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NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY | FOR THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE

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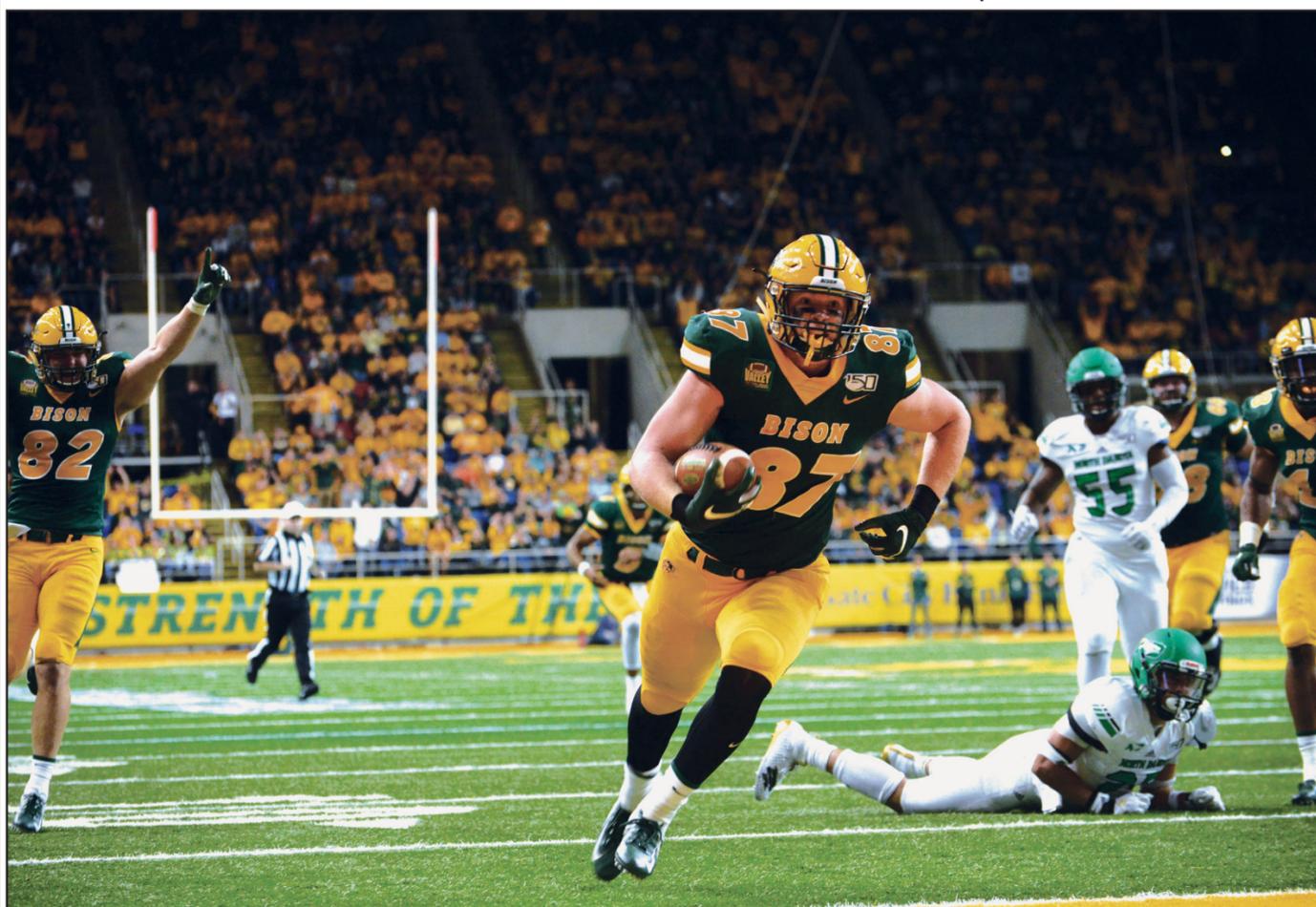
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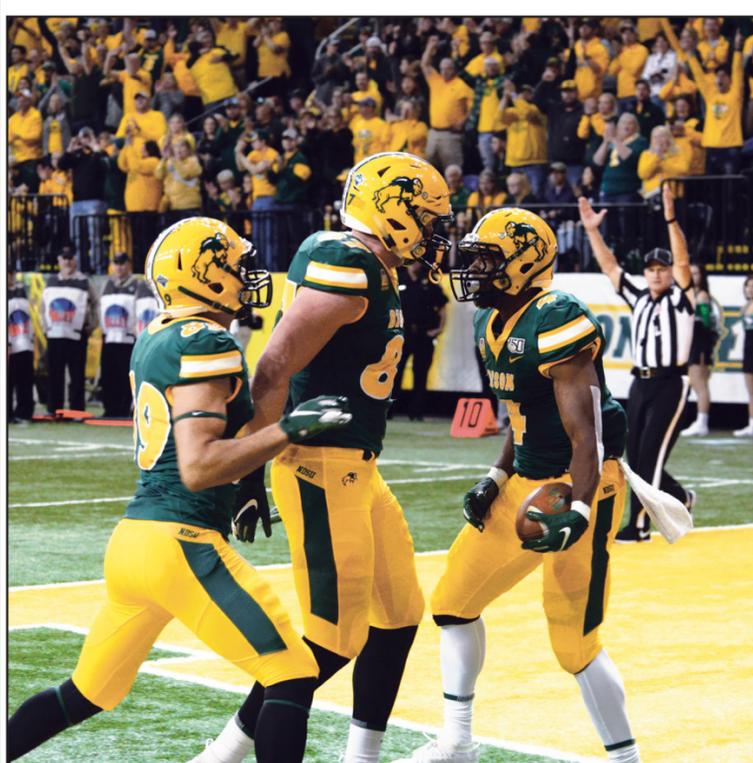
The Hawks fly home disappointed

The renewed instate rivalry was a lopsided affair



The much-anticipated matchup between NDSU and UND was hardly competitive.

PHOTOS BY JOHN SWANSON | THE SPECTRUM



David Hoffman
Staff Writer

Last Saturday, the rivalry returned to the Fargodome—NDSU took on UND for the first in-state match-up since 2015. However, the rivalry wasn't quite as level as it used to be. The reigning champs crushed UND in a 38-7 victory.

The game started with an NDSU hype fest. 18,923 were in attendance, the largest crowd since 2015, so the building was roaring. Head Coach Matt Entz made his first "Thunderstruck run", the 2018 championship banner was raised and UND charged out to a sea of boos.

NDSU came out swinging, scoring on their first drive with a 3-yard touchdown run from running back Dimitri Williams. The teams exchanged three and outs the next couple drives before the scoring parade began.

The Herd rounded off the first quarter with a methodical 10 play, 80-yard drive ended with two runs from quarterback Trey Lance, one for the touchdown.

UND was on a mission for their next drive. The Hawks slowly chipped away at the Bison D going 13 plays over 6 minutes. With a couple big pass connections between QB, Andrew Zimmermann and WR Garret Maag, UND made it down to the 2-yard line.

From there it took a short run from RB James Johannesson to score the Hawks only touchdown. The drive is exactly what UND head coach Bubba Schweigert said the team was looking for.

The Hawks success was shortlived. NDSU responded with a scoring drive of their own. It included another big Trey Lance run (this one for 35 yards) and a short 2-yard pass to a wide open TE Ben Ellefson.

One more UND three and out later, the Bison had the ball and ended the half with some clock management, and the Gold Star marching band made their way on to the field.

The second half started with the ball in Fighting Hawks hands, though it didn't stay there long. Zimmermann was

quickly picked off by Safety Michael Tutsie. However, the Bison didn't make much out of their great field position at the UND 28. The short drive ended with a field goal from Griffin Crosa making it 24-7 NDSU.

The game continued to spiral for UND. The following drive they went 3 and out. NDSU followed with another scoring drive. This time Noah Gindorff was the receiver, breaking two tackles and going 34 yards to the house.

UND had a big play next drive. Another big pass between Zimmermann and Maag, this one for 30. They couldn't catch a break though because Derrek Tuszka came in with a big third down sack, and Trey Lance got another rushing touchdown.

To top it all off, Tutsie got his second interception of the day. NDSU dominated once again, so maybe the rivalry isn't quite back yet. UND did put up some good plays, but they aren't at the standards of seven-time champions just yet.

With the Bison dominating in all phases of the game, all those offseason practices and workouts seem worth it after games like this.

The Bison had ten more minutes in possession time than the Hawks with both coaches noting the important role that the stat played in the game.

The Herd also had nine different receivers catching the ball through the course of the game. Lance was happy with his many options on the field remarking, "we're really talented," at the wide receiver position.

