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# THE MYSTICIAN

VOL. 81 ISSUE 7 BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE BISMARCK, N.D. March 5, 2020

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## PUBLISHING IMAGINATION



The Spring 2020 Figments of Imagination Staff meeting during their 12 p.m. class period to discuss their publication. Figments blends not just the creative works of students together, but packages it all in a way decided to be fitting by the students that publish it. (Credit: Robert Mechaley III)

### Class Allows Students to Publish and Be Published

By Haylee Hebdon  
REPORTER

Calling students of all talents, here's an opportunity to take part in a literary arts publication.

Figments of Imagination is a student-based literary magazine here at Bismarck State College. The magazine contains poems, short stories, novellas, as well as different art and humor-based work. Each edition holds all sorts of art from many different people on campus.

Figments was first published in spring 1992. The story of how it came to be started with the students. That fall before the publication, there was a group of students in the Fiction Writing 299 class that wanted to further improve their fiction writing skills and wanted a place to showcase what talents different students had.

Josh Kern, associate professor of English, is the current adviser for Figments and the team. Each spring semester, the students who help create the publication find the time within their own schedules to help build each edition and hold events to help fund their project. This year there are only four students, so fundraising is a little tough when they can't find the time.

"It's always fun to watch them all come together at crunch time," Kern said. "It goes back to that real world product where there's actually a deadline you have to meet, and everyone will know if you don't."

Figments of Imagination is now created in the English 213 Literary Publications class, and any student is welcome to join. The class doesn't require any art or English background, as long as students learn the process and see it through, they are welcome.

"It's one of those rare opportunities to see a project completely through at a community college level and come out with an actual finished product," Kern said.

The members of the Figments team come up with new ideas and themes for each edition. By looking at past editions and staying open to new ideas, the class comes up with a vision that they can achieve.

Mystic Java works with Figments during open mic nights to earn funding by getting tips from anyone who stops by and buys coffee. They also offer a

dollar off for supporting Figments.

Figments is a completely student-driven product.

"That's a big part of our goal. It doesn't have to be produced in a class," Kern said. "We have people all over this campus, and we never want it to be just

about what a particular art or creative writing class did."

Each submission is judged by faculty and staff that are comfortable enough to volunteer their insight and expertise. Faculty from many areas on campus participate, as well as staff such as librarians.

Figments gives students on campus many opportunities to submit and not just on an art-based level. There are submission boxes in different buildings all over campus for students of all programs and talents to submit their visual and literary work.

*Submissions deadline for Figments of Imagination is Friday, March 6.*

**"We have people all over this campus, and we never want it to be just about what a particular art or creative writing class did."**

**Josh Kern, Associate Professor of English**

# THE MYSTICIAN

PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS – FOR THE STUDENTS

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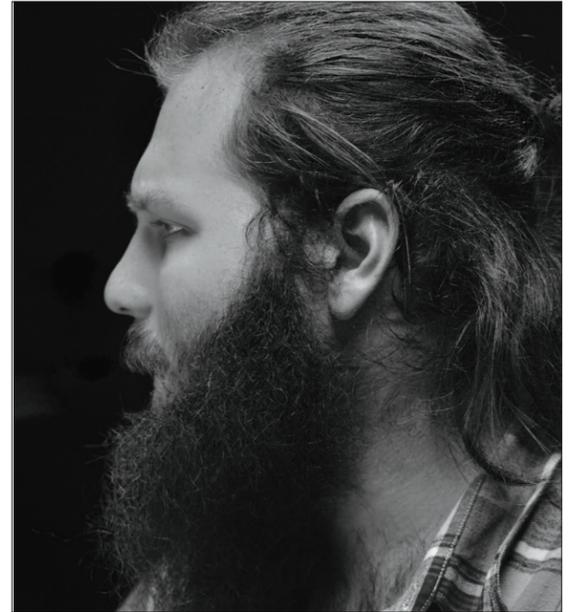
# Letter from the Editor

Spring Break is just around the corner, the weather is marginally better than before, and I have a plane to catch to New York in less than a week's time. What a busy March this is going to be with travel and events. It feels like I'm in the working world and if there's one thing I really appreciate about Bismarck State College, it's the way a student feels like they are being taught valuable skills rather than just being lectured to.

At the school I attended some years ago before BSC the curriculum felt drab and like a race to see how fast someone could learn facts with no real examination of them. It certainly is nice to learn about crime statistics, but we didn't really examine them critically or ask how the American criminal justice system could better function. Meanwhile here at BSC, I am constantly posed with real ethical questions regarding news publication.

The field of work I wanted to enter before felt like something I was beyond unprepared for. Like drawing closer and closer to a fire knowing fully well that you probably shouldn't be standing in such proximity to it. For once it seems I'm receiving the training necessary for a line of work and I am far too excited to finally jump in when I begin my job search this summer.

Not just that, but it feels like so many separate, moving pieces are falling into place across the board for me. I'm picking up new hobbies, getting back into old interests and really building up new social circles. A breath of fresh air in my life, I just wish it wasn't so cold outside, so I could properly enjoy it.



## Robert Mechaley III

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

## Event Calendar March - April 2020

<u>March 8</u> Book Talk (LEA) 1 p.m.	<u>April 1-5</u> Spring Musical – Kiss Me Kate (SJL) 7:30 p.m. each night Sunday at 2:30 p.m.
<u>March 9</u> Game Day (SU) 3 p.m.	<u>April 1</u> Documentary (Belle Mehus)
<u>March 11</u> Craft Event (SU) 11 a.m.	<u>April 2-4</u> Dakota Film Festival (Belle Mehus)
<u>March 16-20</u> Spring Break	<u>April 6</u> Game Day (SU) 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.
<u>March 23</u> Cupcakes (SU) 11 a.m.	<u>April 7</u> Mystics Help Mystics (SU) 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Collage Concert (SJL) 7:30 p.m.
<u>March 23-24</u> Red Lodge Clay Artist Residency	<u>April 8</u> Easter Egg Hunt (SU) 9 a.m. Lost Due to Incompetence (SJL) 7:30 p.m. BSC Alumni Greg Berger Film
<u>March 25</u> Coke and a Smile (SU) 11 a.m.	
<u>March 26</u> Visiting Authors – Debra Marquart	

### The Mystician Mission Statement and Disclaimer

The purpose of college media is to serve and give voice to the students. Our goal is to incorporate as many students as possible and be an outlet for student expression. We, as the student-based forum of journalism on the Bismarck State College campus, provide content that is informative, fair, concise and of importance to BSC. With this goal in mind, The Mystician staff is dedicated to accuracy and maintaining ethical journalistic practices. 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. We strive to give a voice to student issues and policies within the local community.

