THE Mystician
[NEWS] PAPER
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Micah McAfee | Reporter

Just Hanging Around - Nick Knuf poses mid-climb on the rock wall in the Bavendick Center.

New Activites for Students at the Bavendick Center

Rock Climbing Wall

Natalie Lawrence
Reporter

The new rock climbing wall in Bismarck State College's Bavendick Center is giving students a place to stay active, try something new, and connect between classes.

Following a soft opening, the wall is available Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Solli Frank, BSC's assistant facility manager, oversees the space and trains students to use the equipment.

"We were very dedicated to making sure we created a great space for our students to have someplace to go," Frank said.

Staff members and a small group of students began using the wall in April with training assistance from a consultant. Progress slowed over the summer before the soft opening brought more students into the space.

Frank is now focused on building awareness, especially as winter approaches and opportunities for outdoor activities become more limited.

Before climbing, students must complete a waiver accessible through a QR code. Harnesses and climbing shoes are provided, and Frank guides participants through fitting their equipment, clipping in and using the wall.

For beginners, the first lesson is not reaching the top. It is learning to let go.

"Everybody thinks it's climbing up," Frank said. "It's just once you get

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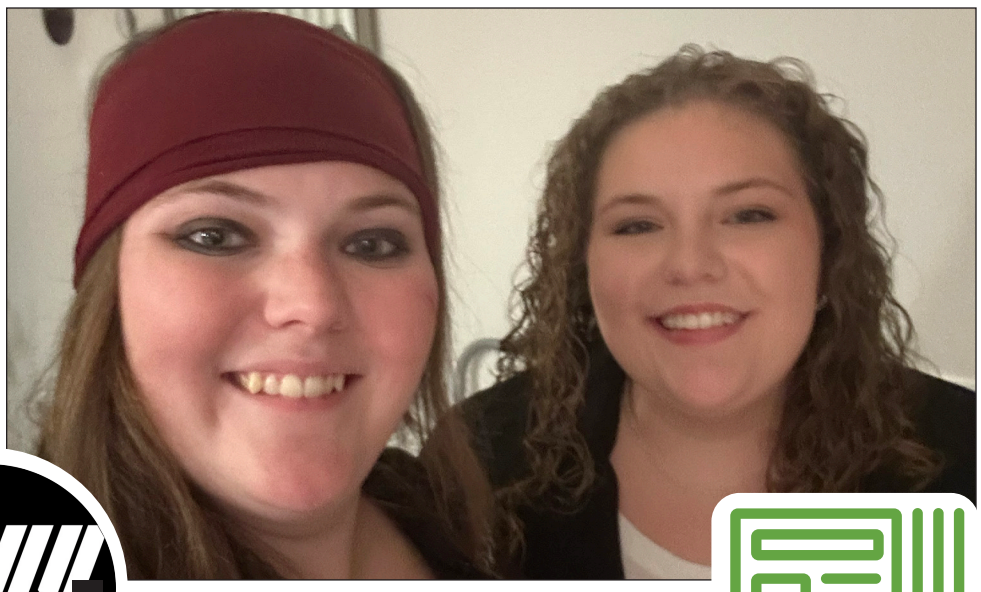
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MYSTICMEDIA
BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE STUDENT PRODUCTIONS

MYSTIC MEDIA SHENANIGANS









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MystiCast
Check us out at BSCMystiCast

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MYSTIC MEDIA MISSION STATEMENT AND DISCLAIMER

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

CRU Fall Retreat Brings College Students Together

Maren Gaebe
Reporter

From Oct. 16-18, 36 students from Bismarck State College's CRU gathered at Crystal Springs Camp in Medina, North Dakota, for the 2026 CRU Northern Plains Fall Retreat. CRU is a Christian campus organization focused on helping students grow in their faith and build community.

Students from seven other campuses attended, including Valley City State University, the University of Jamestown, Minot State University, Williston State College, Lake Region State College, University of Mary, and Dickinson State University. Students and their CRU leaders arrived Friday evening for a weekend of worship, fellowship, and learning. With students attending from eight campuses, the retreat gave college students a chance to meet new people, build friendships, and connect with others who share their faith.

Throughout the weekend, students participated in worship, seminars, prayer encounters, and separate men's and women's sessions. The retreat included main sessions led by Pete Youlden, who has served on CRU staff for 33 years, as well as talks about summer mission opportunities. The sessions gave students time to reflect on their faith and learn from others.

Students also had time to relax and connect through team games, meals, and a barn dance. During daily free time, they could choose from activities such as basketball, pickleball, volleyball, karaoke, making s'mores around the bonfire, playing board games, riding the zip line, or napping.

The retreat gave students a chance to step away from their busy college schedules and spend a weekend connecting with others through faith, worship, and fun activities. It brought together students from across the region for a weekend of fellowship and community.



Submitted by Maren Gaebe

Group Pic - Students pose for a photo at Crystal Springs Camp in Medina, North Dakota.

Ask a Librarian

Kelsey Riggs
Reference & Instructional Librarian

Q: How do I do a research paper?

A: Research Papers can be a lot, especially if you have never had to do one before. Follow these steps to help make the endeavor just a little less daunting:

1. Focus of your paper. What is the topic, audience, and purpose of your paper?
2. Keywords. List some word options to search in the databases. For example, if you are doing a paper on the importance of A.I. in the medical field, try using the different iterations of those words like AI, Artificial Intelligence, machine learning, medicine, health care, and healthcare.
3. Sources. Determine what in your paper needs a source or needs to be backed up. For example, ideas, theories, argument support, statistics, historical facts, and information that you had to look up.
4. Databases. Use the 100+ databases available in the A-Z database list to find the sources you need. Make sure to use the CRAAP test (Currency. Relevance. Authority. Accuracy. Purpose.) to determine if it is a good source.
5. Write. Once you have all of your information assembled, write it out. Write out all of your thoughts for the paper without editing. Once you are finished, then go back and organize your information into the proper formatting as assigned by your professors. Insert quotes and citations as necessary.

For more information, check out the Beginning Your Research How-To Guide or contact me at Kelsey.riggs@bismarckstate.edu.

Q: How do I return overdue books? Do I owe anything?

A: If you have received a notice that your books are overdue, don't panic. We do not charge fines for overdue books. We do, however, charge for books that we never get back. This means, as long as the book is returned, we won't charge you for it.

