

THE MYSTICIAN



ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT P4

TRUMP-ENOMICS P8

DAY IN THE LIFE P14

FEBRUARY 2017

78.4

BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE



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Well it's February in the year 2017, and absolutely nothing changed. People are still cracking "since last year" or "haven't done that in a year" jokes. People still think it's okay for them to ignore you after holding the door open for them. You still have to be 18 to purchase rollerblades. People still think it's okay to carry on a non-whisper conversation while watching a movie. It just seems like 2017 might be a bust. It is only February though – let's give the human population a chance to redeem themselves from such unattractive habits. There will always be things keeping us up at night, but as long as you aren't sleeping next to a jerk-off that forgot to say "thanks" to your great door holding ability, your year will be fine. Just focus on you and your goals, eyes up and march forward. In the end you won't even notice all the bad in the world because you've naturally surrounded yourself with the good. Finish out the second semester strong, stay focused and sharp. Next thing you know you will be appreciated for your door holding skills and movie theatres will require muzzles for everyone attending. Focus on yourself, everything will follow.

Until next time,

A&A

Alexis Larson
Anika Rovig



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PHOTO//KARLY PALCZEWSKI

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

//BROCK HILTNER

Basketball players come in varying sizes, some operating with more advantageous altitudes. Stature, strength and speed are valued qualities in the recruiting process but every so often an exceptional athlete redefines the rules, excelling to the highest levels, literally and metaphorically.

"God blessed me with a lot of heart and no height, and I'll take that any day," Nate Robinson, a three time NBA Dunk Contest Champion tweeted.

Ariana Zook is no stranger to the challenges of the undersized athlete. Despite totaling out at a height of five feet and two inches, Zook is in her second season with Bismarck State College women's basketball team.

"I have always had doubts about my height but I knew I could overcome that, because I have my whole life."

- Ariana Zook

In a sport with no rules against being the smallest and most tenacious, Zook makes her minutes count by agitating the



ARIANA ZOOK

HEIGHT: 5' 3"
CLASS: So
POSITION: G
HOME TOWN: Bowman, ND

2016 - 2017 STATS

PPG	8.8
APG	68
RPG	2.4
FT%	88.9 %
FG%	40.2 %

ILLUSTRATION//QUINNLYN NELSON

flow with her level of hustle. A level that also gets her into some rattling situations.

"I'm kinda feisty and aggressive too, so that probably has led to more concussions," Zook said.

Zook said she's had two diagnosed concussions, one of which left her unconscious on the court.

In recent years, preventative measures against concussions have increased but Zook is defiant when her playing time is on the line.

"I'm not leaving the court unless I'm forced."

- aAriana Zook

Like any game, basketball comes with demands that some handle effortlessly and others find difficult to overcome.

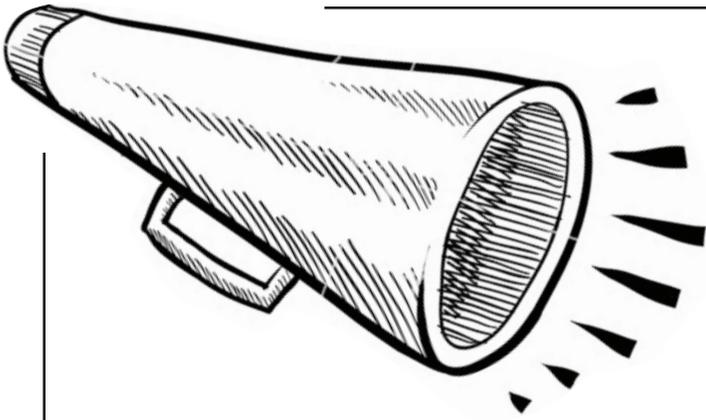
Zook said she struggled with anxiety, and it took the support of her teammates to help her calm down on the court.

Now in her second and final year of eligibility with BSC, Zook faces the looming decision of pushing for a spot on a different team or finding

a new venture outside of competitive basketball.

"I know I'm not going to be some All-American, but I got to play at the next level and keep playing the game I love," Zook said.

(Brock Hiltner is an editor for The Mystician. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.)



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MANDAN MOM PUSHES CROSSFIT PACK

PHOTOS//SUBMITTED

//BROCK HILTNER

A wife, mother of three and local business owner, Kat Bogers, is registered to compete in her fourth Crossfit Open on February 23.

The field of competition is divided according to region. Bogers said she competes in a region with 11 states-worth of crossfit athletes scrapping for only twenty spots.

"Last year I finished in 117 place in the region," Bogers said.

Bogers' above-average finish came after a setback in 2013 when Bogers said she tore her ACL, MCL, both meniscus were trimmed and she also suffered a broken femur, all in the same leg.

"I had to basically start over to where jumping on a box was hard, running was hard, but mentally I got over it," Bogers said.

The Crossfit Open is the first qualifier in a sequence of three increasingly competitive stages leading to the crowning of one man and woman as the Crossfit Games champions.

Bogers doesn't just use the gym as a place to train, she also uses the rising popularity of crossfit as a business opportunity. Last year, Bogers and her husband Reid opened up their own gym, Crossfit Mandan.

"It's a good community builder," Bogers said. "I like getting everyone together on Saturday's and bringing out the competitor in them."

- Kat Bogers

She isn't just impacting the lifestyles of her members. Bogers said her kids love the lifestyle they've created for their family and, for her, being a role model for her kids is important.

"My son is really into football. He was a stand out, and he wants to come in here and workout with everybody else," Bogers said. "Even my two-year-old has made a workout doing burpees in the living room."

She said she's given up a lot of things over the years.

"I haven't touched a drop of alcohol in four years, and I haven't missed it since," Bogers said.

However, even Superman is weak in the face of kryptonite.

"Doughnuts are my go-to,"

- Kat Bogers

With the Crossfit Open coming up in less than a month, Bogers said she understands what needs to be done in order for her to be competitive once again in this years competition.

"It's going to be all you do," Bogers said. "You have to change what you eat, not go out. You have to sacrifice almost everything."

For more details on crossfit, membership or class inquiries at Crossfit Mandan, contact Kat Bogers at 701-751-3210.

(Brock Hiltner is an editor for The Mystician. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.)





STATS

OPEN

YEAR	OVERALL RANK (WORLDWIDE)	OVERALL RANK (BY REGION)	OVERALL RANK (BY STATE)
2016	1409th	117th Central Regional	3rd North Dakota
2015	6490th	595th Central Regional	9th North Dakota
2012	3720th	314th North Central	No results shown

BENCHMARK STATS

BACK SQUAT: 300 lb	DEADLIFT: --	FILTHY: 50
CLEAN AND JERK: 200 lb	FIGHT GONE BAD: 350	SPRINT: 400m
SNATCH: 170 lb	MAX PULL-UPS: --	RUN: 5k



TRUMPENOMICS

//HUNTER ANDES

Since President Donald Trump has taken office, many Americans may be wondering what this means for the country moving forward.