#### Contact:

**Robert Mechaley III, EIC,**  
with letters to the editor

or any concerns/comments regarding this publication.

**E-mail: [bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu](mailto:bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu)**

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

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

Stop by Room 125 in The Armory for more information.

## Crossword Information

BSC's own Language, Literature and Communication Department Chair (and crossword geek) Michael Tomanek has created and submitted this month's puzzle. The first person to complete the crossword puzzle correctly and submit it to Michael Tomanek in LEA 201A will win a prize. The names of all the other people with correct submissions will be put into drawing for a prize.

Submissions must be received before Tuesday, April 7. The answers will be published in The Mystician 81.8, which will be available Thursday, April 9.

The Mystician Staff would like to formally apologize to Dr. Danny Devlin for the misspelling of his name in Volume 87 Issue 6 of this newspaper in our piece about Kiss Me Kate. -Robert G Mechaley III, Editor-in-Chief, The Mystician



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Us!



**MYSTICAST**

# STUDENTS READ MEMOIR BY LOCAL AUTHOR AND ATHLETE

## Campus Reads Melanie Carvell's Book on Health and Her Home

By **Robert Mechaley III**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Melanie Carvell, author of "Running with the Antelope: Life, Fitness and Grit on the Northern Plains", went from growing up in the town of Mott, ND, to a competitive duathlete and triathlete in competitions around the globe. With her experience as a professional athlete, Carvell became director of the Sanford Women's Health Center and a motivational speaker, giving talks at events such as TEDx UMary.

Published by the Dakota Institute in 2014, Carvell wrote the book, "Running with the Antelope: Life, Fitness and Grit on the Northern Plains", as a love letter to growing up in Mott and as a source of

inspiration to create health in more than just the physical ways.

"I hope readers find inspiration to move more in any way they choose, and chart their own path not to just physical and mental health, but also love, community, and connection to others," Carvell said.

With such a well regarded name and being a local to the state, Carvell's book was chosen by the Committee for Bismarck State College's Campus Read Event.

"I think it's a story we can all relate to, because it is a memoir," Marlene Anderson, director of library services said. "It's about someone who grew up in the Northern Great Plains and many of our students, many of our staff grew up in the same kind of areas."

**"I hope readers find inspiration to move more in any way they choose."**

**Melanie Carvell, Author of Running with the Antelope: Life, Fitness and Grit on the Northern Plains**

Anderson serves as a co-chair on the Campus Read committee alongside Kim Crowley, Associate Professor of English. Campus Read was established at Bismarck State College in 2004 by Janelle Masters, former Dean of Language at BSC, with the mission to engage the campus community in a shared reading experience to enhance discussion and learning both inside and outside of the classroom. Such titles selected for the annual reading include "Lab Girl", "Ready Player One" and "The Circle". To have her own book as a featured work amongst national titles makes the setbacks worth it.

"It is incredibly gratifying to receive this kind of recognition for my book," Carvell said. "This recognition is even more gratifying since it has come from my own community."

Carvell said that while there were problems in writing the book, there were also a number of positives that directly correlated to her knowledge of setting athletic goals. She found a mentor in American humanities scholar, Clay Jenkinson, wrote a little at a time every day, focused on the journey and used setbacks in the work as future stepping stones. The end product being a fully realized memoir on the state she calls home and her career of running against people and the antelope.

**Melanie Carvell in the Badlands of ND. In a talk at TEDx UMary she told a story of a local man who owned a bar in Mott who would always drive between home and back despite the two being in walking distance, saying ultimately that a path to wellness is breaking our preexisting habits. (Photo Provided)**



# FUN FACTS ABOUT VACCINES

## It's Not Too Late for the Community to Get Vaccinated

By **Kyleigh Hilbert**  
REPORTER

Influenza is no fun with body aches and fevers. But there can also be serious complications that arise from the virus if not treated, including organ failure and brain inflammation.

Every year we are told to go get our annual flu shots. There is much more to putting these vaccinations together than we know. The main purpose of vaccines is to protect people from getting sick. Vaccines are able to do this because they are made up with different amounts of strains of the illness to fight against the different types of flu.

"Vaccines actually contain very tiny little amounts of what we call, antigens," said Melanie Schock, Assistant Professor of Nursing here at Bismarck State College. "And antigens are what trigger our immune systems to respond to particular illnesses and conditions moving forward. So you give someone a

vaccine, the little amounts of antigens in that vaccine, trigger our immune system to respond and create what we call antibodies, or an attack mode, of these specific antigens."

Vaccines have been made for fighting off many different diseases. Vaccinations for the flu are being recommended right now with this being the prime time of the year to get sick.

"If somewhere down the line some other time, we actually do get whatever that illness is, it could be influenza, it could be measles, mumps, hep. B, it could be anything we have a vaccine for." Schock said, "Then our body's immune system says 'hey I recognize this, I'm going to fight it off.' And then the immune system responds and takes care of it, so hopefully you do not get the illness or disease that you were vaccinated against."

The influenza virus can attack anyone and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, says that anyone is at risk for contracting the viruses. The flu can

happen at any age, but those more likely to contract the flu are infants, pregnant women and people 65 and older.

"The older population and real little ones are the ones that can get into real trouble with the virus and may need to go to the hospital to be supported while they are sick, with fluids or oxygen," Schock said, "but most healthy people can just ride it out at home."

There are quite a few factors and symptoms to look out for the virus.