To return a book, you can do any of the following:

- Hand the book to library staff. Anyone at the main library desk can take your book and check it in right then and there.
- Use the book drops. Two large silver book drops are located outside of Larry C. Skogen Hall – one near each entrance to the building. The book drops can be easily identified by the library reader logos.

If you have any questions about this process, contact Laura Kalvoda at laura.kalvoda@bismarckstate.edu.



Kelsey Riggs | Reference & Instructional Librarian

Easy Book Drop - One of two Book Drop Boxes avalible for students to use located at the entrances of Larry C. Skogen Hall.

EHD Affects Deer Hunting in North Dakota

Gavin Burckhard
Reporter

Hemorrhagic disease is taking over the deer around North Dakota at a rapid rate. Being prominent around the 1970s, white-tailed deer along with other deer species began to be infected in the North Dakota region.

The disease causes the deer to get dehydrated and show physical signs such as swelling around the head and tongue and is caused by a midge. The disease is not transmissable to humans.

According to an article from The Journal of Wildlife Management, around 2000 deer had died during an outbreak in the 1970s. This was the start of what would still be prominent to this day. Gladly, the disease isn't as bad as it was then.

Some hunters might be worried about the deer if they shoot one that is ill. Logan Weyand, a Wildlife Veterinarian for the North Dakota Game and Fish, shared some information about the disease.

"Hunters don't need to worry about consuming the meat from an ill deer," Weyand said. "The disease does not affect the meat and is safe to eat."

He also gave tips to look out for when an ill deer is spotted dead or alive.

- Fever/high body heat: Deer will be looking for and roaming around bodies of water.
- Weakness: Being unsteady, lowered head from distress, also losing the fear of humans.
- Swelling: Swelling anywhere on the head or neck, even the tongue.
- Bleeding: Bleeding from the nose or mouth.
- Loss of appetite: No or low interest in water or food
- Respiratory: Difficulty breathing

If one is spotted dead, go to the Game and Fish website, then go to Wildlife Health Incident Report and fill out the form. The form is easy and self explanatory to fill out.

There is no cure for the disease. Weyand said there are only minor treatments to treat the symptoms of the deer.

With only nine hunting units in North Dakota with confirmed cases starting from early August to now, the disease is slowing down. North Dakota has cold hunting seasons for the midges that can't survive in the cold temperatures. This allows the hunters of North Dakota to be more successful in their hunt.



Illustation by Kayla & Kerstin Hilzendeger

UTTC Student Exhibit Coming to BSC

Elena Sanchez
Reporter

From Nov. 16 to Dec. 11, there will be a new art exhibit in Bismarck State College's Gannon Gallery. The gallery will be in collaboration with United Tribes Technical Center. The exhibit will feature a variety of artwork made by art students at UTTC to showcase their art, experiences, and collective pieces. On Nov. 18, there will be an artist reception held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. where attendees get the chance to meet and talk with the artists. Students are encouraged to attend the event.

The exhibit comes from the National Endowments of the Arts Big Read initiative to bring communities together. The focus of the Big Read initiative is indigenous culture, art, and history and BSC will be holding several events connected to the main focus. The UTTC student exhibit event is one of many events within the initiative.



One Shot - Rolanda Wilson raises her bow at the Summit Arena in Rapid City, South Dakota.



Synchronized - Women's Contemporary Jingle enter "Who Runs The Hills."



Little Big Horn - Men's Traditional celebrates 150 years since the battle.



Showdown - Tanksi Clairmont represents Fancy Shawl in the final four against Men's Traditional.