Being dubbed Time magazine's Person of the Year with the cutline, "President of the Divided States of America," could imply how divided the U.S. has become over the last election cycle.

Joe Vuolo, associate professor of business administration, looks at Trump differently. He doesn't look at the president as the media portrays him, but instead on how Trump's business experience may help in benefiting the future of America.

"I'm just trying to look at it from an economic standpoint," Vuolo said. "Do I believe my money is going to be better off four years from now? A lot better actually."

In regard to the national debt problem in this country, Vuolo thinks a Trump presidency will make the necessary cuts to keep the debt from rising any further.

"Those who have assets will do well. Those who do not have assets are going to fall further behind."

- Joe Vuolo

"Rather than going down, I think it will more less stay even-keel rather than rise," Vuolo said. "They have to be careful about cutting too much spending, but I think he has an affinity for the knife, meaning he will know how to cut some things that haven't been looked at for a while."

BSC alumnus Joey Peterson said he likes what he sees in Trump. Due to the fact that Trump was an influential business man, Peterson thinks that is just what America needs in times like these.

"I feel like Donald Trump will know how to run this country successfully because he is a former successful businessman," Peterson said. "He will make cuts to things that people are taking advantage of, such as food stamps."

Donald Trump said he could eliminate the \$19 trillion U.S. debt according to The Wall Street Journal. In order to accomplish

the feat, Vuolo thinks Trump will want to inflate the assets in this country in order to pay off that debt. Which means, the people who have the least will essentially get hurt the most.

"It's going to get worse for the people who have less," Vuolo said. "The gap between poor and rich is probably going to widen. Those who have assets will do well, those who do not have assets are going to fall further behind. That's what I see coming."

"I really believe the economy itself will probably do well. I just wonder who the casualties are going to be."

- Joe Vuolo

Some of the causes behind this crisis could be out-of-control spending in Washington, trickle-down economics or maybe a combination of both. One thing is certain, the middle class is shrinking.

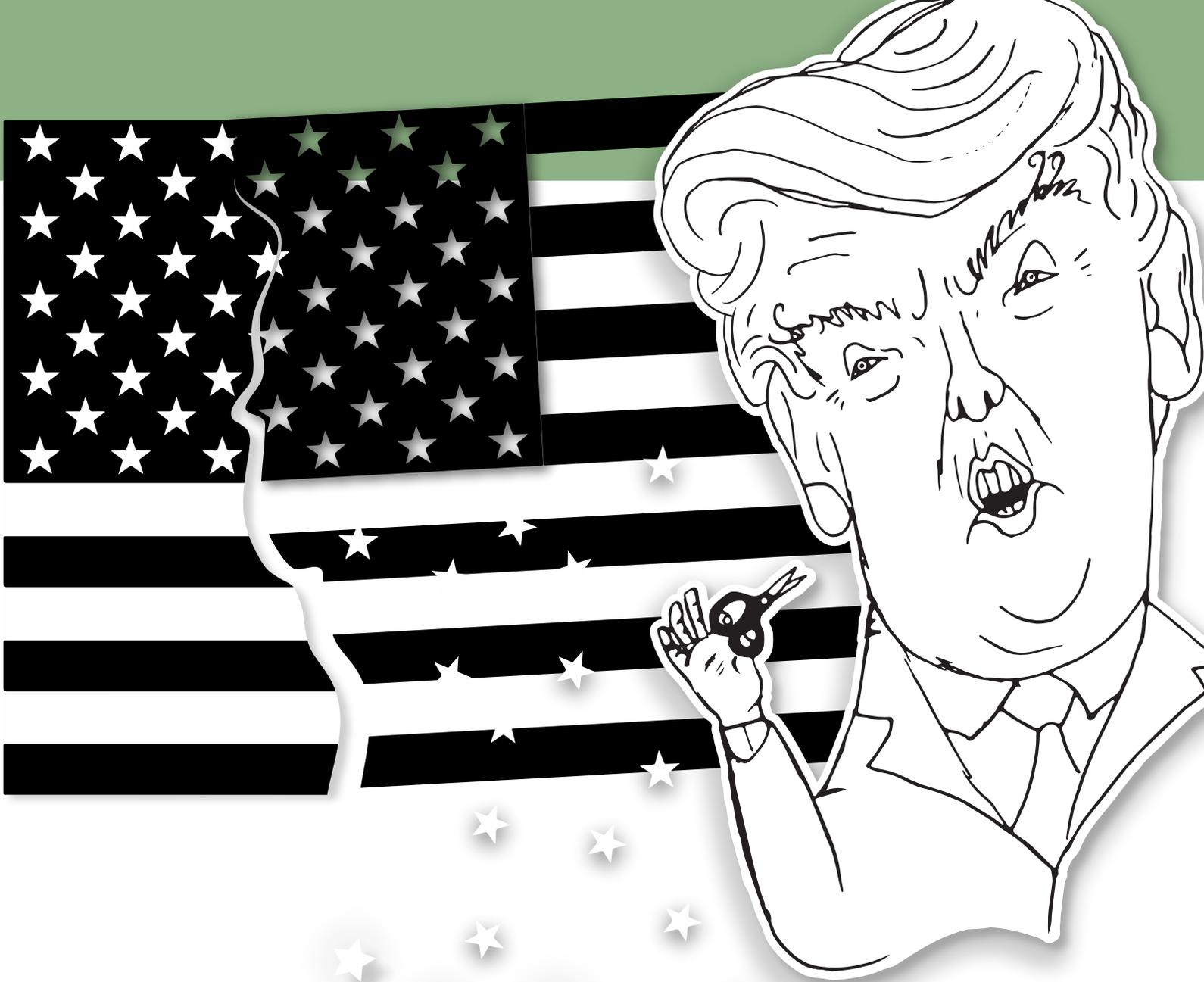
"It seems like it's polarizing the middle class even more and shrinking; it's either going to be on one side or the other a little bit more," Vuolo said. "It feels like what's to come is the top percent gangsters and then the lower percent not doing so well."

Trickle-down economics is a vernacular coined during the Reagan Administration. It is when large businesses are given financial benefits in order to stimulate economic growth.

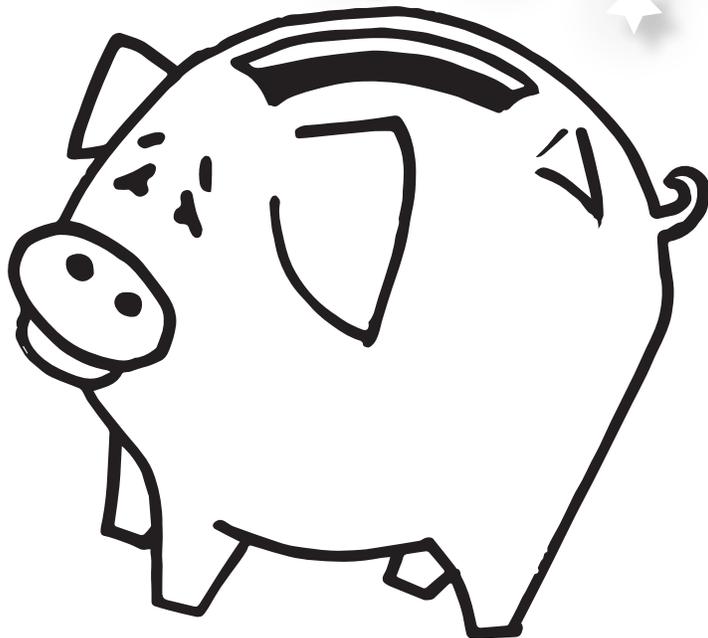
However, an argument against it is that money just stays locked up, so it doesn't do the job it is intended to do, according to Vuolo.