"Usually with the flu, known as influenza, the symptoms are usually relatively high fever, coughing, just feeling pretty much miserable, lots of body aches," Schock said, "and it is a viral process, so there really isn't anything a physician can do or treat it with."

Since it is a viral process, doctors can not prescribe antibiotics to treat it because it is not a bacteria.

Schock recommends, as long as people are healthy, they can stay home and stay hydrated to take care of themselves. She

also suggests staying away from other people because they are contagious.

CDC.gov says influenza can last up to a few days to a few weeks. As of this February, 5,868 cases total have been reported in North Dakota, including 2,230 children under the age of 10, along with 184 people being hospitalized because of it. This includes all six strains of influenza. Currently, the World Health Organization says that there are 26 vaccinations and more are being developed.

"The vaccine for influenza specifically is different for every year," Schock said. "And a lot of the time, they are really good and spot on, but then some years they do not get it quite right, so even if you get the vaccine, you can still end up getting one of the other strains of influenza that were not covered by the vaccine."

For more information on the influenza virus, Schock suggests checking out [nd.flu.com](http://nd.flu.com) to find out about the flu season in North Dakota.

# STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

## Dustin Peterson

By Robert Mechaley III  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Academic Records Office sits on the first floor of Schafer Hall next to the Student Finance Office. Most students will interact with Academic Records through the windowed front desk, only aware of the doings in sight. Behind the front counter however, there is a lot of work to be done.

“My main responsibility is more on the back office end of Academic Records,” Dustin Peterson, academic records technology specialist said. “My main priority is I am a technology specialist that supports the maintenance and expansion of our academic requirements module within Campus Connection.”

Students and faculty of BSC use the academic requirements module as an auditing report to find a student’s

progression toward their degree within their time at the school. This is only the main priority for Peterson in the Academic Records office. The two other responsibilities include coordinating students taking courses at multiple

**“My main responsibility is more on the back office end of Academic Records.”**

**Dustin Peterson, Academic Records Technology Specialist**

North Dakota University System institutions and assisting the other members of the office with transcript posting and graduation ceremony preparations. Peterson is not alone in these responsibilities. Thankfully, there is a dedicated office all working together

in keeping work steady.

Peterson serves as a member of the staff senate as well, acting as a representative for his department. One of his main takeaways is the staff appreciation events hosted over breaks to show the various staff how hard their work has paid off.

“Staff senate is a really good group that covers a lot of facets as far as the staff is here for,” Peterson said.

In Peterson’s spare time he is busy caring for his four daughters and son. Recreational interests are largely summer based with heavy interest in fishing. When trapped indoors for the winter, Peterson hones his chess and illustration skills.

“I’m a former graphic design student from BSC, so I still do a little dabbling in illustration,” Peterson said.

*The Mystician will continue with Staff Senate Highlights in Volume 81.8.*



Dustin Peterson serves as a representative for the Academic Records Office to the Staff Senate. Favored activities include fishing, chess and spending time with family. (Photo Provided)

### NEWS BRIEFS NEWS BRIEFS NEWS BRIEFS NEWS BRIEFS

## PRESIDENT WATCH

### The Candidates Are In

The Bismarck State College Presidential Search Committee has announced five candidates who have accepted invitations to visit Bismarck State College to interview for the position. Candidates visited the campus and participated in forums March 2-5.

More information about each candidate will be communicated later. If anyone on the campus or in the community were not able to attend a campus forum, they have been recorded so everyone will still have the opportunity to participate and give

feedback to the search committee.

The candidates are:

-Dr. Clark Harris Laramie County Community College Special Assistant to the President

-Dr. Douglas Jensen President and CEO Rock Valley College

-Dr. Philip Klein Dean of Health and Public Safety South Piedmont Community College

-Dr. Joan Poor Executive Director Slack Farms Foundation, Inc.

-Dr. Richard Sax Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

**“The committee has completely thrown themselves into the process of finding a new president for BSC... After speaking with the candidates over video last week, we are all looking forward to getting to know them better during their visit to BSC.”**

**Dr. Dan Leingang, Vice President for Academic Affairs**

University of Rio Grande & Rio Grande Community College

A total of 41 applications were submitted for the position. The BSC Presidential Search Committee

interviewed 12 candidates last week, narrowing down the field to the top 5.

The State Board of Higher Education will name BSC’s next president at their March 26 meeting.

## Create your own Mystics apparel and gifts



# SHOP BSCGEAR.COM

# TICK TOCK

By Caden Shean  
REPORTER

New apps and trends are constantly cycling through the electronic world. Out with the old and in with the new. That new app today would be Tik Tok.

Tik Tok replaces another app called Vine, which was a short seven second video that one could make. On Tik Tok, videos can be made that last all the way up to a minute long.

Tik Tok currently has more than 1 billion users on the app and has had more than 123 million downloads in the United States alone.

“I use Tik Tok for comedic purposes,” Zach Madler, a freshman at Bismarck State College said. “It fills in the down time in my everyday life.”

This app definitely does get used mostly for gaps in one’s schedule. But limiting the usage on how long one is on the app can be tricky.

“You can go on with the intention of only being on the app for 10 minutes, which turns into 2 or more hours fast,” Madler said. “Time can really get away from you when you are watching Tik Tok.”

Starting a trend for a video is more difficult than it may seem. For the most part, when people do make their first Tik Tok, it is usually following a trend.

# Students Waste Time with an App

A trend such as a dance move, a certain song or even lip syncing a comedy sketch.

“I think the dances are funny and fun to do,” Emma Marion, a sophomore at BSC said. “My Tik Tok videos are just a way to do some of these dances that are popular at the time and try to do them myself.”

Tik Tok has had some safety concerns involving the data it can share as well as what types of videos seen on the app.

“At the point everything is kind of dangerous when dealing with online technology,” Madler said. “But as far as what you can see on Tik Tok, they try to show you videos like others that you

have liked already before.”

Going viral or getting certified means a lot of people get to see the users’ videos and their channel becomes highly recommended to others.

