

The Spectrum

NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY | FOR THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE

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Opinion: The pros and cons of hunting

Women make their voices heard

The fourth annual Women's March called for more than gender equality

Meghan Arbegast
Head News Editor

On Jan. 18, an estimated 10,000 activists came together to participate in the fourth annual Women's March in Washington D.C. This is a lower number than the 500,000 activists who participated in the march in 2017, according to USA Today. Though there has been a steady decrease in the number of people who have attended the Women's March, those who did participate made sure their opinions were loud and clear.

The focus for this year's march was not only calling for gender equality and celebrating the centennial of women's rights to vote, but activists also urged action to be taken for climate change, immigration policies and other pressing issues.

Among the list of issues, protestors called out the opposition of President Trump as many of the chants ordered him to be removed from office. This comes as the ongoing senate trials will determine whether Trump will become the first impeached president to be removed from office.

With the upcoming election, many of the signs protestors waved in the air showed support for electing America's first female president, though there are only three females left in the Democratic party.

The National Public Radio also reported that this year's march was different from previous years as it didn't feature stage performances and celebrity speeches, instead of letting organizers walk alongside everybody else.

As activists chanted "Rise up: immigration justice, Rise up: my body my choice," some participants would stand in place and point ahead with blindfolds over their eyes as the song 'A Rapist in Your Path', which was the protest anthem created by Chilean art collective Las Tesis, was sung in front of the White House.

The song brings awareness to the gender-based violence in Chile where multiple sexual violence cases are reported every day, according to the Chilean Network Against Violence against Women.

Along with the march occurring in D.C., numerous sister marches happened in cities across the nation and throughout the world including Norway, Thailand and Nigeria.

As other cities marched with the participants in D.C., Fargo was not among one of those cities as the Woman's March set to be held on campus had to be rescheduled due to the recent snowstorm.

Though the Fargo march had to reschedule their plans, Bismarck was still able to hold their march as an estimated 60 activists marched through the cold weather, according to the Inforum.

The march in Bismarck, like the other marches across the country, had a focus on immigration as the marchers not only celebrated women's rights but also offered their support to refugees. This support for refugees arose because Beltrami county in Minnesota recently became the first county in Minnesota and the second in the country to not take refugees after the County Board of Commission voted to opt-out of the United States Refugee Resettlement Program.

The Women's March in



The Women's March highlighted the upcoming election.

Bismarck ended with a panel featuring Jaylani Hussein, the executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations' Minnesota chapter, who discussed how negative perceptions of refugees needs to be changed.

Since the Women's March had to be postponed in Fargo, those still interested in attending can mark their calendars for March 8, International Women's Day, when the march is now planned to happen.

Music, cider, nachos at Wild Terra

Local cidery celebrates completion of new production space with basement party



Free tastings and new releases are part of the celebration.

Laura Ellen Brandjord
A&E Editor

Wild Terra Cider is celebrating the completion of its new production space in style with a basement party Friday, Jan. 24.

The new space will enable the cidery to expand their offering of ciders on tap and in cans at their location on 12th Street North.

To commemorate the occasion, Wild Terra will also be releasing new ciders such as the recently

uncovered LILYDIPPER, which was announced on the Wild Terra Cider Facebook page Tuesday. Wild Terra included strawberry emojis as the only clue as to the flavor of cider prior to the event.

Of course, there will also be a cider bar with free tastings of their current offerings as well as cidery tours during the basement party.

The event is free (apart from cider purchases) and includes a nacho bar complete with vegan

options. Both yard and video games will be available for revelers to enjoy when not taking in the live local music performances throughout the night.

The basement party is a great opportunity for fans to take in the reunion of F-M favorite Free Truman. The group, founded by sisters and Wild Terra chefs Tayler and Tia Krabbenhoft, originally disbanded after performing at Why Not Fest in Minot, ND, August of last year. The band is

loved for its honest, gritty punk rock tracks.

Fans of alt. country, will definitely not want to miss Walker Rider, while fans of dark experimental sounds will enjoy Disappear Forever. Lauryn Lesley will also be mixing tunes for partiers. There is something for any music taste at this event.

If you are free Friday night, head downtown to celebrate the completion of Wild Terra's production space, or treat yourself for surviving the first two

WILD TERRA FACEBOOK | PHOTO COURTESY

weeks of the semester instead. Whatever your motivation, Wild Terra Cider's basement party is a great excuse to head downtown.

If you go

Who: Wild Terra Cider

What: New Production Grand Opening Basement Party

Where: Wild Terra Cider, 6 12th St. N

When: Friday, Jan. 24, 7 p.m. - midnight



Meghan Arbegast
Head News Editor

Building a better life

Lenard Wells, a resident of Fargo and former prisoner, is proving that people deserve second chances. Wells is a housing

coordinator with the F5 Project that helps offenders find housing and jobs to help improve their lives. According to the Grand Forks Herald, Wells has had a long list

of convictions including an assault conviction that gave him a ten-year prison sentence. It was after he was released from the ten-year prison sentence in 2015 that Wells first started

to volunteer with the F5 Project and was then hired two and a half years later. Now Wells shares his story to inmates as he travels to jails and prisons across the state and states he sees others eager to start a new life once they are released. Because of his impact on the community, Wells was one of three award recipients for the Martin Luther King Jr. Human Relations Award, given out on Jan. 20.

Enforcing themselves

Garrison North Dakota, a city with 1,500 residents, now has to start their own police department after council members rejected renewing the contract services from McLean county Sheriff's office. AP News reported that Garrison has been contracting services from the Sheriff's office since 1969, but since the contract ended at the beginning of this year, the city hasn't had law enforcement presence since Jan. 1. In September, Garrison officials decided to establish their own police force since they were unhappy with the increasing costs from the contract. Officials decided to hire

Travis Tesch, a police officer with 20 years of experience in North Dakota, as the new police chief.

American zoos help Australian wildfires

All around the world people and organizations are chipping in money to help fight the wildfires that continue to rage through Australia. American zoos have also started to hold fundraisers in order to provide care for the injured and homeless animals. According to Newsweek, some of the donations have come from San Diego Global which has raised \$500,000 and the Denver Zoo that contributed \$5,000. Tim Morrow, the president and CEO of the San Antonio Zoo, told Newsweek that people are often more likely to volunteer to their local zoos over outside sources since they know that the money will go directly towards caring for affected animals. Along with the monetary donations, the San Antonio Zoo is also offering to send personnel to Australia in case they need additional help in caring for the wounded animals, though as of right now, no veterinary personal have

been called for.

A new way of shopping

New technology is being created to eliminate the amount of time it takes to go shopping, including waiting in line. Smart shopping carts seem like the new and improved way to get in and out in a jiffy as the startups behind the carts, Capex and Veeve, claim its easier to add technology to a shopping cart as reported by CNN. The shopping carts will have cameras and sensors on the carts using AI (artificial intelligence) to tell where in the cart you have placed the items. There will also be a built-in scale allowing you to weigh items that you pay for by the pound. For checking out, customers simply enter their credit cards into the cart or pay through Google or Apple Pay. As a customer leaves the store, a green light on the shopping cart will determine that their order is complete and that they have been charged for everything in their cart. Currently, the shopping carts are still being underworked and it is undetermined when they could be implemented into grocery stores.

Giving back to the community

Students donate their day off to help those in need

Brayden Zenker
Contributing Writer

On Jan. 20, North Dakota State University Volunteer Network hosted the Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day 2020. This year, the NDSU Volunteer Network volunteered with nine different organizations: Arc Attic Treasures, Bethany Retirement Living, Child Evangelism Fellowship, Emergency Food Pantry, FirstLink, A Place For Hope: Recovery and Wellness Center, Ronald McDonald House Charities, River Keepers and Project Linus.

Project Linus is a non-profit organization that donates blankets to children in need. The Eastern North Dakota Chapter of Project Linus began in 2006 with Norene Baeth as the coordinator of the Eastern ND Chapter since 2008.

During the event, student volunteers made tie blankets that would later be donated. Blankets are donated to hospitals, adoption agencies, foster care, women's shelters, ambulance services, county social services and more. In 2018, the area chapter donated 3,826 blankets.

NDSU students and Theta Chi fraternity members, Chase Anderson and Tyler Blegen, volunteered with Project Linus from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

"I volunteered with (Linus Project) last year," Anderson said. "It was really fun. This is my favorite volunteering event to do."

"I've been volunteering with (Linus Project) for the



Project Linus was one of the nonprofit organizations students can volunteer for.