"The money isn't really being trickled down. It stays in those tight knit groups and doesn't really necessarily go to those who are underneath of them," Vuolo said. "I really believe the economy itself will probably do well. I just wonder who the casualties are going to be."

(Hunter Andes is an editor for The Mystician. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.)



ILLUSTRATION//DANI MOLINARO





PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS

//ALEXANDRA BOLTON

For any students wondering how they can make their transcript or diploma stand out, Bismarck State College's Phi Theta Kappa chapter can provide scholarship, networking, volunteer, and leadership opportunities.

Phi Theta Kappa is a top international honors society which recognizes students in two-year college programs that have met the society's high standards. To obtain this honor, students must maintain a long list of requirements. The chapter's president Kaslynn Westerman says students receive eligibility when:

"Student[s] have an institutional grade point average of 3.50 or better... completed 12 semester hours of associate degree coursework in residence at BSC... currently enrolled at BSC as either a part-time or full-time student... and adhere[s] to the student conduct policy and possess recognized qualities of citizenship," Westerman said.

But with hard work comes many benefits. Students recognized as Phi Theta Kappa members have the opportunity to be honored at the BSC graduation ceremony with a pin and certificate, and a mention on the diploma and transcript. Along with an already paid initiation fee, members maintain their membership for life.

Westerman says that with all of the opportunities for community outreach, there's always a chance for developing friendships along the way as well as participating in some upcoming events.

"We have discussed many club project ideas," said Westerman., "For example, our chapter is considering holding a Scrabble tournament in the spring. Also, we have conversed about holding a bake sale next semester in the Student Union."

Members will also be eligible to participate in an annual convention which takes place in Nashville, Tennessee.

"This event includes thousands of students from across the nation and a variety of activities and speakers," said Westerman.

Students sold gourmet popcorn to fundraise for the various expenses.

Phi Theta Kappa meets the first and third Wed. of every month. The meetings are located in room 119 in the Armory at 2 p.m. If students are interested in becoming a member, or have any questions, please contact Kaslynn Westerman at kaslynn.westerman.1@ndus.edu, or any of the following advisers Michael Tomanek at

michael.tomanek@bismarckstate.edu, Karen Bauer at karen.bauer@bismarckstate.edu, or Kevin Cavanagh at kevin.cavanagh@bismarckstate.edu.

(Alexandra Bolton is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)



ILLUSTRATIONS // DANI MOLINARO

WALLYBALL

//ZACK GRAVES

The Bismarck Parks and Recreations District will be hosting a coed Wallyball tournament on Saturday, Feb. 4. Wallyball is a sport that intermixes both volleyball and racquetball, allowing players to play the ball off the walls, creating a faster, adrenaline pumping pace throughout the game. The tournament will take place at the Capitol Racquet and Fitness Center located at 3200 N. 10th St. in Bismarck. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and an entry fee of \$40 per team, that includes refreshments and awards, will be required for admission. The deadline to sign up for this event is Feb 1. To find further information call 701-222-6455 or visit www.bisparks.org.

(Zack Graves is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.)

“ALL MY SONS”

//CONNOR GRAVES

The North Dakota Heritage Center is hosting the “All My Sons” theater performance. This event is the first Capitol Shakespeare winter show. ‘All My Sons,’ an award winning drama by Arthur Miller will be February 10-11 at 7 p.m. and February 12 at 2 p.m. in Russell Reid Auditorium located 612 E. Boulevard Ave., Bismarck, N.D. In determination to develop theater as a whole, Capitol Shakespeare presents this showing to expand imaginations to the fullest. This event is free of charge, but invites donations. Questions and concerns please contact us at capshakes@hotmail.com

(Connor Graves is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.)

RACING DUMMIES FOR ACADEMICS

//BRETT WILLIAMSON

Huff Hill Ski Area will host the Winter Dummy Race on Saturday, Feb. 11. Registration begins at 8:45 a.m. Dummies must be at the starting line by 9:29 a.m.

Participants will compete using homemade dummies to pilot sleds, skis and other downhill snowcraft. Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers, and the most creative dummy will take home a trophy.

The registration fee is \$10 per dummy. There is no limit to the amount of dummies a person can bring. Proceeds will benefit the Erickson Merkel Foundation to provide local scholarships.

“We’re hoping to put together a fun event that will bring people out during the winter,” Chris Erickson, co-organizer, said. “This type of event has a lot of promise and allows people to tap into their creativity to race against each other.”

For more information, contact Chris Erickson at 701.391.5699 or ericksonmerkel@gmail.com.

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

THE TRIBUTE

//AMANDA JOYCE

1964 The Tribute: “Best Beatles Tribute On Earth” is performing at the Belle Mehus Auditorium, located at 201 N. 6 St. in Bismarck, on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017. The 60s style tribute band will be recreating some of The Beatles’ most famous hits from the pre- Sgt. Pepper era with period instruments, clothing, hairstyles and onstage antics. The show will be starting at 7:30 p.m. with doors opening an hour before. Tickets are priced \$49 - \$54 and can be purchased from www.etix.com or at the door before the event.

(Amanda Joyce is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)

LEGACY GRAD

//SUBMITTED

Bismarck State College National Alumni Association honors graduates who share a legacy with parents or grandparents who also graduated from BJC or BSC.

As a legacy grad, you will 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 or call her at 701-224-5692.

LITTLE IVY



PHOTOS//SUBMITTED

//AMANDA JOYCE

Not many people have the opportunity to travel internationally young in life, but sophomore Ivy Bergstrom spent the fall 2016 semester studying abroad.

Bergstrom attended Edge Hill University in England, where she not only studied but also met new people and made lifelong friends.

"Making connections away from your family and friends is easier than it seems, because you will be surrounded by people in the exact same boat, who are just as far from their families, who are asking all the same questions as you," Bergstrom said. "It is amazing, and when the time comes, you will be sad to leave all of the friends you have made."

The active student community is one of the best things about Edge Hill University, according to Bergstrom.

"I am beyond impressed to see how students participate in activities, and they happen all the time: open mic nights, poetry readings, game nights, dances, interfaith societies, interactive art projects," Bergstrom said. "Not only that, but there are many events organized so that the students can give back to their communities."

Aside from her experiences in academics in a foreign country, Bergstrom was able to travel to outside countries while participating in the study abroad program. The first trip she took was to Edinburgh, Scotland.