“I do not honestly care whether my videos were to go viral,” Marion said. “If it were to happen though I definitely wouldn’t be mad.”

Tik Tok is quickly becoming the most used app for people from 13-30 years of age. It can be addictive and time consuming without knowing until it is too late. With a five star rating on the app store, it is easy to see just why this app is becoming more and more popular by the day.

## NEWS BRIEFS NEWS BRIEFS NEWS BRIEFS NEWS BRIEFS

# INTERNSHIP RECIPIENT

## BSC Student Receives Opportunity from Palo Alto



Above: Riley Mueller, a Bismarck State College Cybersecurity and Computer Networks student, was a top 10 finisher in the first Palo Alto Networks Secure the Future Competition. Left: Mueller poses with other finalists from the national competition. (Photos Provided)

Bismarck State College Cybersecurity and Computer Networks student, Riley Mueller, was a top 10 finisher in the first Palo Alto Networks Secure the Future Competition – a grueling months-long national competition against dozens of cybersecurity students from universities across the nation. Other finalists came from four-year universities like Ball State University, Murray State University and East Carolina University.

Additionally, the sophomore was one of five finalists to land a prestigious paid summer internship at Palo Alto Networks corporate headquarters in Santa Clara, Calif.

According to Palo Alto Networks, the Secure the Future Competition is designed to teach students how to “make decisions regarding protection of operational assets through the analysis, comparison and selection of advanced security tools, methodologies and implementation options.”

A 2018 graduate of Legacy High School in Bismarck, Mueller attends BSC full time and works 30 hours per week as an intern at National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) in Mandan. The competition required another 15-20 hours of effort each week from Sept. 1 through early January.

The competition had four domains each contestant had to work through. The students had assigned reading and did outside research to prepare themselves for the essay questions and multiple-choice tests that weeded out contestants as each domain was completed. Five judges from Palo Alto Networks guided students through the competition.

The final assignment was to complete a report and five-minute video summarization of the domains. The top 10 candidates then were asked to give a 15-minute presentation to a panel of judges at Palo Alto Networks corporate

headquarters in Santa Clara, Calif., January 12-15.

The day after the competition, Mueller interviewed for an internship. He was assigned to the systems engineering team and will return to California in mid-May. He’ll room with one of his fellow contestants, a student from Georgia, and another intern from Florida.

Mueller will earn his associate degree this spring and plans to return to BSC in the fall to pursue BSC’s four-year Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Cybersecurity and Information Technology.

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## Opinion

Aspiring to Give Every Student a Voice

## STAFF ED

## Flipping Coins for Democracy

On Monday night, February 3rd (or January 27th?), the Iowa caucus conducted a strange and almost absurd way in which to count their votes for the Democratic primaries. When votes became too close, instead of recounting each vote, members decided to instead conduct a coin flip to decide where to allocate the votes. While this is not a new practice for Iowa, they are still taking the heat for the child-like efforts in allocating votes.

A majority of states use paper ballots or Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) Systems to count votes. Such methods

are easily tracked and accounted for in the case of a recount. New Hampshire conducts their voting via paper ballots and when asked about their ballot method, New Hampshire Secretary of State, Bill Gardner simply stated "...you can't hack a pencil." It's reliable and not a method of voting that's left to literal chance, such as a coin flip.

The real issue with the manner in which Iowa conducted their coin flip lies within the importance of a vote to an American citizen. If places like Iowa are just going to ignore votes anyways and leave the outcome to chance, is there

really even a point to voting? Americans should feel empowered and proud of the fact that they have the ability to go out and vote for who they want to see in office. Coin flips undermine this ability and make a mockery out of democracy.

Arguments in support of this method claim that the coin flips don't hold much weight and do not actually determine who gets what vote. They argue that it doesn't sway votes enough to the point where one person could overtake another popular choice. However, the overall issue at hand lies within the value of a vote. Whether or not the votes

actually serve as a tipping point for a candidate isn't the major issue here. It is the fact that if someone goes out and votes, it may be completely worthless because in the end the outcome will be decided by complete chance. Votes should matter more to the American people and their voices should be heard by those in power. Deciding against a recount and resorting to a coin toss shows the immaturity and lack of responsibility to those in power, and it hints at the idea that American votes don't really matter if there's an "easier" way of conducting voting.

## MALARD'S MUSINGS

## Cancelled



By Brenna Malard  
EDITOR and COLUMNIST

A growing movement in this generation, specifically on social media platforms, has been the trend of Cancel Culture. The term is used to describe the act of "canceling" someone based on a simple mistake or problematic opinion. If people don't like you, and they can convince others not to like you too, then you quickly become an outcast.

This can be seen on many platforms but a specific case can be seen looking at a young 15-year-old girl, Charli D'Amelio. She is a creator on the app Tik Tok who rapidly gained followers for her fun dance videos online, but consequently gained haters too. People soon began to find a way to hate this young girl. Over the past few months, she's received multiple comments attacking her looks and weight. These range from "you're ugly" to "eat a burger". What was once a

fun app for her to express her creative freedom suddenly becomes a platform for total strangers to make judgments about her on. The worst part is, she's not hated for anything other than how she looks. She's a pretty 15-year-old and people just don't like that, so they tear her down.

Cancel Culture isn't relative only to celebrities either. It can be seen in everyday life too. People judge others based solely on looks and the worst part is that it's become a bonding technique. Connecting over disliking the same person is one of the ways friendships are born. As sick and twisted as it sounds, the majority of people have fallen victim to this type of mindset. We want to assume the worst in people because it somehow then proves we're better than they are, and of course, we always want to be better. If we can convince ourselves

we are better, by tearing others down, then we will.

It's hard to steer clear of this negativity, and I'm not sure it's possible to completely avoid it either. It's easy to fall victim to this, but it's even worse to become complacent with it. However, choosing to be aware of the issue is one step in the right direction, and it's a step a lot of people aren't willing to make. If you continuously put yourself in toxic situations don't be surprised when your way of thinking and judging others becomes toxic too. Make that step towards a more positive way of thinking and I think we'll all find how life becomes way more enjoyable when we are not focused on tearing everyone else down.