One worry for a lot of NDSU fans watching was the amount of rushing time Lance got. He led the team in both rushing yards and attempts taking a few hits along the way. While one lineman said, "he runs like a deer," and "oh my goodness, he's crazy," one can only wonder how long that deer can run before he gets hurt.

Regardless, the Bison came away an excited young team with a home victory under their belt. They'll be playing on the road against Delaware this Saturday and will be back home against UC Davis the following week.

ENROLLMENT RATE DROPS

How the drop in enrollment can impact the student body



There are 661 fewer freshmen this year.

JOHN SWANSON | THE SPECTRUM

Meghan Arbegast
Head News Editor

North Dakota State University has seen enrollment rates steadily decreasing since 2016, but this year's enrollment rates have been the lowest in a decade.

On the first day of school, enrollment numbers were calculated to give the university a preliminary estimate of how many students are attending NDSU. The freshmen class was projected at 2,240 students adding up to a total of 13,135 undergraduates. This is 661 fewer students than last year meaning a five percent drop. The last time enrollment numbers were around this number was in 2008 with 13,229 students enrolled. Enrollment rates hit a peak in 2014 with 14,747 students enrolled, but have dropped since.

The number of graduate students stayed about the same as last year. There are 302 new graduate students that make up 1,866 total graduate students.

There is some speculation of what is causing the drop in enrollment. The Fargo Forum reported the change in demographics and economic statuses are some of the reasons college-aged individuals are not choosing to enroll in four-year universities. There are also more competitive markets involved when it comes to higher education.

When looking at other campuses across North Dakota, the University of North Dakota is facing similar issues, but with a smaller effect. According to the Grand Forks Herald, UND has seen a slight drop in enrollment this year. With the early headcount numbers, UND has 13,372 enrolled students while last year's enrollment was at 13,445.

Mayville State University isn't facing the same rate drops as NDSU and UND. They saw an increase of one percent when it came to this year's enrollment rates. The increasing enrollment rates might be proving the theory that many students are choosing smaller

public universities since affordability is one of the main factors that gain their attention when deciding what college to attend.

Along with the drop in enrollment comes the question of graduation. Laura Oster-Aaland, the vice provost of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, provided some recent research on graduation rates. The four-year graduation rates have increased by 11% since the fall of 2013 to the fall of last year. "Substantial improvements to our graduation rates is a significant and very positive factor," Oster-Aaland stated.

Overall the impact from the enrollment drops can affect the student body as a whole. The number of international students and the amount of empty residence hall rooms and apartments are some examples.

International student enrollment

Alicia Kauffman, the director of International Student and Study Abroad

Services, had some input on the international student enrollment rates. In the past two years, the number of new international students who come to the U.S. has dropped. Last year there was a decline in the number of international students studying in the U.S. overall.

To promote NDSU to international students, Kauffman gave a list of some ways they encourage students from around the world to come to Fargo. "We like to talk about what Fargo has to offer and what NDSU has to offer," Kauffman said. "We're still really competitive because we have a good cost of living and we have the conveniences of a big city without the distractions."

Another way to promote NDSU is through the international students that study here. Whether they study at NDSU for a semester or all four years, those students can go back to their countries and tell their family and friends about their experiences at NDSU. "Often students go home over winter break and

we let them know that they can take some brochures or give a presentation. We invite them to do that."

As to how NDSU can bring in more international students Kauffman had some ideas. "The more that we can use student's stories that are here to showcase their experiences, that will bring more students from a diverse array of countries that they see themselves representing," Kauffman said. "Right now we are working on some testimonials from current students to talk about what they love about Fargo and NDSU along with what they would recommend to new students applying."

"I would like to see that it will increase again. I know that there's more competition it seems like recently with Australia and the U.K. along with other English speaking countries, but I know that there are a lot of students who still want to come to the U.S. to study. It's just about reaching those students and communicating with them in an effective way to help them with the

application process and show them what NDSU can offer to make them want to come here," Kauffman claimed.

Empty housing

Another effect of lower enrollment rates is the empty rooms in the residence halls and vacant apartments across Fargo. On-campus housing is about 90% full this year. Along with the residence halls are the apartments that remain vacant. Although there aren't enough students to fill the housing void, construction companies like Roers continue to build apartment complexes in residential communities making those residents deal with the construction in their backyards.

Though this was the first headcount of the year, the official number of students who are enrolled will be announced Sept. 25. This will fully determine whether more students will be enrolled or drop out for the start of the 2019 school year.



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The Spectrum is a student-run publication at North Dakota State University in print since 1906. Our issues are published Mondays and Thursdays during the academic year, except during holidays, vacations and some periods. Each enrolled student is entitled to one copy. Additional copies are available for \$1 by prior arrangement with the Business Manager.

The First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech and of the press. Opinions expressed on these pages are not necessarily those of students, faculty, faculty staff, university administrators or Spectrum management. The Spectrum is printed at 1400 15th Ave. SE, Bismarck, ND 58102.

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Twist stuns with a casual setting and fine dining

Kalley Miller
Features Editor

A well lit five-story wall of liquor greets you whilst walking into Twist. Located on Broadway, nestled between Rosey's Bistro and Atomic Coffee, this is a cocktail bar you can't miss. Twist's slogan, "drink and dine differently" perfectly describes what the menu has to offer. The atmosphere is nothing but class in a casual setting. After taking a seat at the bar I was handed a drink menu by a bartender with an inviting smile that goes by the name Collin (New Collin or Collin number two) who, I would later end up interviewing.

The menu had a long list of cocktails, beer, wine, gin, and an endless amount of other drinks to choose from. With the end goal of making sure their customers left with grins on their face (either from the delectable food or the strong drinks, whichever one prefers).

The Black & Basil Cocktail is described as a "dark rich and fruity drink with a sour and fresh taste" made with gin, basil, lemon juice, and black/blueberry shrub. Collin (the bartender) created my drink and placed it in front of me. I was stunned by the presentation and dimensions of taste.

I started to chat with Collin and Josh and asked them questions pertaining to the lifestyle of a bartender and what drew them to the profession. Josh later telling me in the interview he's one of the owners of Twist.

"First off, do you go by the title of a mixologist or...?"

"No, I like to be called a bartender. People who say they're mixologists are typically douche bags." - Josh

"No, bartender for me the term 'mixology' is yeah, *both shaking their heads agreeing* for douche bags." - Collin

"Did you have bartending experience before Twist?"

"Yes, my first job was actually at The Empire." *stated with a laugh* -Josh

"Yes, *nodding his head* my first bartending job was at Mexican Village making the pre-packaged margaritas if you can only imagine what that was like." -Collin

"Was this your original plan in life?"

"No, no, no I graduated NDSU with a degree in Landscape Architecture. I couldn't imagine sitting behind a desk for the rest of my life." -Josh

"I tried out school for a while and decided it wasn't for me." -Collin

"So, what do you like about being a bartender?"

"People, the social atmosphere, expressing creativity by mixing amazing drinks and trust me, the drinks are always good. I get to see some great people every night and it always ends up being a fun party by the end of the night." -Josh

"Definitely the people aspect of it and it takes a lot of skill a lot more than throwing random alcohol together." -Collin

This next line of questions was asked to Collin about having part-ownership of Twist.

"What gave the idea to open up Twist?"

"Well I actually didn't open up Twist. I always wanted to open a bar growing up. I got involved with Twist two years after it opened and took part-ownership of it then. The original owner now does the business side of things." - Josh

"Ok lastly, What's your favorite drink on the menu?"

"Oh hmm... * lists different types of alcohol* I don't have a favorite it depends on my mood." - Josh

Overall, my experience at Twist was delightful with the rest of the night being filled with a couple of different cocktails, a delectable cinnamon bourbon and always essential when having a night out, water.

Going to Twist is like being transported to a late-night realm of top-shelf liquor with a casual ambiance. Customer's leave at the end of the night thinking that everything, has a bit of a "twist" to it. Of course, in the most desirable way possible. Happy hour is from 3 p.m to 6 p.m. and I suggest you don't miss it.



Blueberry and basil cocktail.



Mystery Drink with cinnamon bourbon made by Collin.

PHOTOS BY KALLEY MILLER | THE SPECTRUM

NOT YOUR MOM'S WAFFLES

Black Coffee and Waffle Bar disappoints

Kalley Miller
Features Editor

Customers are met with overpriced and underwhelming food at Black Coffee and Waffle Bar, one of the most recent additions to downtown Fargo's food scene. The waffles range from \$8.75 - \$9.75 with an additional \$2 extra if seeking the gluten-free option.

