

The Spectrum

NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY | FOR THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE

The outlook on student body elections

How the campus closure will affect the campaign for next year's Student Body President and Vice President

Meghan Arbegast
Head News Editor

With campus closed and virtual learning in full effect, there are many questions concerning how business will operate as usual at North Dakota State University. One question is how elections for Student Body President and Vice President will be held. Though by now the candidates would have started campaigning, this year will have a different outlook.

Current Student Body President, Mason Rademacher, and Student Body Vice President Joseph Vollmer spoke about how the elections will run this year and how they are finishing off their term.

Rademacher said that though candidates typically spend two weeks meeting with an abundance of student organizations, candidates will now take a different approach.

"Due to the recent events, they will instead be focusing on delivering their message to the campus community online," Rademacher said.

Generally, students are able to listen to the candidates' plans of action at the student body president debate hosted by the Student Court, but that had to be canceled as well. Rademacher and Vollmer encourage students to check out the candidates' social media platforms to learn more about how they plan to serve the student body and email them directly with any questions.

Adding to that, Rademacher said student voting will be held online as it has been done in previous years. Voting will take place on April 7 starting at 8 a.m. and will end on April 8 at 5 p.m. Students can find the voting link on Student

Governments Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages.

With the changes to the election process, Rademacher stresses how involved students will be when it comes to learning about their next students leaders and voting.

"As students will be unable to directly hear from the candidates themselves, a part of the process I believe to be extremely important, I feel as if students may not be as engaged in the election process this year as they have been previously."

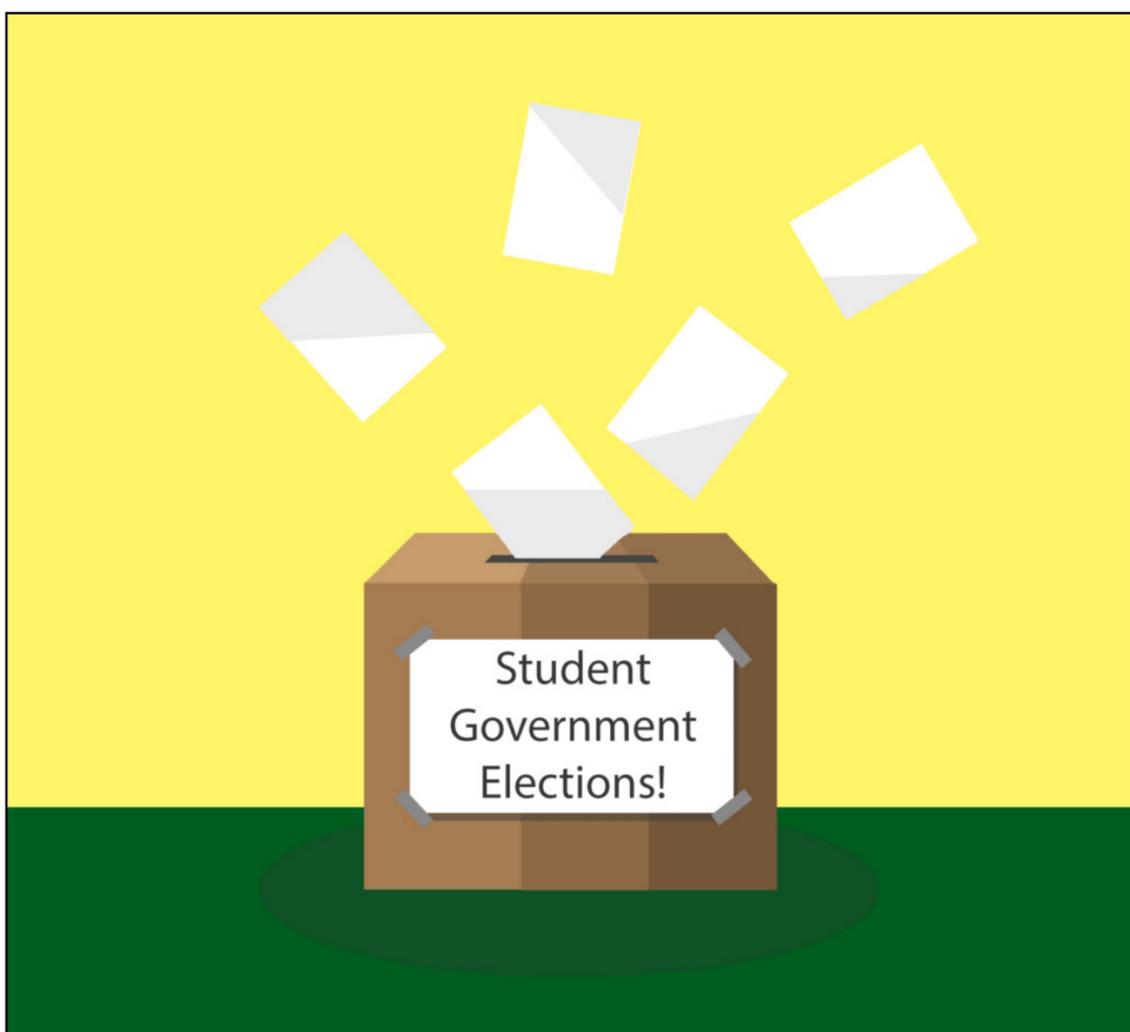
Rademacher and Vollmer remain hopeful, however, that students will still show interest in their next elected leaders and engage in the voting process.

As the end of the semester is nearing, Rademacher and Vollmer also reflected on the work they've accomplished throughout the school year as their term comes to an end.

"Joe and I are very proud of the work we were able to complete in the shortened time we had as Student Body President and Vice President," Rademacher said.

"I believe we laid the groundwork for successes to continue into the future. We developed and enhanced strong relationships between Student Government, administration and the various student-focused departments across campus that will allow the next administration to continue where we left off and strive to accomplish their platform points," Rademacher said.

Rademacher and Vollmer were initially planning on addressing student engagement opportunities, but with the campus community shifting online, Rademacher said they had to make adjustments to their original plans. Now Rademacher and Vollmer are



CASSANDRA TWEED | THE SPECTRUM

preparing for the transition for the presidential race Velazquez, Morgan Hovde to the next administration are Matthew Friedmann and Eric Solberg are running

As students will be unable to directly hear from the candidates themselves, a part of the process I believe to be extremely important, I feel as if students may not be as engaged in the election process this year as they have been previously.

— Mason Rademacher, Student Body President

and executives. This year's candidates and Kylee Arndt. For the senatorial races, Elvis for the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social

Sciences. For the College of Engineering, McKenna Warcken and Gavin Samp are running. Finally, for the College of Human Sciences and Education, the candidates are Jacob Anderson and Cohl Ringler.

Students can stay up-to-date on Student Government news by checking out the Student Government website (<https://www.ndsu.edu/sg/>) as well as their Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Rademacher also said that students can still get in contact with them if they have any student concerns, comments or questions.

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North Dakota State students work to fight medical mask shortages amid COVID-19

A group of students are giving back to the community by making prototype masks

Jacob Fehrenbach
Contributing Writer

As of March 31, there have been 122 people in North Dakota who have tested positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19). Three people in the state have died due to the virus and underlying health conditions. Two of these cases were contracted via community spread.

