



Dakota Student

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Graphic by Allison Brinegar / Dakota Student

Student body vice presidential candidate Abbie Morlock (left) speaks during an election forum at Wilkerson Commons as (from left) Theresa Hanley, Erik Hanson and Kaleb Dschaak listen on Wednesday, April 4, 2018.

Electronic voting glitch might have affected student election outcomes

Jacob Notermann
Dakota Student

University of North Dakota students' ability to vote was delayed Wednesday due to a glitch in the online program, paralyzing campaigns and voters for hours. When the election opened at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, students quickly began reporting problems with the link. Complaints included the ability to vote for senators in the wrong college and being unable to vote for student body president. Not even an hour after the election opened, the decision was made to close the link and suspend the election. Shortly after, both Hanson and challenger Theresa Hanley were notified of the issues and called for an emergency meeting in the Memorial Union with Election Committee Chair William Candia and Committee Advisor Jeff Gibson.

It was at this meeting that the candidates agreed to continue the election until the link opened and the closing time would be 10 p.m. regardless of when the link would work again. While this was happening, there was mass confusion amongst the students and the campaign volunteers. At 7:30 a.m., an email was sent to all the students containing the link to vote. Not a single notification or email to the students was sent until 11:45 telling students the polls were open again. Candia said that they were unaware of what caused the glitch, but were in regular communication with the company that supplied the program for the election. After no success in finding what the cause was, it was determined that the ballot

system would have to be rebuilt. Because of this, all of the votes before the blackout were thrown away. Students were notified to re-vote if they had originally voted before 8:45 a.m. Hanley said her camp was concerned and didn't know what to do. So in the meantime, both campaigns remained on the ground handing out campaign gear and food. Hanley said the timing of the blackout probably worked out better for them. "Instead of getting the breakfast rush, we got the lunch rush and we were prepared for that," Hanley said. "We're just having fun handing out pizzas to our peers." However, the timing of the blackout lines up with times of high traffic on-campus for morning classes. With it being a Wednesday, high traffic between classes was hourly, rather than every hour and a half. "The other concerning part is that

students who voted in the morning didn't know they could re-vote after the system was rebuilt," vice presidential candidate Abbie Morlock said. "We were asking students if they voted and they said 'yes,' then we said 'okay, what time?'" The amount of time the election was suspended and the small margin of votes separating the candidates make it reasonable to believe the blackout could've affected the margin and or the winner. Candia said one concern he had was the high number of appeals of the election that could come up as a result of the day's events. The Code of Elections doesn't mention what actions can be made when situations like these happen. The code does give the election committee and the chair certain powers to make on-the-spot decisions. However, many decisions

were made as an ad-hoc committee made up of the candidates, Gerhard, Gibson and Candia. "Whatever decision was made had at least some input from the candidates," Candia said. Hanley said she and Morlock are unsure of whether or not to appeal the results of the election. However, they did agree that if they do appeal, it will not relate to the blackout. They said they don't know who voted for whom before the crash, so there is no ground to base the appeal on that. "It was only the first hour of voting when that was happening," Hanley said. "It's too early to tell. The administration did all that they could."

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Presidential victory for Hanson

Jacob Notermann
Dakota Student

Current Student Body Vice President Erik Hanson will get a promotion this summer.

When the polls closed on Wednesday night, Hanson defeated challenger Theresa Hanley for the student body presidency 1,347 – 1,322 with a slim 25 vote margin. The Grand Forks native is a senior investments major with a long history of political activism on campus.

Some of his more notable work includes being the student chair for the tailgating committee, which reformatted the layout of the Alerus Center parking lot, as well as the student chair for the new mascot committee for UND Athletics.