A modern and bright space invites the customer in with the opportunity to play board games while hungrily waiting for the waffles being made. Giving at what first seems to be a great first impression. But, in all honesty, a waffle made from store-

bought mix found at the local grocery store would taste better than this restaurant.

After ordering the S' mores waffle and taking a seat we were met with mouth-watering thoughts of melted marshmallow fluff and chocolate, dripping down the sides. At a price of \$8.75, one could only hope.

Sadly, the thoughts of what our waffle would be came crashing down when the food was simultaneously laid down in front of us (with a more than average wait time I may add).

Instead of it being topped with melted marshmallow and chocolate we

were met with what looked and tasted like Hershey's chocolate sauce, store-bought mini marshmallows, and a slight dusting of graham crackers scattered across the top. The flavor of the waffle was bland as well, with no distinct flavor. We left with our heads hung low, happy to fill our stomachs but not nearly as happy with the choice of restaurant.

Perhaps, Black Coffee and Waffle Bar could benefit from spending less money on stocking their shelves with t-shirts and more on their actual recipes. My one piece of advice for them is they would greatly benefit by taking a cooking class from our parents.



Customers are met with overpriced and underwhelming food.

PEXELS | PHOTO COURTESY

Pinterest Interest

An all-natural scrub for healthier skin

Kalley Miller
Features Editor

With the colder months approaching, some of us may feel our skin becoming a bit dull and in need of a refreshing scrub. Here is an easy sugar scrub you can trust with all-natural ingredients.

INGREDIENTS:

- A glass container (to store the scrub)
- 1/2 cup of coconut oil
- 1 cup of granulated sugar
- Optional: essential oils (lavender, peppermint, rosemary, orange, etc.)

INSTRUCTIONS:

In a medium bowl, mix 1 cup of sugar with 1/2 cup of coconut oil. Stir in 6-8 drops of your favorite essential oil as desired. Then fill the glass container with the sugar scrub.



A simple sugar scrub with all-natural ingredients.

Flickr | Photo Courtesy

Chasing the story

Diving into the world of Dungeons and Dragons

Ryan Nix
Spectrum Staff

It might sound odd but Dungeons and Dragons was once considered a corrupter of youth, up there with Hairy Potter and violent video games. The news media filled minutes by exploring the supposed threat and some bought it, believing the game was in-fact bad for children.

Contrast that with the modern-day were characters on the show Stranger Things gain their creative thrills from the RPG's ever weaving plots. Locally people flock to comic book stores like Paradox downtown to partake. The Company that owns the rights to

the game had its biggest year ever in 2017 according to an article on Syfy wire's website.

Despite the success, DnD is not main-stream by any means. Monopoly is pretty much the closest thing most people will get to role-playing. In many respects the game is still considered "nerdy" with all the characteristics of the glasses-wearing gang.

For one the interweaving game-play mostly revolves around mystical characters in their search for adventure. There is no pop culture, it is a full exile from civilization, a thing people do to escape into their own mystical realm. It's nowhere near live-action role play, but it could be considered a gateway drug.

The other aspect of the game that could be considered geeky is the outright enthusiasm one has to show towards the game in order to fulfill the persons roll. You have to commit, know your character, their abilities and where you are in order to play correctly.

It is pure fandom. Most of the time you are not using one specific story or series but your own interpretation of storytelling and character development. Fighting is just one half of the story, most of the game is molded around the mundane or plot development.

I have only partaken once and the game could be considered head spinning. Everyone has a grasp of the spells, characters and the famous dice. In its most basic

iteration the game revolves around a Dungeon Master who creates a world and fills it with pitfalls that the characters have to deal with.

I could see that the players are at the mercy of the DM (as they call them). He is telling the story and the characters are just playing along. A new participant will get the feeling that there is, in fact, some sort of method to the madness but I was never sure.

The game might seem like just that, a game but I saw more during my endeavor. Playing in any capacity helps flex the part of the player's mind that is usually only used when writing fiction. You have to keep your fellow players interested while staying in character and not messing up

the storyline. The simple roll play framework leaves plenty of room for the imaginations of curious and, yes maybe nerdy, participants.

The format is ripe for the modern age with online and computerized versions becoming ever popular. The format also lends itself well to a very hip type of entertainment: podcasting. The Game is the center focus of popular podcasts like Critical Role and Harmon Quest.

Critical Roll actually became part of Dungeons and Dragons official lore and multiverse recently. Featuring voice actors who bring the game to life, the podcast is really enjoyable even if the listener is not a D and D play

How to be a Major League photographer

Step up your photography game with these simple methods

John Swanson
Photo Editor

No more are the days of spending hours developing miles of film just to get one good picture.

No more are the days of using a portable light meter to make sure your photos are not washed out or ultra dark. No more are the days of having to purchase film, or even a camera for that matter.

Today, we have SD cards, automatic cameras, and even phones that rival many digital cameras. Everyone can be a photographer.

However, not everyone is a great photographer. That's okay. If you are looking to take better pictures, there are easy ways to make even the most basic pictures look better, no matter the lens you use to shoot.

Keeping in mind the theme of MLP, there are three methods that may be useful to your photographic journey.

Meter

This one is a bit of a stretch, but it works. One of the most important parts of photography is lighting.

While physical light meters may not be used often anymore, you can still visually measure the amount of light in any scenario. Find places that aren't completely dull or

dim. Use interesting shadows to give your picture some character.

Try to find natural light. Sometimes it can be hard to find good natural lighting, so you may need to plan ahead for what time of day you take a picture, if at all possible.

Layers

"Layers" is the second simple fix to simple pics. A shot can almost always benefit from having a foreground, middle ground, and a background. This basically means that there is depth.

If you're taking a portrait, it's not just someone standing in front of a wall (although that can look good sometimes).

For instance, if it is a portrait around trees, there would be the person in the middle by the tree, maybe some leaves blurred out in the foreground, and then a clean background with more trees in the distance.

For a landscape shot, such as of mountains, it would mean having some land in the foreground and then a couple different layers of mountains. Just make sure something in at least one of the layers is in focus.

Perspective

Perspective is key. Your thought on what you want out of the photo, as well as the angle of the photo are both important.

Make the picture your own. Experiment with ways that other people may have not



Taking a high-quality picture is easier than it seems.

Flickr | Photo Courtesy

looked at a scene. Take the picture laying down, at an upward angle. Or try finding a natural frame in your surroundings to take a portrait, which also relates to Layers.

It's fine to take a picture straight on, just be willing to change the perspective or mess around with it.

All these methods are very variable. It's up to your interpretation to experiment and make photography your own. Use these MLP's and you'll be a Major League Photographer in no time.

Review: (Error) '404', no folk found

Barns Courtney's second album favors edgy swagger and electronics over poetry and acoustics

Laura Ellen Brandjord
A&E Editor

British-American artist, Barns Courtney polishes his sound in sophomore album "404".

Courtney's first album, "The Attractions of Youth" is full of folksy poetic acoustics. The album was largely recorded in an abandoned old folks' home, Courtney using everything from a squeaky door to a filing cabinet to create additional instrumentals.

"404" is a stark departure, while still feeling authentic to the artist. It is obvious this album was created in a studio, not a nondescript condemned building. Acoustics are joined with electronics. The songs are hooky first and poetic second. None of this is necessarily bad.

In fact, "404" is a strong showing, some of the best tracks are detailed below.

'99'

The first single released, "99" is about the disillusionment of youth and wanting to go back to the simplicity of childhood. In the case of Courtney and most of his fanbase, this golden age they wish to return to is the 90s, hence the song's title.

With relatable lyrics such as, "Back then we were trading cards behind the swings. Oh no, now it's money, gold, and diamond rings" there is no doubt this song will be a hit.

'London Girls'

Given Courtney splits his

time between London and the United States, it is not all that surprising that he would pen a track titled "London Girls".

With a Nickelback "Rockstar" reference, active electronics and a singable swagger, "London Girls" is a fun and flirty tale of an unforgettable girl.

"I never felt a kiss like this before, and when she stares me out God help me now, light me up and strike me down."

'Fun Never Ends'

Old meets new styles in this fast-paced party tune. Acoustic strumming quickly gives way to heavy snare and electronics for the chorus. A party anthem for sure, "Fun Never Ends" is meant to be sang along to and jumped around to.

Complete with an electronic, bass-backed breakdown towards the end, the song builds back up to its frenzied ending.

'Boy Like Me'

The most like his previous style, "Boy Like Me" makes poetic references now backed with an electric guitar solo reminiscent of an 80's rock ballad.

Courtney quotes Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" at the end of the first verse, "Oh, come on saviour and save my soul, I'm tired of living this life alone. Oh, happy dagger on sunshine bones."

"404" is a strong showing not only of the young musician's talent but of his ability to evolve.