MEGHAN ARBEGAST | THE SPECTRUM

last two years," Blegen said.

NDSU Student and Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society member, Monica Zent, also volunteered with Project Linus.

"Phi Eta Sigma did an event with Project Linus last semester," Zent said. "That's how I got involved with the Linus Project."

Arc Attic Treasures is a thrift store that provides advocacy and programs for people with intellectual and development disabilities.

Student volunteers helped with cleaning the store and restocking merchandise. Student volunteers at Bethany Retirement Living, a senior care facility also helped with cleaning and interacted with the facility's residents.

Ronald McDonald House Charities provides housing for families with children receiving medical care. Students volunteering with the charity helped with cleaning tasks. A Place For Hope: Recovery and

Wellness Center, a recovery center for adults with serious and persistent mental illnesses also had student volunteers help staff with cleaning tasks.

FirstLink is an organization that assists people with getting access to community and volunteer resources. FirstLink helps the community access resources like housing, food and transportation assistance, but also health care services, support groups, mental health services, substance

abuse disorder services and more. Volunteers spent time writing thank you notes. For more information about services accessible through FirstLink visit myfirstlink.org.

Child Evangelism Fellowship is an organization that educates young children about Jesus Christ and the Bible. Student volunteers constructed mailers that will be used for Giving Hearts Day.

River Keepers is an organization that promotes

the safe and sustainable use of the Red River as they organize events to stimulate the use of the Red River. These events include fishing clinics, river paddling excursions, scavenger hunts, environmentally friendly projects and more. Volunteers used t-shirts to create reusable tote bags to replace plastic bags and educate on environmental effects.

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The Spectrum accepts letters to the editor by email editor@ndsuspectrum.com and by mail. Please limit letters to 500 words and submit them in a word document. Letters will be edited only for clarity. They should include the writer's name, telephone number, major and year in school or title.

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FM AREA FOR CHANGE

A new exhibit focusing on ‘human rights for everyone’



CITY OF FARGO FACEBOOK | PHOTO COURTESY

Tabbitha Erceg
Staff Writer

According to KVRR local news, the Fargo-Moorhead area is holding a human rights and arts festival until the end of January. The exhibit encompasses human rights for everyone and features over sixty-five different artists. The exhibit is being held on the third floor of the Plains Art Museum

and will feature photographs, paintings, films and wall art.

The intention behind the exhibit is to bring change to the F-M community. The artists have depicted issues that affect all of us, issues that are in our area. Some examples of the societal issues the artists have built their work off of is, women’s rights, healthcare, gun violence, the LGBTQ+ community and homelessness.

The artists are using this festival

as a way to communicate that, as a society, we cannot disconnect ourselves from our environment and the issues within it. There will be a celebration for the artists on Jan. 22 and they will be able to discuss their work then. The event is free and open to anyone.

The City of Fargo reports that Fargo has actually had a human relations commission since October of 2000. This commission works to advance

Fargo’s acceptance and respect for diversity. It actively attempts to discourage discrimination and holds events like the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration to do so.

The advocates for human rights explain that human rights are simply standards that let people live with equality, justice, peace, freedom and dignity. Human rights are just that, for humans. They are for people of all origins

and status and human rights have a lot to do with the development of communities. This is why the advocates for human rights stress the importance of accepting and respecting diversity. The F-M area is advocating for change and for the growth of acceptance by holding the arts festival. Events like these help to ensure that everyone is able to develop and use their personal qualities to the fullest.

Start the semester financially sound

Advice from NDSU staff on student loans and key financial dates



NDSU Onestop functions as the hub for students to submit important documents and pay tuition each semester.

JOHN SWANSON | THE SPECTRUM

Kalley Miller
Features Editor

With the semester starting up, it’s easy to ignore the NDSU email notifications that seem to be lighting up phone screens everywhere on campus. After all, we get so many of them, from emergency alert testing emails to reminders to order class materials on time. The email notifications (at times) seem as if they’re never-ending.

It may not come as a surprise that email is one of the official means of communication NDSU utilizes to notify students of anything that they may need to know. This means that there’s a lot of important information that’s being

sent out to students, even if it doesn’t always apply to everyone. There are a few things that all students should be aware of. Emails regarding key financial dates and student account information are just some examples. Keeping a close eye on these will help you have a less stress-inducing start to the semester.

If you’re a student at NDSU, chances are you’ve visited NDSU One Stop, located in the Memorial Union. One Stop functions as the hub for students to make tuition payments, submit important forms and have questions answered. In short, it lives up to its name. A ‘One-Stop’ for everything that a student needs to get done.

Linda Murphy, the

NDSU One Stop Assistant manager, explained that students should be aware of Jan. 23 (for Spring 2020, specifically). Jan. 23 is the last day for students to be able to add or drop classes for a hundred percent refund. Not only is this date the cut off for a hundred percent refund but is also the date used by the University to “determine eligibility for grants, scholarships and a variety of other types of aid.”

One piece of advice that Linda would pass onto students is for “students and families to begin the academic year with a financial plan and to make arrangements for loans and other financial aid early.”

Dorreen Kemmer, Director of Customer

Account Services at NDSU echoes that thought with an example of the common mistake students tend to make of “not having a plan in place to address their balance owed to the University.”

“For example, if a student enrolls in classes and knows that their tuition and student fees are \$4,810 for the semester, but their financial aid is only \$3,000 they need to develop a plan to address the deficit. They may elect to pay this portion out of pocket, sign up for the monthly payment plan or they may seek out a private loan. Ideally, this plan would be created well in advance of the start of the semester or, at least, within the first couple weeks of the semester.”

Having a conversation

with family members about finances can mitigate nightmarish situations like the example above. If you do in fact find yourself in a situation like this one where financial aid isn’t going to cover the entire debt owed to the University, a monthly payment plan can be set up with NDSU. The deadline to sign up for the monthly payment plan is Jan. 29.

Another thing students tend to miss is the “difference between dropping a single class and withdrawing to zero credits,” says Dorreen. Dropping a class means you’re no longer seeking to be enrolled in that specific course but are still enrolled in other courses. Withdrawing to zero credits means withdrawing completely from NDSU for

that term and can mean the requirement of the return of financial aid.

Other important financial aid information that students should be aware of for the spring semester is that tuition payments are due Jan. 29 and past-due balance hold will be applied to accounts if tuition is not paid by Feb. 12 and on March 15th (if, still not paid) late fees will be applied. Also, financial aid funds will be applied to student accounts on Jan. 28.

If you have any questions regarding your student account, don’t be afraid to stop at NDSU One Stop, they’ll most likely have the answer that you’re looking for.

Fargo Foodie | Homemade meatballs

Because homemade is always better than pre-packaged

Brittany Hofmann
Staff Writer

While making your own meatballs is gross, it's worth it. Plus, it's a great way to make use of the butts of your bread.

Meatballs

Ingredients

1. 1 lb. ground beef, turkey, or meat alternative.
2. ½ cup breadcrumbs (or a chopped butt-end slice of bread).
3. Salt, pepper, chili powder and onion powder to taste.
4. 3 cloves minced garlic (or to taste).
5. 1 egg.

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. While the oven is preheating, combine ingredients in a mixing bowl except for ground beef.
3. Once ingredients are mixed well, add ground beef and use hands to combine.
4. Form the mixture into 1-inch meatballs and place on baking pan about ½-inch apart.
5. Bake for 25-30 minutes.

Tip: properly cooked meatballs should have an internal temperature of 165 degrees.

6. Once your meatballs are done cooking and have cooled, they can either be stored in the fridge for up to 3 days as your weekly meal prep or be stored in the freezer.

Or, as I did, I paired the



Easy-to-make comfort food.

BRITTANY HOFMANN | THE SPECTRUM

meatballs with wild rice, gravy and asparagus. The recipe for the gravy can be found below.

Keep in mind that I completely eyeballed this recipe and had to use my chef wits when I realized I didn't have flour and had to use plain pancake mix

instead.

Gravy

Ingredients

1. 1 cup flour (or plain pancake mix if you're in the middle of the recipe and find that you don't have flour).
2. Add the flour gradually

until you have reached the desired thickness. You may not use all of the flour or you may need more.

3. 2 tbsp butter (or any kind of fat such as oil, pan drippings or bacon fat).
4. 1 cup of chicken broth.

Directions

1. In a medium-size saucepan, melt butter (or any other fat such as oil) over medium-high heat.

2. Whisk in flour until well combined and no clumps remain.

This is a gradual process so don't add all the flour at once.