At present, North Dakota does not face the same medical supply shortages as other hospitals in the country, but local institutions want to have proactive responses to a potential spike in cases.

N-95 masks are used as respiratory protective equipment for higher-risk procedures or more contagious patients. They contain a filter that blocks most airborne droplets, including COVID-19, from reaching the face. These masks also inadvertently deters one from touching their face with their hands.

Across the country, states are experiencing shortages of N-95 respirator masks. A local physician wanted to help alleviate this problem and challenged NDSU to create a reusable respirator mask to be used by healthcare workers to protect them from exposure to COVID-19.

Mechanical Engineering graduate students, Dallas Patton and Joseph Fehrenbach, along with undergraduate, Laura Friedmann, accepted the challenge. They are currently manufacturing prototype masks and are working on a process to create their own filter material for the masks.

The researchers are exploring different materials for use as the filter. The prototypes will be fitted with electrospun polypropylene fibers rated at MERV15 filtration level, meaning they have an equivalent filtration level to that of the N-95 mask that is currently being used by healthcare workers fighting the coronavirus.

The prototype masks are currently being 3D printed with a flexible, crosslinked, elastomer material. The researchers are also exploring printing with a different material, thermoplastic urethane (TPU).

Friedman said, "The masks printed with TPU cost about \$3 to print but are lower in quality and may not provide an adequate seal around the face, while the mask printed with the elastomer material cost roughly \$70 to print and are providing a very good seal around the face."

Fehrenbach, Friedmann and Patton are working on using a material that is both cost-effective and provides the highest level of safety to protect from respiratory illnesses.

The research team plans to complete their prototype of the respirator mask this week. Once they complete some of their prototypes, they will send them to a local hospital for testing and evaluation. If the masks function effectively, more masks will be manufactured by NDSU to be tested at local hospitals.

Manufacturing is currently taking place in NDSU labs, but they are looking to partner with local manufacturers to speed the production.



The prototype masks the NDSU research team has made.

JOSEPH FEHRENBACH | PHOTO COURTESY

*the
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INTERVIEW:

Luke LeBlanc talks John Prine cassettes, new music and a guitar lesson from Nitty Gritty Dirt Band

Laura Ellen Brandjord
A&E Editor

It was on drives from North Minneapolis to a family cabin that musician Luke LeBlanc formed some of his first memories with music. Today, LeBlanc is a multi-instrumentalist who has opened for Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Ozark Mountain Daredevils, The Rembrandts and shares a songwriting credit with Roy August (co-writer of Oak Ridge Boys' "Fancy Free") for his 2019 single "Same Blues".

"Driving up to the cabin with my dad we'd always have John Prine on tape cassette or like Oldies or like, you know, Bob Dylan and The Band. Stuff like that. We even had this one Jimmy Buffett tape at one point called 'A White Sport Coat and A Pink Crustacean,'" LeBlanc said.

Those drives to the cabin made an impression on LeBlanc. "when you are 4-years-old in the car your mind is very impressionable to everything, but especially music. But, you know, reviews I've had on certain songs or albums there is always a thing about a turn of phrase or a way I finger picked or something that gets related to like that genre. So, yeah, I think it definitely has a way of bleeding through," he said.

At 12-years-old LeBlanc began learning guitar. "I got to the point where it bugged me that I couldn't play music myself. So I just started learning and figuring it out," he said. It wasn't long after LeBlanc picked up the guitar, that he began writing his own songs.

"I just started with the G chord and then moved on to the other ones, and right away I wanted to kinda write my own stuff. I just felt this natural pull towards it," he said. LeBlanc later added banjo, piano and harmonica to his repertoire.

As an americana/folk artist, LeBlanc is in good company in Minneapolis. Minnesota artists like Charlie Parr, Trampled by Turtles, Frankie Lee and Erik Koskinen contribute to a robust scene. The latter is the producer of the album LeBlanc is currently recording at Koskinen's studio in Cleveland, Minnesota.

The album has been a work in progress since November of last year, as scheduling conflicts and sickness have hampered its completion. LeBlanc said producing the album with Koskinen made him grow as an artist and incorporate components he hadn't before.

"It's hard as an artist, any kind of artist or doing anything actually, to take something that you wrote or created and bring it to a place and sit back and let other people take some of that creative control. You know, it's like your songs

and you get a majority of say in a way, but to be able to just let people try interesting different ideas on your songs- a different kind of snare drum or a different instrument or a different way of playing," LeBlanc said.

He added that it can be a vulnerable position, but ultimately makes the album better. "It is a challenge to sit back and let that happen, but then at the end of the day, after a grueling day of just letting your mind step back and let this cool stuff happen to your songs, it's rewarding and you learn a lot and then it really opens up the songs to something new," he said.

LeBlanc is excited to release the album this summer, and while he wants people to enjoy his hard work, he realizes there is a possibility it will not be well received- a fact, he tries not to worry about it too much.

"We all got an average of 70 some years on Earth or whatever, and there is a next time and you can adjust or not adjust. So, it is something I think about but I try not to get too caught up in it," he said.

Laura Ellen Brandjord (LEB): You said you had played at NDSU for Live at Lunch?

Luke LeBlanc (LL): Yeah, this was in September, I think. They make really nice posters (for the show). I've played at a couple colleges now and their posters are super cool.

LEB: Did you get to take one of them with you?

LL: Uh, I didn't steal one of those (laughs) 'cause they made a really big one and it's hard to just take, you know, roll it up. I have taken other ones, but I haven't taken that one. (laughs)

LEB: What is your writing process like? Does a melody come to mind first, lyrics or something else?

LL: Yeah, I think musicians get that question a lot and for me it's never really a black and white answer, where it's like, you know, 'First, I draw an outline (laughs), and then I...' It's more like they both come.

You know, I could just be having a lazy Sunday hanging out with my cat, Houdini is her name, and I could just pick up the guitar because I'm bored and I don't wanna go on Instagram or Facebook like I usually do. It's a terrible habit we got that's just our default now.

So I'll pick up the guitar and just mess with it not with any intention, but then I'll hear something and be like, 'Oh, that's interesting' and I'll run with it. When that kinda happens where I hit something that just sparks up, I spend 10-15 minutes to write it out.

I find it hard to... it's hard to just say, you know, 'Tonight at four, I'm going to put it on



Luke LeBlanc played at First Lutheran Church on night one of the 2020 Big Turn Music Fest. LAURA ELLEN BRANDJORD | THE SPECTRUM

the calendar to sit down and write a song.' I don't know (laughs), that rarely works for me.

I just do random stuff and then I pick up the guitar and something happens. I mean, some of them are really crappy and I've got a collection of those in my voice memos, but some work out and we put them on the album.

One thing I've learned, is not to let things...make a plan, but if the plan doesn't always work, take a step back and let things happen. I can be a very, what do you call it, Type A, where I plan everything out like 'what time is it now? We should be three quarters done by now.' but when you take a step back interesting things happen sometimes.

LEB: Do you have any ways you shake off a writer's block or do you just revisit it another day?

LL: I think it's usually the latter. It's just, 'Hey, it's not gonna happen today.' It's kind of like the weather, you know. It's like you're going to have a baseball game but a storm comes in and it's like, 'Well...maybe it will be sunny tomorrow.'