Courtney's sophomore album proves him talented, charismatic as ever.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS | PHOTO COURTESY

Review: 'The Farewell' gives 'Midsommar' a run for its money

Lulu Wang's directorial debut is a grief-stricken masterpiece

Trent Davis
Contributing Writer

Artistically driven and well-executed "The Farewell" is one of the most powerful movies of the year, if not one of the best movies of 2019.

"It's a good lie. Most families in China would not tell her."

This line from "The Farewell", spoken by the dying Nai Nai's cancer specialist, is an accurate portrayal of the central theme of the movie, which takes an in-depth look at the differences between Eastern and Western culture.

More specifically, the film takes a very real, very sincere look at grief, and how people deal with it in different parts of the world.

Independent production company A24, known for standouts such as "Moonlight", "Lady Bird" and countless others, has already had an impressive year.

A lot of fans are looking at Ari Aster's breakout horror masterpiece, "Midsommar", as the company's best movie of 2019.

However, after "The Farewell" hit theaters on July 12, and despite its limited U.S. release, those same fans are starting to reconsider their early predictions.

Billi (Awkwafina) is a Chinese-born, American citizen living and trying to work in New York City. Her parents, Haiyan (Tzi Ma) and Jian (Diana Lin) moved from China to the United States when Billi was very young, with the hopes that the "land of opportunities" would bring nothing but the best for their daughter.

For the most part, their move has proven successful. However,

Billi is struggling to find her footing as an independent writer and still must rely on her parents for things like laundry and the occasional meal.

One night after dinner with her parents, Billi finds her father in his bedroom, distraught and crying. He has just received word that his mother, Billi's grandmother, has been diagnosed with cancer. Billi insists that she travel home to China with her parents, but they are adamant that she remains in New York to focus on her studies.

Naturally, Billi ends up in China

unannounced, and much to the dismay of her entire extended family. They had devised a plan to stage a fake wedding so they could all see their beloved grandmother one last time, and so it didn't look suspicious as to why they were visiting.

No one in the family wants to tell grandma, affectionately referred to as "Nai Nai (Shuzhen Zhao)," that she has cancer. Rather than worrying and making arrangements for her death, the family wants Nai Nai to enjoy the time on Earth she still has.

The remainder of the film is dedicated to awkward, hilarious,

and heart-wrenching moments. Billi struggles with the idea that her Nai Nai is dying while ignorant to the fact of what ails her. Audience members get a very real look at how this grief is handled amongst different cultures.

The members

look at how something as universal as death is experienced differently in the West versus the East.

The story itself is unique and captivating and, according to the tagline before the film, "based on a true lie." It is genuinely a funny movie, especially considering the circumstances around which it revolves, and has great comedic timing.

On the other hand, it is truly a story of grief and one that hits hard with almost any audience member.

Another interesting aspect of the story is the rapidly dynamic character arcs, especially that of Billi. Her world view and perception of life and death are changed dramatically after spending a month hiding a secret from her unaware grandmother.

Awkwafina, who saw her Hollywood stock grow after the success of "Crazy Rich Asians" (2018), is outstanding in her first leading role. Portraying someone in her situation— one of grief, distress and helplessness— is not easy to pull off. Her performance is even more impressive for such a young and relatively inexperienced actress.

Without all the raw and intelligent emotion she brings

to the screen, the film may have turned out very differently.

Although the story is impressive and Awkwafina shines, it is the fact that "The Farewell" is the major directorial debut of Lulu Wang that stands out as the film's best strength.

It's not just her keen ability on knowing when to be funny and when to be emotional that makes the movie so successful, but it is the nature in which she directs. Essentially, rather than employing flashy and overused methods that the industry is moving towards, Wang focuses on using raw and emotional techniques to tell her story.

She pulls this off primarily with long, uncut sequences of powerful dialogue, while also mixing in scenes that are quiet and full of camera movement; allowing the cinematography to get the point across.

For example, Billi and Nai Nai talk off-screen for a solid two to three minutes while the camera stays focused and unmoving on the uncomfortable "bride" and "groom." In contrast, a scene of the family eating dinner in silence while the camera intercuts between members brings the tension that their lie has created to the forefront.

Overall, I would say "The Farewell" was emotionally impacting due to the strength of the story and the intelligence of the direction. It may not necessarily be the movie for everyone, but for someone looking for an example of strong filmmaking, I would highly recommend this film. **Rating: 4.5/5**



Gaming rundown from the Nintendo Direct

New Smash Bros. fighters, games coming to Switch announced

Max Davis
Staff Writer

On September 4, Nintendo held another one of their famous Nintendo Directs. Forty minutes of Nintendo Switch announcements, releases, and updates. Let's just say it did not disappoint.

The forty minutes were full of many surprises and updates to previously announced titles. Let's unpack it.

New Game Announcements

While the forty minutes was dominated mostly by ports and updates to Nintendo games there was some room for new game announcements.

For fans of "Deadly Premonition" the game will be getting a sequel called "Deadly Premonition 2: A Blessing in Disguise." It sounds ominous and players will have to wait until 2020 to try it out but they can play the original on Switch now.

Hi Rez Studio used the Direct to announce a new team-based shooter called "Rogue Company." Coming in 2020, time will tell if it survives in that market.

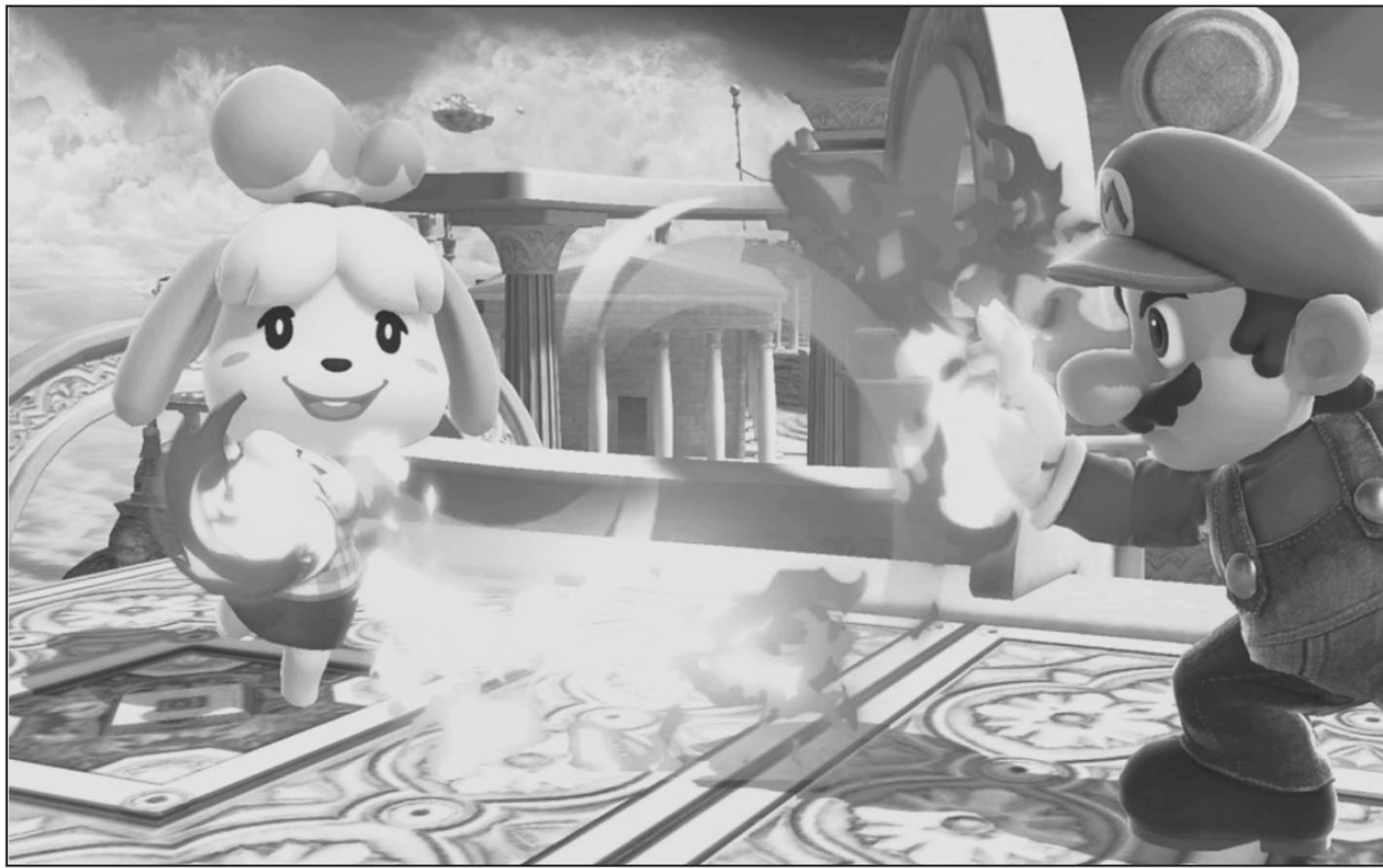
They also announced a new version of "Xenoblade Chronicles" which will include all the DLC and comes in 2020.