## RJ RANTS

## Toxic Watch

By RJ Tare  
GUEST COLUMNIST

I was playing as Ana Amari in an Overwatch competitive gameplay. Part of my job as a support player is to shot call, especially since I'm usually at the backline. "Sombra flanking behind," I said. "Shut the fuck up you trans James Charles," our Reinhardt main tank responded.

It isn't a rare occurrence to be called a variety of homophobic slurs in Overwatch. In fact, it's almost a given that I have to brace myself for any insults the moment I say "Hey, team" in the voice chat. The most common question I'm asked: "so what are you?" I casually respond with "I'm human" all the time. Unfortunately, the outcome is always the same; I'm bombarded with demeaning comments regarding my high-pitched voice.

I'm not the only one dealing with such toxicity, in fact, a majority of women that I played with are harassed much more in the gaming community of Overwatch. For example, competitive Overwatch player and online streamer

Chassidy "Cupcake" Kaye posted a controversial clip on her twitter exposing her toxic teammates. One of her male teammate told her to "shut the fuck up and make us sandwiches" while another interrupted amidst the laughing and commanded her to "go mop our floors." It seems to be a trend in the gaming community that everyone lives in the 1800s as if it's a sin to be a woman.

The gaming community seems to forget that there is actually a great demographic of female gamers. According to an article in pgamesn.com, the demographic of female gamers "make up 16% of Overwatch's playerbase [alone]. That's around five million female players, generating over \$250 million in revenue for Blizzard." Women playing video games are common throughout a variety of genres just like men. It's not like women can't operate or utilize a mouse or a keyboard; it's just that there is still a stigma that women can't play video games and that status quo is deeply rooted in our society.

In my opinion, video games are prone to having such unrealistic expectations



of masculinity. For years, male protagonists in video games are depicted as cruel, savage, dominating figures. Anyone who lacks this masculinity is targeted by male gamers, questioning men like myself if I fulfilled the checklist, such as having a cold deep voice like Raiden in Metal Gear.

Of course, female gamers are caught in this toxic masculine expectation.

Women who speak out loud and lead the game are seen as demanding, and those who speak meekly are seen as weak and incapable. There seems to be a loop of inescapable harassment that women and men who aren't "masculine" experience.

It is definitely a disheartening feeling especially when all we want is to enjoy the game just like how some of ya'll sexist bastards enjoy harassing us.

**Do you have an opinion? I certainly hope you would!**

**Write into us at the email: [bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu](mailto:bscmysticianeditor@bismarckstate.edu)**

**if you'd like to have a Letter to the Editor from you to us, featured in our next issue.**

## Crossword Information

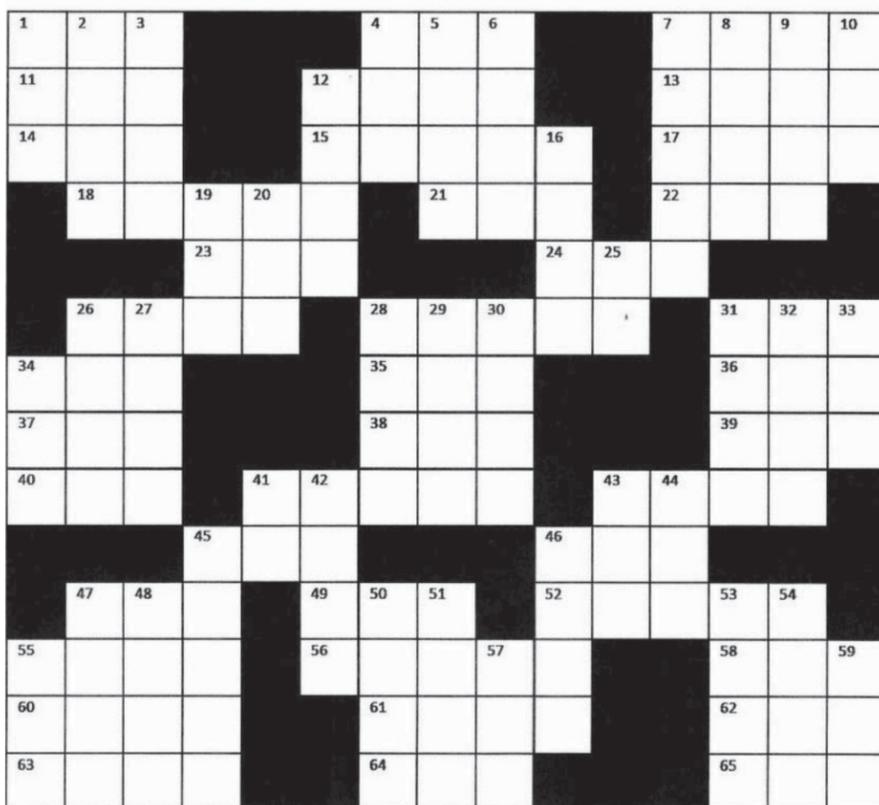
Bismarck State College's own Language, Literature and Communication Department Chair (and crossword geek) Michael Tomanek has created and submitted this month's puzzle for the campus to enjoy.

The first person to complete the crossword puzzle correctly and submit it to Michael Tomanek in LEA 201A will win a prize. The names of all the other people with correct submissions will be put into a drawing for another prize.

Submissions must be received before Tuesday, April 7.

The answers will be published in The Mystician 81.8, which will be available Thursday, April 9.