Black Hills Powwow He Sapa Wacipi

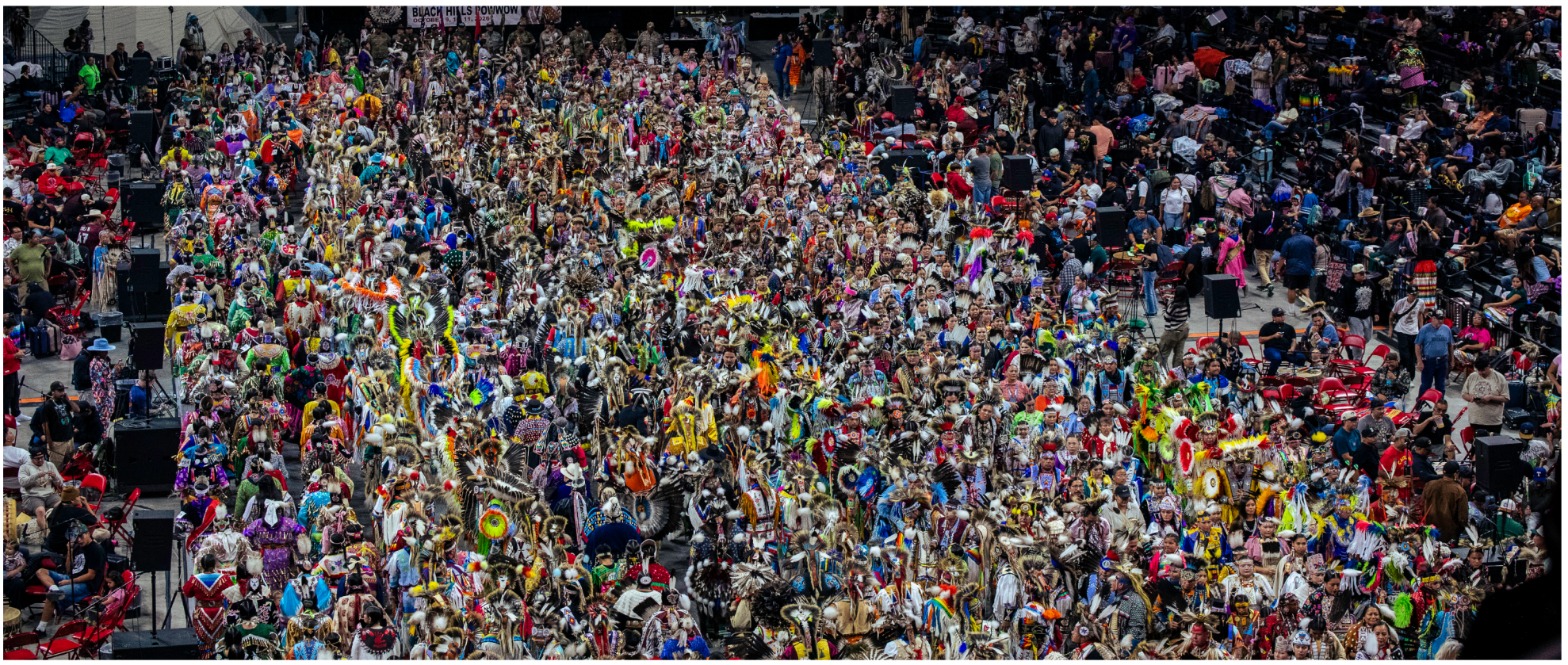
Clayton Sicble-Fox
Photographer

Black Hills Powow returned to Rapid City, S.D. for their 38th annual event, and it was the biggest year yet. On Saturday evening, the Summit Arena hit capacity, and they had to stop selling tickets to spectators. The Powwow is known for its "Who Run These Hills" Grand Entry. A Grand Entry happens at the beginning of each session, and dancers from all the categories dance into the arena. During this grand entry all the adults entered with their category and did a routine performance. Afterwards, they take the top four favorite teams and have them dance off until they reach a winner that is voted for by the crowd.

This year, the final four came down to Men's Tradition, Men's Fancy, Women's Old-Style Jingle, and Women's Fancy Shawl. After an intense showdown, Women's Old-Style Jingle and Women's Fancy Shawl were left standing. Finally, Women's Fancy Shawl emerged victorious, chosen by the crowd.

At larger powwows, they have specialty categories or categories that are performed in different areas of the country. Black Hills had 14 different categories. The ones that aren't commonly performed in North Dakota are Women and Men Southern Style, Men's Woodland, and Women's Applique. Women and Men Southern Style originated form the sourthern plains around the Oklahoma area. Men's Woodland originates from the Great Lakes Region, and Women's Applique is a broader term for a similar dance style that spans across many tribes.

Next year, the Black Hills Powwow will return Oct. 8-10, 2027 for their 39th annual event. Mark the date, and remember everyone is welcome.



Friday Night Grand Entry - The dancers from every category entered together at Black Hills Powwow in Rapid City, South Dakota.



Warriors Eyes - Men's Traditional Dancer Eric Wilson during Friday's Grand Entry.



Buckskin - Candelinn Toehay-Tartsah's fringe flows during contest.



Tunnel Vision - Trae Little Sky looks into the crowd during contest at Black Hills.



Matching Set - Gerts Foolish Bear-Tamayo a Northern Traditional dancer shares a beadwork design with her husband.

All Photos by Clayton Sicble-Fox | Photographer

Editorial

OUR VOICE

Letter from the Editor



Liberty Friez
Editor

8 is a Victorian Man

This has been the most difficult letter to write so far. I went through a handful of conversations and topics like funding, red flags, naked trees, and Christmas before coming up with the perfect one.

A common debate that happens in the office is what color is associated with days of the weeks, months, letters, and subjects. I say Monday is red while Mygel says Monday is blue. Safe to say, he is wrong. But we all agree that November is orange and science is green.

The topic usually evolves into what type of job the numbers would have. 8 is a Victorian snake oil pedaler with children littered throughout the country but no one seems to agree with my consensus. Apparently, 8 has a "womans figure" and is a woman. Nah, 8 is shifty.

The fact that I see a number and immediately come up with a color and backstory is strange. Stranger still that everyone seems to do the same and comes to similar conclusions. Brains are both weird and extraordinary. Too bad they don't seem to be working at full capacity for some.

Crochet update: I have finished four sweaters in the month of October and am still working on my quilt blanket. I have dozens of little squares now and still need to sew them together.

Campus Convict

Got Problems? Zach Has Time. Roommate driving you crazy? Relationship hitting a wall? Get some real perspective. Scan the QR code or visit our Instagram @bscmysticmedia to submit your questions to The Mystician's newest advice column. Hosted by Zach Schmidkunz, who writes directly from inside prison after serving a lengthy sentence, this column offers a heavy dose of reality with zero judgment. You bring the campus drama; he'll bring the survival strategy.

Happy Thanksgiving: Finding Real Gratitude in the Turkey Loaf and Top Ramen



Zach Schmidkunz
Reporter

As an incarcerated individual, there is nothing I'd love more than to lecture people on how to be thankful during Thanksgiving this year. In case you missed it, that was a little dose of sarcasm. I'm often asked what I do to celebrate major holidays while in prison. So, here's the inside scoop for you.

While you're busy worrying if you got the right kind of wine for the big meal, or making sure there aren't any stems in the cranberry sauce. I'm a bit more concerned with making sure my milk carton doesn't have chunks floating in it or that nobody spit in my juice when I wasn't looking.

For me, the day looks like most others. Fortunately, I am blessed with a family who has supported me all 23 years of my incarceration. That has always included a Thanksgiving visit whether I was in the mood for one or not. The rest of the day is filled with holiday football games on TV, maybe a little more snacking than usual, and if it's quiet enough, a nap or two. The evening meal is when they typically serve Thanksgiving food. During the first several years of my stay, the trays were literally overflowing. It felt like an actual holiday feast. Some years the olive tray was so massive that we lined our pockets with plastic bags to sneak olives back to throw on our frozen pizzas. Now, due to high numbers and lower budgets, a lot of the food is a lot more fake. And no olives.

Some years the food has been so disappointing looking that I've just set my tray down on the table for somebody else to enjoy. Most years I just end up purchasing and cooking my own Thanksgiving spread.

But whether I am staring down a fake-turkey-filled tray or a bowl of Top Ramen, this forced reflection has pushed me to look past the sometimes abysmal food and look closer at my life. After 23 years of seeing my family show up to a prison visiting room, whether I was in the mood or not, I've learned that true thankfulness isn't tied to a traditional dinner table.

There is a lot in our lives that we could all complain about, and trust me, I've had my days. But keep this in mind: Perspective is everything. While you're complaining about your wine and cranberries, and I'm complaining about my funky turkey, there are all kinds of people that won't get any of that and would do anything to be in our positions.

