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# Dakota Student

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# An Interview with Armacost

## Student involvement and community relations

Mason Dunleavy

Dakota Student

"I'm just a curious person who wants to know what's going on in the lives of students."

Incoming president Dr. Andrew Armacost was in Grand Forks and had been meeting with faculty, students and community members during his four-month transition period.

These meetings will be an insight into the issues that the University of North Dakota faces and will help build healthy relationships between President Armacost and the Grand Forks community.

"There are areas of concern whenever you come to a campus. How is a campus going to receive me and what are the key issues that the campus faces. I'm getting great insights into both of those issues through this four-month transition period. So, nervous? Not at all." President Armacost said.

Last week Wednesday, The Dakota Student had a chance to talk to the incoming president in an exclusive interview to find out expected changes for UND, plans for student relations and community involvement.

"With Grand Forks, I can't think of a better, more committed community to the success of UND and I think the

relationship that I establish as president, not just with the elected and the business leaders, but also with the citizens," President Armacost said. "As a consequence, I'll spend quite a bit of time in the community, I'm not going to be a recluse on campus."

Since former President Kennedy's dramatic departing, the students of UND have not had relations with the institution's leaders. Although Interim President Wynne has been working diligently, the students have not had a chance to engage with the interim president. President Armacost wants to focus on building a strong relationship between the school and the students, so he plans on reaching out to students whenever he can.

"There will be formal opportunities and there will be informal opportunities. I think the informal ones are actually the exciting ones because that's where you have these unguarded moments where you have a chance to engage," President Armacost said.

President Armacost had preconceptions of North Dakota, Grand Forks and UND long before he stepped foot in the state. Mostly from colleagues or close friends, his vision of North Dakota was influenced by positive images. Growing up in Wisconsin prepared him for Midwest tendencies and



Photo courtesy of David Dodds

Dakota Student Staff had an interview with President Armacost.

some of the weather, but North Dakotan attitude is different than most Midwest states.

"I have known many people through my airforce career, whether they're from Minot, Grand Forks or wherever, they always speak glowingly of the people and the communities. Keep in mind I had this perspective of North Dakotans being hardworking, kind, ethical people and that aligns really nicely with what I grew up with." President Armacost said.

As far as plans go for the UND campus, President Armacost has some plans for the future. The esteemed aviation program has received more attention than other programs around campus, but President Armacost plans on focusing on other areas as well.

"We have to pay attention to opportunities very carefully and not amplify one area of the campus at the expense of

another." President Armacost said.

President Armacost is anticipated to start on or before June 1, 2020. Interim President Wynne will be continuing his presidential duties until the four-month transition period is over. Thank you, President Wynne!

**"We have to pay attention to opportunities very carefully and not amplify one area of the campus at the expense of another."**

President Andrew Armacost

Mason Dunleavy is the News Editor for Dakota Student. he can be reached at [Mason.Dunleavy@und.edu](mailto:Mason.Dunleavy@und.edu)

# Grand Opening of Esports Nexus

## New esports scene on UND

Brianna Mayhair

Dakota Student

Do you have an interest in gaming and Esports? The new Nexus Esports lounge at the Wellness Center is the place to be! Mike Wozniak, Coordinator of Campus Recreation here at the University of North Dakota gives the latest about the new addition to the Wellness Center.

Wozniak explains how the idea of building the new Esports Nexus lounge was from students at UND, who supported the new idea and how it will build a new community.

"We had quite a few very passionate students come forward with an idea to increase the Esports presence on campus." Wozniak said. "They were looking for ways to build community and offer ways for those who did not bring their computers with them to college to still keep playing the games they love. We got great support from the division, including from Cassie Gerhardt,

Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Involvement & Parent Programs, and Dr. Cara Halgren, the Vice President of Student Affairs, and moved forward with construction and programming!"

The new Esports Nexus will provide a variety of different services for students from 12 PC's with popular titles. Wozniak explains what kinds of products the Esports Nexus will have equipped for students and how to utilize them.

"Our Nexus will have 12 top-of-the-line PC's and peripherals (keyboards, headsets, etc.), and our facility software, ggLeap, allows for access to many titles as soon as they log in." Wozniak said. "They can either use their own login information if they own the game, or they can use one of our accounts, so they won't have to purchase any games



Dakota Student/Mason Dunleavy

Esports Nexus is the newest addition to the wellness center.