3. Slowly pour in broth and whisk well.

4. Bring mixture to a simmer and heat until thickened to desired consistency (about 2 minutes) while whisking constantly to avoid burning to the pan.

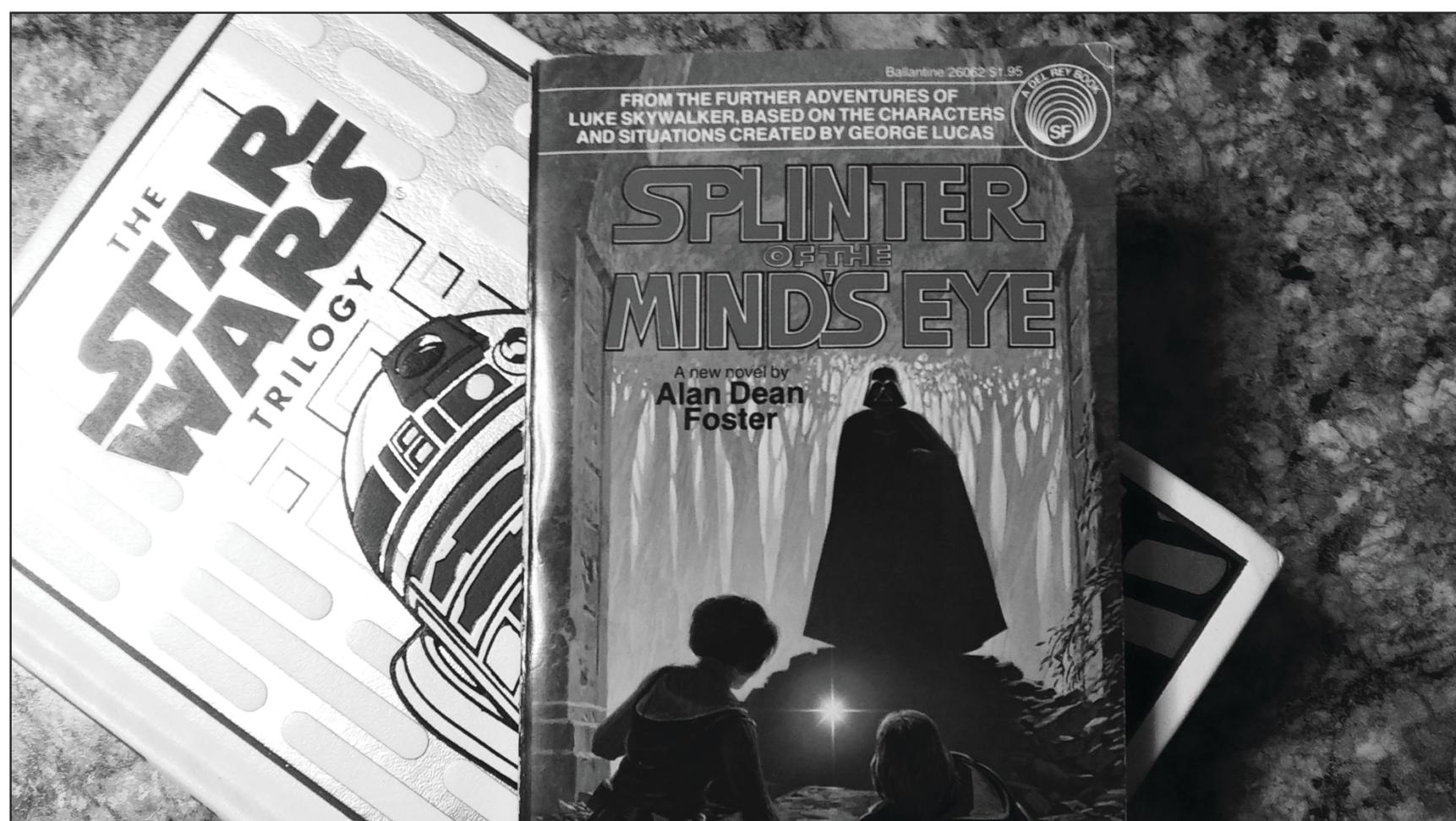
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EST. **THE SPECTRUM** 1896

Review: 'Splinter of the Mind's Eye'

A tale that could have changed the course of a beloved movie franchise



'Splinter of the Mind's Eye' could have taken the Star Wars franchise in a very different direction.

PATRICK ULLMER | THE SPECTRUM

Patrick Ullmer

Staff Writer

With December's "The Rise of Skywalker" closing off the Star Wars saga in a definitive, albeit forced close (see what I did there?), I thought it was a great chance to explore a Star Wars story which could have changed the series forever.

The story of this book's history is more interesting than the story it tells. While making his epic sci-fi classic "Star War" in 1977 (Later better known as "A New Hope"), filmmaker George Lucas always planned on starting a trilogy but was uncertain how financially successful it would be.

Therefore, he had science-fiction author Alan Dean Foster crafted a story for a sequel in novelized form for a potential extremely low-budget film. It was written as a thin plot with no epic space battles and no Han Solo (due to Harrison Ford's reluctance to reprise his role) to make shooting the film as cheap as possible.

The story was titled "Splinter of the Mind's Eye" and was published in March 1978.

The story focuses on Luke and Leia after the destruction of the Death Star in "A New Hope." They crash-land on a jungle planet where they are aided

by a wise old woman named Halla, as well as two furry alcoholic aliens called the Yuzzem.

They are pursued by agents of the Empire as well as Darth Vader. In their journey, they find magical Force crystals. They then travel through dark watery caverns, float on a giant lily pad and battle a tribe of underground cannibals as well as a gigantic lizard.

Luke and Leia soon find themselves in an abandoned Jedi temple where they are confronted by Darth Vader who kills the Yuzzem and deactivates the droids.

In the culmination of the story, both Leia and Luke respectively battle Vader

in a lightsaber duel. Vader beats Leia to death and Luke then takes up the lightsaber and fights. During the fight, Luke severs one of Vader's robotic arms before being overpowered by him.

However, Luke and Leia are saved when Vader trips over his severed arm and falls down a bottomless pit (still a better subversion of expectations than Luke throwing away his lightsaber). That is not the end of the story, however, and leaves the story open to continuation.

The story is not without its faults. It was made before Darth Vader's popularity as a villain blew up in pop culture, so he is described as

a "henchman" (that would be like calling the Joker a henchman).

Luke Skywalker does not feel like Luke Skywalker. I know that's a cheap thing to say after "The Last Jedi," but he feels more like the roguish, sarcastic Han Solo.

For example, in the opening he slaps Leia after she disrupts his meal and explains to the people in the cantina they are in that he does this whenever Leia gets out-of-line.

Luke and Leia develop a slow-growing attraction to each other through the book. This was before Lucas decided to reveal they were siblings, but it still comes off as plain weird.

As unique as this story was, I am wholeheartedly glad we received "The Empire Strikes Back" instead. Due to the majestic success of "Star Wars," this story was scrapped and Lucas developed a more ambitious story for a sequel.

Another legacy it left was kicking off the expanded universe of stories inspired by films. Despite Disney declaring the plethora of Star Wars mythology non-canon, this story deserves more recognition.

It is simply a sci-fi story that could have happened and didn't and it is still fun to imagine what "Star Wars" could have turned into.

Review: On 'Manic', Halsey finds bliss in her benevolent, beautiful mess

The singer is poised to take the #2 spot on the charts in her first week

Grant Ayers

Staff Writer

It hasn't always been clear as to who "Halsey" is, and that hasn't been unintentional. She maintains a blurriness to the public eye over the past five years as she keeps her guard up. That isn't the case anymore. Halsey is back and more confident than ever with her third full-length album.

Having released nearly half (6 of 16) of the songs before the album's release, the singer has no issue holding her ground in the spotlight with no full-fledged features outside "interludes" that have no issue standing on their own from three other collaborators.

These interludes come from Dominic Fike, Alanis Morissette and SUGA of BTS. Their tracks each seem to represent a different form of love: Brotherly love from Dominic, loving women from Alanis and the cycle of a relationship from SUGA.

Halsey spent nearly two and a half years struggling with opening up to others during the writing and recording process of the album. She seems to have thrived in the studio after opening up to herself and coming forth in the public eye.

In a statement released alongside the album, she stated that the album was "made by Ashley for Halsey." It's in this sense that she combined both of her personalities for the better.