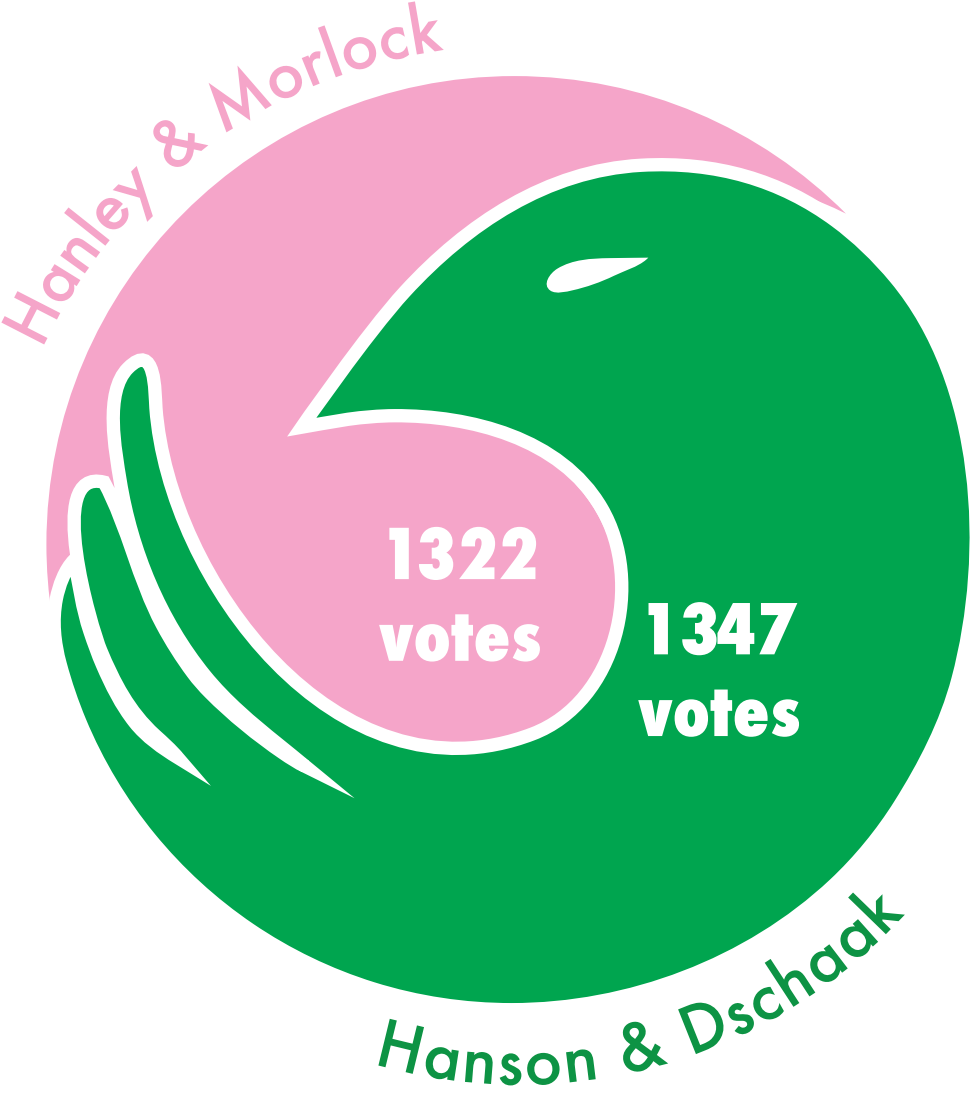
With the election remaining open until 10 p.m. due to the glitch and blackout earlier that day, Hanson received the call confirming his victory in the late hours surrounded by supporters.

Hanson's vice president will be current chief of staff to President Bachmeier, Kaleb Dschaak. Dschaak is a junior marketing major, served in the Johnstone-Fulton hall government his freshman year, student body president last year, and will be a senator this year. *continued on page 2*

continued from page 2

dent senate his sophomore year and is currently the president of the North Dakota Student Association. After the expected endorsement from current President Bachmeier, the winning pair was still only able to muster a 25-student advantage over Hanley and Morlock. Hanley said she is proud of what her campaign has done since declaring to run the Monday after spring break. She noted that when they declared, there wasn't a lot of support for her ticket. "Abbie and I were able to make an uncontested race contested in three weeks, rather than three months, and I think that's pretty impressive," Hanley said. "We lost by less than 1 percent, so we're pretty proud of ourselves." Other notable results include the University Senate race, which featured zero candidates on the ballot. This means students were given 10 fill-in boxes in which they could write down whomever they wanted. According to Election Committee Chair and Noren Hall Director

William Candia, many students let their imaginations fly in these boxes. "Overall, we had about 600 characters," Candia said. "Imagine if every single person voted a different name. That's how many characters we would have." If every one of the 2,728 voters did, there could've been 9,899,366,400 possible characters receiving votes. Candia said two of the top 10 recipients rejected their nominations for seats. Meaning, eleventh and twelfth place will also be given opportunities to accept a nomination. With the high number of write-ins due to the empty ballots, counting the votes is a lengthy process. It's not as simple as looking at documents and seeing how many votes went to whom. The elections committee is almost counting these votes by hand, simply because of the variation of names and spellings. For the Law School Student Senate seat, there were no candidates on the ballots. Thus, no winner has been declared until the committee can count those votes.



Graphic by Allison Brinegar & Shiny Mahlum / Dakota Student

They are still trying to contact students with winning nominations. Since they are write-ins, the only source of contacting some students is through UND emails, so students should quickly

check their inboxes to see if their friends nominated them for elected posts. As of Sunday, results are being announced, but the final write-in count is still undeclared. Up-to-date results on all elected

positions can be found on the student government webpage at und.edu.