Story continued on page 2



## Esports story from front page

they don't already have. At launch, we will have over a dozen popular esports titles, and we will be adding more every day. For example, we heard that students want to play The Sims, a title we did not originally think of adding, so we will be looking into adding that very soon."

So, who can use the Esports Nexus lounge? Individuals that are members of the Wellness Center are able to utilize the Esports Nexus lounge, but reservations are available if members from the community or groups want to reserve it and use its services.

Wozniak explains how the Esports Nexus can be utilized and the hourly charge compared to other gaming centers.

"Upon a user's first visit, they will be given 3 free hours to give the Nexus a try." Wozniak said. "After that, they will have to purchase time at the Wellness Center front desk. However, prices are as low as \$2/hr (industry average is closer to \$3.50/hr), so we feel that it is very affordable for our students. They will then take that receipt to the Nexus and our Esports Attendants will load the time onto their accounts."

The grand opening of the Esports Nexus lounge will take place on March 5 from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. and will have many exciting events for students to take part in.



Dakota Student/Mason Dunleavy

The Esports Nexus will be open on Thursday, 3-10 P.M.

er to \$3.50/hr), so we feel that it is very affordable for our students. They will then take that receipt to the Nexus and our Esports Attendants will load the time onto their accounts."

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"Our Grand Opening event will have free snacks, great door prizes, including an Amazon Fire Stick, Echo Show 5, and UND Hockey jersey, to name a few." Wozniak said. "We will also be holding a Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament, with a \$100 Amazon

gift card for the winner (\$50 for 2nd place, \$25 for 3rd). If anyone is looking for more details, check out our website at [www.und.edu/esports](http://www.und.edu/esports), and use the link on that page to join our Discord for updates on all of our programming and facility news."

The Esports Nexus will be open Monday-Friday from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Brianna Mayhair** is a News Writer for Dakota Student. She can be reached at [Brianna.Mayhair@und.edu](mailto:Brianna.Mayhair@und.edu)

# Census 2020

## Do your part

**Madison Feltman**  
Dakota Student

Every 10 years the United States Government gathers population information on the country through the Census. As 2020 has gotten off to a quick start, the U.S. Census Bureau is working hard to recruit Census Takers to ensure that each and every citizen is accounted for.

The importance of the Census is extremely undervalued and is oftentimes brushed off by members of the community. The Census Bureau only gets one chance each decade to gather information that will help to secure funding for different community and local programs. Apart from ensuring that everyone is accounted for, having Census-Takers go door-to-door to remind people of the importance of the Census and why it is necessary for them to participate. The push for hiring begins now.

"On March 7th we will begin our biggest hiring effort for the 2020 Census. To date, we have obtained over 2.5 million applicants across the country. We would like to ensure a robust applicant pool from which to select census takers," The U.S. Census Partnership Team said in a statement.

In order to be a Census Taker, you must have a



Apply to be a Census Taker at [census.gov/jobs](http://census.gov/jobs)

valid driver's license and a reliable source of transportation as well as access to the internet with a working email. As long as you are 18 years of age, have a valid social security number, and pass a criminal background check, you are qualified.

As a Census Taker, you will be interacting with local community members and sharing your knowledge of the Census as well as your love for the community. The pay rate for a Census Taker in Grand Forks County is currently \$18 an hour. Another

enticing aspect about the job would be the fact that you are able to set your own hours and are able to work as much as 40 hours a week or as little as three hours a week.

If you are interested in applying or learning more about different positions

available at the Census Bureau visit [2020census.gov/jobs](http://2020census.gov/jobs)

**Madison Feltman** is the Editor in Chief for Dakota Student. She can be reached at [madison.feltman@und.edu](mailto:madison.feltman@und.edu)

# Classifieds

## HELP WANTED - Elks Camp Grassick

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Available positions include: Counselors, nurse, recreation staff, crafts instructors, lifeguard, kitchen staff, speech therapy assistants, reading instructors, and occupational therapy assistants.

For more information or an application, please visit our website at [www.elkscampgrassick.com](http://www.elkscampgrassick.com)



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# Don't forget to tip

**Megan Vogt**  
Dakota Student

The service industry is brutal at times. It is our job as your server to make sure that you can enjoy a meal and catch up with an old friend or family. We are in charge of doing that for about 6-8 other tables, depending on the night and your given section.