While she spent years on the

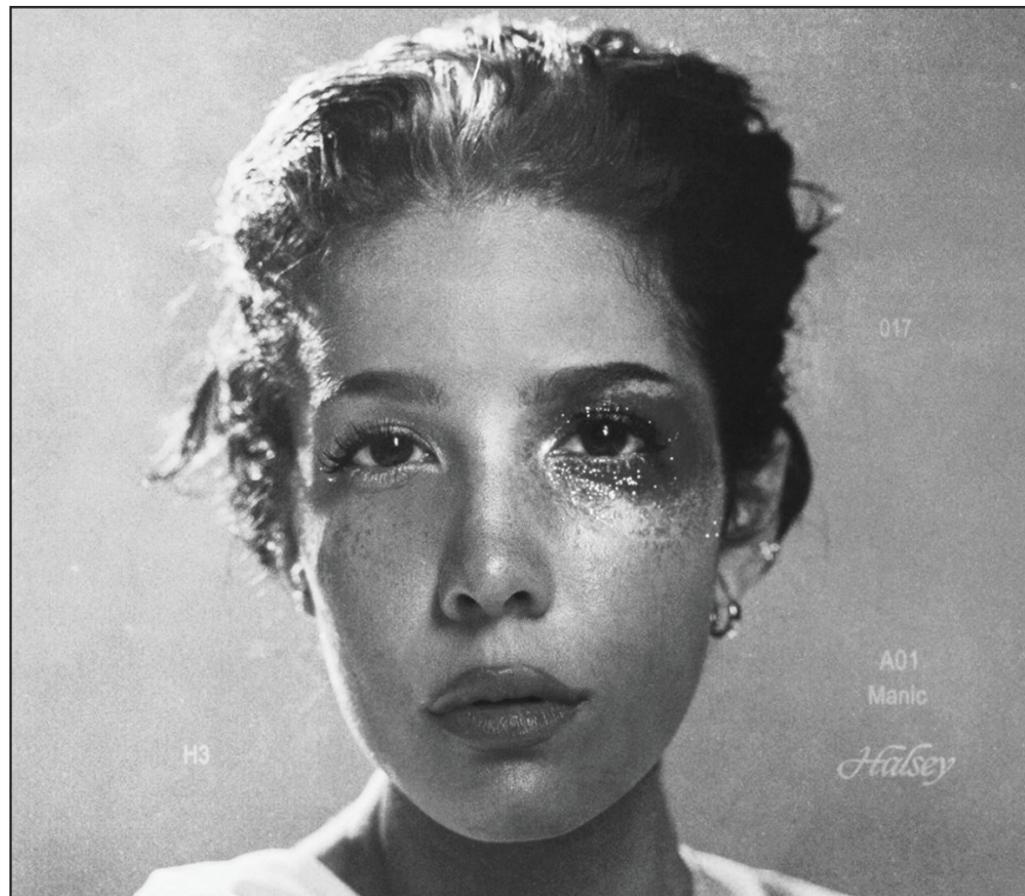
making of this album, she had no shortage of competition to top the charts in her first week's release. Other releases included Eminem's surprise release of "Music to Be Murdered By" and Mac Miller's posthumous album "Circles". Holding her own, the artist is poised to sell \$185,000 - \$210,000 in album sales.

The most impressive feat to be taken away from "Manic" is her exploration into new sounds. Halsey has said numerous times across her social media and interviews that her new album would range from hip-hop, rock, pop and country, to everything in between.

She finds herself in a revenge-rock mood on songs like "Killing Boys" and "I Hate Everybody". Both songs are reminiscent of Avril Lavigne and Paramore's early 2000s angst and rebellion.

While she's had experience with the pop/rock blend, she ventures out into an entirely new element for her country. On songs like "You Should Be Sad" and "Finally/Beautiful Stranger", she resembles a mold of Lady Gaga's "A Star Is Born" character that strives to be the best while in an entirely new environment.

While this may be pleasing to many hardcore fans, she is far from perfection in these new fields and has significant room to improve. With this many genres being ventured into and explored, she finds her art being spread too thin and can't cover enough ground to



Halsey stares down the camera for the first time on her third album cover.

HALSEY FACEBOOK | PHOTO COURTESY

find mass appeal.

While she's shown a vast improvement since opening for Imagine Dragons' "Smoke and Mirrors" tour in 2015, this album proves that she always has room to

grow under her circumstances.

Despite spreading her music thin and missing a wide target this time around, she's opened her field and practiced hitting those targets for a more cohesive project next

time around.

Confident, bold and with a widened range, she's sure to be more victorious than ever before on her next album.

Review: 3/5

TALEWORLDS ENTERTAINMENT ADDS TO 'BANNERLORD' BETA

Updates fix some problems, result in others



'Bannerlord' will need further fine tuning before it is ready to move from beta.

GAMER.NO | PHOTO COURTESY

Nathan Wetrosky
Staff Writer

Coming out in March, "Mount and Blade: Bannerlord" still has a free early access multiplayer beta going on. This beta is a chance for old and new players alike to experience the newest edition in the "Mount and Blade" series, created by TaleWorlds Entertainment, before its official release.

Fortunately, this beta has not been sitting in a puddle of its own origins. TaleWorlds has been hard at work addressing the bugs and glitches players have been running into while playing the beta.

Along with fixing bugs in the multiplayer, TaleWorlds

has been adding features to make the experience better for players. With almost daily updates, there have been some neat fixes that have helped keep the players happy.

Updates

At the beginning of the beta, swarms of lower-tier units reigned supreme. When all hopes of tactics and strategy were lost, there was a single trump card that could beat almost any other army makeup. Players would plan in the team chat to all select the lowest tier unit for their faction due to the troop numbers increase.

This created a massive horde of recruits/rabble/peasants that would effectively overwhelm the enemy armies' units.

This tactic was eventually curtailed by TaleWorlds as they decreased the amount of health low tier units could have. Thus, weakening the threat of quantity over quality.

Recently, a player-specific kill counter was added. This kill counter allows for players to see how many times other players have killed them. It also shows how many times you have killed a player as well.

This has created an interesting system of rivalry between players and makes duels in a large battle more gripping. However, gg (good game) is still the normal exchange of words between the duelists once the contest concludes. C

One major thing

TaleWorlds Entertainment has been working to address is making the beta more playable by lowering the number of crashes experienced by players. There are still crashes happening (especially in loading screens), but the number that occurs is infrequent at worst.

The developers have been hard at work addressing other issues, but the crashes are still one of the biggest concerns for players now.

Problems

While TaleWorlds Entertainment has been trying to add new features and improve the "Mount and Blade: Bannerlord" beta, there are two new problems that have sprung up.

It seems that the more

content that is added, the longer it takes to get into a match. This is rather frustrating due to the ever-increasing player-base (no fault to the players) making the wait times longer.

It can sometimes take up to thirty minutes to find a match, with no guarantee of it not about to end. There is work being done on this by TaleWorlds, but hopefully, it's at the top of the list.

One of the most recent problems that sprung up during the latest patch, was a lack of player characters shouting orders. This is a minor issue, but it takes a lot of the atmosphere out of the game when the order to charge is just a sword-swinging in the air and not the deep bass voice of a Celtic warrior yelling

"Charge!"

Wrap-up

"Mount and Blade: Bannerlord" will be released sometime in March of this year. The beta is a work in progress, however. Its purpose is to help TaleWorlds fix any problems with the multiplayer component of the game because players are more likely to stumble upon a problem randomly than a developer would by going through the lines of code systematically.

If you are interested in swinging a sword and contributing to the beta, there are still openings for new players to join by using the beta sign-up form on the TaleWorlds' website.

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SPRING SEMESTER SLUMP

Motivation runs dry in the spring

Delaney Halloran
Opinion Editor

I hope everyone out there is still enjoying the benefits of that new-semester-motivation. At this point, everything still seems to be going smoothly: classes have just begun, there aren't any tests or papers to cram for, the smell of your lightly used textbook rings of hope and promising grades.

Or maybe, for those of you less lucky souls, it is possible that motivation has already dried up, and honestly, it's only a matter

able to keep up in the spring, what does that mean for those students who were already struggling to begin with?

There's a number of reasons why this dip in grades and motivation occurs.

Weather

The first is the easiest to understand and the least controllable: weather. When the temperature is in the negatives and the roads are dicey, students simply don't want to go to class.

For most classes, the easiest way to do well is by just showing up. The



Pictured: a student too tired to even take the cap off her pen.