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City busses could replace UND transportation system

Grand Forks considers bus route changes

Madison Feltman
Dakota Student

Spring has brought many new changes to the area, including route changes to the Cities Area Transit (CAT) system. The Grand Forks Department of Transportation has been working with outside staff to make changes to their existing routes. Dale Bergman, Director of Transportation, explained that with the growing infrastructure and job opportunities in the community, there is an increased need amongst areas that do not currently have city transportation. One of the areas that's in need of specific increased transportation is the University of North Dakota. The university contacted the city with the proposal to have the city take over the university's transportation. UND currently leases buses from the state to provide transportation for students. With the lease expiring soon, there has been talk of dissolving the UND bus system with the idea that the city would provide transportation for students. The city is currently using a software known as Remix that provides the community with an interactive approach to the route changes. The software allows individuals to draw possible new routes and add on to cur-

rent routes, while showing the cost. The idea is to provide the community with insight into how the city decided new routes. There are several new routes that will run through main campus and surrounding areas, including The Verge Student Apartments, as well as other student housing. The city bus would provide transportation from many different areas to campus. Students who choose to ride the bus will be able to ride for free, as the university provides the cost. "If I was provided with the opportunity to ride the bus instead of driving to class, I would totally take advantage of the system," said UND student Sara Kostrzewski. There are six planned open houses to be held for community members to attend where information will be provided and comments will be welcome. "We are excited to get out into the community and show them the new software and get input from individuals," Bergman said. "The service is for the people and their opinion matters." There will be an open house held at the Memorial Union on April 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. where students will be given the chance to voice their opinions and ask questions.

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Dakota Student File Photos

Signs indicate boarding spots for bus routes at the Cities Area Transit (CAT) transportation center in downtown Grand Forks on May 3, 2017.



Commuters step off a Cities Area Transit (CAT) bus in downtown Grand Forks on May 3, 2017.

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Smartphones are ruining our memories



LukessCz / Pixabay

Details that were once easily remembered such as phone numbers and addresses are now commonly forgotten thanks to mobile devices and apps that store such information.

Jill Morton
Dakota Student

Over the past few years, I have noticed that I rely more and more on my smartphone for just about everything. There are so many convenient apps for anything and everything that you might need. If I lost my phone, I too would feel

lost. I use it as my alarm clock, my to-do list, my address book, my photo album and pretty much everything that requires me to remember any piece of information. The main thing that I've noticed is how dependent we are on our electronic devices to remember all of the important parts of our lives

My phone has sixteen gigabytes of possible memory storage, and that's even less than a lot of newer phones on the market today. Our brains, on the other hand, have around a million gigabytes of memory, according to Scientific America. However, unlike a machine, you can't just

download information into your brain.

To keep your memory sharp, you need to perform daily mental exercises. With the technology that we have now, this is becoming more and more difficult.

With our phones constantly within reach, we tend to rely on them more than our own brains in many situations. I think that this is truer for younger people who have had their phones for a larger percentage of their lives.

According to Thrive Global, part of the reason this is the case is because we can't form the best memories when we're as constantly distracted because we simultaneously mindlessly check our devices. So, phones have not only become our main form of memorization throughout the day, but have also become so addictive that we can't form strong memories in the first place. Essentially, the many tools that our phones provide are ultimately what make it detrimental to our mental fitness.

I am a forgetful person and many assignments and appointments would have been missed if I didn't have access to my cellphone. I have everything from daily pop-up notifications reminding me

to attend meetings and even do chores around my apartment.

Now, I have everyone's phone numbers plugged into my phone and have not had a phone number memorized since back in middle school, when I could list off my home and best friends'

we need to get out of this habit and start relying on our own memories.

To keep it simple, we can simply start by learning and practicing long-term memorization. Like back in middle school, trying different methods to memorize your best

“To keep your memory sharp, you need to perform daily mental exercises. With the technology that we have now, this is becoming more and more difficult.”

Jill Morton, Columnist

numbers from the top of my head. If I were to lose my phone today and had to contact even someone as close as my sister, I would have no way to call her.

I'm not the only one in this situation. According to a recent survey by Cybersecurity Company Kaspersky Lab, 44 percent of the 1000 people surveyed between the ages of 16-55 said that they rely on their smartphones as their main source of memory. That is absurd because we shouldn't stop utilizing our brains. Honestly, I do this too as well and to keep our minds sharp,

friend's phone number and dial it in when you need to call them. As you master all the important contacts in your life, try incorporating your brain's capabilities in other parts of your daily life, like by memorizing your favorite recipes. Over time, we can start to overcome our over-reliance on technology, leading to improved mental health and confidence in our own brains' abilities.

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Trains, trains, trains

Quinn Robinson-Duff
Dakota Student

America was originally built by the railroad but somewhere along the way, it slowly became an irrelevant part of our society. Today, trains are used for basically just freight transport because everyone else in the United States either drives cars or flies in airplanes to get around the country. In our country, train travel is just not as effective and enticing as it used to be.

Today, trains are not fast or inexpensive enough to gain consumer attention. This was not always the case. In the eighteenth century, during the boom of the locomotive industry, the United States' train transportation system was renowned for its affordable luxury and efficiency. It seemed as if everyone was using it to get to various destinations around the country. Back in its prime, the United States railroad was a key factor in building the country during the

industrial revolution.