A typical Friday or Saturday night would consist of prep work before the house gets busy. It is filling expo line (which is the garnish or extras), stocking plates, in my restaurant it would also consist of cutting bread since we gave out free bread with the meals. Then, after your section fills up you have to make sure that drinks are full, food is being ran out within the minute it is put up on the counter, checking to see if our kitchen has satisfied your needs, preparing the desserts if ordered and getting checks out in a timely order--not too quick but not long enough where they are waiting.

Serving is all a guessing game. Every table is different. Some want to interact with their server. I have had many long conversations with my tables about my plans for school, where I am from and how I ended up there. Other tables have disregarded me completely. I have been told to "eff off" but I have also been told I was "a lovely lady with a bright future."

One thing I have learned is that the tables you expect to cooperate and be kind are sometimes the hardest people to work with, but the ones who you think



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

Be sure to tip your servers!

will make you run are the most understanding. To be honest, I always swallow my pride after those tables because I made a judgment that was not fair.

Serving is literally being a servant to other people's needs, wants and desires in the food industry. According to Vice.com, serving is one of the most stressful jobs. Most people work 9-5 on a typical day, but servers typically work 5 pm-midnight. Which is less time than a 9-5, but when you are running around trying to get everything to your table in a timely man-

ner, it is stressful.

One of the hardest parts of serving is it often feels like people forget that you are human and mistakes are made. As the server, I am the one who gets the heat for any mistake. That is when I go and get my manager because they are 1. Not emotionally invested in the table and 2. Have seen a lot worse problems than me.

At the restaurant I served at, my managers were awesome. They supported us servers in any learning experience that we had. They didn't expect us to be per-

fect and when we made a mistake they didn't give us grief for it, instead they fixed it and went on with their way.

A common theme I hear when serving or about servers is "why don't you get a job that pays better?" or "get a job that has a more stable paycheck if you complain about not having money." The thing is, I love serving. I love being able to interact with new people day-in and day-out.

Unfortunately, sometimes pay doesn't reflect the work that we put in. The government requires

servers to be paid at least \$2.13 an hour with at least \$30 in tips. Only 7 states and 3 territories require servers to be paid the states minimum wage. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Minnesota, Montana, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California and Alaska.

It is important to remember that these servers often have another job to make it by. Sometimes they don't, but that usually means they are working crazy hours. Tipping isn't required by any means,

but a simple tip can help a student get through college or a single-mom let their daughter dance. It might seem insignificant to you, but remember you never know what is going on in someone else's life and us servers are doing the best we can but we are only human.

**Megan Vogt** is the Opinions Writer for Dakota Student. She can be reached at [megan.vogt@und.edu](mailto:megan.vogt@und.edu)

# "We Love The Earth

## It is our planet"

**Cortnie Cottrell**  
Dakota Student

I really think that recycling, and the dangers of not recycling, get overlooked and sometimes are not even cared about. For myself, I did not have any interest in recycling and did As I am sure many, if not all Americans have had

the phrase 'save the turtles' shoved down their throat, but my question is, what about saving the Earth?

According to earthday.org, "91% of plastic waste isn't recycled. And since most plastics don't biodegrade in any meaningful sense, all that plastic waste could exist for hundreds or even

thousands of years."

It is crazy to think that even just one little plastic wrapper can exist and take up space on the Earth for up to a thousand years. It gets even crazier when you think of how many people use plastics daily.

not understand the toll that waste plays on the Earth, but then I started

to focus on my own environmental thumbprint and realized I needed to change that mindset.

When you really dive in and look at all the items that we use on a daily basis, it all adds up quickly. From the plastic bottles of everyday products such as shampoo to food packaging and all the other items

that humans mindlessly use daily, and then realizing that there are 327.2 million American people alone using these daily, it all adds up to a lot of waste on the Earth.

"One Million plastic bottles are bought EVERY MINUTE around the world — and that number will top half a TRILLION by 2021. Less than half of those bottles end up getting recycled," earthday.org said.

With plastic bottles being bought every minute around the world, that means there are 1440 bottles purchased every single day. Outrageous. Another concern that I have with pollution is the cycle of waste going into the bodies of water where the animals are consuming it. The microplastics consumed into their bodies will then later enter humans once the animals are consumed; making as if we are practically eating the waste ourselves.

"There is more microplastic in the ocean than there are stars in the Milky Way," said earthday.org. "If plastic production isn't curbed, plastic pollution will outweigh fish pound for pound by 2050." Just thinking about that makes me really sad, but very motivated. It makes me sad for the animals that are being harmed simply because we are too lazy to recycle, and it motivates me

to do my part in making changes to my daily habits to reduce waste.