### Michael Tomanek's First Puzzle, 9 February 2020



#### ACROSS

1. Piney libation
4. Hotel amenity
7. Valentine offering
11. After JFK
12. Things of bliss
13. Decline
14. One of seven
15. George's boy
17. Just like this
18. Divorce
21. Following zamb and pepper
22. Mario's player, in short
23. Pen need
24. SoCal to BC rustic route
26. Building block
28. At the end of a date, maybe
31. After Kil or before Rogers
34. STD test result?
35. After big & before cheese
36. Eggs of yore
37. British LP maker
38. PHX to MSP, dir.
39. Sold his bar to Rebecca
40. Employed 43-down
41. 1-across & 52-across, together
43. Touch
45. Conv. \$
46. \_\_\_-mo
47. Whom?
49. Need for 41-across, clue
52. Elixir
55. Tuna dish, Hawaiian
56. Fancy babysitter
58. Obviously!
60. When?
61. Beefy basketballer?
62. Stat for 38-across, clues
63. 52-across substitute
64. Mac key
65. Follows dumb or pulls a plow

#### DOWN

1. Foul odor
2. Floral goddess
3. Cat's count
4. Peruvian money, once
5. Fire-starter, slangly
6. Labor's delight, maybe?
7. Forge evidence
8. English river
9. Whitney and Wallach
10. USA's EPL equivalent
12. Mean chicken, but tasty
16. Athlete's fear
19. Bookie's payment
20. Ambient-rock genius
25. Tear gas initials
26. A need for 41-across, clue
27. Nature of 14-across
28. CC not to remain at home
29. Wrestling giant
30. Summer tea?
31. It can be crystal
32. Presidential shape
33. Thanksgiving tuber
34. Part of haw
41. Puzzle's creator, in short
42. And you?
43. Wants grits kissed
44. Immeasurable time
45. Venue
46. Site of sore eye
47. Two of Santa's three
48. Barely made it
50. Victor's take
51. Adam's grandson
53. It might be a good one
54. Adds water to
55. IPA servings
57. Broadcasts EPL in USA
59. Owns

## 6 Underground

### Showcasing the Good, the Bad and the Downright Ugly

By Roger Marks IV  
MYSTIC MEDIA COORDINATOR

6 Underground (2019) is a typical Michael Bay movie. There is a lot with this movie that is stylistically too much: Lens flares that will make you wonder if they were intentionally pointing at the sun, saturation pumped up so far that any color grader would puke if not mentally prepared for it, so many special effects that you get flashbacks of Transformers, and of course lots of slow-motion shots. That being said the movie isn't that bad.

#### The Good

On a positive note, the movie has a spectacular premise. Essentially six people playing Batman all over the world. Cool story with endless possibilities of sequels. Also, the way the characters are set up makes it easy for the cast to change from movie to movie. Ryan Reynolds at the helm seems to be a stamp of success these days. This time he plays a less talkative character than most audiences have seen him. One thing is for sure, this movie is a long way from Green Lantern.

#### The Bad

The movie aside from the stylistic choices is slightly off the mark. There are characters that are sometimes unlikeable and make just non-human decisions. Some scenes seem to want to invoke an out of place drama/action vibe. Similar to watching kids play from an adult's perspective and not having the context of the game. And some chases could have been avoided if the characters had just made logical decisions. Fix this and the movie gets a whole lot better.

#### The Ugly

I realize that Michael Bay was made famous for his directing but, it's too much. I don't care who you are nobody sweats that much. Cars do not explode on contact. We are a long way away from the rolling safety hazards that automobiles used to be. And geopolitics does not work the way that it does in this movie.

With the exceptions of a few things 6 Underground is not only a good movie but has the potential to be a blockbuster series. So long as Mr. Bay Keeps his extensive knowledge of effects to a minimum then it has a fighting chance.



(Credit: Netflix Inc.)

## LETTERS TO PETRA

By Petra Davidson  
MYSTICAST EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Dear Petra,

With Valentine's Day coming up this week, I wanted to ask my crush out. I have a few date ideas. I have the cliché chocolates and movie ideas. We've been talking for a while now and she's really sweet. What's the best way to ask her out?

Love,  
Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,  
Though Valentine's Day may be over, there's always an opportunity for you to express your feelings toward another person. I think before you ask her out, you should drop subtle hints to see if she feels the same way about you. Rejection is not a fun thing to experience. This way, you'll find out how she feels about you. The best way to ask out a girl, however, depends on the girl overall. Some girls would prefer a big gesture, like flowers, or a note. Others would just like a casual invite to coffee or lunch. One experience I had, he decided to



buy me flowers and chocolates (it was not Valentine's Day) and then proceeded to ask me out after giving me the gifts. This was not a good way to ask me out because now I felt pressure to say yes, even though I REALLY didn't want to go out on a date with him. I would've wanted to be asked out casually to grab coffee after work so I could reject him easier... just kidding.

I think some men feel like it is more difficult to ask out a girl than it actually is. If you like someone, just ask them for a casual hangout. If they say no, at least you asked in a way that isn't obvious you really like them, and you can still be friends. If they say yes, then score for you! Nevertheless, sometimes a small gesture will go a long way.



During a home game, Amber Stevahn (34) responds with a strong defense against a Teton player from Williston State College. (Credit: Dustin Eichten)

## STEVAHN STRONG

By Michael Kuehn  
REPORTER

The Bismarck State College Mystics Women's basketball team has been on a roll. With 24-4 record overall and 10-2 in the Mon-Dak Conference the Mystics find themselves number one in their conference with the regular season winding down. One player who has been a big part of the Mystics success throughout the year thus far is

sophomore forward Amber Stevahn.

Stevahn recently broke the BSC Women's basketball all time scoring record of 1,234 career points recently held by Angie Frenzel.

"One of my teammates, Courtney, told me before the game that I was close," Stevahn said, "Otherwise, I really had no clue."

The record didn't come without time being poured in. Stevahn spends approximately 15 hours a week working on her game whether in practice or on

## Student Athlete Breaks Record

her own time. Stevahn and her team also participate in weight lifting three times a week during the regular season and plan to continue lifting once a week when the postseason starts.

**"There was no thought in the back of my mind; it just kind of happened."**

***Amber Stevahn, Forward  
BSC Lady Mystics  
Basketball***

"My teammates and I are all very close," Stevahn said. "They were all super happy for me when I broke the record. They were proud of me and super supportive."

Stevahn said she had no thought in her head about the record.

"I broke the single season scoring record last year, but coming into BSC I had no records in mind," Stevahn said. "There was no thought in the back of my mind; it just kind of happened."