FICKR | PHOTO COURTESY

During spring semester it is never long before the hopeless pit of work and procrastination consumes most of us.

of time for the rest of us.

During spring semester, it is never long before the hopeless pit of work and procrastination consumes most of us. So why is it that so many of us succumb to the cold weather and slump during the spring semester, and more importantly, how do we stop it?

A simple statistic that can help you understand the reality of this slump regards the NDSU Dean's list. In order to make the Dean's list for a semester, a student must have a 3.50 or higher grade point average by the end of the semester and be taking 12 or more credits.

Last year during the fall semester, 4,125 students made this list, the following semester, only 3,740 students made the list.

The drop in Dean's list members is significant, and this is only looking at the students who have the best grades. So if students who potentially have the skills to do well at NDSU aren't

weather in the spring is far worse than that in the fall and it puts some students who live further off-campus at a real disadvantage.

There are a few solutions to this problem. The first is to stay well-connected with your professors. If your car is stuck make sure that sending your professor an email about it is not the first interaction you've had all semester. If you keep up with communication with your professors, they're much more likely to be empathetic when the weather actually keeps you from attending.

Another good solution is the buddy system. No one likes a free-loader, but if you think you sometimes won't be able to make it to class, ask a trusted friend to take notes for you. This sounds like a no brainer, but too often people avoid asking someone in their class for their information or pick that friend who misses more class than you do.

If it's just a dread to go outside, make sure you plan

something fun on campus to keep you attending. Trudging through the snow and clearing your car to go to calculus sounds miserable, but if you also plan to meet a friend for coffee you just might come.

The frequent breaks

Fall semester can feel like a grind. There are few days off and all you have to look forward to is semester break. Then spring semester comes along and it seems like there are all these long-weekends and days off to look forward to.

While this may seem like a positive, it turns out that the fall grind kept us on track. It's easy to avoid homework when you can tell yourself you'll just do it over a long weekend. Then all a sudden you're halfway through the semester and a month behind.

Also, people usually spend all their time looking forward to those breaks and forgetting to do work in the meantime. Why think about my paper when I have a Spring Break trip to plan?

In order to avoid break overexcitement, it's good to do a few things. First off, put yourself back into that grind attitude. Even if it's just the beginning of the semester, schedule your days like those tiny homework assignments are the same weight as studying for a big

exam.

In preparation for those long weekends, don't save all your work. Instead, get everything done during the week and then actually enjoy yourself instead of stressing about what you're not getting done.

This may all sound fairly basic, but there are plenty of students who struggle to keep themselves accountable. In order to do better, mandate an end time to your day. Treat school like a job. You work every day from eight a.m. to five p.m., or in my case, noon to eight p.m.. Even if that sounds long, that just means come the end of the day you gave yourself time to relax.

Buildup to graduation

Even if you yourself are not graduating, chances are, someone you know is. Watching them prepare to move into the next stage of their life can make yours feel stagnant. So when they ask to go out all weekend, you say "sure," because who knows how many more weekends like this they have.

Then you look at them getting the jobs they want and moving to places far more exotic than North Dakota, and you end up thinking, "What the hell am I still doing here?"

School can start to seem pretty insignificant when the people around you seem to really be starting their lives.

As with anything, balance is really important here. That last semester for college students is so important. For many of us, those friends we spend our last semester with are the ones we will cling to for a good amount of time. So any anxiety to be a part of that semester with them, or to enjoy that last semester if you are graduating, is real.

However, the only reason someone is getting that amazing job or moving to that awesome and exotic place is because they came to NDSU and they're getting their degree. What's the point of all that college fun if all you're left with is a two-point grade point average, thousands of dollars in debt, and some liver damage.

Learning how to enjoy yourself while also appreciating how these few short years really will pave the way for the rest of your life is essential.

Dropout and transfer rates

Another looming force in the spring semester is realizing how many people have left NDSU, either for another school or just period. The class picture taken that first week of freshman year

looks a whole lot different come graduation.

Here you are, studying 30 hours a week, while your friend who dropped out wakes up at three in the afternoon and parties every night. It can be tempting to let your grades dwindle while trying to live a similar life.

For the most part though, we all came here to have fun, yes, but mostly to get a degree. If we spend all our time dreaming of not being here, we also risk losing that degree. And, if we're being honest, the America we live in today is not always going to be super kind to the college dropouts.

Remembering that your friends may be waking up now at three in the afternoon, but you could be doing the same in a few years with a bonus degree is always a good place to start.

For many people (myself included) the spring semester can be rough. The desire to do well diminishes quickly, and the bitter cold and muggy skies seem to make every little bit of productivity seem impossible.

However, if you stay in touch with professors and friends, treat college like a job and remember how precious that future degree will be, you just might make it.

Are the Australian Fires Caused by Climate Change?

Does it really matter if they are?

Delaney Halloran
Opinion Editor

At this point, almost everyone has heard about the crisis in Australia right now. The wildfires rampaging across the country have been a topic in the news for the last month or so.

According to CNN's Jessie Yeung, the fires have killed 28 people, destroyed 3,000 homes and impacted at least half a billion animals.

In the broadcasting of this disaster, there has been a lot of confusion over whether or not climate change is affecting the spread and intensity of these wildfires. Many news outlets have been reporting that arsonists are responsible for the fires. While other experts have been reassuring that the wildfires are indeed a result of climate change.

The short and sweet of the situation is this: a small percentage of wildfires were caused by arsonists, by and large, they were caused by natural causes, but the intensity of the fires is directly related to climate change.

Knowing this, what are the implications of this disaster caused by climate change, and will now knowing its cause change anyone's minds?

For a better understanding of what's happening in Australia, it's important to know that there is a fire season in the country every year. According to the

Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology, these fires usually erupt due to a drier climate and natural causes, such as lightning.

Also important to know, there have been instances of arson reported, as well as reports of human-caused unintentional fires. Yet, in many media reports, the frequency of arson has been grossly exaggerated.

As the Queensland Police Service reported, only 11 percent of the fires started were human-caused, the rest were due to natural causes.

Most important though is that despite human interference and despite the fact that fires are expected, the situation currently happening is a direct result of climate change. Weather conditions are growing more extreme, wherein droughts are more likely to occur, fires have more intensity and floods are far more disastrous.

The Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology has directly linked the hot, dry conditions fueling the fires to climate change. Regardless of whether or not the fires were human or nature caused, it is climate change that allows the rapidity of their spread.

2019 was recorded as the hottest and driest year in Australia to date.

As Jennifer Marlon, a researcher at the Yale School of Forestry



Please care about climate change, do it for the koalas.

PIXABAY | PHOTO COURTESY

and Environmental Studies said, "There are fingerprints of climate change in all of these blazes that really can't be denied."

The point here is simple: it should matter to us that the fires in Australia are a result of climate change. Even if this crisis is literally occurring halfway across the world, we should care because it is only a matter of time before this crisis is at our own doorstep.

Environmental science has come too far and too many experts have spoken up for climate change deniers to still be a thing. Similar to the ways we look back at individuals who thought the sun rotated the earth, we will look at people who continued to deny the obvious impacts of climate change, despite countless scientific evidence, with the same condescending confusion.

People are dying and losing their homes. If that does nothing to make you take pause, at least start to care about climate change for the koalas. Over one-third of the koala population has been wiped out due to the fires. So if not for me, if not for your fellow-man, look into climate change for those cute furry friends.

Your Privilege is Showing

Not caring about politics is a sign of privilege

Delaney Halloran
Opinion Editor

It's not an uncommon sentiment among college students: "I don't really like to talk about politics." Which in this state, where there's about a 50/50 chance of guessing what political affiliation someone has, not wanting to talk about politics can seem like a

caring at all. Sure, having an opinion about a political topic but remaining silent when the topic comes up is not ideal.

This action likely means you don't have the courage or stamina to talk about and back your beliefs; however, there are those occasions in

Your ability to keep yourself out of the conversation says more about the advantages your particular life has given you than about how nonchalant your personality is.

matter of social survival.

However, for a large amount of Americans, many NDSU students included, getting to avoid politics is not a privilege they are afforded. When a political decision is the difference between your right to

which your personal safety or liberties could be at risk as a result of sharing your beliefs. You may not want to get fired, antagonized or attacked for having a certain belief. Most of the time though, this is likely not a tangible result.