The railways were and are still owned by capitalistic freight companies that used to have trains with everything from freight and mail to paying passengers. These companies were able to make a hefty income from this mix of consumer needs. However, as the automobile was being introduced to the masses during the 1920's and 30's, more people opted for the personal freedom it offered over trains. Then, during the 1950's, the industry struggled even more with the increasing number of passengers opting for air travel.

This caused the freight companies to discontinue their passenger and mail services on their trains. The United States was being built for the car instead. More prominently, the west coast lacks the most in public transit. According to Business Insider, cities such as Los Angeles, Seattle and Portland have worse transit systems compared to cities on the east coast. Being

relatively new to the States, west coast cities built roads for cars and didn't allow easy access for railways. During the early 1900's the focus was on making car transportation better, not public transit.

When Amtrak was created during the 1970's as a way to rejuvenate the idea of rail travel, it failed. The goal was to reintroduce the idea of using trains as an alternate source of travel. Amtrak is a government subsidized program that doesn't make any money and is stuck in a rut. They can't get more riders to make

more money and they can't improve their systems because they don't make enough money.

The reliability of Amtrak is also known to be horrendous. According to Amtrak themselves, per 10,000 miles of travel on the Canadian National, there is about 1700 minutes of delay. Amtrak owns few tracks so priority is always given to the freight train companies who own them. It was never a problem because the freight companies had passenger trains, but when they discontinued those services, passenger trains disappeared.

...and a brief mention of planes and automobiles

In Europe, governments and the public never had a desire to build up their roads. Early car manufacturers such as Morris and Vauxhall did not have a reputation for being reliable, which hindered public trust cars in Europe. This led European countries to focus their resources on public transit rather than personal cars.

Japan and Western European countries have spent time and money investing in a high speed and effective rail network. There have been discussions in the States to accomplish a similar task in the east and west

coast, but the likelihood of this coming true in the near future is unlikely. Amtrak estimates that to upgrade their Northeast Corridor, they would have to spend about 150 billion dollars. The United States' preference for the personal freedom that cars allow comes at the cost of us not having a convenient and reliable method of rail travel, which, when it comes to public transportation, puts us behind other first-world countries.

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Classifieds

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Melinda Vail: The medium that makes a difference

Photos by Nick Nelson / Dakota Student

Medium Melinda Vail showcased her abilities in events throughout Grand Forks this past week, including live readings.



Devon Abler
Dakota Student

Here in North Dakota, if someone says they are receiving a message from a deceased loved one, there is a high chance that they would be referred for a mental evaluation. For Melinda Vail, an intuitive therapist, hypnotherapist and medium, communicating with those on the other side is just a part of everyday life.

"There are many people who just pop in and out of my energy field," Vail said. "Sometimes someone is just chattering away because they want to communicate something important to a loved one or they want them to know that they are just fine."

With over 23 years of experience, Vail came to Grand Forks for a weekend of readings and teaching at the Gorecki Alumni center. Friday night, she

performed live readings for members of the community and Saturday morning she taught a small group about understanding their karmic profile and using that information to break energy patterns in their lives.

"Everyone shares the same purpose in life: to understand your karmic profile and live with integrity," Vail said. "This is based on the energy of the body's chakra system and the kundalini energy that lives in the body. What I do is I look at generational and ethnic patterns in life and help individuals reverse these negative energy patterns."

Known as "the Medium who makes a difference," Vail strives to help people heal from traumatic experiences in life and help families find healing from tragedy. Along with one-on-one sessions, Vail has also partnered alongside the Phoenix Police De-

partment on cold cases and double homicides.

"The police department is rather ambiguous on whether or not I'm right," Vail said. "They do keep coming back to me so I assume that I'm

"You don't have to be an angel to talk to the dead. I'm not a perfect person. I'm on my sixth marriage and have gone through my fair share of trauma in life."

Melinda Vail, Psychic medium

right on the mark, but they'll never tell you."

Vail is also working on a documentary about the work she is doing in the lives of seven families who have lost a loved one to suicide. She is able to help these families find peace and healing by communicating messages from their loved ones, providing proof that there is life after life.

"Life after life means that there is life after this life here on earth," Vail said.



"Think of it this way: we have our destiny and our fate. Imagine you are taking a journey from New York to California. California is your destiny. The mode of transportation that you take there is your

fate. Each life that we experience is our fate and until we learn all of the lessons that we are given, we will be unable to reach our final resting place."

Understanding what spiritual energy is can be rather confusing to those who are not familiar with the spiritual jargon. Bill Larew, Vail's husband and business manager, explained how this energy works from a scientific standpoint.

"The scientific term is

metaphysician," Larew said. "We are able use psychology to see generational patterns and use the past to understand the present, but what Melinda does is she takes the psychological understanding of these generational patterns and applies it to energy patterns. This helps individuals find patterns in their energetic life and reverse these patterns."