Growing up, I was never really taught about recycling and the consequences that the Earth has because of my choices, but since coming to college and living with my roommates who choose to recycle, my eyes have really opened up to the culture of recycling.

From simply washing out my cream cheese containers to be put into recycling or to bringing my own bags grocery shopping is how I have changed my habits to start making a difference.

"My goal is to live a zero-waste lifestyle," roommate Abbi Smith said. "I know that this lifestyle isn't for everyone, but if everyone made a daily choice to even consider recycling some of their items, I think that it would make a huge impact on preserving the Earth."

Honestly, it is quite satisfying when I choose to recycle now because I feel that I am doing my part and having a care for the future generations to come.

**Cortnie Cottrell** is an Opinion Writer for Dakota Student. She can be reached at [cortnie.cottrell@und.edu](mailto:cortnie.cottrell@und.edu)



Photo courtesy of pixabay

Always fight to help keep our planet clean!



# The Importance of Pets



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

Pets are always there to support and comfort you, in their own ways.

**Megan Vogt**  
Dakota Student

I have had three dogs in my life. Two Yorkie-poo’s and a mut and my life has been changed for the better because of them. I got my first dog when I was in third grade, my mom got Baxter from Santa, it was not only a gift for her but my entire family. It was the best Christmas and When I say that, I truly mean it.

A year later, we went puppy shopping with our neighbors who ended up buying another dog and that sparked the conversation to get our family another dog. Fast forward

two weeks later, my family went to the same breeder and got Archie. He was all fluff, no bones, and that hasn’t changed in the 12 years we’ve had him.

In March of 2017, we said good-bye to Baxter after he died from congestive heart failure. He was 11 years old. I’m not going to lie, it was not easy, pets truly become a part of your families. When you go on vacation, you have to take account for them and make sure that they are taken care of and in good hands. You feed them, exercise them and give them all the love and attention they need and deserve.

Having an older dog was

not enough for my family, we felt like there was something missing. After mindlessly scrolling through Facebook, I came across a picture of an abandoned dog with the buggiest eyes. I tagged my mom on that post and that is what I thought was the end of it. Turns out two weeks later, her and my sister went to the humane society to look at dogs and the dog from the post I tagged her in was one of them. When they came home, they couldn’t stop talking about her.

After convincing my dad to get another dog, we went back the next day to see if Brinnley would get along with Archie. We ended up

taking Brinnley and Archie for a walk together to get them used to each other. Archie was confused and didn’t like her at all, but he was getting a walk so it was fine. In the end, those two worked out fine and here we are today with both of them.

I never thought I would love dogs more than I love people, but it is so true. I have never had a cat, but cats have the same effect on people as dogs do. That is why animals in our lives are so important. They can be as small as a hamster, to as big as a horse. The feeling of taking care of something that loves you gives us humans a sense of belonging

and being loved.

It might be extreme, but some people truly spoil their pets. Often times more than other people in their lives. According to mentalfloss.com, in 2015 pet owners in the U.S. spent \$60.28 billion dollars on their pets. It was expected that it would increase by \$2 billion in 2016.

I may be biased, but having an animal truly brings a sense of peace. As college students, we get excited to go home and see our furry friends because it allows for the true sense of a break to occur.

Don’t forget that during the de-stress fest put on by UND, there are often times

therapy dogs or just dogs in general that allow students to come fulfill their desire to cuddle with a pet and take a step back from their coursework.

**Megan Vogt** is an Opinions Writer for Dakota Student. She can be reached at [megan.vogt@und.edu](mailto:megan.vogt@und.edu)

# Elections or Reality TV?

**Madie McPherson**  
Dakota Student

Elections. They are fun, infuriating, eye opening-whatever you might want to call it. They can also become so wildly insane that it becomes a TV show rather than a debate that shows citizens’ understanding about which one of the Presidential candidates want to provide the best course of action for the US. Regardless of which candidate is more favorable versus the other, the idea that the debates on TV are a piece of performance art to make candidates break the other down is bothersome. Yes, it is assumed Americans want a potential President who is a fantastic debater that does not stray from conflict or make up excuses for a lack of knowledge on policies or understanding of future goals meant for creating positive change.