LEB: I like to end my interviews on some fun questions that aren't related to your music or album.

LL: I like it.

LEB: So, the first is the desert island record. You are stuck on a desert island alone with only one album for the rest of your days. What album would it be?

LL: Oh, God. That's

a tough question. You know, my answer is subject to change, unless I get stuck on an island and when they decide which record to send me with it will be the one I say right now (laughs). I think, Kacey Musgraves... what's the one? The one with the rainbow on it? Golden Hour?

Yeah, I think it's one of those albums that's going to be around forever. What I love about her music is it's not limited by any genre, like pop radio plays her, country radio plays her, people who say they're only into not mainstream music will also listen to her. It just cuts across genres and the whole album hits you in the feelings.

LEB: If you were to choose three headliners (living or dead) for a festival you'd like to attend, who would it be?

LL: Ok. The Band... the band called The Band...I don't know if you are familiar with them.

LEB: Yeah, I know them.

LL: Ok. Some people are like, 'Ok, but like, what band?' (laughs)

So...Chance the Rapper. I don't know, he's just such an entertainer. I did some stagehand work in college and I got to work one of his shows. I don't know, some concerts the music is good, some concerts, like, the performance is good but with him it's everything. I mean all the arrangements...Wow.

And then three? Um, I feel like you need someone at a festival that just does really long

bluesy solos, so maybe John Mayer.

LEB: You've opened up for a lot of great bands, but who was your favorite?

LL: you know, I'd have to say The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. I opened for them a couple of times. It was like twice in Minnesota, and once...I remember it being called The Venue in Fargo. I don't know if it's still called The Venue or if it's still there. This was like in 2012-2013, around there.

I got to open for them there. My dressing room was this old closet thing because I was 14 and even though I could play there, I wasn't 21 so I couldn't walk around the venue after I played. So I was backstage except for when I was playing.

One of the members of the band, former member now, John McEuen, he's a multi-instrumentalist, I mean banjo, mandolin, guitar. He's played with everybody in country music: Johnny Cash, Garth Brooks, a bunch of other people.

Anyways, he came back and he said, 'You ever learn fingerpicking?' I knew a little, but he was like 'I'll give you a lesson' and he spent like two hours with me back there. He taught me just all these different kinds of fingerpicking.

I didn't really have guitar lessons when I learned guitar, but he's like my one guitar lesson. I mean just the fact that I got to open for The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and I love their music, but also that he spent two hours to sit there and work with me.

And I think that on my records, I think on 'Same Blues' especially, some of the fingerpicking I learned that night comes through. I think when somebody gives you their time, that sticks with you a long time.

LEB: What band would you love to open for that you haven't yet?

LL: You ask really challenging questions, that's great. That's good (laughs). There's so many, but I think that Jason Isbell would be. You know, I think... everybody thinks...the songs he's writing and has been writing are just like, 'Wow.'

Ray Lamontagne I'm a really big fan of. Mumford & Sons. Marcus Mumford like..I mean the whole group. So that's a few.

LEB: Anything else?

LL: Yeah, I guess, I'll have new music out soon. I have music up on Spotify now that you can listen to. I don't want to be the plug my Instagram person, but I like connecting with people on Instagram and stuff. It's @lukeleblancmusic. If I have a song I'm working on, I might throw it up there.

What I think is really cool about Instagram is that you can randomly follow people that you don't necessarily know and follow their work and then when you meet them in person, it's almost like you're meeting a celebrity, you know. Like 'Oh my gosh, you're candybar 52. What the hey.' (laughs)

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REVIEW:

Jessie Reyez delivers an emotional powerhouse of a debut album

*'Before Love Came to Kill Us' is an encapsulation of the artist's last three years*Grant Ayers
Staff Writer

The modern music industry is filled to the brim with artists trying to make a name for themselves, with many of them often sounding the same as the artist who came before them and failed to make it big. It isn't often that an artist can rise to the position they're at in their career in such a nonchalant manner.

Spectacularly, Jessie Reyez does just that, using her debut album "Before Love Came to Kill Us" as an emotional victory lap of sorts.

Over the years, she's collaborated with Eminem, Sam Smith, 6LACK and Lewis Capaldi. While it's a wide range of artists, the sounds she's experimented with range even further. Songs like "Shutter Island", "Blue Ribbon" and "F**k Being Friends" showcase influences of EDM, R&B, pop and acoustic indie.

Each sound shines brightly on her first studio album, with slight influences

from her past work placed sporadically throughout the project, putting everything she has on the table. A positive aspect of this is that not one song sounds the same, which is a refreshing change in tune to hear nowadays.

While the album's sounds and instruments have a wide variation, it's hardly a distraction from the powerful lyrics that Reyez delivers.

Highlights include "You make me wanna jump off the roof, 'cause I love you to death" ("Coffin") and "Strippers and liquor and cigarettes / Apologized but your Twitter said no regrets / I'd kill for a mute button in my head" ("Ankles").

One of the most impressive aspects is that, while the album explores a wide range of sonically unique sounds, it's still molded into a unified and linear vision. The sudden changes in tone from one song to the next would shock the listener if it were created and produced by any other artist.

Under Reyez's vision, the songs flow into one another elegantly through small

transitions and specific key changes at the bookends of each song.

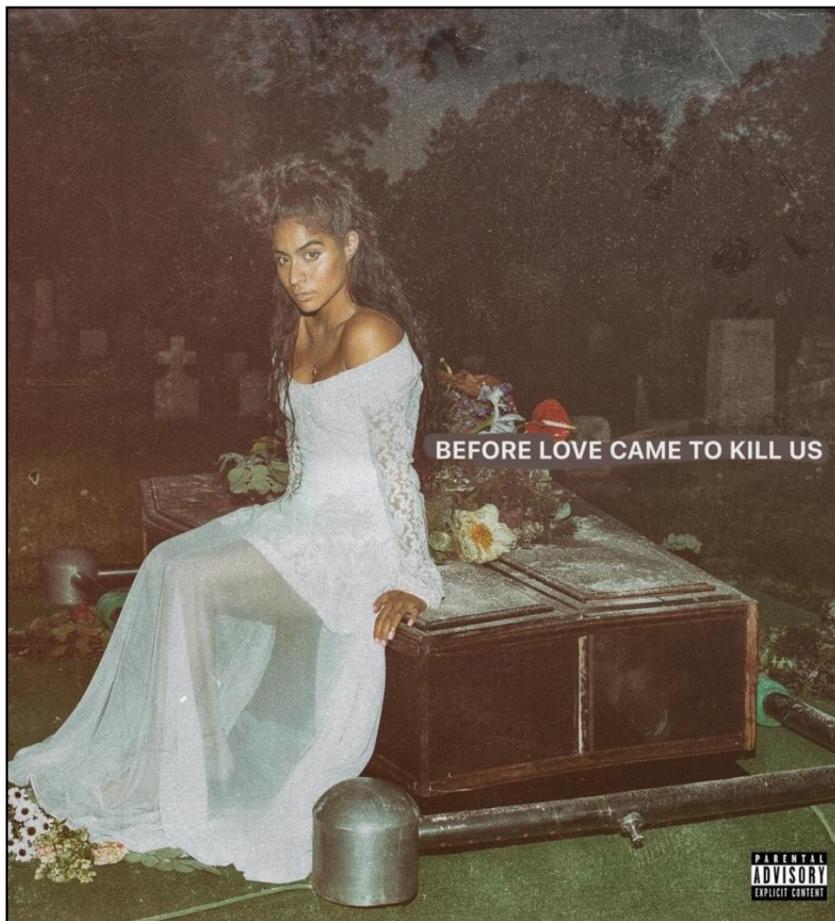
The album delivers a handful of impressive new tracks right up to the soulful closer "I Do". Finishing with a full gospel choir joining her for the grand finale and a short spoken-word outro, most would think it's the grand finale to a successful first full project. However, this isn't the case.

