum of journalism on campus, provide content that is informative, fair and concise. With this goal in mind, this news-magazine is dedicated to accuracy and maintaining ethical practices.

The Bismarck State College Mystician strives to be objective and is not affiliated with any outside organization.

The Mystician upholds the principles guaranteed by the First Amendment and utilizes these rights to bring diverse, entertaining and thought-provoking material to the college community.

## Disclaimer:

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual writer and not necessarily shared by Bismarck State College or The Mystician Staff. We welcome comments and letters from our readers. All letters to the editor must be signed and include contact information.

## Agenda:

We, as the student-based forum of journalism provide information that is important to Bismarck State College's campus. The Mystician Staff strives 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 truth, fact-based opinions and informative sources are important to us as a staff. With these three standards, The Mystician will be well-written, respected and relevant.

*DISCLAIMER: This Staff Editorial is completely satirical in nature and does NOT reflect the actual beliefs or views of The Mystician staff.*

THE 45TH President of the United States of America, Donald J. Trump, has truly revitalized this nation. We are great, once again!

When it comes to national security, Trump has gone above and beyond. He has constructed a 24k gold dome over the entire U.S., which now extends up to the Northwestern Territory ever since we gained control of Canada in 2018.

The large-handed man has singlehandedly led this great country to greatness once again. His success with Trump University has resulted in thousands of degrees nationwide. There is no hunger due to the success of Trump Steaks and women are making sandwiches and living as stay-at-home moms, just how nature intended it to be.

Our grand leader Donald J. Trump is on every form of money. Every building is owned by President Trump. The White House is no longer a pale and drab white, but a vibrant gold and states "Trump" on it in big, beautiful diamond letters.

The only people in this amazing country are white. The wall Trump built around the entire country has

kept everyone out. In fact, not a single illegal has gotten across that wall. Oh, that wall, let's hear it for that wall. It's a beautiful wall, so beautiful.

All of our problems have been solved under our fearless leader, Donald J. Trump. There are no Muslims or Mexicans, there is a 120 percent employment rate and the average life expectancy skyrocketed to 97.33 years! The growth in life expectancy can be attributed to our fantastic Secretary of Health and Human Services, Chris Christie.

Since Donald Trump became president, there is no need for Prozac and Zoloft, as everyone is so happy with their lives. All citizens are required to get a Trump spray tan every two weeks to keep our people looking as beautiful as our great leader.

Donald J. Trump has picked America up out of the gutter and placed it on his gloriously orange, muscular back. Long live the American Dream, God bless America and praise be to President Donald J. Trump!

April fools Bismarck State College!





# Encryption

Story by: Devin Stelter

SO, AS I am sure you all have heard by now, Apple and the Federal Bureau of Investigations were in a heated battle over the right to unlock the iPhone 5C owned by Syed Farook, one of the San Bernardino shooters.

After six weeks of tense deliberation, the Justice Department has dropped the case brought against Apple.

Even though this specific case has ended, the debate over encryption is far from over.

What the FBI would have won in its case against Apple was a virtual backdoor to any and all products from Apple, Samsung, Google and other tech companies.

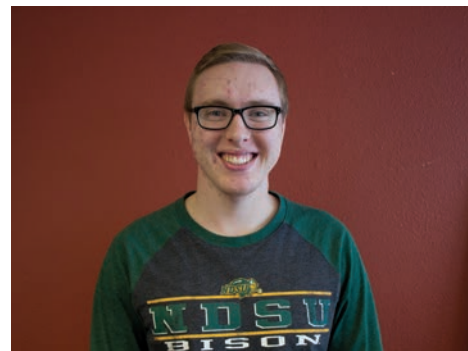
This case could have established a legal precedent that would have allowed the FBI and other governmental organizations to force tech companies

to intentionally weaken their encryption services.

We have all seen the massive power grab that is the Freedom Act (formerly the Patriot Act) and the constitutional violations of the program. The exact same thing could still happen if the FBI pursues other cases similar to the Apple case that are currently in court.

All the government needs is a foot in the door, so to speak, to gain more and more power over American citizens. Just like the passing of the Patriot Act in 2001, this lunge at power is still too new to be able to make a sound judgement on the constitutionality of this act.