This Thanksgiving, I challenge us all to be a little more in tune with the things in our lives we are actually grateful for. When you go around the dinner table asking everybody what they are thankful for, maybe the generic go-to response of "family" just isn't enough anymore. Most people, including myself pre-incarceration, have taken that word for granted at one point in our lives.

Pleased to Meet You

Kylie Quandt
Reporter

Gunnar Snowden and Brody Fowler



Year at BSC: Freshman

Degree: Linemen

Q: If you could choose one song to play every time you walk into a room, what song would you choose and why?

Gunnar: "Break Stuff" by Limp Bizkit

Brody: "So Far Away" by Avenged Sevenfold

Q: From your perspective, what is the best part about BSC?

Gunnar: The community feels like a family.

Brody: The community and the Chick-fil-A discount.

Q: If there was a movie made about your life, who would play you and what genre would it be?

Gunnar: Tom Cruise in a romance

Brody: Shawn Michaels in a horror movie

Q: If you had to explain your degree to a five-year-old, what would you say?

Both: We climb poles

Q: If you could be in any TV show, which would you choose and why?

Gunnar: "Sopranos" because I can be in the Mafia.

Brody: "Power and Ice" because it is about Linemen.

Q: Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Both: Be hardworking men done with our apprenticeship

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As a bonus, you'll have access to special opportunities and the chance to win prizes or a shout-out in the newspaper through Campus Opinion, Campus Convict, and Photo Contests

Frats are a Fat Red Flag



Mygel Porter
Social Media Manager

I have thought long and hard about this, and I've continuously come to the same conclusion. Frats are a scam. I have talked to people who support frats, and I've gotten the same two reasons for why frats are worth it, friends and networking. Which in my opinion are the weakest arguments ever as you have to pay to be a part of this.

The argument that you make lifelong friends in a frat falls really flat once you acknowledge that you can make friends by simply going outside. College is one of the easiest places to make friends. A good percentage of people there are new and even returning students are never opposed to making friends. You can easily make friends in classes, joining a club, doing intramural sports, going to different events on campus, or going to sporting events. There are many better ways to make college friends than paying for them.

As for the networking aspect, I won't necessarily say joining a frat is a bad way to network, but there are other ways. Getting help and referrals from teachers, doing internships, an attending college career fairs are a great ways to network better. I do understand in some situations there might be someone in the frat that can pull some strings for you to get you somewhere you want to be. Which brings me to my next point.

Having all your eggs in one basket is a horrible idea. Having one community in which are all your college friends and your only networking possibilities is the worst thing you can do. If something happens in the frat, you lose your only friends and your only way to network, all while having paid for it.

Paying for it is another thing that I simply cannot get over. Most of the time, frats are about the same if not more than tuition at the school. I still couldn't get behind frats if it was free or even cheaper to join, but paying thousands of dollars to seem special is really lame to me.

Attendence Requirements Add Pressure to College Students



Madelyn Gefroh
Reporter

Imagine losing points in a college class simply because you missed a day, even though you completed all the assignments and understood the material.

College is supposed to prepare students for the real world, but should students lose points for missing class? Attendance is important, but should it automatically determine a student's grade? College students are adults who should be responsible for their own education, including deciding when they need to attend class. Missing a class does not mean a student is not learning or keeping up with their work.

One reason attendance should not be graded is that students have responsibilities outside the classroom. Many college students work, participate in sports, or deal with personal situations that can make attending every class difficult. Some students may also get sick and need to stay home. Losing points for missing class can make an already stressful situation worse.

College students have different opinions on whether attendance should count towards their grades. Some believe students should be responsible for their own decisions, while others think attending class is an important part of learning. Of the students I interviewed, all said they believe attendance is important but should not count toward their grade. They said that just because students aren't always in class doesn't mean they aren't trying to learn. Students may have other responsibilities outside of school, such as working a job, attending sports practices or games, or dealing with personal matters. These responsibilities can sometimes make it difficult to attend every class, even when students are still putting effort into their education.

Another reason attendance should not be graded is that being physically present does not always mean a student is learning. A student can sit through an entire lecture without paying attention, while another student who misses class may study the material independently and understand it just as well. Grades should reflect what students learn and how well they understand the material, not whether they sit in a classroom.

Ultimately, college students should be treated like adults. Professors can encourage attendance by making class engaging and providing useful information rather than using points to force students to show up. Students should be graded on their knowledge, effort, and understanding of the course material. College is about learning, and attendance alone should not determine how successful a student is.

Full-Time Student Works Multiple Jobs



Emma Smithers
Reporter

I have been working at least two jobs for two and a half years now, as well as being a full-time college student, so I am pretty familiar with how difficult it can be to find a balance between work and school. This semester alone, I am taking seven classes while working at three different places, and it hasn't been easy. It seems like there's always something else I need to be doing.

That being said, these are my personal tips for how to survive being both a student and an employee, whether you only work one job or (if you're crazy like me) three.

Create a system, and find out what works for you. Some people like to stack their work days and have more days off, and others like to have shorter work days but less days off. Try out a few different schedules, and find out what works best for you so you can get to work and still get your homework done.

Make sure all of your jobs know that you work multiple jobs. Make sure they're aware that your schedule may not be as flexible as other people's. This also makes it easy to coordinate your schedule, because your managers will know that having a day off from their job does not mean you have the day off entirely. It also makes it easy to rebuild your schedule each time a new semester starts. Communication is key.

Make time for the things you enjoy. As much as you're able to, make time for your hobbies and friends. You'll burn out more quickly if you aren't making time in your schedule outside of school and work. There has to be a balance between working hard and relaxing. Even if it truly feels like you have no extra time in your schedule, trust me — you don't want to end up so burned out that you can't show up to work, anyways.

Talk to your professors. More often than not, my professors have been very supportive of me, and have been flexible with certain deadlines. You can't know if you don't ask. Even if they can't give you an extension on that particular deadline, they may still be more flexible in the future knowing that you're so busy.

Have a calendar of some kind. Whether you use a paper calendar, or something digital, I've found that the more organized I can stay, the less stress I feel when a new week starts. If you keep all of your work schedules and due dates in one place, it will be easier to prepare yourself for the coming week and stay on top of deadlines and due dates.

Working while attending college full time can be a challenge, but with careful management and not enough sleep, it is doable. Just make sure that you don't lose the things that are important to you.