Suddenly, the listener is projected back to 2016 with Reyez's now-hit "Figures". It's a statement on how far she's come since then and the landmark goals she's achieved both personally and professionally.

While it's been a long and strenuous road for the singer, the traction she's gained in the era of empowering female artists (Billie Eilish, Lizzo, etc.) has been impressive.

She's an artist far from reaching her full potential, demanding her audience to pay attention as she rises to critical and commercial fame, leaving fans both satisfied and clamoring for more.

Review: 4/5



The album explores life, death, and everything in between. JESSIE REYEZ FACEBOOK | PHOTO COURTESY

Review: After an agonizing wait, 'PARTYMOBILE' has been delivered

Is PARTYNEXTDOOR finally happy?



The artist left nearly four years between 'PND3' and 'PM'.

PARTYNEXTDOOR FACEBOOK | PHOTO COURTESY

Grant Ayers
Staff Writer

PARTYNEXTDOOR (PND) is far from the kind of artist that one would expect to step out of the spotlight for more than a year at a time.

Between releasing studio albums and mixtapes, receiving writing credits on some of Rihanna and Beyoncé's biggest hits, or lending features to Drake, Kanye West, Wiz Khalifa or Summer Walker it's safe to say that PND stays busy in the industry.

Fans began to wonder where he went after two full years without releasing any music, birthing the recurring joke that he's caged up in Drake's basement, forced to write for others rather than work on his solo music.

After announcing a new album would be coming soon, the album missed three of its announced release dates before finally sticking the landing on March 27.

After taking one of his longest hiatuses in between studio albums, PARTYNEXTDOOR is finally back with a new project that should hold fans over for another few years.

The new album "PARTYMOBILE" (or "PM") breaks the norm of his release titles ("PND 1", "PND 2", and

"PND 3"), but the album's sound plays it safe. "PM" spans 14 tracks with a remix of hit single "LOYAL" featuring Drake, this time assisted by Spanish artist Bad Bunny.

The duration of the album is exactly what fans have been asking for from him. If the project was any shorter, it would have left everyone clamoring for more from him. If it was any longer, it would have been drawn out beyond enjoyment, felt overstuffed and bloated with themes of heartbreak and regret.

An aspect of this album that has impressed many is that his recent string of singles has finally found a home. Songs including "THE NEWS," "LOYAL," "SPLIT DECISION" and "BELIEVE IT" seemed out of place being anywhere near PND's discography, yet they all have a much more cohesive sound put in their places on the tracklist.

Standout tracks include the Rihanna "assisted" track "BELIEVE IT," as well as the final ballad "SAVAGE ANTHEM." Fans flocked towards "BELIEVE IT" when they noticed Rihanna on a song for the first time since 2017, yet were confused to see her more as background vocals singing the same dozen words over the hook.

On "SAVAGE ANTHEM," PND looks back on his relationship with Kehlani, yet the

lyrics aren't filled with regret as much as the feeling of moving on. Which begs the question: Is PND finally happy?

Many of the singer's hooks and verses are filled with the feeling of being over past relationships and looking on to what's next for him, rather than the characteristic lyrics filled with self-sabotage, remorse and contrition. It's a new PND that leaves fans anticipating what will come next from him in terms of lyrics and songwriting inspiration.

While he does deliver his staple sound that many fans have been begging to hear again for years, the drum patterns and beats have an eerily similar lo-fi resemblance to one another, making most songs sound identical to one another and hard to tell apart.

On his other projects, many songs will go from slow and melodic ("Come and See Me") to fast-paced yet sorrowful ("Break from Toronto"). From start to finish, the bulk of this album is extremely indistinctive, with very few tracks standing apart from one another.

While this album may have many similar tracks that still leave the listener content, we are left with one final question: Will we have to wait another four years for a full project from PND? If so, "PM" is sure to hold fans over.

Review: 3/5

With sword and shield, 'Mount and Blade 2: Bannerlord' charges onto Steam

The nearly eight year wait is finally over



'Mount and Blade: Bannerlord' is the most in-depth game of the franchise.

Nathan Wetrosky
Staff Writer

Well, it has officially happened. After nearly eight years of development and funding, "Mount and Blade 2: Bannerlord" by TaleWorlds Entertainment has just been released onto the Steam Early Access store. It even came out a day earlier than originally intended.

"The horns sound, the ravens gather. An empire is torn by civil war. Beyond its borders, new kingdoms rise. Gird on your sword, don your armour, summon your followers and ride forth to win glory on the battlefields of Calradia. Establish your hegemony and create a new world out of the ashes of the old," TaleWorlds Entertainment said.

Coming out just this last Monday, the brand-new entry in the "Mount and Blade" franchise (others include "Mount and Blade: Warband/Fire" and "Sword/Viking Invasion") comes equipped with many new elements while remaining true to the core mechanics that fans of the series have come to know and love.

Strategy/Action RPG

Choose who you want to be. From a brigand who preys on villagers to a warlord making their way across Calradia, the options are nearly unlimited and every single playthrough will be different.

Large sandbox campaign

The main campaign map is just as massive as previous iterations and looks gorgeous. It also has a variety of elements and environments that make the map more than just a place to move around on.

An example of this is the woodlands of Battania, which are thick and hide many bands of roving looters. Another element is the blistering colds of Sturgia, which chill troops to the bone and slow movement.

Epic battles

The battles are bloody and brutal. From limited experience, every strike with a weapon feels like it has weight behind it. If you are

hit, wounds make it harder to fight. With the yell of men and horses, and the sound of sword on shield the battles are fluid and intense, no matter the size or scope.

Glorious new modding abilities

Upon the release, TaleWorlds Entertainment has opened up the modding tools and has basically told creators "to go wild."

There are not too many mods currently available for "Mount and Blade 2: Bannerlord," but the modding community has been extremely excited to see what they can do with the massive amounts of files for this game. There are already plans for a Star Wars mod which sounds exciting.

Wrap-up

While "Mount and Blade 2: Bannerlord," is on Steam Early Access, most of the core game is present. There are a few bugs and glitches, but none take away from the overall experience. TaleWorlds Entertainment is also having a 10 percent discount sale for the release of the game.

The company understands people may not be able to purchase the game at full price because of unemployment or lost hours due to COVID-19. There is even an additional ten percent discount for anyone who already owns any of the previous "Mount and Blade" titles. This sale period will go until April 13.