*Big Ben,
(London)*

"It was probably my second favorite place that I went because everything was so beautiful, and the streets were easy to navigate, the food was amazing and everyone was very tourist friendly," Bergstrom said.

She also travelled places like Amsterdam, Vienna, Dublin, Southport, Liverpool, Manchester and London.

"They were all great and had uniqueness to offer," Bergstrom said.

While travelling across the ocean might sound appealing, the process for which might include different challenges.

"The obstacles are not as high as they are perceived to be; you can overcome them," Bergstrom said. "Studying abroad will challenge you, but it will not break you."

Some of those obstacles include getting accepted into the study abroad program.

The program requires a student to be a sophomore with at least 24 credits by the start time of the semester abroad, have a 3.25 or higher GPA. Students also cannot have a job while studying abroad.

TO BIG BEN



*Giant's Causeway
(Northern Ireland)*



*King's Cross Station
(London)*



*Carrick-a-Rede
Rope Bridge (Northern Ireland)*

Although students wishing to participate will have to budget accordingly, there are several things that can be done to raise money. Bergstrom went a couple routes in getting extra money for her travels.

"I earned most of my money working at Sickies Garage over the summer, and receiving donations from my friends and family," Bergstrom said.

Students applying for this program should have an interest in international

travel and a commitment to strive academically. For more information, students can contact Amy Juhala at 701-224-5760 or by email at amy.juhala@bismarckstate.edu.

(Amanda Joyce is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org)

The approximate cost of studying at Edge Hill University is \$12,270, which includes tuition, room, meals, entertainment, books, laundry and travel fees. Students must pay the university cost directly to the institution.

DAY IN THE LIFE: FROZEN SWEAT

RIG WORKER SHARES BAKKEN EXPERIENCE

//BRETT WILLIAMSON

Winter in North Dakota subsides only when Mother Nature is finished being cruel. The state's drilling rigs share a similar mentality. Rain, snow or sunshine, the job must be completed.

Garrett Moulton, Precision Drilling solids control foreman, is no stranger to the stingy kiss of a North Dakota winter. With seven years of experience working in the Bakken drilling fields, Moulton described this year's winter as "hellish."

"The cold is something you learn to adjust to - I wouldn't say you ever get used to the cold," Moulton said. "You learn to use technology to help you out - portable heaters, many layers of cold weather clothing and just dealing with it."

Moulton explained it is the responsibility of the solids control operation to remove the drilling solids from the drilling fluid during the drilling process. Precision Drilling utilizes a series of large centrifuges to separate the solids from the fluid with centrifugal force. The centrifuges maintain a g-force of 2000 and pumps an average 200 gallons per minute.

"The cold is something you learn to adjust to - I wouldn't say you ever get used to the cold," Moulton said. "You learn to use technology to help you out - portable heaters, many layers of cold weather clothing and just dealing with it."

- Garrett Moulton

"When the temperature is 10 below zero, the fluids we pump tend to freeze regardless if it is moving through a pump or not," Moulton said. "If we don't have a heater on location to help us out, the drill site can become a giant block of ice in just the matter of an hour."

As the foreman, it is Moulton's duty to ensure the job continues in the safest and most efficient manner. He oversees five solid control operations on drill sites scattered across western North Dakota.

"The surface job we did on a rig last week the entire rig operation almost froze," Moulton said. "It was 22 below zero that night with a 45 below wind chill and we had some downtime, not only us but the rig as well with their boiler going



Garrett Moulton, Precision Drilling solids control foreman, prepares the polymer injection system for a surface job on drilling rig Pioneer 75 in the Bakken. Photo next page: Moulton inspects the drill cuttings on a rig in western North Dakota.

down, we narrowly escaped a big disaster of turning the whole rig into an ice block for a week straight."

Moulton explained that downtime is the worst enemy of a solids control engineer. When the centrifuge stops separating, the drill cuttings remain in the hole and can have disastrous consequences for the drilling rig.

With the timeline for job completion and contracts on the line, the rigs drill at a fast rate and don't stop drilling unless it is life or death. Depending on the situation, Moulton acts as repairman, supervisor, mentor and motivator. Failure to keep the equipment operating in the sub zero elements results with the crew losing their jobs - failure is not an option.

"They always continue to drill and continue to move forward," Moulton said. "Every minute we are down sets us back and has a negative impact on the rig."

Job completion is a top priority, but it is second to job safety Moulton said. With 22 workers in the field at a given time, Moulton is always examining worksites to ensure his workers return home safely after their two-week rotation.

"There are a lot of hazards in the oil field, but the everyday threats can be overlooked and catch workers off guard," Moulton said. "The majority of the job requires our guys to be outside a considerable amount of their 12-hour shift. They take frequent breaks to stay warm, but they constantly need to be monitoring their equipment to avoid spills and mechanical breakdowns."

Moulton said that he schedules himself and his workers for two-weeks-on and two-weeks-off per cycle. When employees are on the work cycle, they are required to live on site at the drilling rigs. With Moulton being a foreman, he is required to visit each of his rigs daily, which makes where Moulton lays his head for the night his home.

He is always on guard for that one phone call that could make his 12-hour day into a 20-hour day.

"The worst-case scenario is if somebody gets hurt - it is the last thing I want

"My favorite aspect of the job is that it is constantly changing and evolving," Moulton said. "It is not a day-in day-out job where everything is the same. There is always a new challenge, and that is what keeps me here and draws me to this profession. It is challenging, and I get personal satisfaction out of that."

- Garrett Moulton

to hear," Moulton said. "The second thing that goes through my head is an equipment failure that needs an immediate fix. Those phone calls turn into the days that run well beyond 12-hours."

During his off-weeks, Moulton described himself as a full-time father. He explained being away from his wife and two children for two weeks at a time can be difficult.

"It's hard to say goodbye to my kids every time I leave for a hitch," Moulton said. "My daughter just got over crying every time I leave for my two-weeks. I think she is beginning to understand that I am gone only for two weeks at a time. It's hard to imagine them missing me."

Despite the cold, the stress and being away from the people he loves, Moulton said he enjoys his career path in North Dakota's drilling fields.

"My favorite aspect of the job is that it is constantly changing and evolving," Moulton said. "It is not a day-in day-out job where everything is the same. There is always a new challenge, and that is what keeps me here and draws me to this profession. It is challenging, and I get personal satisfaction out of that."