Seeing Your Favorite Artist Shouldn't Be This Hard



Gracie Heinert
Reporter

Going to a concert is something a lot of people look forward to. There's nothing like waiting months to go see your favorite artist in person. Counting down the days, picking out the perfect outfit, memorizing every lyric. Then the day tickets go on sale finally arrives. You get online early, wait in a virtual queue for hours on end and hope you make it to the front of the line before sell out. Then after waiting all that time, you might not even get a ticket or make it to the front of the line. If you do, the price might be way more than you planned on spending on the entire weekend.

Getting concert tickets has become stressful enough without having to worry about scammers and resellers too. When tickets sell out a lot of people will look on resale websites. On these websites tickets can cost up to double of the original ticket price. If you do manage to get a ticket through the reseller you run the risk of the ticket being fake.

Even if you get a ticket for the original price, it can still be very expensive. I have wanted to go to so many concerts then I finally get to the front of the line and the cheapest ticket is hundreds of dollars and it's not even a good seat.

According to Pollstar, the average ticket price for the world's top 100 touring artists increased from $106.07 in 2022 to $135.92 in 2024. That is about a 28% increase in just two years.

I understand concerts cost a lot of money to put on. You're paying to see a top artist perform and the demand is high. But there has to be a better way to sell tickets. Ticket companies need to do more to prevent scams, and keep the buying process fair for actual fans. I shouldn't have to be waiting in line behind bots who are going to buy the ticket and resell it for double.

Concerts should be about having fun and making memories. Instead, the stress about getting the ticket starts months before the actual concert. I think fans deserve a fair chance at getting tickets without having to wait hours or worrying about spending too much money. Seeing your favorite artist live should be something to be excited about, not something that feels impossible.

Staff Opinion

What supernatural creature would you want to be?



Elena Sanchez
Reporter

Shadows To Life

If I were to be any supernatural creature, there would be two I would choose between: a mimic or a shadow succubus. Mimics are kind of like shapeshifters and can turn into any creature or person, however they will have something off about them that will make them noticeable. For shadow succubus, I am thinking of Evelynn from "League of Legends." She shape shifts to make herself the most appealing to her victims. On a technicality, she's a demon succubus. Regardless, both choices leave me able to hide myself and appear to others to what I want them to see.



Pete DeMille
Reporter

Flames and Planes

I would be a nightmare if I could be any fantasy creature. It is a horse that has fire for a mane and tail with glowing red eyes. I would really like the ability to travel to different planes of existence. Plus I'd look like fire every time I walk into a room. Cue epic villain music.



Mygel Porter
Social Media Manager

Living Life on Easy Mode

When people think of supernatural creatures they often think of things like ghosts, werewolves, and vampires, which are all cool, but severely mess with your everyday life. I had to stop and think a little bit outside the box for this one, and I settled on sorcerer. Opposed to wizards who have to be extremely smart and dedicated in practicing, sorcerers are born with their powers. This is a huge plus for me as many of you might know, I'm lazy. Being born with powers and it not affecting my everyday life negatively is awesome. I could make my life so much easier with spells and magic, while still being able to live normally whenever I want to. If my secret does get out that I have powers and it becomes a bad thing I'm sure I can conjure up some spell to deal with that. Being a sorcerer is just so versatile.



Benjamin Wolff
Reporter

Evil Fairy

If I were to be any supernatural creature, I would be an evil fairy. I would scare people all day long and terrorize everybody. I'd be so cute and petite with my black wings and so tiny I'd buzz around peoples heads like a fly to annoy them. I would be able to do magical things with my wand like sprinkling pixie dust on people and turn them into a pig like Circe does.



Micah McAfee
Reporter

Dwarf-aganda

What mythical or fantastical creature would I want to be? I won't lie to you, I have been corrupted by dwarven propaganda. Years now have passed since I was first afflicted, and it hasn't improved. What I'm saying is I would want to be a dwarf. Getting to run around with massive and dangerous weapons. Delving more greedily and deeply than I should. Hangin' with my fellow dwarves as we appreciate our grand halls and expert craftsmanship. Yeah, sounds like the life to me. Oh, I should also mention that "if you don't rock and stone, you ain't comin' home."



Kerstin Hilzendeger
Layout Editor

Siren Song

If I could be any supernatural creature, I would want to be a siren. I have a couple different reasons for this, the first being that I really love the water. River, lake, ocean, doesn't matter; I honestly swear I was a fish in my past life with how much I love the water. My next reason for wanting to be a siren would be because I really love music. So it seems like an automatic choice to want to be a siren. The final, and most prominent reason, I would want to be a siren would be because it would be fun to mess with people, even if that means leading them to their own watery demise.

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

Want to Share Your Thoughts

We want to know what your opinions are on our Staff Opinion Questions! How do you Respond? It's simple!
Scan the QR code. This will direct you to the Editor-in-Chief's email address. Send your "Staff Opinion Response" submission. Make sure to include your first and last name. Also, remember to title the email "Staff Opinion Response".



Kayla Hilzendeger
Graphic/Web Designer

It's Faerie not Fairy

I was able to be any supernatural creature I would have to be a Faerie. I'm not talking about "Tinker Bell" kind of Fairies, I'm talking about "The Cruel Prince" kind of Faeries. If you've never read "The Cruel Prince" here is my advice to you... go read it right now.

This book was one of the best I have ever read and it has changed the genre of books that I like to read, from dystopian to fantasy. Contrary to popular belief this book is not a romance novel, while it does have hints of the enemies-to-lovers trope, it is not a romance novel. What I loved most about the book was the world building and the politics.

I would want to be a faerie like the creature reflected in the novel. They are so ethereal and lovely (most of them), they are tricky and clever in the best (sometimes worst) ways, and they wear the most beautiful and extravagant dresses, it would be like a dream.

Plus, I would get to glamour leaves into money, to mess with people!



Liberty Friez
Editor

Holds Up Gun Give Me Your All Acorns

I would be a faerie. Maybe it's a little materialistic of me but I want the skirts of flower petals, dresses of pure sapphire, butterfly wings dangling from my ears, golden embroidery woven through my clothing that give me some magical benefit like charm or wealth. And I want pointy ears.

Faeries are quite tricky, and I would like to engage in some of the tricks they play, like turning acorns into money. Maybe I could afford a house. I wouldn't stoop so low to replace human babies with changelings or seduce two siblings at the same time only to reveal it to be a game, but I could find myself becoming an acorn millionaire.