"Mount and Blade 2: Bannerlord" has just released and is by far the most in-depth game of the "Mount and Blade" franchise. Not enough time has passed to explore everything it has to offer, but just a glance gives away its grandeur.

This is easily the best of the "Mount and Blades." If you want to explore a massive world, create a family lineage and fight for dominance amidst six rival factions, "Mount and Blade 2: Bannerlord" is out and glorious.

SPOT THE ASSHOLE

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Delaney Halloran

Opinion Editor

Everyday social media feeds are filled with heartwarming moments: citizens singing in the streets of Italy, kind neighbors doing good deeds for others or grandparents meeting their grandchildren through a hospital window. All this seems to show the goodness of humanity and provides a well needed lift.

Why are these heartwarming stories so necessary? Because we are at the same time overwhelmed by instances of individuals being selfish, arrogant and cruel.

It's true, this pandemic has brought out the best in many people, but it has brought out the worst in still more. So, if you're trying to figure out which category you fall into, see if you've participated in any of the following asshole-worthy behaviors:

Not social distancing

The CDC has issued warnings about the dangers of not social distancing, the university has issued warnings and your parents and friends have also probably issued warnings. Yet, there are still people who are choosing not to follow these simple guidelines.

For those who still choose to remain ignorant of the situation, social distancing isn't about never getting sick. Honestly, it's really not.

The idea is to flatten the curve, or lower the number of people getting the sickness all at once. See, if you fail to social distance, and so does everyone else, then hospitals and health care workers will

be overrun by thousands of individuals needing medical assistance all at once.

However, if people social distance, the spread of the virus is more manageable. Individuals tracking its spread can inform those limited people you've come into contact with, versus the

compassion, and quite frankly, any sense.

Having gone on spring break

I've heard the same sentiment from several people who made trips to Florida and Arizona for their spring break, "I had no idea

for the first time or meeting up with family. However, when there's a worldwide pandemic, your vacation dreams don't trump human life. Period.

Much of the spread of the virus being seen today is a result of the actions of spring breakers two

Sure, a college-aged student may get COVID-19 and not end up in the hospital, but that doesn't mean they won't send their grandparents to the hospital, their friend or a complete stranger who is at-risk and diligently trying to protect themselves.

30 people you just went to a party with, who will go on to infect 30 others and so on.

Sure, ideally social distancing could completely stop the spread of the virus. If every person stayed only in contact with one or two other people who only stayed in contact with that one or two people, the virus would have nowhere to go. Those infected could seek medical treatment, get past the virus and in three weeks the world could be as it once was.

But people are selfish and willing to risk their lives and the lives of those around them for the sake of a good time. Yet, the selfishness of a few is not your reason to be selfish too, Brad. Instead, stay away from others, be the kind of person you won't feel ashamed of in 20 years when you have to look back and realize you jeopardized the lives of so many others because you lacked any

the virus would get so bad when I left for my vacation." I'm sorry, but I have to call bull.

When students left for their spring break they knew that NDSU was delayed for on-campus teaching for at least-two weeks. The reality of the situation was already in place, with many professors warning students that they might not return for the rest of the semester.

People knew how bad COVID-19 was, they knew it was deadly to several different groups of people. The truth is, their sun-soaked vacation was more important to them than the spread of the virus and it's as simple as that.

I understand for some people that spring break may be one of the few times you can afford to get away. Maybe you were going on the first vacation of your life, visiting a new place

and three weeks ago as symptoms begin presenting themselves. According to CNN as of April 2, at least 4,700 Americans have died from COVID-19 and many more are likely to die in the near future due to the virus.

You can tell yourself that your spring break had no role in this and that you likely didn't hurt anyone, and if that really makes you feel better, I applaud your apathy. But the truth is that there are spring breakers whose actions will lead to a person's death. It's morose and awful, but it's true.

Stockpiling necessities

Did you go out and buy up all the toilet paper from your local store? Did you get enough bread, eggs or milk to feed a small army? Did you go and buy gloves, masks or Clorox by the pallet?

If you performed in any way similar to these actions, sorry, you suck.

I'm not sure if any people took the time to consider this when they were buying up all the toilet paper in sight, but COVID-19 doesn't concentrate itself in your intestines and cause constant and unending diarrhea. You would think with the urgency people bought toilet paper, they would have assumed this to be true.

If people had shopped as they normally would have, there would be enough of the necessities to go around. Many places are offering delivery and pick-up services. People who are less able to get a hold of supplies, such as the elderly, disabled and immunocompromised, could have been able to get access to these necessities as well.

Instead, Karen and her husband are holed up with thirty packages of toilet paper while healthcare workers and families are unable to get a hold of the products they desperately need. Nice.

Also, while it's important to be prudent. Hoarding surgical gloves and masks makes it so individuals who are in grave danger from the illness can't be treated properly and medical professionals can't properly arm themselves. Sure, you'll be safe from the two other people you're living with, but doctors and nurses can't be safe from the hundreds of patients they come into contact with who could actually put them in danger.

Pretending you're invincible

Many college-aged students seem to think that

because they're young (and stupid) that they can't get the virus. What's more, they think that if they do get it, it won't really affect them.

In the past weeks, we know that's simply not true. When young and healthy doctors and nurses who are coming into contact with the virus and dying, we know that no one is really invincible.