Due to the reputation that many practicing mediums have received, a majority of individuals believe there is some form of trickery that occurs during readings. I was invited to observe the live readings that Vail does on her Facebook page, Melinda Vail Medium. She takes random calls from around the world and does readings for these individuals.

Vail relies on specific details the spirits communicate to her. This includes names, dates and specific information that only that individual would know.

"You don't have to be an angel to talk to the dead,"

Vail said. "I'm not a perfect person. I'm on my sixth marriage and have gone through my fair share of trauma in life. I just know how to tap into the deceased energy field and communicate with them and I use that to help others find healing."

One thing that Vail wants people to know is there are many people who claim to be true mediums by claiming that they have conversations with spirits.

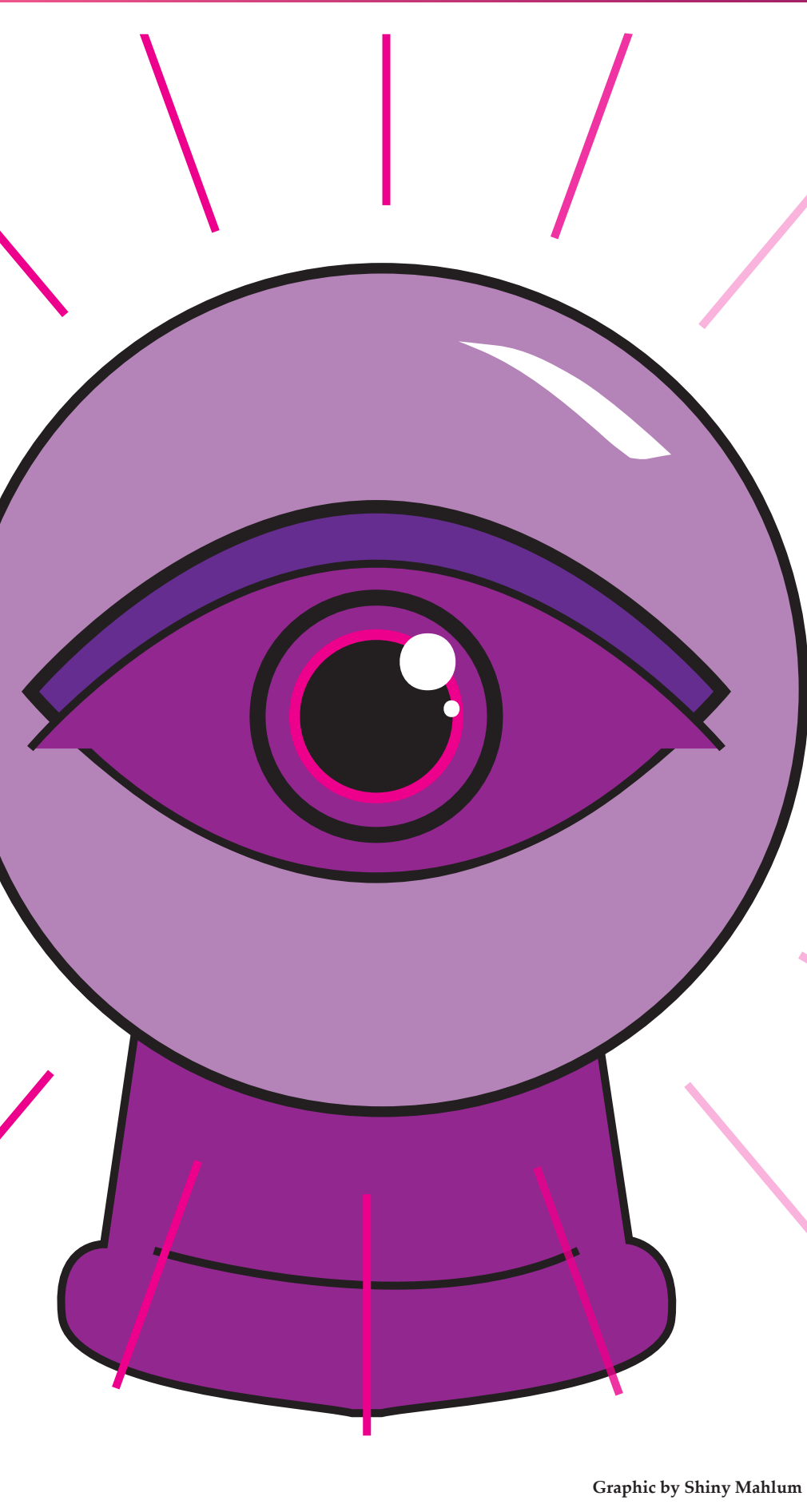
"If people tell you that they talk to spirits face to face and have conversations with them, that's bullshit," Vail said. "I've been a practicing medium for almost 25 years and I have never had a face to face conversation with a spirit. True mediumship is being a vessel for the other side to communicate through, not communicate with."