"The record wouldn't have come without my teammates, coaches of now and the past, and me going and putting in the work," Stevahn said.

As the Mystics head to the postseason, games become bigger and more impactful. To combat her nerves Stevahn tries to stay calm and focus on the game plan.

"I do get nervous, I just try to put the

nerves in the back of my mind and focus on our game plan and warming up," Stevahn said. "When the game starts, I turn all those nerves into energy, and it keeps me going."

After this season with the Mystics Stevahn isn't done with basketball. She plans on attending Minot State University.

"I chose Minot because it's close to home," Stevahn said. "I felt more at home in Minot than any other place that I visited, it felt a lot like BSC."



Amber Stevahn (34) taking a shot in the game against United Tribes Technical College. The game ended with a resounding victory for the Lady Mystics with a final score of 103-65. (Credit: Dustin Eichten)



Amber Stevahn (34) converses with Head Coach Marv Pederson during a game. (Credit: Dustin Eichten)

# YOUNG TALENT

## Gentle Giant Keeps Team Together



Left: Macauley Young goes for a two point shot in the rivalry game against United Tribes Technical College. Young stands at six-foot-nine making him a powerful center for the Mystics Team (Credits: Dustin Eichten)

By Roger Marks IV  
MYSTIC MEDIA COORDINATOR

Macauley Young is a six-foot-nine center for the Mystics. As a center, he is the imposing figure under the hoop keeping people from wanting to go and score. Young's love for the game of basketball is rivaled only by his love for his team.

Everyone from Leyton Lang to Buster Gilliss.

"Oh I love Buster," Macauley said. "He may be hard sometimes, but we just know he cares about us."

They work together as more than a team, but as a family. Young shared that Gilliss sends memes to the team's group chat.

Young respects his entire team. A few players stand out. Lang is his locker neighbor. And they have become good friends over the season.

Another player is Cobe Begger. Young says that he is a hard worker on the court.

"He's—just a good guy." Young said

Young says he is the hype man. In the locker room, he is the one getting the team pumped up.

"I just start screaming ... Let's Go!"

Young says

Young is in the locker room shouting and giving energy to his teammates, dancing to the music that is playing and making everybody well aware of their time to shine.

Though he is supposed to be the mean guy on the court, off the court he is friendly to all. He has two dogs that he adores, Mori and Ruger. He describes them as "purse dogs" though at Young's size most dogs are purse size.

"I kinda like it—they're just so small," Young said. "you can just grab them and take them wherever you want to go."

A big part of his life is his faith. Young has a cross around his neck at all times. He says that anyone can turn to Jesus for help and he will answer. Young, a Shiloh High School graduate, it is not surprising where this strength comes from.

"If you're going through anything, ask him." Young said.

# BEYOND THE GAME

## Rockets Make Questionable Trade



By Michael Kuehn  
REPORTER

The NBA Trade deadline ended on Feb. 6. This event always seems to kick off the exciting parts of the NBA season, and there were plenty of trades this year to make it a big event once again.

The Houston Rockets recently traded away their center Clint Capela in a deal that involved four teams, 12 players and two draft picks.

Houston is now sending the message that they plan to play a style of

basketball referred to as "small ball." Small ball is a style of basketball that sacrifices height for faster play on the offensive end resulting in more shots and putting more pressure on the ball of the defensive end.

Rockets General Manager Daryl Morey has been known for making bold moves in the past, and this may be one of his boldest. Going all in on the developing strategy of small ball, Morey has now set himself up for almost certain failure against the upper echelon teams of the NBA.

For those of you out there trying

to defend the Rockets and this trade, let me ask you this. How does a team like Houston try to match up with guys like Anthony Davis, Giannis Antetokounmpo, and Rudy Gobert? Capela was their answer to anyone trying to get to the rim against Houston. Now the Rockets plan on playing 6'6" PJ Tucker at center and hoping they can simply outscore teams.

Whether this plan works out for Houston this year or not, I don't see it being a long term solution for the Rockets.



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# LOST DUE TO INCOMPETENCE

## A Damn Good Movie Returns to Campus

Producer, editor and colorist Greg Berger attended Bismarck Junior College in 1979—long before the Mass Communications Program was offered at what is now Bismarck State College.

At that time, English Professor Arnold Lahren offered a class “Film as Literature.”

“That sounded pretty cool,” Berger said. “I wanted to make TV commercials someday, and thought, ‘better take that class.’”

Fellow student Jerry Frank and Berger decided to produce a film for Lahren’s class. They recruited several other students to help in the adventure and “Lost Due to Incompetence” was created.

**“A teacher in Bismarck, N.D. inspired us to start this project. A student in Arlington, Va. inspired us to finish this project.”** *Greg Berger, Producer/Editor/Colorist*

The film was shown at BJC in the spring of 1979. The Bismarck Tribune ran a story about the project. So did the Wednesday, May 9, 1979 issue of the student newspaper The Mystician (“Student Movie is Damn Good” by Jeff Ulness).

In 1990, after Berger moved to the East Coast, he learned that Lahren was still showing the film “Lost Due To Incompetence” to his students. He sent Berger a copy on a VHS tape. Lahren kept the master reel.

40 years later...

The local high schools in Arlington, Va. where Berger lives encourage seniors to secure a non-paid internship the last three weeks of school in a field they want to pursue.

Liz Shean, who is now enrolled in the

Broadcast Communications program at Boston University, spent her three weeks with Berger.

The first day as they were talking, Berger pulled out the beat up version of the movie he had made when he was her age. It had recently been digitized, and Berger said he apologized to her for the amateur state it was in—especially the sound production because the technology in 1979 required a separate sound track from the video recording.

After a couple days working with Berger, Shean expressed an interest in sound design and one morning, she said, “‘Lost’ should be brought to life. You clean it up, and I’ll go find the music you originally used and add sound effects,

like they do for TV and movies.”

Last summer, Berger reached out to several people at BSC and asked if there would be an interest to show the remastered movie on the campus.