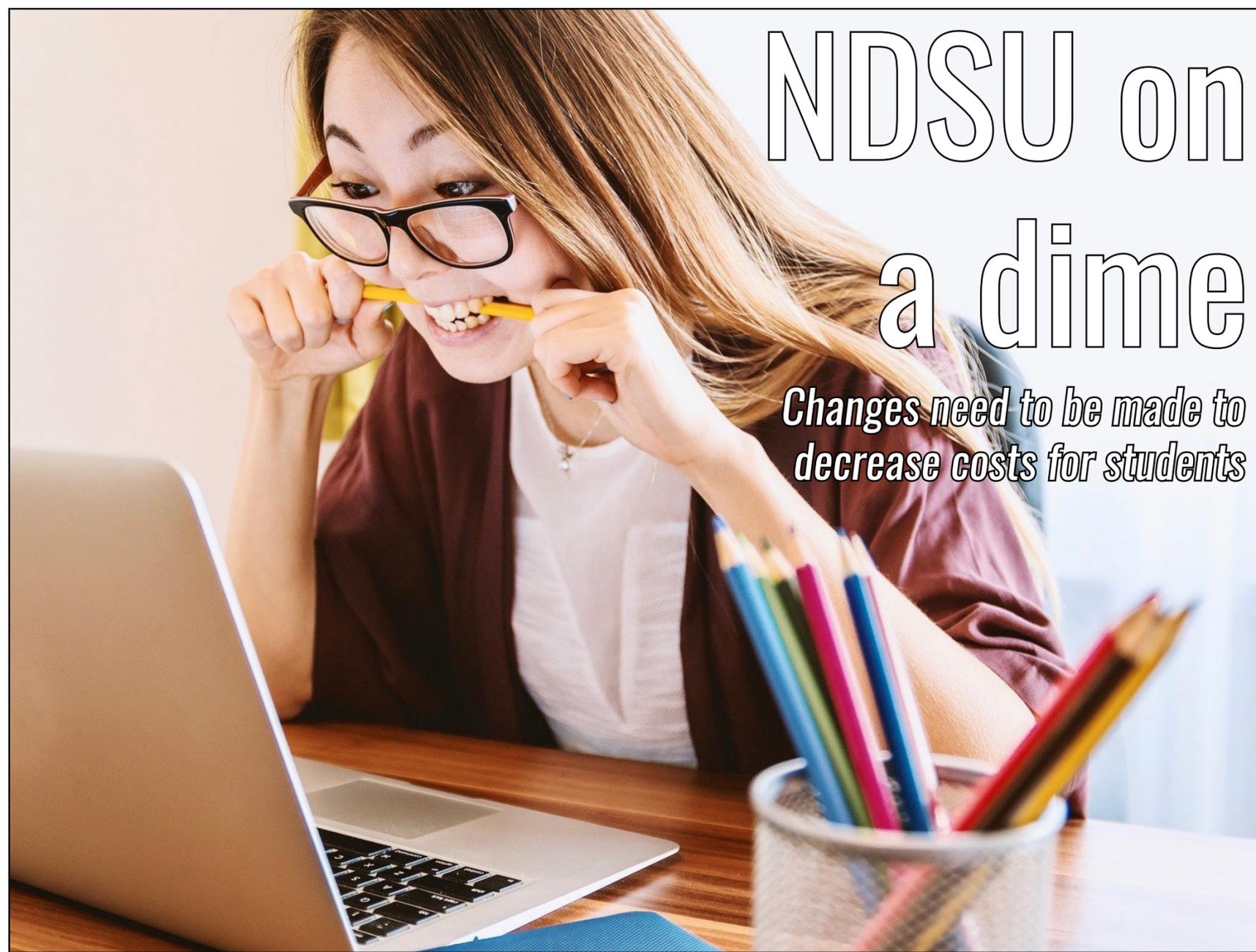
Additionally, young people's indifference to whether or not they get the virus reveals how little they care for at-risk populations, such as pregnant women, the elderly, immunocompromised, babies and many more. Sure, a college-aged student may get COVID-19 and not end up in the hospital, but that doesn't mean they won't send their grandparents to the hospital, their friend or a complete stranger who is at-risk and diligently trying to protect themselves.

Social distancing, cleanliness, and doing your part are not just things you should do to keep yourself safe, they are the things you should do to prove your humanity. Acting like all this chaos and grief is an excuse to party, slack off and have an extra long "vacation" is not a cool or admirable trait. These actions will paint you as a villain in history and as a villain in the lives of many as real people end up in the hospital due to your selfishness.

Even if no grave consequence comes from going out, partying with friends or ignoring the advice of the world's top experts, you show others your true character, and believe me, it's not pretty.

NDSU on a dime

Changes need to be made to decrease costs for students



PIXABAY | PHOTO COURTESY

Poor quality online schooling should not cost the same as in-person classes.

Delaney Halloran
Opinion Editor

If we could go back in time and talk to ourselves one month ago about how the progress of the COVID-19 pandemic has panned out and how many of our lives have changed, we might not believe it, I know I certainly wouldn't.

Students are taking their classes from home, many NDSU students are doing their math homework in the kitchen while their dad blends a smoothie for twenty minutes. It's a funny picture, but one very few of us would have anticipated.

While these types of consequences may seem insignificant, there are serious consequences of this pandemic to consider. These include students being out of jobs, not having access to the internet for classes, students getting ill or having to return to unsafe homes or poor living conditions. All this is to say, the level of quality of our education has decreased, meanwhile the cost of our education remains the same.

Online classes simply aren't at the same level of many in-person classes. I'm paying the same amount for my 15-minute Tuesday and Thursday classes as I was when those classes were one hour and 15 minutes long a month ago.

Many peoples' lives have completely transformed due to the virus, yet there has been no change to cost, and I must ask: why not?

NDSU has made some steps towards reducing costs for students: they have offered refunds for students who had housing and meal plans. Students' rooms are sitting empty and many students who would have otherwise liked to stay in the halls and were asked to leave were asked, "Why am I still

paying for this?"

Great. Genuinely, offering refunds for students who pay to live and eat on campus who are no longer allowed to live and eat on campus is truly great. However, what about all the students paying to use computers on campus, paying for high caliber classes on campus that aren't to the same level of excellence online or students paying for hands-on

the high price of a university education while receiving a sub-par education.

According to the NDSU website, included in our tuition fees are payments toward "Career Services and Student Health Service, admission to fine arts and athletic events, student publications, Wellness Center membership, library services and ongoing technology needs on

A university which does not come out and support its students first, before it thinks about how to please a board of directors or how they can afford that new building alumni want, is not a university that is 'student-focused.'

experiences?"

If the university can so easily see why we shouldn't charge students to live and eat on campus when they are no longer living and eating on campus, why can't they make similar conclusions about online schooling?

The first thing the university needs to address is tuition. Even if NDSU is notorious for its reasonable prices, there are still people paying thousands of dollars to take classes that don't live up to the caliber of many community and online universities. Many professors weren't trained to teach online and many classes aren't capable of being delivered through an online platform.

So, students end up paying

campus."

Career Services has been moved online, most students who would use Student Health Services aren't currently in Fargo, there isn't any admission to fine arts and sporting events because there are no fine arts or sporting events, student publications have been moved online (including The Spectrum) and on-campus utilities such as the Wellness Center and library are closed.

So why in the world are we still paying for these services? These services which are no longer applicable. These services which many students don't even use in the first place, but certainly do not use now.

The university can try to make

weak-willed attempts to argue that online classes should be the same cost to students, but how can they possibly explain to students why they're paying for services that are currently unavailable to them.

Then there are other issues of cost that don't affect all students, but certainly affect some.

I will share my own personal experience. I'm an out-of-state student. I'm originally from a suburb outside of Chicago, Illinois, where the occurrence of the virus is much more common. I am also immunocompromised, so if you get the virus, I have the capability to get it twice as bad. So going home to an epicenter of the virus really wasn't an option.

While attending NDSU, I have spent the last two years living on campus. My freshmen year I lived in a residence hall as a resident and my second year I lived in that same residence hall as a resident assistant. Staying in that building, where there are shared bathrooms and kitchens for two months (without a meal plan), didn't seem like a viable option either.

So I decided to move into an on-campus apartment. As many companies and landlords across the country discuss rent forgiveness during the virus, NDSU has remained silent.

There are still many students living in these on-campus apartments. Students locked into a lease, or students like me, who really have nowhere else to go. The cost of rent to these students, and to anyone else paying rent right now for that matter, is one thing when jobs are available and going to work is a good option, but right now I'm more focused on not getting ill than on finding a new job.

No mention of rent forgiveness has been made to students living

in NDSU apartment housing. But if there aren't any places for people to work, there will be no way for people to pay, and any sort of communication on the topic should honestly have been expected at this point.

Around the country, we're hearing daily about instances of landlords forgiving rent, companies paying employees for time they won't be at work and the government doling out \$1,200 to help Americans through these times. Through all this, NDSU has remained silent on any similar help to its students.

The Cheesecake Factory came out and said it can't pay the rent on its restaurants for this week. If the palace of cheesecake and 5,000 calorie meals can't afford to pay its rent, how are students without corporate boards to fix their problems meant to pay rent, tuition or get by.