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

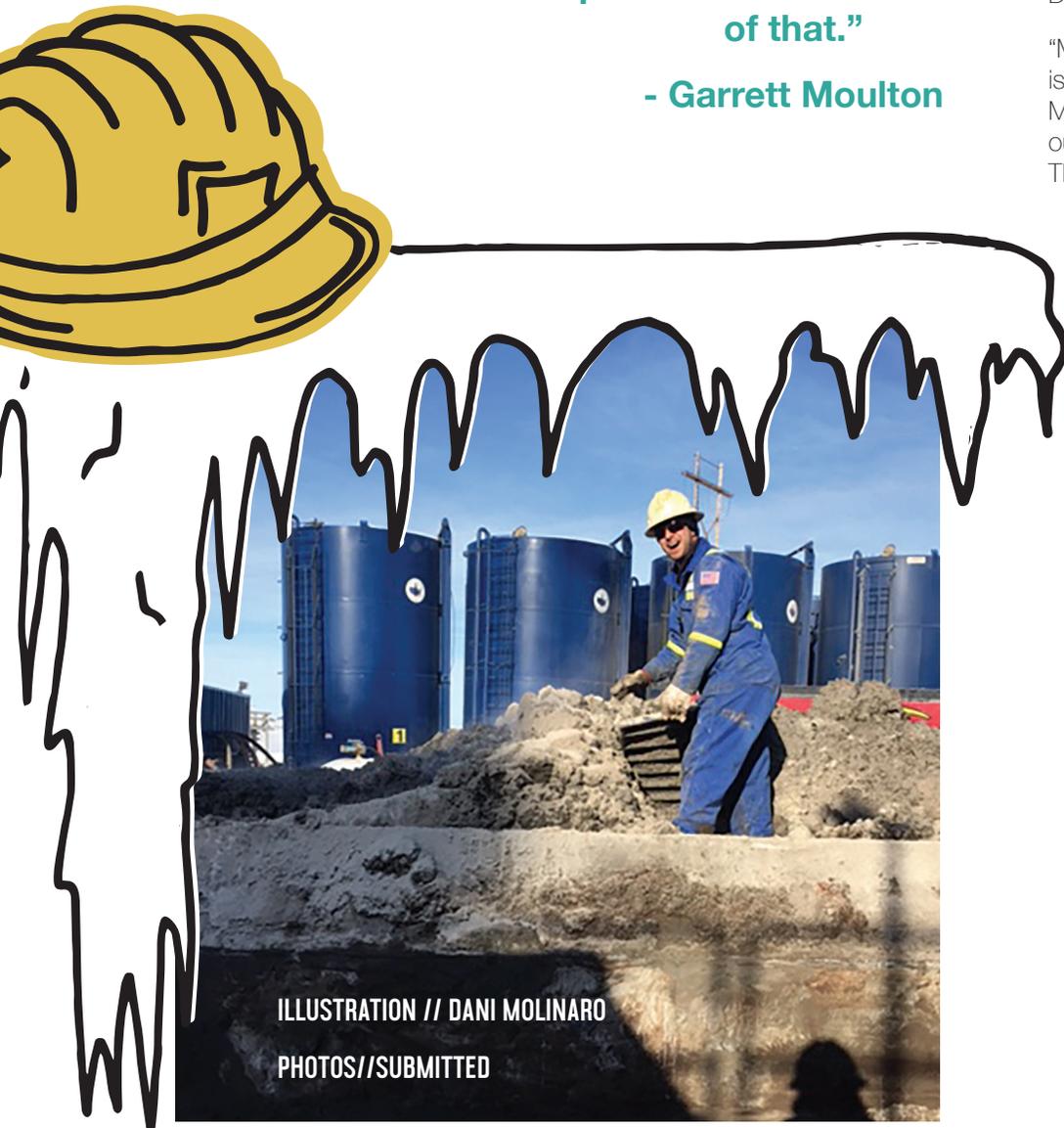
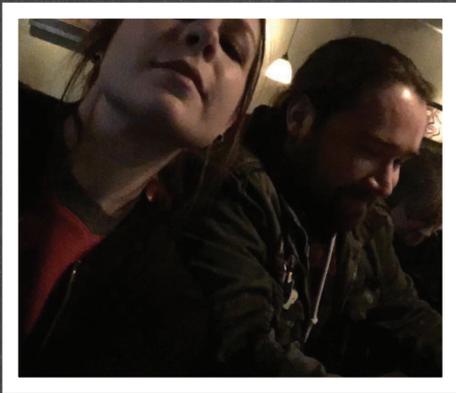


ILLUSTRATION // DANI MOLINARO

PHOTOS//SUBMITTED

BOOZE OR BUST



WHERE: LAUGHING SUN

WHAT'S ON THE MENU

- 1 • LOVELY
- 2 • 4TH TRY RYE
- 3 • MAGIC FISH
- 4 • PORTER

PRICE RANGE

BUDGETABLE

PHOTOS//ANIKA ROVIG

//ANIKA ROVIG & BRETT WILLIAMSON

When it comes to drinking beer, Brett and I aren't what you would call "slow slippers." We made an exception to broaden our taste buds and become seasoned vets in the mastered art of sipping beer. Our first excursion took place at "Laughing Sun," a local brewery downtown Bismarck. We walked in and immediately the mood was set, the lights were two notches below romantic and by the looks of it, in order to be an employee there you had to have a three-year grown beard. Little sexist if you ask us. Just kidding-Brett knows a lot of girls who can grow facial hair.

They are strict on their menu, which is understandable considering Brett and I would classify this particular bar as a glorified hipster bar. There were only craft beers available, we both took this opportunity with great pride. Brett and I found peace in knowing that these were fine crafted beers, it made it easier not to chug knowing we had class in our mug.

We ordered a flight. For you less fortunate underage kids, a flight is an arrangement of multiple beers or drinks served in smaller portions. Some of the beers Brett and I tried brought us to imagine ourselves in certain situations based on the taste. For example, Brett tried the first brewsky, Feast like a Sultan, an IPA that took his imagination on a journey.

"This beer makes you want to sip in one hand and smoke a cigar in the other while in the garage with your dad."

- Brett Williamson

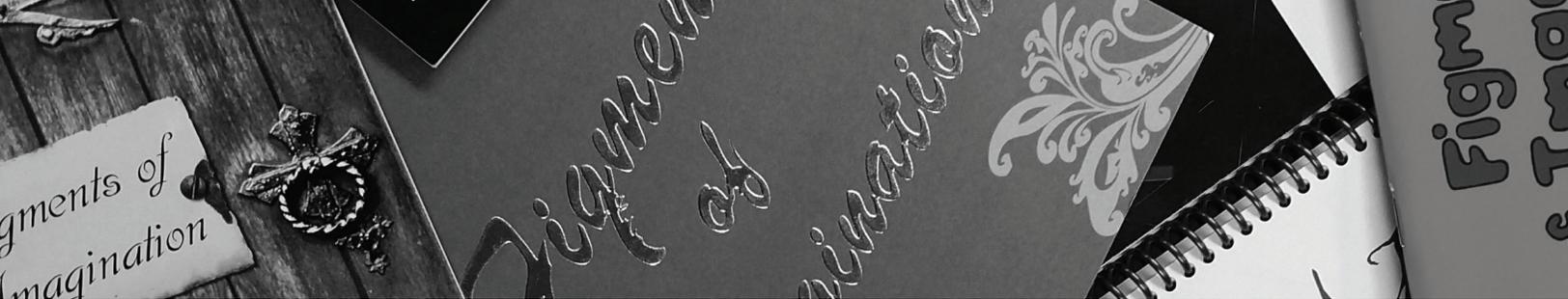


Which in my mind is a natural response for this refreshing brewsky.