A fun little free-to-play game was announced. Called "Super Kirby Clash" it has four players partake in over 100 different quests either locally or online.

Game Ports

With such a unique console, so many companies have been porting old games to the Switch. Of course, that is not stopping one bit with a whole host of game port announcements.

For starters, a whole host of Super Nintendo games have arrived on the Switch through Nintendo Switch Online. Twenty of them are



'Smash Bros Ultimate' is getting even more characters.

Flicker | PHOTO COURTESY

out now and more are sure to follow. Games like "Super Mario Kart" and "Star Fox" are available now so check them out.

"Assassin's Creed IV: Black Flag" and "Assassin's Creed Rogue" are both coming to the Switch in the nicely titled "Assassin's Creed: Rebel Collection." Switch owners will be able to conquer the high seas on December 6.

Everyone's favorite hero shooter "Overwatch" is also making its way to the Switch on October 15. It will be interesting to see how it runs but Blizzard promises new ways to play with gyro controls.

Bethesda has decided to rerelease "Doom 64" on Switch. Gamers will be able to kill demons once again in this classic on November 22.

Another older game that

is making its way to Switch is "Star Wars Jedi Knight II: Jedi Outcast." An interesting choice but players won't have to wait long to give it a try. It comes out on September 24.

A couple of other fun little ports that will please role-playing game fans were announced. "Trials of Mana" and "Divinity Original Sin 2 Definitive Edition" were announced. Each one is a great RPG with a huge following.

Two other ports were announced. One being "Tokyo Mirage Sessions #FE Encore" which will have new story elements and characters that the Wii U version did not have.

The other one is a simple game called "Return of the Obra Dinn."

DLC

Every game needs some

downloadable content these days and Nintendo games are no different. So, of course, they were going to talk about some DLC coming to their games.

It would not be a Direct without an announcement of a "Super Smash Bros Ultimate" fighter. Terry Bogard from "Fatal Fury" is joining "Smash" in November. Banjo Kazooie, another DLC fighter, is available now.

Don't worry however for this is not the last DLC fighter. There is one more left to be announced in the first wave, and Nintendo promises there will be even more after that.

"Tetris 99" is also getting some DLC in the form of two new modes. One is called Invictus and is only for the absolute best players. The other is a two-player

versus CPU mode, only if you buy it.

Updates to previously announced games

Some previously announced titles got some new information as well. Not all of it was mind-blowing but there was some cool stuff.

"Luigi's Mansion 3" had a new mode announced. It is called Scream Park and it pits two to eight players against each other in arena-like ghost battles. Seems like a good time.

"Pokémon Sword and Shield" also had some new features announced. Things like a Pokémon Camp that allows you to play with your Pokémon. As well as a robust character customization system and a curry rice mode that lets you make different curry

dishes and save them to your currydex which seems odd, but okay.

"Animal Crossing: New Horizons" also got some new information. There will be a robust crafting system where players collect raw materials from around the island to craft tools to get more items. Sounds a little like "Minecraft."

Game Freak's new game originally titled "Town" got a name change as well as some more information. Now called "Little Town Hero" is a straightforward JRPG so be ready to play it October 16th.

A lot was talked about at the Nintendo Direct and it did not disappoint. Lots of new games coming for Switch owners so be ready and say goodbye to your wallet.

Update v.096 includes much needed changes

Breakable windows and more with incoming update for 'Freeman: Guerrilla Warfare'

Nathan Wetrosky
Staff Writer

Another school year has started, which marks another exciting period for updates and fixes to "Freeman: Guerrilla Warfare" the open-world, strategic, RPG (role-playing game) shooter by KK Game Studio.

The development team leader has recently posted a short video highlighting the newest update v.096 coming out soon.

Here is a list of features which will be soon added.

AI upgrades

A new and improved AI (artificial intelligence) has been added to units of the enemy and the players for tactical battles on the map. Units will now be more alert with better intelligence, reaction time, speed, response measures and increased tactics to deal with different scenarios.

Squad formations

The default squad formation of an arrowhead will still be alive and well, but now more formations will be added to the roster.

There will be a new line formation which simply brings all squad members into a line of deadly firepower and armor.

Next, is a formation where the squad leader will take point ahead of their squad to draw enemy firepower.

The final formation seems to spread out the individual squad members so that a random grenade cannot simply kill off half the squad.

Breakable windows

Breakable windows are a long-awaited update

for "Freeman: Guerrilla Warfare", which will now give players a reason to enter buildings.

Being able to shoot from inside the safety of a structure will give players another level of tactical ability to harass and beat back enemy attacks.

New maps

New maps to fight for and on will be coming with this new update. Seventeen maps, six cities, five villages and six strongholds will be coming with update v.096.

These location additions will give a great deal of

variety when it comes to planning offensives, or protecting captured settlements around the world map.

Three new companions

Lastly, there will be an addition of three new companions to the game. Companions are a unit type which can be added to squads as an extra member. They have skills and upgrades like that of the player's character, but instead of permanently dying like normal troops they will retreat to a village

or city to be found again.

Along with these new companions come quests, which need to be completed for a player to hire them into the ever-growing militia.

This new update will also be followed by a flurry of quality of life improvements to the game such as bug fixes, patches and improved optimization.

More people can enjoy "Freeman: Guerrilla Warfare" as it continues the march to completion.

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A & E

THE SPECTRUM 1996

Tips for freshmen

How to survive Fargo

Sam Goodman
Contributing Writer

It was only a few years ago that I was a freshman at Central Michigan University back in 2016, an election year. Now, four years later, Americans are back awaiting the Nation's 46th presidential election. As the years have passed, Americans have experienced a growing divide within the two-party system, an economic recession, and a failed war in the middle-east. Rights and wrongs have been committed, but what is right, and what is wrong, is still up for discussion.

And yet the question still remains, what does any of this mean to a freshman in college?

Change your perspective

Remind yourself often that, like the divide of the American people, your fellow freshmen have differing thoughts and values. It's essential to find the common ground.

As a freshman, you are at the bottom of the totem pole for having the least amount of college experience under your belt. Being a senior in high school, you had four years of experience with which to figure out the ropes. You probably have an excellent game-plan going into your first year of college, your first year of freedom. Cheers to that. But remember you're probably only 18, so be smart, and as you'll learn, there are many

ways to be smart in college.

To be smart is not to be naïve

Most of us are 25 years old and younger, none of us have figured out the world. Do not assume you have a thorough understanding of the world, instead, experience new things. Experience is knowledge and knowledge is power. Do you truly know something if you have not experienced it?

Do not assume you have a thorough understanding of the world, instead, experience new things.

I'm not saying to go try heroin, I'm saying to go to a party with a new friend, or study in the library.

Challenge yourself

The irony is, the more you push through adversity, the easier it becomes. If you study once a week, you will dread that one day, every week. If you study a little bit every day, you will expect to study.

Take a cold shower, go for a jog at 5 a.m., say hello to that stranger you walk by. Do the hard things that will eventually benefit you the most, and prove to yourself you are not only physically strong but mentally strong. We are all so young, why settle now? Why do any of us feel we, "deserve" a break? Keep the motor running and maximize each day to its full potential. College is about becoming the best version of yourself.

Balance

How can you limit stress if you constantly expect the very best from yourself? Too much of anything can be detrimental, even too much water can kill you.

Be realistic and be smart. Anything can be attainable but not overnight. Be patient, trust the process.

Breathe

Breathe in through the nose and out through the mouth. Work on perfecting the deep breath. Being able to control your breathing can help regulate stress and anxiety. Can you perform a slow, smooth, exhale? Stretch. We are all tighter than we perceive. This can lead to stress and tension within ourselves. The more loose one is, the more relaxed one becomes, leading to deeper breathes. The deeper the breath, the more oxygen the body consumes, leading to a healthy, functioning, body and mind.

Take care of yourself

Regularly exercise. It does not have to be much, but



As a freshman, you are at the bottom of the totem pole.

JOHN SWANSON | THE SPECTRUM

I would recommend at least 30 minutes a day. However, keep in mind the 80/20 rule. Being in shape is 80% diet and 20% fitness. The more in shape you are, the more

control you have of yourself. Stay away from canola oil, vegetable oil, high-fructose corn syrup, maltodextrin and soy lecithin. These are all terrible for your gut-biome.