On April 8, as part of ArtsQuest, Berger and several of the other alumni who were involved in making the movie will be attending a red carpet evening to showcase the film.

“A teacher in Bismarck, N.D. inspired us to start this project,” Berger said. “A student in Arlington, Va. inspired us to finish this project.”

The event and film are free to students and the community. Follow BSC Mystic Media on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for a more detailed schedule.

**Story information submitted by Greg Berger**



Right: Jeff Ulness and Greg Berger returned to North Dakota last summer to record new voiceover lines for “Lost Due to Incompetence”. (Photo Provided)

## BINGEWORTHY

By Roger Marks IV  
MYSTIC MEDIA COORDINATOR

Far and few between are series that are done so well that they are the gold standard for any series. Peter Jackson’s Lord of the Rings series is our next Binger. For this, I’d recommend the extended editions. This is a whopping nine-hour ride, so buckle in, go to the bathroom and get some food.

For a 19-year-old series LOTR holds up substantially well. The story is solid and the scenery is something out of national geographic. The characters’ arcs are wonderful to watch unfold. Characters make decisions that are realistic with their persona. And with so many characters to choose from the story never gets stale.

Though at times it may seem like it is moving slow, three hours is quite a bit of time to squeeze information in. This won’t give you whiplash as to

## One Trilogy to Rule Them All: Watch The Movies Frodo

what’s happening in the story. Distances seem real with the amount of time that characters spend in the respective areas of Middle Earth, the location of the movie series. Also, the real-life locations are spectacular. While CGI is used in some shots for characters and scenery, most of the set is real life. Not a set surrounded by green screens.

For effects and at the time, limited software for CGI, the action holds up surprisingly well to shows like GOT and Vikings. Some of the CGI is obvious in

terms of how things are animated and the blending that some objects have.

All in all the acting is top-notch with Viggo Mortenson breaking his toe while shooting a scene during the second movie. The action is well done and entrancing. There is a series that deals with the same story but before the time of these movies. It’s another nine-hour journey so it best to save it for another binge weekend. Remove your rings and settle into a comfortable seating position because it’s binge time.

THE  
LORD  
OF THE  
RINGS

# FESTIVAL OF FILMS

Old Time Theatre Plays Host To New Films

By Travis Askerooth  
REPORTER

Intrigue, laughter, sadness and horror—those are the kind of movies that inspiring filmmakers will be bringing to the ninth annual Dakota Film Festival.

Dakota Film Festival is a yearly event that lets local filmmakers create a short movie within a one to two month span, submit it, and have it shown at the venue in front of a large crowd. Awards are then given out to the filmmakers for different categories.

Benjamin Smith is the TV operations manager for Dakota Media Access (DMA). He oversees the technical side of the festival and makes sure the films play smoothly on the big screen.

“You’ll see anywhere between 15 to 25 short films during the night,” Smith

within a span of ten days.”

Anyone can submit a film to DMA as long as it doesn’t have gory violence, explicit sexual content, and/or obscene swearing for no rhyme or reason. The length of the film has to be less than 20 minutes, but as Smith puts it, the shorter the film is, the more quality films they can squeeze into their line-up. People can submit 20 minute short films, but they have to be top notch to get past the judges.

The Executive Director at DMA, Mary Van Sickle, has directed the Dakota Film Festival for nearly nine years, oversees the judges on how they rank the films they saw and determine if the films are high quality enough to make it into the festival.

“This year, we have 182 films submitted,” Van Sickle said. “To give you an idea how it breaks down, we might include 20 films, so it is a pretty highly

**“To give you an idea how it breaks down, we might include 20 films, so it is a pretty highly selective process.”**

**Mary Van Sickle,  
Dakota Media Access Executive Director**

said. “People will also submit films for the second day of the event which is the Dakota Film Dash, and that is when groups from around the community can get together and create a short film

selective process.”

While they want to include a lot of films into the festival, they do need to weed out the weaker films, so they don’t have to be a drag for the viewers. Van



DMA's front office is decorated with retro televisions. (Credit: Roger W. Marks IV)

Sickle also invites over Academy Award nominated short films and asks if they will be willing to show their movie at the festival. To spice up the show, she and the judges try to pick a good mix of country wide, nominated films and locally/nationwide films so that all parties can be included.

“We would love to have people come. It’s a very easy event to attend. It’s like going to a movie. You just come in and sit back and relax,” Van Sickle said, “The thing about the short films is you might not care for one that you are watching, but you know in a few minutes, it’s going to flip into something different.”

The festival will be at the Belle Mehus

Auditorium on April 2-4. On Thursday, April 2, Bismarck State College is sponsoring two documentaries from the ArtsQuest committee. These two movies are free of charge, so take advantage of this to check out what the Dakota Film Festival is all about.

Tickets for Friday, April 3 are \$17 in advance and \$22 at the door. Tickets for Saturday, April 4 are \$7 in advance or \$12 at the door. There is an All Access Pass which includes the two tickets, and an after party at Terra Nomad with appetizers and two drink tickets. For more information, go to DMA’s website or contact them at (701)-258-8767.



Cameras and monitors decorate Dakota Media Access’s front windows. DMA offers classes on how to use cameras and other equipment. (Credit: Roger W. Marks IV)

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# LOST DUE TO INCOMPETENCE

THE YEAR IS 1979

ARGYLE THERATICS PRESENTS A BASEMENT BERNIE PRODUCTION LOST DUE TO INCOMPETENCE A FILM BY JERRY FRANK & GREG BERGER  
 MUSIC BY VARIOUS ARTISTS EDITED BY GREG BERGER & JERRY FRANK DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JEFF ULNESS, GREG DOLL, WALLY SIEMS, JOHN STROH, RICH WELK  
 MITCH BARTA EXCLUSIVE PRODUCER VENETA BERGER & TED SMITH PRODUCED BY GREG BERGER & JERRY FRANK STORY BY JERRY FRANK & GREG BERGER  
 SCREENPLAY BY JERRY FRANK & GREG BERGER DIRECTED BY GREG BERGER & JERRY FRANK

NR	NOT RATED
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