Natalie Lawrence
Reporter

The Perfect Scenario

If I could be any supernatural creature, I'd be a High Fae from Sarah J. Maas's book series "A Court of Thorns and Roses" because, who wouldn't want magic, eternal youth, fast healing powers, and the chance at having a mate. I'd love to find out what powers I had and see what court I'd fit into. Plus, being stronger, faster, and able to live for hundreds of years would be pretty cool. I'd have so much time to travel, try new things, and explore places that don't exist in our world.

The friendships and found family are also a huge reason I'd choose to be High Fae. Having people with so much power would make me feel so safe and even more indestructible. I would also hope I'd have a chance at being mated to a High Lord. Specifically a High Lord who is nice and has the most powers of anyone in the world. I'd just hope I could enjoy the fun parts without constantly having to save the world.

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New Activites for Students at the Bavendick Center

Students take Advantage of New Hangout Spot

Cont. 1

up there, letting go."

Frank said the wall reaches about 30 feet, but new climbers start by going partway up and practicing their descent before moving higher.

Returning students may also be asked to demonstrate what they remember or review steps they previously found difficult. Even confident climbers sometimes hesitate to trust the system that lowers them to the ground.



Micah McAfee | Reporter

Climb Again Soon - Two friends just hangin' out and putting the new rock wall to great use

Frank recalled one student who climbed without difficulty but spent about 20 minutes on the wall struggling to release their grip. As students grow more comfortable, Frank has seen them help others do the same.

Regular climbers make room for newcomers, offer guidance and step aside so beginners can try easier routes.

"What I've really loved about kids that are coming right now is like if somebody new is coming in, the students make room for them and teach them," Frank said. "They've been very welcoming of it."

The activity has also helped turn the surrounding area into a gathering place. Students study nearby, and athletes stop to talk between practices. The neighboring Alpine Shack provides another reason to stay, though its availability depends on staffing.



Micah McAfee | Reporter

No Strings Attached - Eligible rockwall seeking climbers. Is looking for short term relatioships only from 11-3 Monday-Thursdays.

"Greater student interest could help support extended hours or a climbing club," Frank said.

For now, she hopes students will take advantage of the space available to them.

"It is your facility," Frank said.

Simulator Coming Soon to a Bavendick Near You

Jessa Lee
Reporter

Students will soon have a new way to practice their athletic skills and enjoy friendly competition at the Bavendick Center, where an interactive sports simulator is being prepared for use.

Soon to be located on the second level of the Bavendick, the simulator features 42 different games and activities. Students will be able to choose their preferred stadium and select which country they want to represent while participating in different sports. Activities include pitching a baseball, hitting golf balls, and practicing penalty kicks.

However, the simulator is designed for more than just gaming. It will also give students an opportunity to practice and improve their athletic skills in a fun, low-pressure environment.

"One of the great appeals is, even if you think you're bad, you'd be playing yourself" said Solli Frank, assistant facilities manager and drone racing coach. Frank hopes the simulator will help students break away from the stereotype that they need to be good at sports to participate and enjoy the experience.

The addition of the simulator is also part of an effort to give back to students. According to Frank, the Bavendick is known for its sport facilities, and student funding played a significant role in supporting the project. Making the simulator available is one way to provide students with another benefit from their investment in campus recreation. The simulator will be open to all students at no additional charge. "The priority is making sure students have access to the new resource." Said Frank.

The biggest challenge so far has been getting everything ready for operation, particularly determining staffing and who will oversee the space. Frank's personal goal is to have the simulator up and running before basketball season begins.

Once it opens, students will most likely use a walk-in system, arriving and waiting for their turn. Because the room is relatively small, Frank estimates it can accommodate about two people at a time.

As preparations continue, the goal is to create an accessible activity that encourages students to try something new, practice their skills and enjoy the Bavendick beyond traditional sports. If student interest is strong, the facility may explore additional opportunities to make the simulator available.



Jessa Lee | Reporter

First Look - Inside view of the simulator

As Temperatures Fall, BSC Track Team Keeps Moving

Cheyenne Hayes
Reporter

As colder weather arrives in Bismarck, the Bismarck State College Track and Field team is beginning to move practices indoors. The change brings new challenges and adjustments to the team as the athletes adapt to different training environments while continuing to work toward their individual and team goals.

Indoor training options on the BSC campus are limited for the track and field team. However, that hasn't stopped the team from finding ways to continue training. The loading area of the ATC building has been transformed into makeshift track lanes, giving runners a space to practice indoors. The team also uses the gym in the Armory for recovery and medicine ball workouts. Throwers train in a separate room in the Armory, where they must adjust their routines to accommodate the smaller space compared to outdoor practice.

For javelin thrower Jenna Schutt, one of the biggest challenges of indoor training is not being able to see the full results of her throws to make changes to improve.

There are benefits to throwing indoors. Instead of full throws, indoor practices focus on technique, mobility, and strength. Schutt believes this can help athletes improve before returning outdoors.

"This will get us stronger in our lower body since we have limited space, and it helps us create connections through our body during our throw," she said.

Sprinter Elizabeth Kleven has also had to adjust to the limited indoor space.

"I have noticed that the limited space prevents me from warming up properly," Kleven said.

The team continues working on plyometrics, short sprints, and block starts indoors while saving longer workouts, such as hill sprints, for better outdoor conditions.

Despite the challenges, Kleven said she thinks indoor practices will help her prepare for upcoming meets. However, she would like more space.

As winter approaches, the BSC Track and Field team will continue adapting to the challenges of indoor training as the indoor competition season draws closer. Although limited space creates obstacles for both runners and throwers, athletes are finding ways to improve their technique, build strength, and prepare for upcoming meets. With a focus on the smaller details of their events, the team hopes to turn its indoor training into success when competition begins.

Mystics Clinch Conference Tournament Berth on Senior Day

Isaiah Johnson
Reporter

In its second season in the Frontier Conference, Mystics volleyball locked up a spot in the tournament with a weekend sweep of Valley City State and Mayville State. Bismarck's Reese Duchsherer and Piper Harris etched their names in the history books as the Mystics evened the season series against their in-state rivals.