If you have women in your life, members of the LGBTQ+ community in your life, ethnic minorities, or those with intellectual or physical disabilities, then your caring for them requires you to care about the political issues that certainly affect them.

remain a citizen, your ability to access healthcare or your ability to marry the person you love, politics is an unavoidable topic.

Not caring about politics is not an option for those individuals who are forced to care through circumstance. Your ability to keep yourself out of the conversation says more about the advantages your particular life has given you than about how nonchalant your personality is.

First, a quick distinction needs to be made. There is, in fact, a difference between not wanting to talk about politics and not caring about politics. Neither are particularly appealing. The former really won't promote any sort of lasting change, either personally or socially. The latter just reflects entitlement.

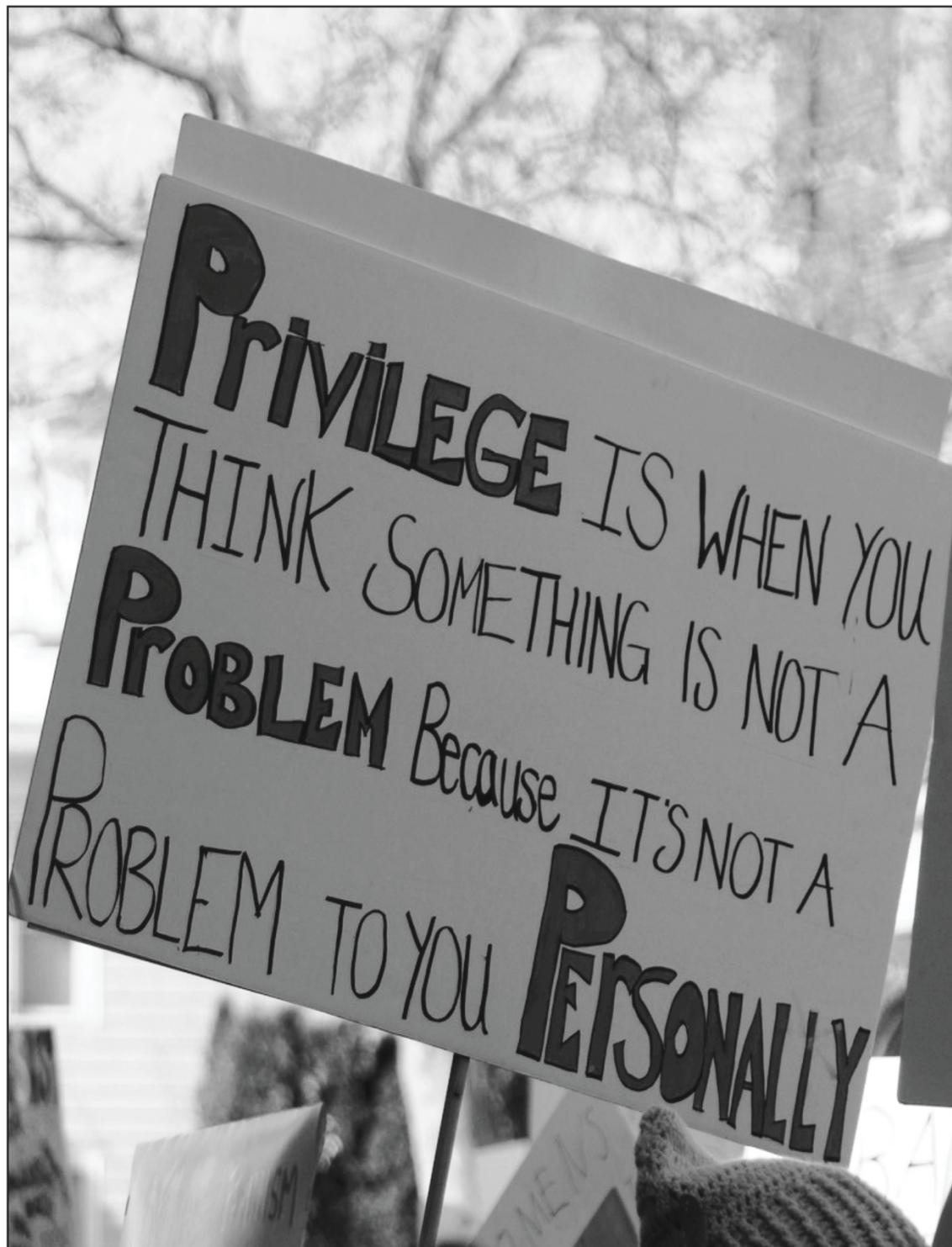
However, when it comes to these two options, not caring about politics is certainly worse than not

Still, the capability to not even have a belief shows how little empathy you have for others. It is one thing to not care about politics because it doesn't affect you, but it will undoubtedly affect someone close to you.

If you have women in your life, members of the LGBTQ+ community in your life, ethnic minorities or those with intellectual or physical disabilities, then your caring for them requires you to care about the political issues that certainly affect them.

When trying to understand your own privilege and the role you play in taking responsibility for it, it's important to understand what privilege means. A formal definition would see privilege as the benefits and power provided by institutional inequalities.

A common example would be an individual who is male will benefit from the oppression and inequality



Your level of interest in politics is reflective of the problems you face.

presented to females.

Individuals can be privileged without realizing it or even wanting the privilege. Privilege is something we are born with, not necessarily a choice we make. We can't choose the color of our skin, the biological sex we are born with or our country of origin. What we can choose is whether we deny the privilege we have or we embrace it and work to abandon those institutional benefits we are provided.

Looking at politics, if you ignore your privilege as part of any majority, you won't be bothered when a law oppresses the minority, because it doesn't affect you right? Yet, it does show how little compassion you have for those individuals who are negatively impacted by your unearned power.

A step in the right direction is establishing

those political opinions; recognizing that your privilege plays a role in the oppression of others, and perhaps that the privilege of those around you may even lead to your own oppression. Staking a claim in politics allows you to have a role in changing those power scripts.

Conversely, not having an opinion means you are a bystander, and an ignorant one, to the hardships and difficulties many citizens must face.

There are several topics in modern American politics that are essential to the lives of many. A stance on gun control can be influenced by losing a family member to a shooting. A stance on drug price regulation can be a result of not being able to afford life-saving medicine. A stance on immigrant detention can be influenced by reading about

a child dying in a cage.

It may sound dramatic, but it is not inaccurate that political decisions are life and death for many Americans. By refusing to take a stand on any political issues you are delegitimizing and minimizing the struggles of many. By refusing to take a stand, you are showing how little these struggles have ever touched your life. By refusing to take a stand, you are showing how little you care about your fellow citizens.

If I had to choose between coming across someone with adverse political opinions and coming across someone with no political opinions, I'd take my political opposite any day. Even if someone disagrees with me, having political opinions and being willing to talk about them shows passion and a willingness to create change.

It is so much more productive to society to talk through issues civilly with those who you disagree with than to eliminate yourself from such conversations altogether. You learn nothing and appreciate little when you don't stand behind your beliefs and when you don't address the beliefs of those who disagree with you.

It's a cliché, but it is a cliché for a reason: "You either step forward into growth or you will step back into safety." Don't be the benchwarmers of our generation, sitting around waiting for an opportunity to care about something. Recognize that there are things all around you to care about, that touch the lives of close friends and strangers alike, even if they don't directly touch you.

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Super Bowl LIV: Who's in?

Thanks for playing, Titans and Packers

Ian Longtin
Sports Editor

Titans at Chiefs

It is tempting to write off this game by just throwing roses at Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs and hailing them as the clear top-dog in the AFC. However, this would be a complete disservice to the Tennessee Titans. Despite the 35-24 outcome in favor of Kansas City, the Titans proved that they belonged. Yes, these 9-7 for the third straight year, Ryan Tannehill quarterbacked Titans proved that they belonged in the conversation for one of the best teams in the league. What a time to be alive.

The Titans were able to jump out to a lead in the first half. All-world running back Derrick Henry was not ripping off any of his classic 30-yard chunk runs, but at five yards a clip on the ground kept the Chiefs defense honest. A one-yard touchdown pass from Tannehill to Dennis Kelly (now the heaviest player to ever catch a touchdown pass in the playoffs) made it 17-7 Titans in the 2nd quarter, and the Chiefs were in desperate need for someone to make a play. Enter Patrick Mahomes.

The Chiefs star quarterback led his team on two back to back touchdowns following Kelly's touchdown. The first of the two came on a 20-yard strike from Mahomes to Tyreek Hill. This was Hill's second touchdown of

the day, the first coming late in the first quarter. Kansas City was then able to get a quick stop to give Mahomes and his offense a chance to take the lead before the half was over.