However, even if a potential candidate does tick off all of these boxes meant as positive signs for what Americans desire of a Presidential candidate, it does not mean that said candidate is the best option for America. Going back to the 2016 Presidential election, when most, if not all, Americans believed President Trump would not make it to the final two candidates, as well as beat out Hillary Clinton in the elections. Americans saw President Trump as the candidate to not be taken seriously, who more than likely would not win but just said the things most Americans felt but did not want to voice aloud. I want to clarify that not all Americans felt or feel this way about Trump, but rather



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

Super Tuesday is this approaching fast, are you ready?

in comparison to the current debates and where he stands presently versus the 2016 election.

Overall, President Trump is not the sole subject of this. The subject is the overall concept that Presidential election, or elections in general, have become. They tend to be more of an insult parade even though they are in the same politi-

cal party. They are all in the same position, wanting the same end goal but in order to do that it becomes a massive competition for who can prove themselves better than anyone else. In the end, after the elections are over and the next President is in office or the next elected official has taken their place, it’s all over. Then it becomes a matter of the of-

ficial who won and what they intend to do with their new position, as well as how they intend to leave a legacy behind.

Politics are important because they rule the policies and changes that affect the world in a global sense. However, it becomes a matter of who is making those decisions that cause issues because regardless

of the messy path it took to get to this place in America, as a leader of a country, no citizen is ever really pleased with the outcome. Elections are the process by which this disagreement and fighting ensue, and it seems that since these elections are the key role in being the deciding factor of who wins the election, they should be done in a differ-

ent light that is not attacking those who are trying to do what is best for the country.

**Madie McPherson** is an Opinions writer for Dakota Student. She can be reached at [MMcpl1022@gmail.com](mailto:MMcpl1022@gmail.com)



## The Firehall Theatre Presents *Less Miserable*

Olga Kopp  
Dakota Student

Less Miserable is the product of the Greater Grand Forks Community Theatre's first writer-in-residence, Connor Wielgosz. For the month of February, Wielgosz has been developing, writing and presenting portions of the show alongside the Grand Forks community, according to Greater Grand Forks Community Theater website.

Wielgosz came all the way from Winnipeg to create this show. It was his ideal place to immerse himself in the energy of creativity.

Less Miserable is a parody of the original musical Les Miserables. In the original, Les Miserables, Jean Valjean is the prisoner who gets released from the prison and he goes off and has a journey through the years.

"In this show the parody is that Jean Valjean is miserable while everybody else in the world is happy; so his goal is to find a way to be less miserable," Wielgosz said. "We take a lot of the scenes from Les Miserables and we flip them on their heads, so that there is something new and fresh about them. We sort of make jokes about the original show."

Less Miserable is a spin off of Les Mis and it takes the well known characters and pushes them into different situations to convey the story of one that is trying to be less miserable.

Ivy McGurran has been participating in Fire Hall Theater since her childhood. She talked about her experiences with this production.

"I have known the show for a really long time, so it was really exciting to see what Conor did to our beautiful baby of Les Mis. I think he did a really great job of making something so ridiculous out of something so serious. It is such a serious show," McGurran said.

As McGurran said, the original show of Les Miserables is a pretty serious and sad production, however, Wielgosz had his own view on how this show should look like. He shared the story of how he came up with this idea.

Wielgosz has written four musicals and this with his fifth, he got the idea when he was in high school. He explained that when you take the "s" off of the end and move it to the first word, it spells "less", which then turned into Less Miserable.

"This opportunity at the Fire Hall, being the first writer in the residence



Actors performing in *Less Miserable*.

here, gave me the chance to work non-stop for the whole month on the show that I could really pour my heart into. With the help of the Fire Hall I was able to create this show," Wielgosz said.

It is nice that Grand Forks has so many talented artists and actors who can make a parody out of an original musical. There were 13 cast members involved in this show. Everyone is so different, and at the same time, they have the same goal to create, act and have a good time.

Robert Cooper who is playing the main character Jean Valjean, shared his experience in Less Miserable production.

"Once I heard that I have got to cast for the role of Jean Valjean, I was completely ecstatic. It was really interesting to find the little underhanded new ways to make my character's sadness feed into the comedy, kind of like an air into a flame," Cooper said.

There were many controversial parts in the Less Miserable show. When I was watching the show, I thought of how it can be hard to switch from the funny character to a sad character. The Fire Hall Theater crew did a great job staying in their character's when the audience was hysterically laughing.

"There were so many moments where we would make eye contact with the audience and we would

laugh. It is hard to stay in the character when everyone else is laughing, but it is so much fun because the audience gets me more invested in keeping a straight face, because then I know that I am doing my job well," Cooper said. "I had plenty of opportunities to play around and see how far it can flow from dramatic to grounded seriousness. Having freedom to explore my character, and getting feedback fed my creativity and helped me to create my character."