First came the Valley City State Vikings on Oct. 30. VCSU had gotten the better of BSC in their previous meetings, owning a 3-0 record since both teams joined the Frontier Conference in 2025. The last time the two teams played, the Vikings snapped the Mystics' five-match win streak in a heartbreaking set five.

The Vikings jumped out to a 24-20 lead in the first set. The Mystics battled back with three straight points, but Valley City again beat the Mystics by two points. BSC tightened up in the second set, hitting at .256 to Valley's .100 and coasting to a comfortable 25-17 win. Set 3 was dominated by BSC Outside Hitter Reese Duchsherer, who had 8 kills in that set alone. The Mystics kept up their efficient hitting to win 25-21. The fourth set was no problem for the Mystics, who won by a comfortable 25-19 score. Final set scores were 23-25, 25-17, 25-21, 25-19.

"We lost to Valley the first time around, so our whole mentality was we want redemption," Duchsherer said. "We know we can do it, so I think we really just gave it everything we had."



Logan Hoff | Sports Information Director

Bring it In - Mystics Varsity team celebrate a point well earned.



Logan Hoff | Sports Information Director

Ready and Focused - Resse Duchsherer locks in and gets ready to serve the ball.

Duchsherer put up 23 kills on .383 hitting with 15 digs against the Vikings. She is now the all-time kills and points leader for BSC volleyball.

"Obviously it feels good to win one match, but that's never enough," Ducsherer said. "You have to keep trying every single day, so I think for us, we just need to keep pushing and keep going and keep giving it our all."

Senior Day came on Oct. 31 against the Mayville State Comets. Paige McAllister, Shayna Roach, and Piper Harris were honored as BSC's seniors, as the Mystics tried to clinch a spot in the tournament in front of a rowdy Halloween-themed crowd.

BSC's defense forced a negative hitting percentage from Mayville in set 1, and the Mystics came out on top 25-21. The Comets came right back and mirrored the score in set 2, tying the match. Bismarck found its footing in the third set and won by eight points behind excellent serves from Reese Duchsherer. The fourth set was tight, Mayville rallying to within one point before a Duchsherer kill sealed the deal. Final set scores were 25-21, 21-25, 25-17, 25-23.

McKenna Brendel led the Mystics with 15 kills, with Reese Duchsherer adding 11 kills and 4 aces. Ellie Baumstarck achieved 8 kills and 4 blocks, complementing Jordyn Rood, who had 7 kills and 3 blocks. Aspen Roaldson and Aislyn Hogan combined for 41 assists, and Piper Harris added 23 digs. During the season, Piper Harris became the all-time digs leader at Bismarck State.

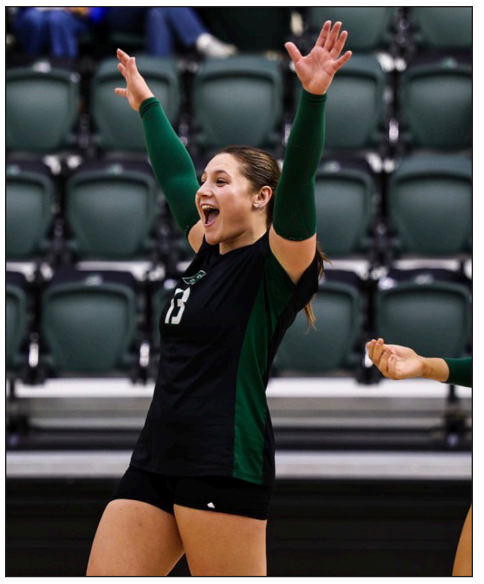
Bismarck's seniors celebrated the win and reflected on the season after the game.

"It's super fun to see the community come together, and the win is the cherry on top," McAllister said. "We come to practice every day. We have each other's backs. I'll be having a bad day otherwise, and I come, and all the girls know how to put a smile on my face. I'm going to miss everybody a lot."

"Every year has been so different but so enjoyable in its own unique way, so I'm really grateful for all the years I've been here," said Harris.

"It's hard to put into words. Coming in, it was scary, but being able to find my best friends and have a great time every single day has been amazing," Roach said. "[The Frontier Conference Tournament] is what we've been working towards all season. We talk about it every single day, and now that it's finally here, we are so pumped to show up and show people what we're made of."

The Mystics finish the regular season in Montana against Carroll College and Rocky Mountain on Nov. 5-6. The Frontier Conference Tournament begins on Nov. 12, with the championship match scheduled for Nov. 14.



Logan Hoff | Sports Information Director

Let's Go Mystics - Piper Harris hypes up her teammates.

Minnesota Vikings Coach Shares Coaching Advice at BSC Sport and Work Summit

Ephraim Grady
Reporter

Dalmin Gibson, assistant linebacker coach for the Minnesota Vikings, joined Bismarck State College for the Sport and Work Summit. Dalmin joined to help students interested in sports that playing isn't the only way to go professional.

Gibson spoke virtually via Zoom call at the Summit to share his perspective on Wednesday, Oct. 14. Bismarck State College partnered with the University of Mary in hopes of creating interest in sport-related careers for students.

Coach Gibson played football at Dickinson State University, where he sustained a shoulder injury and transitioned to coaching. From 2015 to 2022, he bounced around coaching college football with teams that include: Dickinson State University, University of Colorado, Michigan State University, and Southern Illinois University. In 2023, Coach Gibson was hired as the Special Teams assistant of the Minnesota Vikings. Later he was transitioned to assistant linebacker coach.



Submitted

Calling In - Dalmin Gibson gives advice via Zoom during the Sport and Work Summit.

When speaking about meetings in the NFL, he was able to give input that professional football players learn the same way college students do; in the classroom.

"The thing that in the NFL that people are surprised to know is that the meeting structure is very similar to a full day of school," Gibson said. "Those guys are in meetings, all day everyday for four and a half to six hours a day. They have to sit in a classroom for a very long time, and quite frankly, they all have to teach themselves how to learn."

Gibson said he received coaching advice from Brian Flores, the Minnesota Vikings defensive coordinator.

"If you're going to go down, go down a certain way," Gibson said. "So if we get beat because we pressured 90% of all the plays, well, hats off to them [the other team]. They had a good plan; they figured it out."