Since Edward Snowden released just how intrusive the National Security Agency was and is in our daily lives, I have not been very trustworthy when it comes to issues such as these. We



have a Fourth Amendment for a reason. If the FBI were to gain the right to force tech companies to weaken its devices, the Fourth Amendment might as well disappear altogether.

Personally, I feel that encryption services, as they stand, are doing more to protect American citizens than any policy in the Freedom Act. Unfortunately, it seems to me that companies such as Apple are more interested in securing my information and upholding my Constitutional rights than my own government is.

*(Devin Stelter is the P.O.V. editor for The Mystician. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.)*



## Thoughts Regarding Food I've Eaten

Story and photo by: Jordan Bitz

THERE ARE two things in life I enjoy more than anything else: traveling and eating. In March, I got the opportunity to combine the two. The Mystic Media editorial staff took a trip to New York City for a college media conference. New York is my favorite city to visit. It's a beautiful, lively city with numerous options for food.

My favorite place to visit is the 810 Deli, located at 810 Seventh Ave. in Midtown Manhattan.

It's a nice, small, cozy place to sit with a few friends and enjoy a sandwich or a slice of cheesecake.

Whenever I visit, I prefer to order a New York favorite, the Reuben. I've written

about this sandwich in years past but now that I have my own column, I'm going to go in depth. The sandwich, for those who aren't familiar with it, consists of corned beef, sauerkraut, Swiss cheese with Thousand Island dressing on freshly toasted rye bread. The sandwich is served with a pickle spear and coleslaw.

The Reuben melts in your mouth upon the first bite, unleashing an explosion of pure unadulterated flavorful goodness. The sandwich is big, but it fits in your hands and your mouth just right. The meat is cooked and seasoned to perfection. The gooey, melted cheese along with the sauce provides a nice glue and the sauerkraut provides the much needed tang.

I've tried numerous times to recreate this New York City delicacy, but I just can't

do it. Numerous restaurants have also tried, but I have yet to eat a Reuben that can rival the 810 Deli's. If you ever make it to New York, make sure you get there. The atmosphere is very relaxed and you will always be greeted with a smiling face. If I lived in New York, this place would definitely be a regular hangout for me.

*(Jordan Bitz is the director of The MYX. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.)*





# Point of View

## Your Vote Doesn't Matter

Story by: Michael Kashey

WITH PRESIDENT Obama's second term coming to an end, Americans are constantly bombarded with political ads. It seems one only needs to open their eyes and there's Donald Trump calling someone stupid or Bernie Sanders promising free education or Vermin Supreme pushing for mandatory tooth brushing laws. Teachers, pastors, police officers, politicians and everyone else imaginable are telling Americans to "do their civic duty and vote." And voters eat it all up. But in reality, a vote means very little – almost nothing.

If the average American was asked how presidents were elected he or she would most likely answer with "voters." In reality, presidents are voted on by a group called the Electoral College. The Electoral College and its functions seem to have little understanding among American voters. According to a 2011 study by Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI), 20 percent of those surveyed believed the Electoral College "trains those aspiring for higher office" and 43 percent were unaware the Electoral College casts votes for the President. Despite the average American's ignorance, these are the people saying "go forth and vote." In order to understand why a vote means very little, the Electoral College needs to be explained.

First, the Electoral College is a process and not a place. There is no secret room in Washington where elite businessmen and politicians meet and cast votes. Rather, the electors are a list of individuals pledged to a certain candidate from each of the political parties. Each state is granted a certain number of electors based on population. Electors are then chosen by the state's chief election official. After selection, electors wait for election night. Once the state's votes are tallied, electors vote. That being said, electors are not obligated to vote in line with the majority.

Prior to the 2012 election, nine of the previous 16 elections contained "faithless electors" (votes cast to a candidate not carrying that particular state). In fact, in 2004, an elector from Minnesota cast a vote for President to "John Ewards." Not only was this a miscast vote to John Edwards, who wasn't even running for President, it was a misspelling for someone who wasn't even a candidate. The write-in process of the Electoral College is so disconnected from the actual election, non-existent candidates can receive votes.