We left the bar surprisingly not in a haze, maybe that's why we don't call ourselves "slow sippers." All in all our experience at the glorified hipster bar, more properly known as "Laughing Sun" was definitely a booze not a bust, great atmosphere and good people, but little less beard would never hurt anyone. Next time we will be trekking over Bismarck's bordering body of water into the treacherous unknown.

(Anika Rovig is an editor for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)

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



YOU CAN BE A PART OF THE

25th

ANNIVERSARY OF

FIGMENTS OF IMAGINATION

Figments of Imagination is Bismarck State College's student-produced literary journal. The 2016-2017 school year marks its 25th anniversary. Anyone who is a BSC student is invited to submit their creative work for publication in Figments. Students in the English 213 (Literary Publications) class each spring semester design the journal, edit the journal and help to create an important piece of BSC's campus culture.

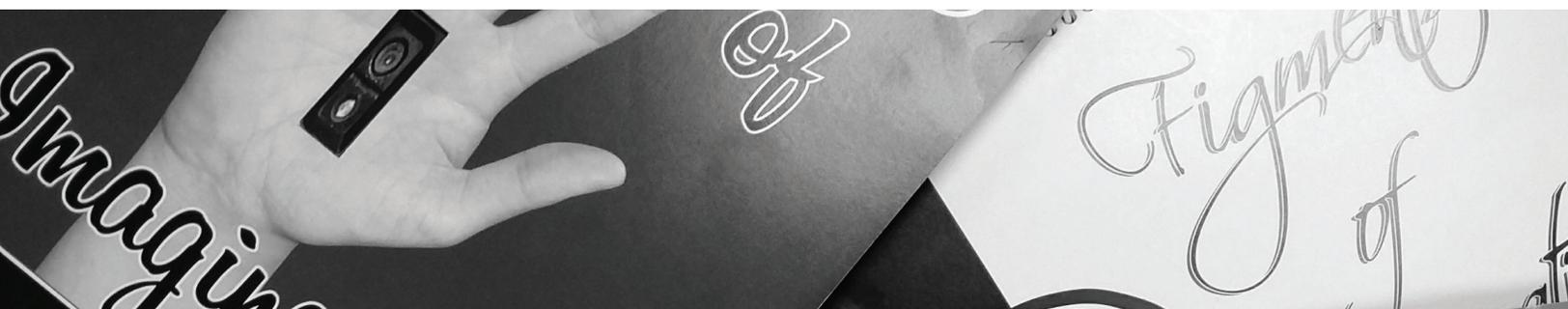
WE ACCEPT FOR SUBMISSION:

- creative writing
- nonfiction
- poetry
- fine arts
- digital art
- photography
- multimedia/video/sound

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS MARCH 5

To find out more about submitting your work, send an email to publishthis@figmentsofimagination.org. Watch for details on campus in spring semester. Submissions are judged by BSC faculty and staff, and the winning entries are published in the journal, which comes out early May.

(Contact Kimberly Crowley at bismarckstate.edu or 224-5574)



MASTER SWORD REVIEW

//BRETT WILLIAMSON

FINAL FANTASY XV: A NERDY NIRVANA

Few things in adulthood fill the soul with that childlike sense of wonder and magic. Another return to the Final Fantasy franchise accomplishes that with Final Fantasy XV as well as acts as tribute to more than 30 years of Final Fantasy lore.

Final Fantasy XV was released by Square Enix on Nov. 29, 2016, for the PS4 and Xbox One home consoles.

This time around the players play as Noctis, the young prince of Caelum, who begins his journey on a quest to marry the princess of the Altissia to unite the two kingdoms in an era of peace. The story takes an immediate twist when the kingdom of Caelum is attacked and the current Caelum king is assassinated while Noctis is enroute to unite the two kingdoms. It is up to Noctis and his three loyal subjects to reclaim his throne and restore balance the world of Eos.



Noctis is guided by his three loyal subjects: Gladiolus, royal knight and Noctis' body guard; Ignis, royal tactician and advisor; and Prompto, Noctis' long time friend. While players only control Noctis, it is the player's responsibility to equip and train his companions throughout the course of the adventure.

The game's battle engine continues to stray away from the turn based systems that defined the Final Fantasy series in the past and continues to push for a

more action based system. Rather than picking command orders and paradigms during combat, players will be forced to bob and weave in and out of combat only pausing to initiate healing, magic and limit breaks. The system does allow for a wait mode, but this feature is used for surveying your surroundings and scanning enemies for weaknesses. As frantic as the first few battles feel, players will grow accustomed to the new engine and learn to develop strategies for the numerous battle encounters.

The worlds of the Final Fantasy series are what define it from game to game. In Final Fantasy VI it was a stoic steampunk world and in XIII it was a future techy vision, but in the world of Eos it feels like a reflection of the real world. The world is filled with highways and small cities that span across a landscape of lush forests, barren deserts and rocky mountains that are littered with all kinds of baddies and imperial soldiers just waiting to put Noctis in a shallow grave.

Players will travel the world of Eos in the royal automobile, the Regalia. It is an odd pace to be fighting swarm of wyverns, finish the battle, jump into a sports car and then set off for the next battle with the next mythical beast. While it is odd, it works. Using a car as the primary mode of travel makes the game feel relatable and builds upon its charm. Stopping for gas on a long road trip can open a new path and new quests to follow.

It is quite comical to watch Noctis become distracted while in the pursuit of peace. The world cycles through day and night in about one hour, in which the player must also eat and sleep. With all the bounty hunts, fishing quests and side quests, players will spend weeks within the game putting the fate of Eos on pause.



With so much to do with the game, it is easy for players to become overpowered early in the game. It was laughable to be at level 60 and fighting main story bosses that were only at level 16. One shooting a boss is a testament to willpower and dedication, but it stole from the fun and sense of danger.

While the game might have took focus to a more relatable world, it also paid tribute to the former titles. There are chocobos, magitek knights, ultima blades and even the fearsome cactuars. The game equips the Regalia and Noctis with MP3 players that can play all the musical scores from the previous Final Fantasy games.

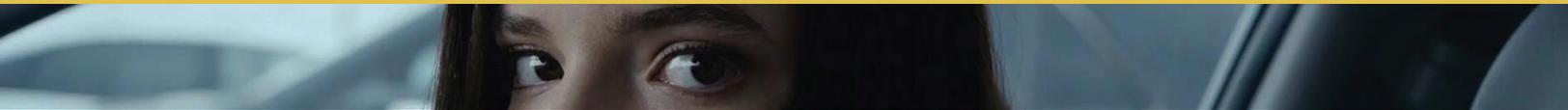
Being a long time fan or new to the series, players will find themselves lost in a world far from home with the comfort of not leaving the couch.