There are so many problems to concern students right now, things that should exceed any worry about paying for school. There are students who don't know how to find necessities, such as food and toilet paper, there are students whose families have been financially rocked by the pandemic, students who will likely get the virus, students who have lost their jobs and their mental and emotional support.

A university which does not come out and support its students first, before it thinks about how to please a board of directors or how they can afford that new building alumni want, is not a university that is "student-focused." More aptly, NDSU, if it doesn't come out and promise to assist students during this time, is money-focused, image-focused and callous towards the dark realities created by its own indifference.



Yet another sports movie list

This list is better than everyone else's though

Ian Longtin
Sports Editor

Remember that one time when you were doing homework and you were looking for something to put on the TV. You were flipping through the channels and saw a Big Ten basketball game playing on ESPN2. Neither of the teams was ranked and it was still February, over a month before March Madness started. No need to watch this game, right? Sure college basketball is always fun, but surely there's something better. Instead of the game, you settled on turning on Netflix and watching *The Office*. Fast-forward to today and you still haven't forgiven yourself. You'd give anything to go back and watch that Northwestern vs. Indiana game, if only for just five minutes.

Through all of the major events in America in the last 100 years like World War II, 9/11, JFK's assassination and both stock market crashes, sports have always been a mainstay. Teams and athletes have been outlets that cities and communities have rallied behind and escaped to in some of America's darkest hours. They have been seen as a symbol of hope, and help bring people together when it's needed most.

Now this world pandemic has forced sports to sit on the sideline and wait until it's safe to check back in. Being deprived of sports for three weeks, and with no end in sight (stay inside people) has been very trying. To help quench the sports thirst, I have compiled a list of eight sports movies to watch while being quarantined.

This is without question, the only correct sports movie list. Sure there's no *Space Jam* (it is not nearly as good as you remember it.) Happy Gilmore missed the list simply because it's like the fifth best Carl Weathers sports movie. But hey, if you've got any issues with it here's my email, I'll be more than happy to explain to you why you're wrong: ian.longtin@ndsus.edu.

8. The Sandlot

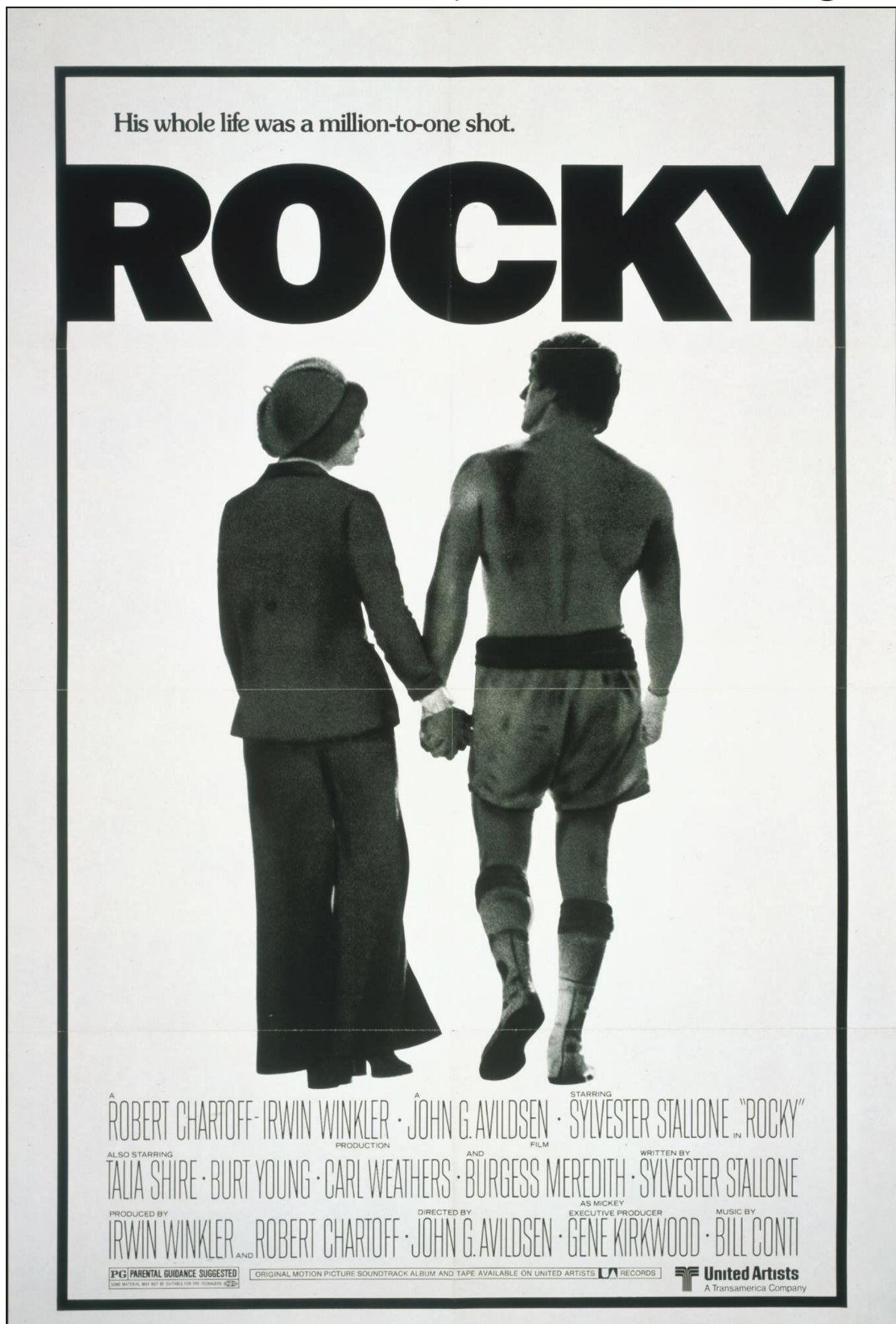
If I had grown up as a hockey kid, this spot might have gone to *"The Mighty Ducks."* However, playing baseball my whole life forces my hand. *"The Sandlot"* just squeaks onto my list at number eight. It is a fun, borderline silly story of kids who just want to play some ball. *"The Sandlot"* teaches us that we don't stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing.

7. Field of Dreams

There's that Kevin Costner guy again. This time Costner isn't a player, instead, he's a farmer. A farmer who listens to ghosts and kidnaps Mufasa. Just kidding... sorta. *"Field of Dreams"* is more mystery-like than you may remember it, and first-time viewers should have a blast. No, it's not in heaven, it's in Iowa.

6. Rudy

"Rudy" is the feel-good movie of all feel-good movies. Rudy's journey from undersized high-school cornerback (but he led his



Rocky has remained one of cinema's most iconic characters.

'ROCKY' FACEBOOK | PHOTO COURTESY

team in tackles) to hanging with the best college team in all the land never fails to put a smile on our faces. Sure the jersey hand-in may not have actually happened and yes Rudy might have indeed been offside, but none of that matters. If you don't like *"Rudy,"* you have no heart.