Eat clean and you will feel great.

Best of luck, be open-minded, be curious, explore, discover, adventure.

Longboarders: Are you a jerk?

A request to be a decent person while skirting around campus



I wish campus would be rid of punk-a** longboarders.

JOHN SWANSON | THE SPECTRUM

Delaney Halloran
Opinion Editor

There are a lot of things to like about the few weeks of nice weather we get at the beginning of the school year: beautiful flowers, a general lack of vitamin-D deficiency and sunlight that lasts longer than 2 hours. However, with nice weather comes one singular and unnecessary evil I wish campus would be rid of: punk-a** longboarders and skateboarders.

For some individuals who use plastic wheels as their main form of transport, it seems basic human dignity is also lost with that extra two minutes it would take you to walk instead. There have been times when I barely have room to walk down a sidewalk and then, like an angel of doom on penny-board wings, someone tries to squeeze through the mass of people with their board.

I've had my ankles run over, I've had my car hit by a skateboard gone rogue, and frankly, I've had enough.

There are exceptions, I know several chronic longboarders who have the capabilities to not ride around as if their reputations rely on them being a careless jerk. They ride on the street whenever cars aren't present, the sidewalks whenever pedestrians aren't present, and they definitely don't have a VSCO page dedicated to their wheeled adventures.

I understand longboarding has become a status symbol on campus for the casual, the cool, and the habitually nonchalant, but I can guarantee you don't look nearly as cool as you think you do. The images of you face-planting on the concrete stick in the mind a lot more than those of you effortlessly pushing past people.

For those that are balance-challenged like me, the whole concept of longboarding is perplexing. However, I understand there is a social element to it and that's great. Even packs of giant football players on comically small motorbikes have managed not to bother anyone, I guarantee you can too.

The images of you face-planting on the concrete stick in the mind a lot more than those of you effortlessly pushing past people.

All this being said, I still have a lot of respect for longboarders. Your ability to get to class on time and not fall every time you hit a sidewalk crack truly astounds me. For those of you who actively avoid hip-checking pedestrians: I see you and I appreciate you. Keep on keeping it long.

Conservatives for change

Young conservatives need to show their support for climate change solutions

Sydney Arends
Contributing Writer

Growing up in Minnesota, I was instilled with a healthy love for my home state's 10,000 lakes and unmatched natural beauty. I was always taught to conserve water and energy, never litter, and recycle as often as possible. As I got older, I developed a strong interest in conservative politics and became involved in Republican groups.

Now, as a politically involved college student, I often get the question, "How can you care so much about the environment and still be a Republican?" Somehow holding conservative views and caring about the planet have become mutually exclusive.

However, Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions and the American Conservation Coalition (ACC) released the results of a national survey in July 2019 that proved I'm not the only young Republican who likes swimming in clean oceans and breathing clean air. The survey found that two-thirds of millennial GOP voters believe that the Republican Party needs to do more to address climate change.

However, when we look to the national stage, it would be hard for anyone to guess there is any GOP support for climate change solutions. With loud voices on the left like representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) asking for sweeping, unattainable proposals like the Green New Deal, it is easy for Republican legislators to feel the need to push back against ideas coming from the left instead of proposing their own solutions.

Millennials on both sides of the aisle want

to see something done about climate change, and conservative students across the country are tired of the narrative being dominated by the left at a national level. It seems like the left is constantly talking about why we need to address climate change and find clean energy solutions, and I firmly believe it's time for the right to do what it does

Somehow holding conservative views and caring about the planet have become mutually exclusive.

best and figure out the how.

It is time for Republican leaders to step up and offer specific, market-based clean energy solutions in response to the alarmist ideas coming from the left. That's why 45 student activists including myself flew to Washington D.C. with the American Conservation Coalition Campus (ACCC) in July. The three-day fly-in consisted of meetings on Capitol Hill, within the White House and at the Departments of Energy and Interior as well as the EPA.

The week highlighted the importance of young conservatives speaking up and showing support for an All-of-the-Above energy approach. Replacing energy CO2 emitting energy sources with clean ones

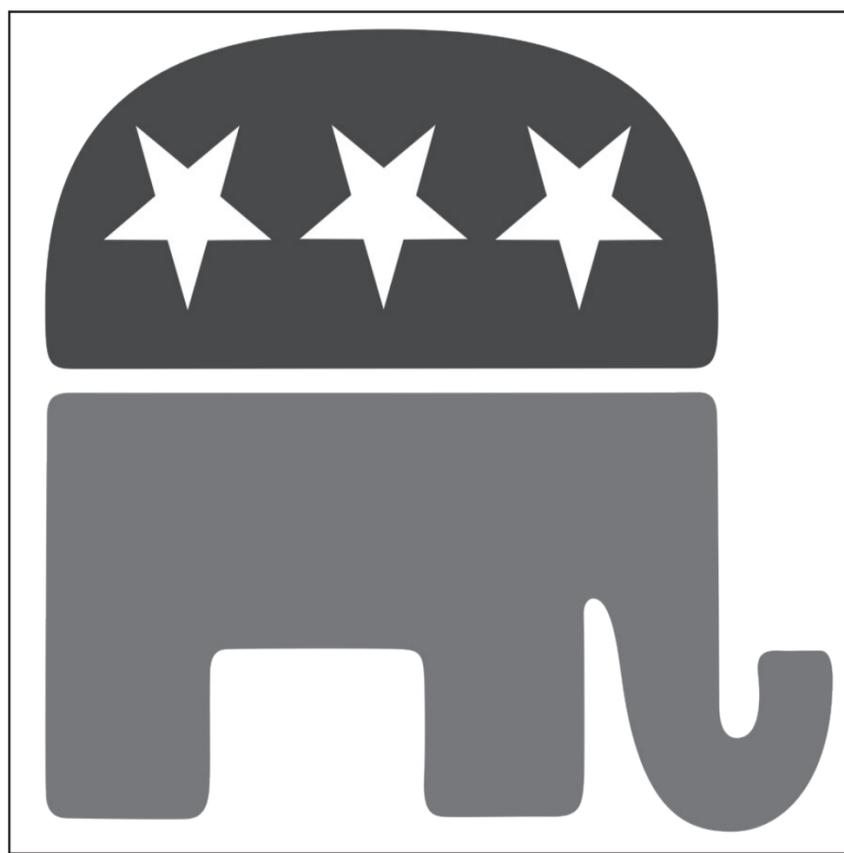
all at once is simply not feasible. All-of-the-Above solutions promote clean energy sources like wind and biomass while allowing growth in traditional energy sources like coal and oil. This approach creates a level playing field for all energy sources and the subsequent competition leads to innovation, allowing more choice for consumers and reduced carbon emissions.

We can use the power of the free market to provide cleaner, greener, and more affordable energy to consumers. By working to improve carbon capture and environmentally-friendly mining, fracking, and agricultural practices, we are able to maintain current energy jobs, create new ones, and set an example for the rest of the world to reduce their carbon emissions.

In order to continue to be a world energy and economic leader, we can't focus on carbon taxes and regulations on agriculture and air travel. We need to set an example for the rest of the world by sharing our technology with other countries to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels. We cannot export excessive regulations; they only hurt our economy and do nothing to impact CO2 emissions worldwide.

Luckily, the American Conservation Coalition enables students like me to speak up about their support for all of the above energy solutions. I never thought I would find myself waiting outside of House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy's office for a meeting or skipping my morning coffee to speak with staff from the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

After hearing leaders like Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, Representatives John Curtis (R-UT) and



The conversation about environmentalism should cross party lines.

WIKIMEDIA | PHOTO COURTESY

Brian Mast (R-FL) share change the narrative that their support for All-of- only Democrats care about

conservative solutions to reduce carbon emissions and solve the climate crisis.

I was ecstatic to hear staff from Senator Lisa Murkowski's (R-AK) office share her work with Senator John Hoeven (R-ND) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) on the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, creating legislation to heighten energy efficiency in federal buildings. Millennials and Gen. Z are becoming the largest voting block. It is important for young conservatives to join the climate conversation, and vocalize their support for Republican legislators to change the narrative and produce conservative climate change solutions.

It is important for young conservatives to join the climate conversation, and vocalize their support for Republican legislators to change the narrative and produce conservative climate change solutions.

the-Above solutions, I climate change. Every am optimistic that the meeting I attended was work of organizations filled with constructive like ACCC will begin to conversations about real,

Legal bonding, added stress, and unnecessary debt *Why marriage is a useless social construct*

Faith Hoke
Contributing Writer

Marriage is dumb.