The entire Fire Hall Theater crew was excited to work on this show with Wielgosz. Although they did not have a long time to rehearse they did a great job memorizing the script and music.

"The whole show is written in one month, and we spent two weeks on rehearsals. We had ten days to put the show together. It is pretty insane, but we made it work. We did not have enough time to memorize everything in the script, but we did have time to hold our books, get the melodies down and sing through it," Wielgosz said.

The biggest magic of theater is that everyone is working together really hard to create something exciting for people to enjoy. It doesn't matter where you came from and how experienced you are. The Fire Hall Theater accepts everyone who has a pas-

sion for theater and acting.

"This has been a very smooth process. The people here at the Fire Hall are so accommodating. They have been so nice and friendly, and allowed me to use the space consistently. On top of that, the folks who we did this project with are phenomenal," Wielgosz said.

The cast poured their heart and souls into this production and it can be seen throughout the entire performance. A lot of energy went into coming to the rehearsals, brainstorming and learning lines and staging quickly.

"It has been really exciting to play in this show. It was really exciting for me to be given this opportunity. I always wanted to do Les Mis, but the opportunity has never really come up. It was really fun to get to step into a role that I probably will never get to touch again. It is very exciting. I love the people here I worked with, pretty much everybody who was in our cast before. Some of them I have known for years, some of them I have done shows really recently. It has been a really great group of people. There are a lot of great talents in Grand Forks," McGurran said.

Amy Driscoll is a board member of the Fire Hall theater who was also a part of the cast in Less Miserable shared her experience with the production.

"This was a really great

experience. I wanted to be a part of this production without hesitation. I am glad that Conor did a really great lyric writing workshop for us. It was absolutely awesome. We have got to do this amazing show as a world premier. It never happens in Grand Forks. Thus, this could not have gone better than it is. It was so wonderful, and I am so glad that we had this experience. I am so grateful that I have got to be a part of all of it," Driscoll said.

Another cast member of Less Miserable Lexi Conwell shared their experience in the production.

"I have not really done much plays in Grand Forks before, and I am glad that I had an opportunity to be a part of this show and meeting all these wonderful people. I had a lot of fun, and I was really happy being in the show."

Isaac Engles is another cast member of the show who shared his experience in this show.

"I feel very lucky being involved in this show. I was sick when they had auditions for the show, so I asked if I can somehow participate in the production. They called me and invited me to be a part of the production. This made me so happy. I love the Fire Hall. I love doing shows here. It was interesting to see how this production will turn out in such a short

time. It was interesting to see the whole madness of this show backstage. I hope we can do this every year," Engles said.

If you missed this show last Friday, do not be sad. You have an opportunity to see this show in the Winnipeg French Festival this summer. Wielgosz originally started writing musicals for this festival and has since written three others. This festival is a great place to showcase work and there is always a large audience.

Less Miserable will be playing in the last two weeks of July in the Winnipeg French Theater Festival. You will get to see this show, and other hundred and fifty shows that will be shown for over two weeks. Thus, if you are a theater lover, you should go and explore the Winnipeg French Theater Festival this coming summer. It will be wildly fun.

"Expect Les Mis to just flipped on its head. It will be something crazy, something fun, something that is very ridiculous and very absurd. You will laugh and have a good time," Wielgosz said.

Note: \*This show is recommended for a mature audience as it contains some coarse language and mature themes.\*

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# Travis' Corner

## Pop Music: Is it Art?

Travis Anderson  
Dakota Student

Pop music seems to get a bad rep in popular culture. Pop music’s reputation is even a plot point in the 2018 remake of A Star is Born. In this film, Lady Gaga’s character transitions from making country music to making pop music and is accused of producing less genuine art. Pop music’s bad reputation even goes against its name, popular music. If this genre wasn’t good then why are so many people listening to pop music?

Defining pop music depends on the time and culture surrounding it. The pop music of today is very different from the pop music of 25 or 50 years ago. In the 1960’s, Rock and Roll and British Invasion was considered pop music, and the pop music of the 1990’s was grunge and alternative. However, looking back at the pop music of the past it does not share the same reputation that pop music is shallow and less genuine. For example, during the 1960’s the Beatles were in the peak of their popularity and were considered pop music at that time. I think I would be hard pressed to find someone that would consider the Beatles shallow or less genuine. The same could be said of Nirvana in the 1990’s.