The story of Vail's journey to becoming a medium can be found in her book "Diary of a Mad Medium, A Guide to Understanding Karmic Profile." In the book, Vail is transparent about her life and uses her story to help others understand karmic profiling. A quick and easy read, Vail is unafraid to talk about difficult things and writes with wisdom.

If there is anything that Vail would like people to know, it is this: you all have your own ability and power to achieve the gifts that the spirit has given you.



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Graphic by Shiny Mahlum

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Holistic Healing Psychic Fair

Maddie Ardelean
Dakota Student

Psychics: incense, hundreds of varieties of stones, dream interpretations, decks of cards and natural healing. Many may call these individuals “bogus” or “quacks,” but the practitioners strongly believe they are onto something with these alternative healing methods. The Canad Inn hosted a Holistic Healing and Psychic Fair Saturday, March 24th, so I went to learn more about these alternative healing methods. The people who believe in alternative healing methods have to demonstrate commitment to the method. This is not something you can just pick up and start doing one day. There is an art to it. Shimen Lynn drove from Iowa to Wyoming for years in order to attain a certification in crystal healing. She says some teachers will work with students online, but she prefered to commit to in-person training. “I like to touch the stones and feel what they were meant to do,” Lynn said.

Although many from outside of the community believe there is no science backing the field of crystal healing, practitioner Joe Rothengass really believes there is. He explained the theory of why crystal healing works. “Basically, everything is an electromagnetic field: the earth, humans, our cell phones, plants, everything,” Rothengass said. “Our bioelectric field gets out of balance and the crystals, since they hold a constant frequency, can help rebalance that by way of the vibrations they give off. Our body reads the frequency and balances.” People used crystals before they used modern pharmaceuticals. They would grind up certain minerals and ingest them or carry them in pockets or purses. Now, we have instruments to read frequencies and we can tell that crystals really do vibrate. We also know from modern technology and electronics that electromagnetic fields affect each other. “People way back knew,” Rothengass said. “They just didn’t have the science to back it up.” Now, Rothengass believes we have the science to back up these beliefs but “no one is putting the pieces together because that would mean we’d have to change.” One example Rothengass gave was amethyst. People used to grind it up and ingest it when they showed symptoms of a low magnesium level. Amethyst contains magnesium even though they didn’t know that. Today, instead of ingesting it, “the crystal’s vibrations prepare your body for magnesium, the next time you eat

something with magnesium in it, it will absorb better,” Rothengass said. In a convention room of crystals and mediums, Marilyn McGregor was the odd one out. She does dream interpretation using the ancient Hebraic method. She has been interpreting dreams for 12 years and got into it out of curiosity. “When I heard about it, I was intrigued,” McGregor said. “I want to share wisdom to steer your life onto the path you’re created for.” But dream interpretation is not something you just start doing. McGregor went through ministry training to learn her craft and says that accurate interpretations come through a personal relationship with Jesus, even though she never uses the terms “Jesus” or “God”

the fair that wasn’t strictly about healing, but instead about understanding, were the psychics. I spoke to a psychic medium from Fargo, Jeri Vaudrin, about her journey in the world of being a medium. Some people are intuitive, but being a medium is different. “Being able to connect to the other side, that’s inborn,” Vaudrin said. There is no psychic school. Since everyone’s abilities are inborn and unique, you can’t have a class for that. Instead, Vaudrin trained with mentors and did a lot of personal study. Eventually, even though she didn’t feel ready, she just put herself out there on the job and let her abilities do their work. Some people realize that they have psychic abilities from a young age, but not Vaudrin. She

“I like to touch the stones and feel what they were meant to do”

Marilyn McGregor, Medium

in her interpretations. “People respond better to the terms ‘spirit of love’ or ‘spirit of truth,’” McGregor said. This may seem like ‘quackery’ to some, but she has a method. She can tell she has given an accurate interpretation when she can see it resonates with someone. Since McGregor had some downtime, she offered to interpret one of my dreams. I described to her a dream that I had at three years old and had remembered my whole life. Her interpretation was based in symbolism. A hill represented the ability to grow as a person and grow closer to the spirit of love, and the snakes in my dream represented obstacles and lies, etc. While there may not be an exact science to this, there is still a basis in tradition. Another method of healing based in tradition is herbal healing through tonics. Omni, the owner of an apothecary, loves to help others regain health. “I like to help people take their health and wellness back into their own hands from pharmaceutical companies,” Omni said. She points out that most pharmaceutical products are originally from plants and natural sources, so herbal products can help, as they are from the natural version of what medicines are made of. The one skill present at

found out when another medium was giving her a reading and told her she was a medium from the energy she could feel coming from Vaudrin. “I didn’t know where all of this was coming from but it’s happened,” Vaudrin said. Her abilities felt strange to her, but she was never afraid. “Hollywood has turned this into a joke,” Vaudrin said. But, she thinks there really is some science to it. Again, she cites energy. “We are all energy and energy cannot be created or destroyed,” Vaundrin said. “When we die, we shift into a different form of energy on a different plane.” As she sees it, being able to feel the presence of someone who has passed is simply feeling their energy. It’s nothing scary or demonic like Hollywood has painted it. Whether or not any of this is real or legitimate is up to each individual. These practitioners all believe strongly in what they do and devote their lives to their craft. Whether or not anyone else believes the same as they do, all of them have found peace in the method of healing they choose.