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



**Final-Fantastic
4/5**

- + Huge World**
- + Awesome Dungeons**
- + Beautiful Graphics**
- + Throwbacks to the Series**
- Too Easy to Level up Early**



MOVIE TROLL: SPLIT

// ANIKA ROVIG

Anyone who knows anything about movies, actors, producers, might have an unsettling feeling when they realized the new movie “Split” was written and directed by M. Night Shyamalan. Some of his other well-known films include; “The Sixth Sense,” “The Visit,” “The Happening,” and many other intense thresholding thrillers. While most of his movies contain plots regarding the supernatural, this multiple personality film may have you thinking Shyamalan might contradict the preacher of habit stereotype by eliminating a supernatural phenomenon from his plot.

Kevin (James McVoy) is in an altering constant battle with 23 different personalities trying to take over his body. Kevin isn't the only one fighting this battle. One of his other 23 personalities kidnaps three young girls whom he holds hostage. Although two of the girls are in complete distress and panic, the third girl, Kacey Cook seems to have

experience in dealing with someone in Kevin's state. She could see that there was something mentally wrong with Kevin from the beginning. She seemed to be more in tune with her captor than her fellow abductees.

While Kevin's personality transitions start to get quicker and quicker, Kacey tries to find a certain window for her to manipulate the personality taking over Kevin's body. McVoy definitely should be credited for his spontaneous ability to not only depict such distinct characters, but to master them. One personality in particular Kacey finds to be the most vulnerable is when Kevin transitions into a young boy who she feels can manipulate him into letting the girls free.

There are reoccurring instances and conversations that happen when Kevin is being taken over by another personality. “The beast” is talked about more than once during this story and is supposedly

the 24th personality, the alpha male of all things mentally ill with Kevin.

I couldn't help but wonder how Shyamalan would ruin the ending of the movie. While he may have a track record for continually twisting the endings of some of his most iconic films, perhaps the conclusion of this film may not create such a redefining of the entire story. That alone could be refreshing to some Shyamalan fans.

(Anika Rovig is a editor for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org)

FINAL VERDICT:
6.5/10



INSTAGRAM



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eva_graf



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sabrina_seeley



@BSCMYSTICIAN

#LETSGETMYSTICAL

BAD DATES

STAFF EDITORIAL

ILLUSTRATION//DANI MOLINARO

As college students, we have all had a crush at some point or another in our lives. The process of acting on our crush is when things get interesting, especially when it's your junior high and early high school years. To recognize the day of love, The Mystician editors have decided to share with you our most embarrassing dating experiences, that is if we all had one.

- Dating in high school is never a good idea, but when I was a little sophomore girl and a big bad senior asked me out on a date there is no way I could refuse. He said he didn't want to do anything too fancy for a first date. I figured this meant a movie or going to the only restaurant in my small town, but no. His idea of a "simple date" was attending a high school volleyball game. Even though this was an odd setting for a first date, I tried to keep my composure. Asking him what music he liked and what his hobbies were was a challenge due to the excessive cheering from the student section. Still, I stuck it out. That is until he and his buddy began to make vulgar comments about the opposing team's butts in their little

spandex shorts. At that point I politely excused myself and never spoke to that douchebag again.

- My first "boyfriend" was in my senior year of high school. He was the class weirdo and the guy who everyone else loved to make mad due to the fact that he would yell and scream in class on occasion. One of my friends was the one who decided that we should date - she even went and asked him out for me even though I begged her not to. We didn't really talk much, he would just attempt to flirt from across the classroom, and we never really saw each other much outside of school. After less than a week of being together, he told me that he loved me, and he proposed to me after we spent a night together. He ended up breaking up with me shortly after because he wanted me to call some random phone number and I wouldn't. "Call the number or we won't date," he texted me. Glad I got rid of that psycho.

- I took my 8th grade crush to see a movie. I expected her to pick a romance movie, prayed for an action and would have settled for a comedy, but what I got was a nightmare mashup with none of the above-mentioned genres. The *Lovely Bones* features the death of a young girl at the hands of her murderous, perverted neighbor. My odds of getting a goodnight kiss dropped off significantly. We shifted uncomfortably for the hour and thirty minutes, shared an awkward hug afterwards and waited for our parents to pick us up. Our recess dates became much less frequent.

- I feel bad for whoever was sitting behind us in the movie theater when we, hormonal 14 year olds, discovered the armrest separating us could be removed. *Shudders*

- For all you single ladies at BSC there is one male editor that says, "I have never been on a date."

Contributors To Staff Editorial:

Hunter Andes	Meghan McNeil
Alicia Billock	Emily Soderber
Brock Hiltner	Anika Rovig
Alexis Larson	Brett Williamson

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.

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 newsmagazine is dedicated to accuracy and maintaining ethical practices.

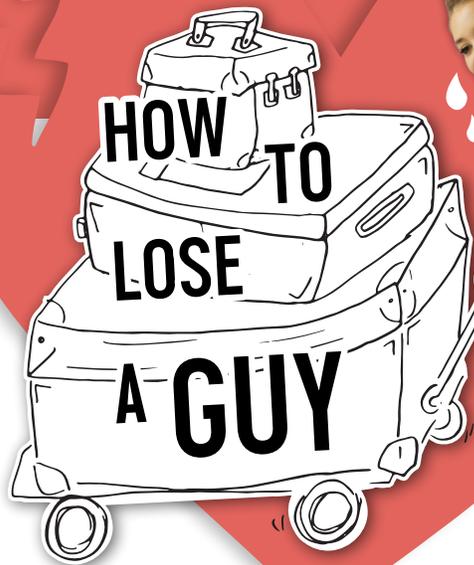
The Bismarck State College Mystician strives to be objective and is not affiliated with any outside organization. The Mystician upholds the principles guaranteed by the First Amendment and utilizes these rights to bring diverse, entertaining and thought-provoking material to the college community.

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.

Contact Us: editor@mystician.org



ILLUSTRATION//DANI MOLINARO

//ALEXIS LARSON

It's the most hated time of the year. Oh yes, it's February and we all know what happens this month. No it is not Groundhog Day; it's Valentine's Day. Some girls actually look forward to this day, we get cute gifts and flowers from our special someone, but others not so much. This is the day some of us remember how completely and utterly alone we are. We hash-tag pictures with #happybeingsinlge or #whoneedsavalentine when in reality

we are watching love movies on repeat, with our bowl of ice cream and crying about how we are forever alone. How did we get to this point?

There is no way we girls could be the problem. We are cute, funny, have an adorable laugh with a kickass personality, with amazing qualities. Right? If you have ever done any of the following, you are definitely the reason you're spending this day alone.

Expecting too much too soon. Yes we all want to find "the one," but let's just calm down. We can't expect that a man will feel the same way we do after the first

conversation. Relationships take time to form, so take that time to figure out if you're actually into the guy. We can't be throwing ourselves at them, we have to look a little more put together than that.

Lay off the couple selfies. No man wants to take 1,000 pictures with you everyday. It's even worse when you keep deleting the picture because you don't look good, forcing them to keep retaking it. The occasional selfie every now and then is cute, but too many pictures will leave him running.