The majority of today’s pop music could be characterized as hip-hop and electrotonic dance music or EDM. Hip-hop artists would include Post Malone, Khalid, Lizzo and Lil Nas X which have dominated the Billboard charts for the past year, which is a good gauge of what is popular. All of these artists also implement elements of EDM using danceable beats and a repetitive composition of verses and chorus. The repetitive nature of some pop music may be what brings its authenticity into question. However, I think just because a song is repetitive and easy to sing



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia

Pop music seems to change with the times.

along with does not make it an ingenuine form of art or expression. Another aspect of modern pop I have seen criticized is the electronic nature. This is relatively new because of technological advancement, but this new medium of creating music does not make this music a lower form of art.

One of pop music’s breakout stars from the past year, Billie Eilish, does not fit into the hip-hop genre. Eilish’s music would be characterized as alternative pop or indie

pop and is a great rebuttal to pop music’s reputation of being ingenuine. Songs such as Eilish’s “when the party’s over” or “everything I wanted” are some of the more authentic pop songs I have heard recently and are able to stay away from the overly repetitive structure pop music is normally criticized for. In perhaps her most notable song “bad guy”, Eilish dips into the EDM genre with a repetitive dance beat. Eilish’s authenticity and ability to use popular formulas in

her album, When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?, helped her become the youngest artist to win the big four awards at the Grammys which included Best New Artist, Album of the Year, Song of the Year and Record of the Year.

Another example of an artist releasing authentic pop music would be Harry Styles. Similarly to Eilish, Styles’ music would fall into the alternative pop or soft rock genre. Styles’ 2017 debut solo single, “Sign of the Times”, is a five minute and forty

second ballad which peaked at number four on the Billboard charts. This song breaks the formula of the short, easy to sing along with nature of the average pop song. Another example of authentic pop would be Styles’ most recent single “Falling” from his sophomore album Fine Line. The entirety of Styles’ sophomore album is a great example of pop music that is authentic to the artist.

Although pop music gets a bad reputation it is a product of the culture and

time. If you are someone that is not a fan of pop music at the moment, it will likely change in a couple years. Also, a maxim I like to live by is that there is no bad art, only art you don’t like. Even though pop music is criticized by some, that does not make it a less authentic or valid form of art.

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# March 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 The Exonerated Five @ 5 pm at the Chester Fritz Auditorium	5 Esports Nexus Grand Opening @ 3 pm at the Wellness Center	6	7 Feast of Nations @ 5 pm at the Alerus Center
8	9	10 Coffee with a Cop @ 9 am at Chic-Fil-A	11 80's Music Trivia @ 8 pm at Brick and Barely	12	13 MHKY Quarterfinal Grand Forks, N.D. 7:37 pm	14 Leprechaun Loop 2020 in Downtown
15	16 Start of Spring Break!	17	18	19	20 End of Spring Break!	21 Family Bowling Day @ 12 pm at Red Ray Lanes
22	23 Paint Party Fundraiser @ 5:30 at MyAlly Health	24	25 Trombone Choir @ 8 pm at the Josephine Recital Hall	26 India Night 2020 @ 6 pm at the Chester Fritz Auditorium	27	28 The Edge @ 7:30 at the Empire Arts Center
29 Murder on the Orient Express @ 2 pm at the Fire Hall Theatre	30	31				



UND Claims Penrose Cup

Hawks win 18th confence championship

James DeArman

Dakota Student

This weekend the University of North Dakota wrapped up their 18th regular-season conference championship in a Saturday night overtime thriller against number 17 Western Michigan. The University’s third NCHC championship in the last seven years.

Heading into the weekend, UND needed a sweep of a tough Western Michigan team in order to clinch their share of the Penrose Cup. They opened up that on Friday night with a change in net as Adam Scheel got the call after not making a start in the last eight games. Scheel answered the call making 26 saves on 27 shots in a great goaltending performance setting the team up for success. Coming up huge in the third period saving more shots than he had in the first two periods combined.

Although UND was outshot 27-21 on the night, the chances created by the team felt more dangerous with each one seemingly begging to go in. With the first goal on the night, Judd Caulfield scored the backhand on a 3-on-2 rush. After that, it was Michaud’s deflected shot to close the game out on the power play.

UND showed discipline throughout the contest only allowing one power play all night.

“We knew it would be a hard-fought battle, and it didn’t disappoint,” Head coach Brad Berry said. “I’m proud of our effort. That team battled hard, and I know we did, too.”