The institution requires you to spend the majority, or all of your life, with the same person. And what's the solution if you decide you hate them? Well, now you're out thousands of dollars because you, "thought you found someone you liked enough to spend the rest of your life with". Gross.

Marriage is something society has conditioned us into thinking is a necessary part of life.

Society tells us that at some point in our lives we're supposed to meet someone, fall madly in love with them, and then add stress and debt to our lives so we can be legally bonded to this person for the rest of our natural-born lives. Or in some cases, divorce them within the first ten years. When it's put that way it sounds crazy right? However, that's exactly what about half the population's dreams of marriage amount to.

Millions of years ago someone thought legal bondage would be a good

idea, and ever since, both families and society have put so much unnecessary pressure on us to get married. The idea of marriage may

Marriage is rarely this beautiful, pure thing you do because you want to spend the rest of your life with someone that you love, it's what society has told you to do.

have made sense when the average lifespan was a quarter of what it is now, but today a lot of marriages don't last. According to the



Marriage is hardly what it seems.

NEEDPIX | PHOTO COURTESY

American Psychological Association, between 40 and 50 percent of couples in the United States will get divorced, which means only about 50 or 60 percent of couples who get married at any time in their lives will stay married.

However, I am aware

that some people stay married until death actually does them apart. And some of these couples are genuinely happy through all those years despite what life throws at them, but this situation is the exception, not the rule.

The reality is that many

unhappy couples stay together to reap the benefits of what appears to be a perfect marriage, such as the well-being of shared children, social security or money. Marriage is rarely this beautiful, pure thing you do because you want to spend the rest of your

life with someone that you love, it's what society has told you to do. So maybe instead of marrying the person you think you love and want to spend forever with, you should just wait it out because chances are you'll hate them if you give it a little time.

Fall sports are in full swing

The volleyball and soccer teams hit a few early season snags

Mason Urbin
Contributing Writer

Volleyball

The Bison rallied from a 2-0 deficit to beat Illinois-Chicago 3-2 in a five-set marathon but dropped a 3-2 decision to Central Michigan at the Chippewa Invitational. The Bison then finished off the Chippewa Invitational with another hard-fought, 3-2 set win against Eastern Illinois on Saturday.

Illinois-Chicago took the first two sets and came back from a deficit in set 1. However, the Bison came storming back to win the third and fourth sets. The fourth set featured 16 ties and six lead changes. This marks the tenth time the Bison have come back from a 2-0 deficit to win since 1999.

Sophomore Kalli Hegerle recorded a 'triple-double' with 10 kills, 22 assists and 11 digs, while freshman Kelley Johnson added 21 assists and 12 digs. Senior Abbi Klos added a team-high 19 digs. Junior Bella Lien collected a match-high five blocks as the Bison had a 12-5 advantage in the block department.

Against Central Michigan, the Bison took an 11-9 lead in the final set

on kills from junior Emily Halverson and sophomore Maggie Steffen. The Chippewa's refused to go quietly. Central Michigan rolled off four straight points to seize control of the set, and ultimately, the match.

It was a career night for junior Alexis Bachmeier as she connected on 19 kills to go along with 15 digs as the Bison outhit Central Michigan .260 to .190. The Bison also held an 11-3 advantage in the block department. Pretty much they were ahead in everything except the scoreboard. Hegerle completed was again able to complete a triple-double, her third in five matches.

Looking ahead the now 3-3 Bison will head home for the NDSU classic starting on Friday. The herd gets a much deserved 6-day break to rest up and reload before they take on the Cal Bears.

Soccer

The Bison soccer team fell 1-0 to the University of Hawaii on Friday, marking their first loss of the year. Kelci Sumida played the role of villain as her goal in the 26th minute gave Hawaii the early advantage. It was only Sumida's second goal on the year, but it ended up

being enough to give the Rainbow Warriors the dub.

Bison head coach Mike Regan was impressed with Hawaii saying, "I think Hawaii was very, very good on the night." As good as Regan thought Hawaii looked, he was just as disappointed in the herd slow start. "They deserved to win the match. We've got to start better and come out with the energy that we talk about. In games like this, you have to step up to the plate."

Hawaii had the advantage in shots 15-11 and shots on goal at 8-3. Mariah Haberle's three shots moved her into eighth in school history with 162 career shot attempts. Haberle also moved into a tie for seventh in school history with 68 career shots on goal.

With the loss, the Bison drop to 3-1-1 on the season and they will look to bounce back when winless Chicago State comes to town on the eighth before they travel to Des Moines to take on Drake next Friday.

With conference play sneaking up, the Bison are looking to bounce back after a tough performance and show that they can battle through the adversity that is experienced through the grind of a long season.



The Bison fell 1-0 to the University of Hawaii on Friday.

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HUNTING FOR OCTOBER

Preparing for disappointment in Minnesota

Taylor Schloemer
Staff Writer

With the Major League Baseball season entering the final month of the regular season, the hunt for October is on. Here are some storylines to follow as the postseason comes even closer.

The hopeless optimism of Minnesota fans

The Minnesota Twins have been one of the revelations of the current season.

A mix of a young core and seasoned veterans have propelled the Twinkies to within five games of the top of the American League and, more importantly, a six-and-a-half game lead in the AL Central.

Given that the AL Central is one of the weakest divisions in all of baseball over the last decade, that's quite the feat.

The team broke the MLB single-season record for home runs, a tally that stands at 272 at time of writing. It all has brought hope to Twins Territory, which is sad.

Twins fans (including this one) should know how this ends, just like every Minnesota team that has a successful regular season, with a disappointing playoff exit.

So, when the Twins lose in four games to the Yankees or the Astros, don't be surprised.

One stat to throw naive optimism into the fray, the Twins have more wins away from Target Field than at home, 48-39.

Yankees or Astros in the AL?

Assuming that everything goes to plan, the ALCS will be contested by the New York Yankees and the Houston Astros. If that is the case, the series will be a barn burner.

The 1-2 duo of Justin Verlander and Gerrit Cole at the top of the Houston rotation will have their hands full with the explosive bats of the Yankees. Verlander leads the AL in ERA, Cole meanwhile leads the AL in strikeouts and joins Verlander as the only pitchers in the AL with a sub-3.00 ERA.

The Yankees meanwhile hold three

of the top-10 home run hitters in the AL in the form of Gary Sanchez, Gleyber Torres and Edwin Encarnacion.

The common saying is that defense wins championships. The Astros give up the second-fewest runs in the Majors, and this matchup will put this saying to the test.

Is there anyone in the NL that would give the Dodgers trouble?

Over in the National League, it seems to be the Los Angeles Dodgers, and then everyone else.

The Dodgers' lead is so massive in the NL that there is only one team within 10 games, and that is the Atlanta Braves.

And Los Angeles has done this with a healthy mix of the long ball and solid defense. The Dodgers lead the NL with 250 home runs and a team ERA of 3.40, a major league best.

Having solid duos on both the mound and the plate make for a World Series contender, and Hyun-Jin Ryu and Clayton Kershaw and Cody Bellinger and Justin Turner make the Dodgers just that. With all of that talent, it is hard to imagine that the Dodgers can't make a run to the World Series.

Big contracts fail to live up to their billing

Bryce Harper, Manny Machado and Mike Trout all received monster contracts back in the offseason. None of those three will be playing ball in October.

Over in the NL, Machado and Harper rank 32nd and 40th in batting average, Trout meanwhile is leading his team in all offensive categories and is once again the Wins Above Replacement (WAR) king, the Angels are long off the playoff hunt.

The proof is in the pudding, you can't make the MLB playoff on a single star alone. And once those stars have been paid extravagant amounts, whether earned or not (and Trout earned his), it is hard to build a time around them.

The NFL kicks off with a snooze-fest

Believe it or not, that Thursday night was not a preseason game

Ian Longtin
Sports Editor

Bears quarterback Mitchell Trubisky looked like a lost child who was trying to find their parents at the food court last Thursday. His helplessness and ineptitude of throwing the ball more than 10 yards downfield was tough to watch. All he and the Bears offense were able to muster up was three points. Three points at home when it's week one is a letdown of epic proportions.

The Packers defense does deserve some credit for making the Bears look bad. New defensive coordinator Mike Pettine had rent-free real estate in Trubisky's head all night long. They were daring Trubisky to beat them, and Trubisky crumpled like a piece of paper.

Aaron Rodgers and the Packers offense weren't much better than the Bears'. Rookie head coach Matt LaFleur's offense looked clunky and disorganized at times, but I don't think Packer fans need to worry too much. September in the NFL is the new preseason, so every team is going to be getting their feet wet on offense. Take that and add in the fact the Bears defense look even more vicious than last year, and 10 points start to look real good.