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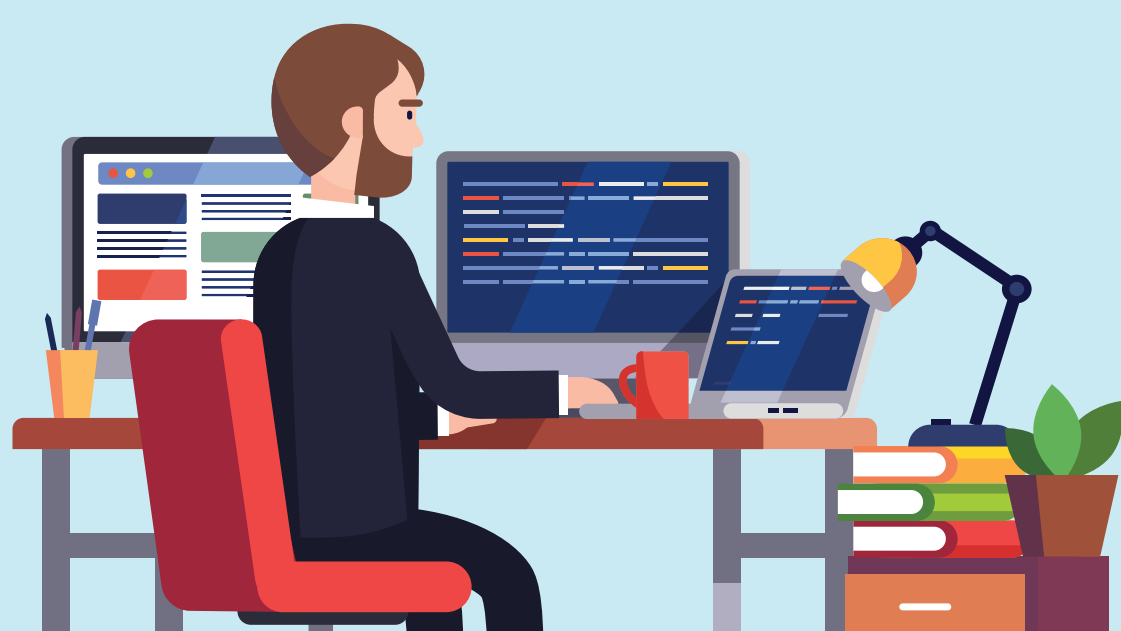
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Dakota Student File Photo

After graduating from UND, center Carson Shanks transferred to Loyola Chicago to play as a graduate transfer student athlete in his final year of NCAA eligibility.

Sitting down with Shanks

John Gregg
Dakota Student

Shanks was a part of UND’s historic team that reached the NCAA Basketball tournament for the first time in school history just last year. And after making the tough decision to transfer, he had the experience of his life as he competed in the Final Four. But why did he leave just one year after one of the most successful years in program history? I had the unique opportunity to talk to Shanks about his time at UND and what lead to his departure. Shanks came to UND after spending just one semester

at Utah State University in the fall of 2013. “Obviously basketball is what drew me to make my home at UND and in Fargo,” Shanks said. After sitting out due to NCAA transfer rules, Shanks was able to play that following spring. Shanks went on to have a successful career as a member of the Fighting Hawks and looks back on his time at UND with great admiration and pride. “My time at UND was honestly the best time of my life,” Shanks said. “While most people say that about their college years, I truly do mean it wholeheartedly.” He also became a part of history as a member

of the team that reached the NCAA Tournament for the first time in school history. “Going to the NCAA tournament with my teammates at UND is one of the most fulfilling experiences of my entire life,” Shanks said. “We were able to make history and make a great university and community proud of what we had done. Running out onto that floor with our fight song playing about to match up against a great Arizona team is something that I relive daily.” Shanks has a great pride when discussing his time as a member of UND athletics as well. “Unless you are a part of the UND stu-

dent athlete family, you really do not understand how incredible a group it is,” he said. “We all support each other, we see each other everywhere, it really does feel like an extended family.” During Shanks’ time as an athlete at UND, the school was experiencing major budgetary issues, especially around athletics. Though he felt safe being in a program with a long-standing history of booster support, once Shanks heard the news that UND was going to cut some of the programs, it hit him hard. “I could not have imagined what it would have been like to be living your dream playing the sport you love at the highest level and then the next day being told that you could not play it at the place that you made your home,” he said. Of all the cuts made, the baseball team really hit home for Shanks. “I had spent a lot of weekends watching those guys play at Kraft Field,” he said. “They were some of the most respected and well-liked people on our campus.” He wanted to make a difference and see if he could help out his friends and fellow athletes. “I felt as though that I should step up because I feel like that’s what someone would do for me in that situation,” he said. After careful deliberation with his family,