With the win on Friday night, this opened the door for the university to win a share of the Penrose Cup with a win or a Duluth loss on the night.

On senior night, as it was the last regular-season home game of the year, the stage could not be set any better.

The game started off with a bang as only four minutes into the game, UND found the back of the net. Collin Adams collected the rebounded Colton Poolman shot and put it in from an extremely tight angle on the left side.

From there the offense cooled as Western Michigan’s Paul Washe tied the game up late in the first and after a scoreless second, they headed to the third with the Broncos looking like the better team on the night.

In a great goalkeeping battle, Adam Scheel got the call in net again and made 15 saves on 16 shots. His opposite for Western Michigan, Ben Blacker, made a ridiculous splits save late in the 3rd period to keep the game tied at 1. It would take overtime to settle this one at the Ralph.

And it felt like it was over before it even began. Western Michigan appeared to have won it just one minute into overtime but as the Broncos celebrated and boos echoed through the Ralph the refs began reviewing the goal for goaltender interference. As the replay showed Jordan Kawaguchi was tangled up with Michigan captain Hugh McGing, McGing taking out UND goalie Adam Scheel allowing for the goal. And just like that, UND was given a second life.

An irate Western Michigan captain and coach argued the call, but it had been overturned and so did the momentum in the game. Just 43 seconds later, UND won the game and the Penrose cup on a Shane Pinto Goal.



UND won their 18th conference championship against Western Michigan.

The structure of the Ralph’s roof was tested that night as the crowd erupted. A lesser stadium would have had it blown off as the team and coaches celebrated. Across the ice, sticks were broken and words were shared with the officials from the Western Michigan bench showing the true extremes winning and losing gives us.

“I think that’s the best goal I’ve ever scored,” Pinto said. “Just everything about it. Winning it for the seniors. Winning the Penrose Cup. Just the whole moment is something I’ll

never forget.”

The celebration is on but this team is not satisfied with just one trophy. Next weekend the team travels to Omaha for their last regular-season series of the year. A win would lead them to be the outright winners of the conference and the number one seed for the upcoming conference tournament.

James DeArman is a sports writer for Dakota Student. He can be reached at james.dearman@und.edu

Strong Second Half Pushes UND Over Omaha



UND Woman’s Basketball finally broke their 5-game losing streak.

Presley Paintner

Dakota Student

UND finally broke their five-game losing streak. The Fighting Hawks had to overcome their weak shooting performance in the second quarter to beat Omaha, 71-67.

UND’s efforts to take care of the ball better and not commit several turnovers showed against the Mavericks.

UND only turned the ball over in the final five minutes of the opening frame. The Hawks played well together and dished out six assists on all six of their field goals in the first quarter. The University of Omaha held a one-point advantage over UND after one, 17-16.

The Hawks started the second quarter strong making six of their first ten shots but then went cold only making 1-of-18 after that; that point came from a Julia Fleecs layup. The Mavericks held a 5-point lead at the halftime break, 30-25.

UND was led in scoring by Megan Zander and Fleecs, they each tallied 22 points, respectively. Fleecs lead the Hawks at the halftime with 14 points. Zander scored 9 of her 22 points in the third quarter. She also went 10-for-14 from the free throw line, which is her new career high. This was Zander’s second 20-point game. Melissa Leet also contributed eight points and seven rebounds

for UND. The Hawks shot 75% at the charity strip. UND had 14 assists on 21 field goals.

In the third quarter Fleecs scored six points for the hawks, to help them dig their way back within, three before starting the final frame, 42 – 45.

Both teams would go back and forth tying the game with and trading leads, there were nine lead changes and four scoring ties during the fourth quarter, but the Hawks pulled through and dug deep and played with grit to earn the win. Leet put the Hawks on top, 60-59, hitting a jumper with 2:28 left in the game. UND’s lone senior, Alaina Jarnot, kept her composure and went 4-for-4 at the free-throw line to expand their lead to three.

“You got to have some grit this time of year,” said Head Coach Travis Brewster in the postgame, “I told the team flat out: it’s not anything pretty, grit is all about what you want to do and how you want to go about it. You have to do it together and that’s what we have to keep doing.”

This was UND’s 14-straight win over Omaha. UND is 15-13 overall, and 6-9 in the Summit. Omaha fell to 7-21 overall and 2-13 in the Summit.

Presley Paintner is a sports writer for Dakota Student. She can be reached at presley.paintner@und.edu

Caitlin Collins/Dakota Student





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