Being too clingy. Must I even explain this one? Wearing too much makeup. A lot of the time the natural look is the better. Now I'm not saying not to wear makeup because I love wearing makeup. I'm saying that if you're spending the day watching movies, maybe go for the more natural, casual look.

If you plead guilty to any of these then you will probably find yourself drinking a party pack by yourself on Feb. 14.

(Alexis Larson is an editor for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)

VENTURES OF ADULTS

//ANIKA ROVIG



rarely take road trips. Actually I think I just don't get invited to go on road trips. I think it's because of my bladder, or lack thereof. I can't make it more than 30 miles without asking for a bottle to stream in. I took a trip to Denver recently for a foosball tournament. I love seeing the reaction out of some people, it's like they have a look of remorse almost. I find great pleasure in being unpredictable.

A foosball tournament is kind of like a herpes convention, nobody really knows they exist, yet hundreds of people attend. This being my first attendance to such a pivotal moment in my life, I had soon mastered the art of losing with style. Usually I am competitive and can't

stand to lose. Being in my first foosball excursion, I felt as though I couldn't curse out hasty profanity after getting scored on, or giving my opponent the glare of a pre-meditated murder look. It would be like a first timer coming into the ring with Cassius Clay and throwing a fit for getting knocked on their ass by a pro. Sometimes you just have to respect people for their trade.

I've never been around such a dynamic group of people, I felt I had finally belonged somewhere. Just kidding-I could have sworn I WAS at a herpes convention. I went from playing a seven year old in crutches, to a midget with wrist guards, although I've never heard

of a seven-year-old having herpes, it could happen. I had quickly learned that the majority of the population would find themselves at a herpes convention before they would find themselves at a foosball tournament, they are rare but they do exist.

I already have plans to enter into another tournament, but this time it is in Vegas. Now the chances of this being an intermingled convention including foosball and herpes is much more prominent.

(Anika Rovig is an editor for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)

NEWS FLASH FOLKS



//HUNTER ANDES

Technology is affecting our minds. In the last 20 years, society has become exceedingly reliant on computers and cellphones. A place of concern is at college campuses, where a majority of today's students have not only cellphones, but smartphones.

News flash folks. Smartphones are only smart enough to addict the user.

If a person does not have this technology, it has come to the point where they are going to be forgotten, which is disgraceful. In "The Circle," Mercer was chased by drones and then killed because he chose not to use technology.

News flash folks. This world is going to be like that world if change is not made. Is that what we want to happen?

It is truly depressing how insolent society has become. It is at a point where a person can't even say hello anymore. Take a moment to observe how many people are looking down at their smartphone while walking down the sidewalk. Some may look up and make eye contact; however, most of the time they won't even acknowledge the passerby's existence. Try saying hello. On a good day a couple people may respond, some will give a look of disapproval, but be ready to be socially rejected because of a smartphone.

Has the decency in people vanished? Maybe when this generation of college students is 80 years old they will realize how much of life they missed out on.

News flash folks. Look at the big picture for a second and realize how rude and inconsiderate society has become.

(Hunter Andes is an editor for The Mystician. Reach him at editor@mystician.org.)

ACCEPTING THE ARTS



//ALICIA BILLOCK

What do you plan on doing with that degree? How are you going to get a real job? Isn't that a dying profession? These only a few of the countless questions that students pursuing a degree in the arts encounter.

I am used to getting a judgemental stare when I tell people I'm majoring in Theatre. I casually gear the conversation in a different direction, avoiding more awkward and slightly offensive questions.

The immediate belittling response can cause discouragement and make you want to reconsider your career path. Next time you encounter a situation in which others question your choices to follow your dream you can combat them with these facts.

According to www.thriveart.com, students who study art are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievements. In fact, art programs are mandatory in countries that rank the highest for math and science. Department of Neurobiology at Harvard Medical School says the art of dance helps stimulate the brain and is even being used in treatment to combat diseases such as Parkinson's

The arts are still crucial to our society today. That isn't to say that everyone should love the arts but they should respect it. Keep following your dreams and remember that what you do matters.

(Alicia Billock is an editor for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)

SELL YOUR JUNK & MOVE ON



//EMILY SODERBERG

Break ups suck. Especially if the break up was near Valentine's Day. In this digital age, getting rid of memories can be far from easy. Even after "unfriending" or "unfollowing" them and their friends, you've still got all the stuff they gave you.

There are a couple of ways to get rid of it: give it back, throw/burn it or sell it. Now, if you're anything like me, you won't want to give it back because that would require seeing the person who just recently broke your heart. Throwing or burning it might seem like a good idea and a person could feel victorious in the moment; but wouldn't you feel even more victorious by making some money off of things that you didn't even pay for?

That's exactly what www.neverlikeditanyway.com is trying to do. On this website, you're able to sell things from your ex that are too painful to keep, share your story about the break up, and help you bounce back and be better than before. Things available for purchase vary from wedding dresses and engagement rings to stuffed animals and t-shirts - basically, if you don't want it, this website is willing to help you get rid of it.

Better yet, www.neverlikeditanyway.com donates ten percent of their profits to Go Red for Women, which is the American Heart Association's national movement to end heart disease and stroke in women. No matter the circumstances, the people behind this website care about mending hearts however they can.

(Emily Soderberg is a reporter for The Mystician. Reach her at editor@mystician.org.)

THE EDITORS' MYX FYX



The Mystician's monthly Myx Fyx is a selection of songs chosen by The Mystician Editors to spread enjoyment through out the Bismarck State College community. Each editor has a unique flavor of music. The collaborative hybrid will produce a sonic experience unique only to the MYX.



THE MYX CREW AND AIR TIMES

Scott Mann: Tuesday @ 3 p.m.

Dylan Bender: Wednesday @ 3 p.m.

Kiri Bauer: Thursday @ 2 p.m.

Thomas Delozier: Thursday @ 3 p.m.

Cameron Olson: Friday @ 2 p.m.

TO LISTEN: GO TO WWW.BSCMYX.COM

BREAK UP MAKE UP EDITION

1: POTENTIAL BREAKUP SONG - ALY & AJ

2: FORGET YOU - CEELO GREEN

3: SABBRA CADABRA - BLACK SABBATH

4: THOUSAND TIMES GOODBYE - MEGADETH

5: I DON'T WANT TO KNOW - ASTRID S

6: BIG GIRLS DON'T CRY - FERGIE

7: BREAK STUFF - LIMP BIZKIT

8: MORE THAN WORDS - EXTREME

9: AMAZED - LONESTAR

10: MAKE ME CRY - NOAH CYRUS

11: FOLLOW YOU FOLLOW ME - GENESIS

12: OPERATOR - JIM CROCE

13: THANKS FOR NOTHING - BRANDYN BURNETTE

14: HALF OF MY HEART - JOHN MAYER

15: IT WASN'T ME - SHAGGY

16: HAVEN'T MET YOU YET - MICHAEL BUBLÉ

17: SONGBIRD - FLEETWOOD MAC

18: HOW CAN YOU MEND A BROKEN HEART - AL GREEN