5. Moneyball

It really is unfair that the Yankees have so much more money to spend than everybody else. *"Moneyball"* shows the audience the true story of the birth of the use of analytics in baseball. Brad Pitt portrays Oakland A's general manager Billy Beane who is looking for a way to beat

those damn Yankees whilst using 80 million fewer dollars. Jonah Hill takes a step outside his comfort zone to play the lovable Peter Brand, who's comedic timing is almost as good as his baseball knowledge. Beane and Brand team up to see if they can build a 2002 A's team that's good enough to win the last game of the season.

4. Remember the Titans

Varsity Blues and Friday Night Lights can both make a fantastic argument for the best high school football movie of all time, but *"Remember the Titans"* stands alone. The way the

movie tackles the problems of race and segregation with the T.C. Williams high school football team in 1971 is too good to top. Denzel Washington is at his best as he plays the tough but wise Herman Boone who goes through trials and tribulations of being a black high school football coach in the early 70's Virginia. It's brilliant.

3. Rocky

"Rocky" deserves to be in the top three based on nostalgia alone. Yet, even 44 years later the movie still totally holds up. *"Rocky"* has remained the only sports-flick to win the Academy Award for Best Picture, and for good reason. Sylvester

Stallone's original story of a muddling boxer who gets a shot at the title has served as a template for all the sports movies that followed it. Yo, Adrain, *"Rocky"* has aged like a fine wine.

2. Miracle

The true telling of the greatest upset in the history of sports is almost gets better with multiple watches. In the middle of the cold-war and having been embarrassed in the last few Olympic games, USA coach Herb Brooks assembles a team of college hockey players that aimed to do the impossible: take down the USSR and win the Gold Medal. Seeing the team grow from hating one another into a real hockey

team is a joy, and Brook's speech before the final game will make you ready to run through a wall every single time.

1. Bull Durham

This story about a veteran minor-league catcher, who just wants one more summer under the sun, mentoring a hot-shot young pitcher whose brains can't keep up with his talent never gets old. This perfectly crafted sports movie expertly mixes sports and humor with a splash of a love triangle. *"Bull Durham"* teaches us the importance of breathing through your eyelids, and that sometimes you win, sometimes you lose and sometimes it rains.

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COX HEADS TO THE BAYOU

The Bison great turns in his green and gold for purple and yellow

Ian Longtin
Sports Editor

Jabril Cox is taking his talents, and laundry list of accomplishments, to Baton Rouge to be an LSU Tiger.

In an Instagram post last month Cox noted that one of his goals was to play at the FBS level, it just so happens the defending national champions came calling.

Three of LSU's linebackers from last season left before their eligibility was up, so Cox will be a welcomed addition to Coach Ed Orgeron's crew.

The two-time All-American leaves NDSU with a 35-1 record and three national championships under his belt. Cox was one of the best defensive players in school history after wreaking havoc on FCS offenses over the last three years.

Recruiting analysts from 247Sports Charles Power noted Cox was "easily among the most talented players on the transfer market."

Cox will be eligible to play immediately (assuming we still have a college football season, which at this point is a big assumption) with the logical next step being the NFL.

If Cox performs even a sliver as well as he has as a Bison the last three years, there's no reason he can't be one of the top linebackers in next year's draft class.



Cox leaves some big shoes to fill on the Bison defense.

JOHN SWANSON | THE SPECTRUM



Gurley gets a fresh start in Atlanta.

WIKICOMMONS | PHOTO COURTESY

Philip Atneosen
Staff Writer

While most of the sports world remains in hiatus, NFL free agency marches on. Agents are wheeling, teams are dealing and I am feeling the excitement for

next season take over my entire being. Since the last edition of The Spectrum came out on March 12, there have been a lot of changes in the NFL. Arizona stole

one of the best receivers in the NFL, Tom Brady and Bill Belichick split and the NFLPA agreed to the new collective bargaining agreement. With so much

Fantasy Free Agency | Backs on the Run

No better time to start preparing for next fantasy season

to cover, I'll start with the position that will take up 50 to 80 percent of your draft's first round: running back.

David Johnson

Head Coach Bill O'Brien became the most hated man in Houston when the Texans sent WR DeAndre Hopkins to Arizona for David Johnson. Hopkins, who has been an all-pro receiver three years in a row, is in the midst of his prime. Johnson, on the other hand, seems to be falling out of his prime. The Humble Rumble led the league in scrimmage yards in 2016 and hasn't been the same since his 2017 wrist injury. On the field last season, he didn't look as electric as he used to.

Now in Houston, he has a chance for a fresh start. Carlos Hyde, an outdated RB himself, eclipsed 1000 yards as a Texan last year. Johnson could be great next year, but he has to stay healthy. He fought through back and ankle injuries in 2019 and was ultimately phased out of the system towards the end of the year. I would consider him in the early-to-mid third round of your draft.

On the other side of the equation, RB Kenyan Drake signed with the Cardinals. In eight games with Arizona last season, Drake had eight touchdowns and over 800 scrimmage yards. He should be taken in the second round, and I won't be surprised if he's gone at the end of the first.

Todd Gurley

To the surprise of many, Todd Gurley, who signed a four-year deal in 2018, was released by the Rams. The Falcons picked him up on a one-year deal, and at the same time released Devonta Freeman. Much like David Johnson, Freeman has been underwhelming over the past few years. It feels a little like Atlanta traded Devonta Freeman for a slightly-fresher Devonta Freeman.

With Gurley comes major injury concerns. The Rams pulled back the reins on Gurley at the end of 2018, and his usage was limited in 2019 as well. He has arthritis in his left knee that will plague him for the rest of his career. Los Angeles all but removed him from their receiving game last season for seemingly no reason. I expect Atlanta to use him appropriately. He should be gone in the middle of the second round, but I won't take him unless he falls to the back of the second. Devonta Freeman's value depends on where he lands in free agency. Todd Gurley's role in LA belongs to Malcolm Brown, Darrell Henderson or potentially an incoming rookie.

Melvin Gordon

In a head-scratching move, the Broncos signed Melvin Gordon to a two-year deal worth \$16 million. Denver's backfield already has Phillip Lindsay and Royce Freeman, two young backs with a lot of promise.

With Gordon there, I'm not comfortable drafting any of them. Gordon will probably go in the third and Lindsay will go in the fourth. There's potential for a three-back rotation here on a team that might not even crack the top 16 in offensive production. Do yourself a favor and don't draft any of them. With Melvin Gordon gone, Ekeler figures to be the lead back for the Chargers. I'm expecting LA to make a move in free agency or in the draft to acquire a goal-line back unless they believe Justin Jackson is that guy. Ekeler should be taken in the early third round in PPR leagues and the mid-third in standard leagues.

Jordan Howard

Lost in the commotion of the other news, Howard signed with the Dolphins on a two-year deal. Can you name more than one RB that played in Miami last season? Kenyan Drake, Patrick Laird, Kalen Ballage and Mark Walton are acceptable answers. Howard is going to have a majority of this backfield to himself. Miami is in rebuild mode, and they can't afford to spend high draft capital on the running back position. Jordan Howard is a sneaky fantasy option this season. Sure, he won't catch many passes, but he's going to find the endzone. I suspect he'll go in the fifth round or something, and I'm comfortable adding him there as a flex option with RB2 upside.

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Astronomy

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