The Chiefs articulated the ball downfield once again and found themselves down at the 27. Mahomes then made the play of the day. He took the shotgun snap, avoided a sack, scrambled to his right and broke another tackle. He then tiptoed down the left sideline, cut back to the middle of the field where he fought through multiple defenders and fell into the end zone. Arrowhead Stadium went into a frenzy. It was one of the moments when it felt like it was simply the Chief's time. After 50 years, it was their time to head back to the Super Bowl.

The second half was much less eventful than the first half. The Titans did not stop fighting, but as the Chiefs lead grew to 35-17 with less than eight minutes left, it was all but over. Henry, who had over 1200 yards in his previous games, was held to 69 yards on the ground. Mahomes accounted for four of the five Chiefs touchdowns.

Packers vs 49ers

What the San Francisco 49ers did to the Green Bay Packers on Sunday night should be illegal in all 50 states, as well as Canada. The Niners took Green Bay's lunch money and forced the Packers to watch them eat.

It was 37-20 victory for the 49ers, and it was



Mahomes has the Chiefs one win away from their second Super Bowl championship.

Flickr | Photo Courtesy

not really that close. An interception thrown by Aaron Rodgers late in the first-half, followed by a touchdown run by 49ers running back Raheem Mostert (who we will get to later) made it 27-0. With the second half still to play, the Packers were dead-men walking.

The Packers defense could not stop the 49ers run game. The heralded Packers' defensive line was punk'd and embarrassed from the opening snap. The aforementioned Mostert ran for 220 yards and four touchdowns on the ground.

He averaged a staggering 7.5 yards per carry.

San Francisco quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo's biggest accomplishment of the night was not fumbling on his handoffs to Mostert. That is not a knock on Garoppolo, it's just that he was not asked to do much. Why should he have? Green Bay knew the 49ers were running and still couldn't stop it. Garoppolo attempted just eight passes all night, and just two in the second half.

Aaron Rodgers had a pretty good game. Rodgers threw for over 300 yards,

Davante Adams had over 130 yards and a TD and the Packers even had more first downs than the 49ers. However, almost all of Green Bay's production came in garbage time.

San Francisco proved they were very much deserving of their 13-3 record and a first-round bye. The Packers...the jury is still out. With a rookie head coach and a bunch of no-name receivers playing opposite Davante Adams, a 13-3 record is something they can hang their helmets on.

The 49ers' win sets up a

juicy Super Bowl matchup with the Chiefs. Patrick Mahomes looks poised to have an all-time great career, and Andy Reid has a chance to silence any doubters and win his first Super Bowl. On the flip side, the 49ers and their suffocating defense mixed with an offense that's brilliantly coached by Kyle Shanahan rolled through the NFC with ease.

It is going to be a long, two-week wait to see who comes out on top.

It's not you, it's me

NFL teams look to the future by making some coaching changes

Andrew Haugland
Staff Writer

As the NFL now has just two teams left standing, many organizations are looking to put the past season behind them. Over the past few weeks, many teams have decided that a new head coach is the first step in the right direction.

Cleveland Browns

In what seems like an annual tradition, the Browns have fired yet another coach. Freddie Kitchens served as head coach just for the 2019 season after a meteoric rise through the coaching staff. Replacing Kitchens will be former Vikings offensive coordinator Kevin Stefanski. It is going to be interesting to see what Stefanski is going to change and incorporate into the playbook. With Baker Mayfield still on a rookie deal while entering his third season, the time for the Browns to win is now. Cleveland has plenty of weapons throughout their roster, but Stefanski will need to create a strategy to get all the 'big egos' to work together and play a full 16 game season as a team.

Carolina Panthers

Ron Rivera did not even get a chance to finish the season for the Carolina Panthers. Carolina owner, David Tepper, who is still relatively new to the job, wants to hire his own guys, and perhaps wanted a jump on the top-candidates by firing Rivera early. The Panthers are heading into their next chapter as a franchise, so a new coach does seem appropriate. The Panthers are turning to Matt Rhule to help them get back into prominence. Rhule was previously the head

coach at Baylor University. Rhule is known for building a strong culture and garnering respect from those around him. He went 47-43 overall throughout his last seven years coaching in the NCAA.

Washington Redskins

After going 0-5 to start, the Redskins decided that it was time to part ways with head coach Jay Gruden. The interim head coach was offensive line coach Bill Callahan. Callahan did what he could in the time and roster that he was given, but he was never in serious consideration for the job. Instead, Redskins owner Dan Snyder went with the aforementioned Rivera to take over in Washington. Rivera has a successful track record, and may finally be the guy can douse the dumpster fire that is the Washington organization.

New York Giants

The Giants fired Pat Shurmur after a long 4-12 season. It is tough to blame the entire thing on poor Pat. He had struggles with quarterback drama throughout much of his Giants run. An over-the-hill Eli Manning and an extremely raw Daniel Jones are not much to work with. To replace Shurmur the Giants hired Joe Judge, the former special team's coordinator and wide receivers coach for the Patriots. There is no denying that the Giants are hoping that a little bit of Bill Belichick rubbed off on Judge, who has been with Belichick and the Pats since 2012. Judge may bring the 'Pat Way' to the table for the Giants.

Dallas Cowboys

Jerry Jones' love affair with Jason Garrett has finally come to an end. An era that has spanned



McCarthy is back and ready to roll.

Flickr | Photo Courtesy

since he served as interim head coach in 2010. The Cowboys finished a disappointing 8-8 this year, and Jones had enough. The Cowboys hired former Green Bay head coach Mike McCarthy. McCarthy returns from his one-year absence in the league, to be

the head coach of America's Team. The former Super Bowl champion brings system and standard to the Cowboys, something that was lost or unfound in Dallas last year. McCarthy has playoff and Super Bowl experience, something that the Cowboys are looking to take

advantage of. Jerry Jones rolled the dice with hiring McCarthy, but ultimately McCarthy's experience with helping Aaron Rodgers develop may aid in the development of Dak Prescott.

BIG WIN FOR THE BISON

In a tough season, the Herd have something to cheer about



The Herd secured a win against their in-state rivals.

JOHN SWANSON | THE SPECTRUM

Mason Urban

Staff Writer

The NDSU women's basketball team collected their first conference win on Sunday as they beat rival North Dakota 92-82. The win improved the Herd's record to 4-13 on the season, while UND fell to 12-7. The Bison currently sit at eighth place in the Summit League standings, ahead of only Purdue Fort Wayne.

The win came at a good time for the Bison, as they were in the midst of a four-game losing streak and were coming off of a blowout loss

against South Dakota.

The Bison jumped on the Fighting Hawks quickly and took a 5-0 lead in the first minute of the game. NDSU took the lead at the end of the first quarter thanks to a 9-2 run. UND took its first lead of the game with 8:21 to play in the first half but held the lead for just 1:07. The Bison used an 18-6 run over a 4:57 span in the second quarter to take a 49-41 lead into halftime. The Herd led by ten with 9:30 to play before the Fighting Hawks went on a 9-0 run to cut the lead to 77-76 with 7:16 to play. NDSU led 82-81 following a 3-pointer by

Lilly Keplin with just under five minutes to play. That would be the final basket of the game for UND. NDSU used a 10-1 run in the final 2:23 of Sunday's game to propel them to victory.

1:07. The Bison used an 18-6 run over a 4:57 span in the second quarter to take a 49-41 lead into halftime. The Herd led by ten with 9:30 to play before the Fighting Hawks went on a 9-0 run to cut the lead to 77-76 with 7:16 to play. NDSU led 82-81 following a 3-pointer by Lilly Keplin with just under five minutes to play. That would be the final basket of the game for UND. NDSU

used a 10-1 run in the final 2:23 of Sunday's game to propel them to victory.

Michelle Gaislerova and Ryan Cobbins led the way for the Bison, each putting up a season-high 22 points. It was Gaislerova's 11th career 20-plus point game, while she also moved into a tie for third in school history with 156 career three-pointers. Sofija Zivaljevic added 15 points, while Rylee Nudell had 11. Zivaljevic went 11-11 at the free-throw line, becoming the 16th player in school history to be perfect at the line with over 10 attempts in a game.

Julia Fleecs led the way

for the Fighting Hawks with 18 points. Lilly Keplin added 13 points on the night.