The game as a whole, a gross 10-3 Packer win, was a yawner from opening kickoff to the final whistle. It wasn't that the game was just boring. It was that it was painfully boring.

You just sat there on your couch, your thoughts screaming "FOR GOODNESS SAKE DO SOMETHING INTERESTING BEFORE I TURN ON FAMILY FEUD."

Both teams played like garbage. Both teams deserved to lose. If it was the Bengals and Lions playing, a game like that would be expected. However, these are two teams with legitimate Super Bowl aspirations.

that, they were almost flawless. They did all they could with what had been asked of them. On offense, Allen Robinson was the only Bear that looked like he showed up to play. Perhaps the running backs did too, but there was no way for us to find out.

Despite being within a possession of gaining the lead for most of the game, Bears head coach Matt Nagy thought it best to throw the ball around the yard over 50 times. Woof.

Everything in my being is telling me to overreact and think the Bears are headed towards a seven-win season because of Trubisky's limitations, but I am going to hold off for now. The Bears defense is still the best in the game, and if, and it is a big if, Trubisky and the offense can find a way to put up 17-ish points a game the Bears will be fine.

For the Packers, cautious optimism is the best course. Yes, their defense looked phenomenal. However, was it because their defense was that good, or was it because the Bears offense was that bad? Who knows, probably a mix of the two. Their offense was good enough on Thursday, but another repeat showing like that will certainly lead to more losses than wins.

It's a total bummer that the game sucked. Let's just be grateful that football is back. Poor, sloppy football is a heck of a lot better than no football at all.

Despite the awful play, there were still a few positives both teams could take away. For the Packers, Aaron Rodgers put it best after the game when he said "We have a defense" with an ear to ear grin. In his career, Rodgers' defenses have been leaky and required Rodgers and the rest of the offense to pick up their slack. Now if the Packers have a real top-10 defense, they become a real threat in the NFC.

For the Bears, the defense was stellar. They gave up one big downfield pass, but besides



Antonio Brown: A Timeline

Sorry you have to root for him if he's on your fantasy team

Philip Atneosen
Staff Writer

After a wild few days, Antonio Brown ultimately landed in New England (of course). The story behind the madness goes something like this:

A quick recap

The 7-time Pro Bowl receiver was traded to the Raiders in March after the Steelers had had enough of his antics. He was formerly known as the hardest working player in the NFL. Now he's known for his ability to cause problems. With Pittsburgh, he was the epicenter of many locker room issues and often skipped or was tardy to team functions. The Raiders were hoping that would change when they acquired him, but they were wrong.

In July, he was placed on the IR because of a non-football (and completely avoidable) frostbite injury. In early August, he gave the Raiders an ultimatum: you either let me play with my old helmet, or I'm not playing ever again. He even complained to the NFL, but he eventually gave it up. This past week, the team fined him over \$50,000 for his absences in team practices and training camp. Brown responded by sharing that on Instagram, and then followed up with an altercation with the Raiders GM at practice the next day.

On Friday, the Raiders fined Brown an additional \$215,000 for his behavior, which effectively voided his \$29M in guaranteed money. That led to him requesting a release. On Saturday morning, the Raiders granted him his wish, and shortly after he was signed to a one-year deal by the Patriots for up to \$15M.

Raiders implications

Do you remember the Raiders offense from last year? Derek Carr threw for 4000 yards but failed to get 20 touchdowns. TE Jared Cook and RB Jalen Richard led the team with 68 receptions

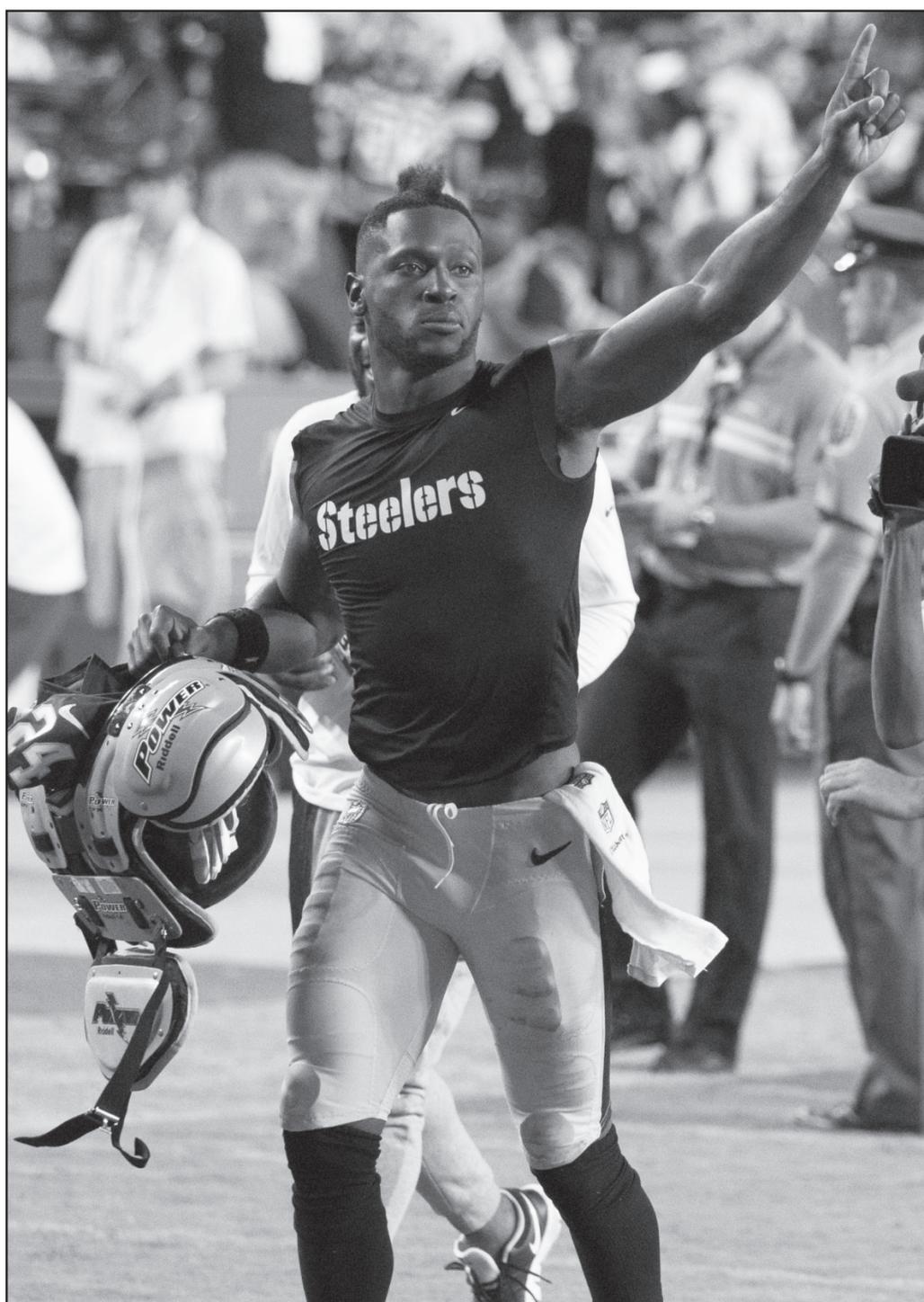
apiece, and Doug Martin led the team in rushing yards. Obviously I expect Josh Jacobs to be a huge improvement over Doug Martin, but the offense as a whole might look similar to last year's offense. I expect a lot of short passes to be thrown to TE Darren Waller and the Jacobs/Richard duo. Tyrell Williams is the only established WR remaining on the roster. He's a talented receiver, but not nearly good enough to be a number one option.

Overall, this Oakland offense is going to struggle mightily, especially to start the year. I don't think this really hurts the franchise as a whole. Were the Raiders really pushing for the playoffs? I don't think so. They will go into this season in rebuild mode, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. Considering the number of draft picks they've been accumulating over the past year, they have no shortage of young talent to develop this year.

Patriots implications

If you aren't a Patriots fan, you're hoping Brown is such a disease to the organization that Belichick has to visit his proctologist. Chances are AB will get ahold of himself and the Patriots will steamroll the AFC once again this season. With Brown and Edelman along with James White, the Pats pass attack is as scary as ever. An active Josh Gordon is just gravy.

Regarding fantasy value, I expect all pass catchers to take target share hits because of the signing, but there should also be more touchdowns for everyone on the roster. I believe Gordon and White will take the biggest hits among pass catchers. Brown's signing should help RB Sony Michel's production throughout the season. Winning more games should reflect more carries and more touchdowns for Michel.



Antonio Brown: the face behind the madness.

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