Out of the 50 states, 21 states do not require an elector to vote for its pledged candidate. The other 29 states and



Washington, D.C. do have laws against faithless electors. However, there has never been prosecution against them.

Because of this process, it is possible for a candidate to win the majority of votes, yet lose the election. Most recently, this happened in 2000 when George W. Bush lost by 543,816 votes to Al Gore. However, because Bush secured certain districts in Florida, he was able to take the whole state and, ultimately, the presidency.

The 2000 election was not the first time this happened. In total, four American presidents have lost the popular vote but won the presidency. George W. Bush, Benjamin Harrison, Rutherford B. Hayes and John Quincy Adams all lost the popular vote yet found themselves in the White House.

So the next time someone tells you every vote counts, just remember ... John Ewards.

*(Michael Kashey is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.)*





**In the photo:**  
Bismarck State College student Katie Winbauer, along with North Dakota Newspaper Association Executive Director Steve Andrist and the NDNA President Sara Plum, interviewed Senator John Hoeven in his Washington, D.C. office in March.

# April 12 - May 6 Calendar

April 12

-College Concert @ 7:30 p.m., Sidney J. Lee Auditorium

-Women's softball vs. North Dakota State College of Science @ 3 - 5 p.m., MDU Resources Community Bowl

April 13

-Women's softball vs. North Dakota State College of Science @ 3 - 5 p.m., MDU Resources Community Bowl

-ArtsQuest - Steve Lillegard @ 4 - 6 p.m., Schafer Hall lobby

April 15

-Choral Concert @ 7:30 p.m., NECE Bavendick Stateroom

April 17

-Men's Baseball vs. Dakota College at Bottineau @ 1 and 3 p.m., Shiloh Christian School Dwyer Field

-Women's Softball vs. Dakota College at Bottineau @ 1 and 3 p.m., MDU Resources Community Bowl

April 18

-ArtsQuest - Jim Bonney with BSC Wind Ensemble @ 7:30 p.m., Sidney J. Lee Auditorium.

April 20

-BSC Student Recognition Ceremony @ 7 p.m., NECE Bavendick Stateroom

April 20

-ArtsQuest - Michael Uslan, 'Batman' film producer @ 7:30 p.m., NECE Bavendick Stateroom

April 22

-Fall 2016 Current Student Registration ends

April 24

-Student Recitals @ 3 p.m., in Sidney J. Lee Auditorium

Men's Baseball vs. Williston State College @ 1 and 3 p.m., Shiloh Christian School, Dwyer Field

Women's Softball vs. Williston State College @ 1 and 3 p.m., MDU Resources Community Bowl

April 25

-ArtsQuest - 'The Walk Across North Dakota' co-authors @ 4:30 and 6:30 p.m., LEA Hall first floor.

April 28

-Student art exhibition reception 4 - 7 p.m., LEA Hall Gannon Gallery

April 29

-Jazz Ensemble Concert @ 7:30 p.m., Sidney J. Lee Auditorium.

May 1

-Community Raku Firing @ 1 - 5 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday, west of LEA Hall

May 2

-Graphic Design Student Show @ 6 a.m. - 10 p.m., Student Union

May 3

-Music Juries @ 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Leach Music Center 177

May 4

-Festival of Short Plays @ 3:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sidney J. Lee Auditorium

-Graphic Design Sophomore Portfolio Show @ 10 a.m. - noon, Student Union Prairie Room

-ArtsQuest Campus Arts Crawl - Graphic Design sophomore portfolio exhibition @ 10 a.m. - noon, Student Union Prairie Room

-Tie-dye activity @ 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Circle Courtyard by LEA Hall

-Chemistry in Art display, sun print activity @ 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., LEA Hall 221

-Student art sale @ 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., LEA Hall second floor hallway

-Free lunch @ 11:30 a.m., Student Union outdoor patio

-Alumni association activity, bubbles/ bubble wands @ 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Circle Courtyard by LEA Hall

-Readings from Figments of Imagination literary journal @ noon - 1 p.m., LEA Hall first floor

May 5

-Music Juries @ 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Leach Music Center 177

May 6

-Mystic Media Mayhem @ 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Armory parking lot