The Bison shot 27-54 from the field and went 6-16 from three. UND shot 23-61 from the field and went 7-19 from downtown. Both teams got to the free-throw line often and they were both able to take advantage of those opportunities. NDSU shot just over 84 percent from the free-throw line, going 32-38. While UND shot nearly 88 percent from the line, going 29-33. The free-throw line was a huge reason why the Bison were able to win the game, as they struggled immensely

from the floor in the fourth quarter going 1-6. However, they went 15-18 from the free-throw line.

Hopefully, this win will help the Bison right the ship as they have a tough test coming up on Friday when they travel to Brookings, South Dakota to take on the Jackrabbits. SDSU just had their seven-game winning streak snapped by 21st ranked South Dakota on Sunday. With not many highlights on the season, a win at SDSU would be a huge boost to an otherwise disappointing season.

Fantasy Hoops | Lost and Found

If you love something, let it go

Philip Atneosen

Staff Writer

Losing something is one of the worst parts of daily life for a human being. Losing your keys, your wallet or your first edition holographic Charizard for example. Generally speaking, displacing your belongings is an unpleasant experience. On the flip side of this coin, which I swear was just in my pocket, are the things you benefit from losing. It can sometimes be good for you to lose something, although it's usually difficult to acknowledge that when it happens. A toxic relationship is a classic example.

There are probably some players on your fantasy team that you should lose, but it is just too hard to let go. I recently dropped someone I drafted in the fourth round. What you initially invested in these players is unimportant now. You need to do what's best for your team in the present, the past is gone. With these players, I strongly recommend you trade them or simply drop them.

PF - Draymond Green

It's been a rough year for Golden State, especially for Draymond Green. His statistical production is as disappointing as last year's, if not more so. He's averaging one fewer assist and rebound compared to last year, and his FG% has dropped by six percent. What's really hurt owners is that he's played in just 32 of a possible 45 games this season. The Warriors have no incentive to play him. They're going to have a very high lottery pick next year if they remain at the bottom of the Western Conference. Stephen Curry is still out with a broken



Without his running mates, Draymond just is not the same.

SOMOSBASKET | THE SPECTRUM

hand, and Klay Thompson's return is not in sight. I believe Steve Kerr will sit Green for even the smallest of boo-boos. If you can trade him based on name value, you couldn't possibly downgrade your situation.

C - DeAndre Jordan

DeAndre 3000 is a shell of his former NBA self. The last time he averaged fewer than 10 rebounds, 10 points and 25 minutes was in 2012. The two-time All-Defensive First Team member is also averaging a career-low 0.9 blocks per game. The Nets have played 42 games. Jordan has played in

37 but only started in four of those. It's clear that Jarrett Allen is Brooklyn's center of the future. Even though he's just 31 years old, you might want to consider removing him from your fantasy basketball consciousness. I'm afraid he's washed up and there just isn't a place in the NBA for an aging center who can't shoot the deep ball.

SF - De'Andre Hunter

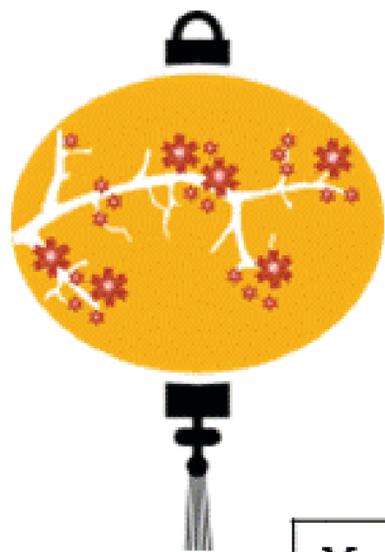
When you drafted De'Andre Hunter, you knew you were taking a shot in the dark. Hunter was supposed to be an NBA-ready

prospect with great defensive instincts. So far, he hasn't shown much of that. He has a great shooting night every now and then, but for the most part, he's a bricklayer. Four rebounds and 12 points on 40 percent shooting isn't going to get the job done in most leagues. Atlanta is still giving him 30 minutes, but I don't foresee any drastic changes to his production in the near future. You can safely drop him in all formats other than large or dynasty leagues.

PG - Jeff Teague

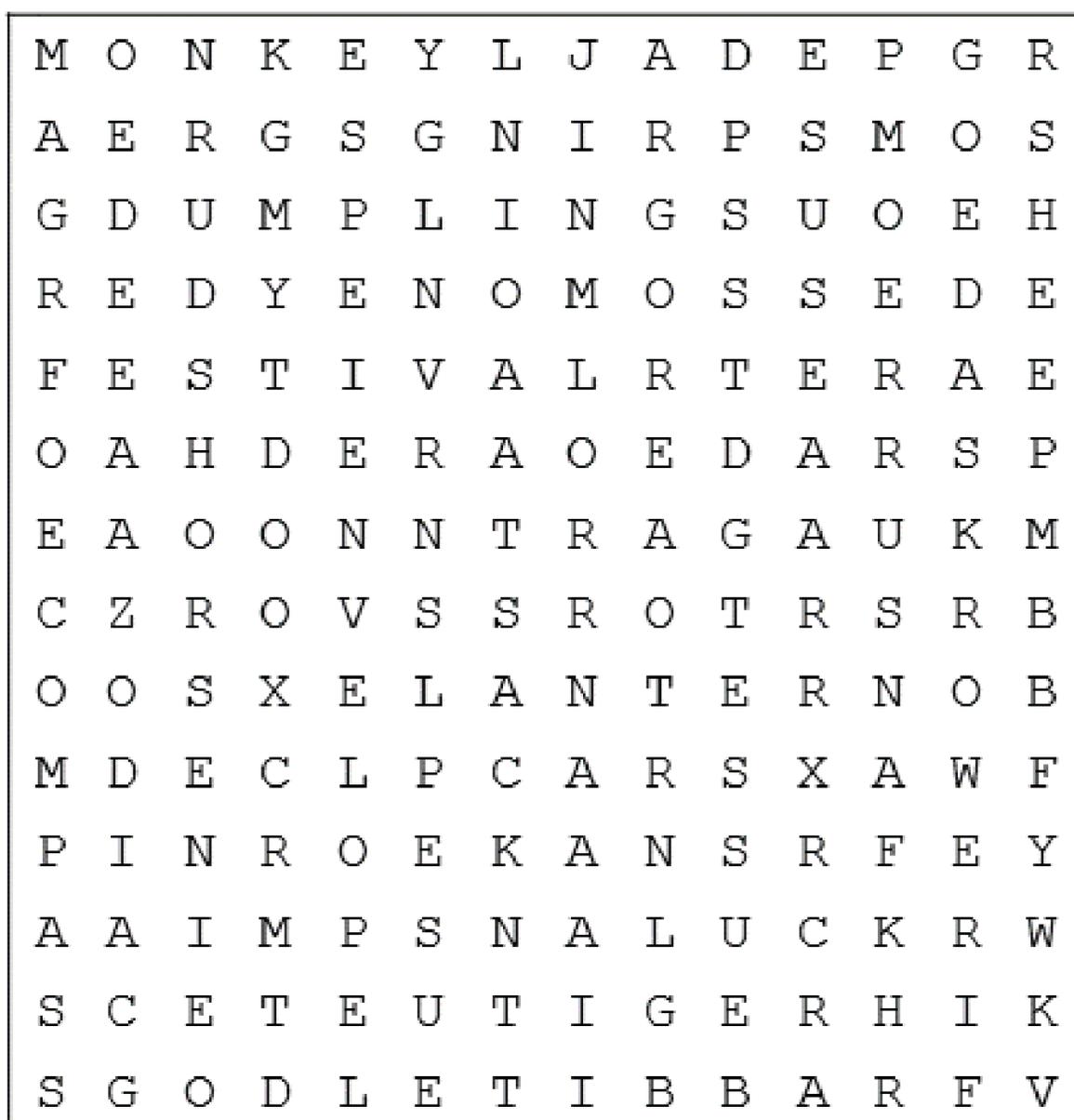
It pains me to say it, but you

can probably drop Jeff Teague. The Timberwolves traded him to the Hawks along with Treveon Graham in exchange for Allen Crabbe. In Minnesota, Teague had value in the sixth man role. In Atlanta, he's the backup to Trae Young, who plays 35 minutes per night. Teague's value obviously gets a boost if Young gets injured again, but I wouldn't count on it. I would wait for a few more games to get a better picture of what his role with the team is, but I have a feeling it's not going to be good for his fantasy value.



Chinese New Year

Chinese Lunar New Year



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