Arts & Entertainment

Fall Crafts and Trends

Students Showcase Fall Fashion Trends

Jada Moran
Reporter

On the Bismarck State College campus, many different styles and trends can be seen. Fashion trends during the fall season include flannels, fall sweaters, camo, hiking styles, Uggs, big boots, and big hoodies.

BSC students Sierra and Madden shared their thoughts about seasonal fashion changes.

"I think fall fashion trends tend to be a lot of darker colors like dark browns and different shades of red and burgundy." Sierra said. "I also have been seeing a lot of layering with different fabrics throughout the cozy textures like sweaters and scarves. I think a good-fitting statement coat is a trend too; like, having a good coat with a good pair of boots can make a good outfit."

Madden had another viewpoint.

"People like to give inspo to each other by bringing out new patterns or fabrics or new staple pieces like the shoe clogs or even hiking-type shoes," Madden said.

Students have preferences and favorite styles to wear.

"I personally like to dress cozy as the weather starts to get colder. I love to wear a cute sweater or an oversized hoodie with some leggings and my Ugg boots," Sierra said. "Or even some sweatpants and a hoodie to keep it simple but still stay warm. But when it starts to get even colder, I've become a big fan of scarves, so I'm usually wearing my cheetah print scarf these days."

Madden was specific about his preference.

"My current favorite style in the fall is dressing like a hiker in the mountains, warm and earthy nature colors mixed with bright colors," Madden said.

Sierra and Madden shared the fall trends they recognize around them. Both stated that having warm brown-like colors is a trend during the fall season. It seems to be the color palette everyone likes at this time of year.

Once fall starts, outfits follow a repetitive pattern: people wear flannels daily, Ugg boots, and even lightweight jackets for the cooler temperatures. For those living in North Dakota, the fall season is the perfect time to start getting prepared for the even colder days. Being on the BSC campus during the colder times and seeing everyone bundled up can provide ideas about how to stay warm.

There are different brands that trend during the colder seasons, such as North Face, Patagonia, Nike, and Timberland. These brands can sometimes bring out pieces that fit the fall fashion trends, and once someone wears one thing, others get inspired from the newly fashion trend drops.

Fall Crafts Welcome the Season

Amber Hoiland
Reporter

With the seasons changing, one may be hanging out at home a bit more. Well, what better way to pass some time than crafting? There are a few easy, affordable fall crafts to help decorate an apartment or dorm, and get in the holiday spirit.

Clay Key Holder Pumpkins

Our project is a Key holder clay pumpkin. The materials you needed are

- Air Dry Clay ($7.99 -$14.99)
- Mod Podge (glossy or matte $4.49)
- Craft Paint ($5.00)
- Newspaper to prevent the mess
- Rolling Pin
- Pizza cutter
- String

Steps:

1. Roll out a half inch thick chunk of clay, about 6inches in diameter
2. Using a piece of string create divots resembling the different sections of a pumpkin. Using a pizza cutter, carve rounded edges in those different sections.
3. Lay clay pumpkin in a vase or bowl, depending on the depth you are wanting your bowl.
4. Take a small chunk of clay and create a stem. Using a small chunk of clay, roll it into a snake, cut a two inch section, and twist. Do the same with a smaller chunk to create a little vine-like feature.
5. Add to the face down side of the pumpkin using a scoring technique (criss cross scratch marks, with some water) place stem in desired spot.
6. Allow time to dry.
7. Once dry, begin painting: Use two or more coats to get full coverage and a good pigmented color, let dry thoroughly. Next add 2 coats of glossy mod podge allowing time to dry in between.
8. This was a simple 5 min craft excluding dry time. Some other options that could be sculpted are leaves, turkeys, or whatever the heart desires.

RA Spotlight

Natalie Lawrence
Reporter



Jaxon Miller

Q: What is your name, year in school, and major?

A: My name is Jaxon Miller, this is my third year at BSC so I'm technically a Junior. I'm currently majoring in Integrated Marketing and Communications.

Q: What hall do you live in?

A: I live in Swensen hall.

Q: Where are you from?

A: I'm from Jamestown, ND.

Q: If you could instantly become great at any skill, what would it be and why?

A: Public speaking and performing. I would love to be able to play music in front of a crowd, but I haven't mastered it yet.

Q: What is one thing on your bucket list?

A: Travel overseas, whether it be somewhere mountainous in Europe, or somewhere with many people, like Japan.

Q: If you could have dinner with any celebrity, fictional character, or historical figure, who would it be and why?

A: Kurt Cobain, I'd just want to see what he's like and have a genuine conversation with him.

Q: What is your biggest pet peeve?

A: Eating/chewing with mouth open. It's grody.

Q: What is something you are proud of outside of being an RA?

A: I think I'm pretty decent at guitar and drums. I'm no Eddy Van Halen or John Bonham but hey, I think I'm decent.

Q: One word your friends would use to describe you?

A: Nerd.

Q: Dream Vacation?

A: I'll say Japan. The cities there seem full of life and honestly really pretty. Also, the nature is beautiful, I'd love to go see the temples. And the bowing deer, they seem fun.

MystiCast
Check out the New Mysticast Episode!





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PUZZLE PAGE

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UNSCRAMBLER

THANKSGIVING

Rearrange the Thanksgiving/November themed letters to create the hidden words.

1) I G N A N H K V G S T I

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2) E E V S A L

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3) U T K Y R E

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4) I R Q R S U L E

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5) T Y R H O P A P T N

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7) I E D N N R

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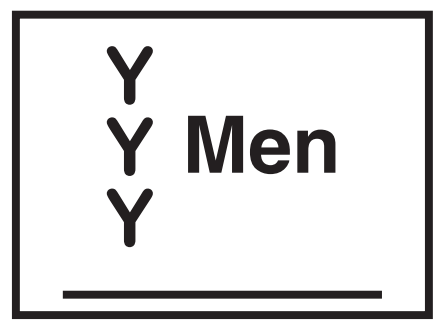
REBUS PUZZLES

Each of the boxes below represents a phrase. The only rule is that there are no rules so think outside of the box, and don't forget to have fun!









DOTS TO BOXES

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

SAY CHEESE!



Micah McAfee | *Reporter*

Pumpkins Galore! - On Oct. 30 Grant Clary and Cameron Klein paint pumpkins for Halloween in the BSC's Student Union.

Find the answers to these puzzles and more on our website!