Shanks offered his athletic scholarship money to the baseball program. “While it would have been just a tiny piece of the money required,” he said. “I was hoping it would be more of a symbol and a springboard to encourage others to not only donate to baseball, but to the other sports as well.” Though Shanks’ selfless act was a great stride in the right direction, the programs were not reinstated. “I still do believe that without those sports at UND, there are holes left by those vacancies that will never be filled,” Shanks said. Though Shanks’ time at UND was filled with great memories and success on and off the court, his eyes were set on something new. “He (Loyola coach, Porter Moser) sold me on living in the amazing city of Chicago,” Shanks said. “Playing in a great conference in the Missouri Valley, being around a group of great guys, and obviously getting the opportunity to play alongside some really, really talented players.” Shanks’ decision paid off. This year, Loyola Chicago was an unlikely team to make it all the way to the Final Four. “Going to a Final Four is an experience that so few people ever get the chance to do,” he said. “I still don’t believe I’ve fully grasped what we did this past year. We were the Cinderella team that for a few weeks in

March, had the eyes of a nation upon them.” Even though Shanks now wears a different jersey on the court, UND holds a special place in his heart. “One of the coolest things for me was the continued support throughout the tournament from the people at UND,” he said. UND head coach Brian Jones even traveled to San Antonio to support Shanks at his open practice before the big game. As for the future, Shanks plans to continue his dream of playing basketball. He hopes to be picked up by a team and play overseas. He has his eyes set on coaching once he is finished playing. “Regardless of when that comes to an end, I am looking to be involved with the game for the rest of my life as a coach, with being a college coach as my dream job,” he said. Shanks has come a long way since his time as a member of UND’s men’s basketball program, but he still attributes a lot of what got him to where he is to his time at UND. “Regardless of what the future holds, I will always have UND green in my heart and the times I had at UND will be my most fond,” he said.

John Gregg is a sports writer for Dakota Student. He can be reached at john.gregg@und.edu



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Members of the Fighting Hawks women’s basketball team pick up rakes and other tools prior to volunteering for The Big Event last year.

Dakota Student File Photo

Athletics uniting the community

Madison Overby
Dakota Student

Growing up, my dad was an alumni of the University of Minnesota. As a die-hard Minnesota sports fans, we went to countless Gopher basketball, football and hockey games. We once travelled four hours just to go to a conference track meet the Gophers were running in. My sister and I were immersed in college athletics before we began to compete in sports ourselves. We began idolizing the athletes and picking out our dream colleges before we were out of elementary school. College athletics brings a community of support together, puts a face to the school and brings people to the university. College game day is widely talked about across the nation. People can sit in their homes and cheer on their alma-mater or watch their relatives compete just by tuning in to ESPN. Throughout the game, the cameras will flash to the student section cheering their lungs out and seemingly having the times of their lives. The media presentation of college athletics, although sometimes glorified, brings attraction to the university. In addition to the glory, it has been proven that athletic success brings people to

a school. If a college is doing well in sports, enrollment goes up. It’s called the Flutie Effect. Based on a quarterback from Boston College in 1984, Doug Flutie launched a “Hail Mary” pass in the last second of a game for what ended up being a 48-yard completion. According to Forbes, applications to Boston College in the two years following Flutie’s play increased by a whopping 30 percent. Doug J. Chung, a Harvard Business Associate Professor, conducted research on the subject. He found that on average, “when a school rises from mediocre to great on the gridiron, applications increase by 18.7 percent.” Specific to UND, athletics brings more people to Grand Forks. North Dakota isn’t typically a “dream location” by any means. Most out-of-state students are brought to UND either for the aviation program or to be on one of the sports teams. UND Athletics is a major contributor in putting Grand Forks on the map. UND Athletics also gives a face to the university. UND alumni are very strong supporters of athletic teams and continue to show their support by generating revenue, purchasing season tickets and building sports complexes for UND. For example, the High Per-

formance Center was just recently built using \$19 million of privately funded money, all from UND alumni. The Ralph Engelstad Arena, valued at \$104 million, was also very dependent on private funding from community members and alumni. Another way that UND Athletics gives a face to the university is through volunteer work. Each year, the sports teams compete with each other to see who can obtain the most volunteer hours. This motivates members of the team to get out in the community and provide service to those who need it. Just recently, UND Athletics participated in an annual SAAC (Student-Athlete Advisory Committee) food drive that collected over 4000 items. All of the items were donated to the Grand Forks Salvation Army. In the eyes of many, college without athletics doesn’t seem like college. From growing up watching games to giving back to athletics and the university as life goes on, college athletics remains a large part of many students’ lives long before and after graduation.

Madison Overby is a sports writer for Dakota Student. She can be reached at madison.overby@und.edu

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