

Inside this issue	
Nap Pods at UND	3
Storytelling in Horror Movies	5
Hockey vs Denver	7

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The Complete History of Penguin Random House vs. Simon & Schuster

2022 brings an end to the ongoing bid for publishing house

Claire Arneson
Dakota Student

Have you ever looked at a book you were reading and looked at the small image on the spine? What did it look like? Was it a penguin? Is someone shooting a bow & arrow? Maybe it was a letter. This represents the company that published the book in your hand. The company that worked with the writer, edited their work, marketed, compacted, and presented a hard or paperback copy of a story to the world. There are many publishing houses across the globe. Some are local and publish a specific kind of novel, such as Coffee House Press in Minnesota. Some are journalistic like the news you are reading right now, and some are the big guns, well-known houses in the book community.

Two of the main publishing companies, Penguin Random House and Simon & Schuster, recently went through a legal battle. Penguin wanted to buy out Simon & Schuster, which would turn them into a mega-corporation. Not only would this lead to one of the big 5 publishing companies to turn into the big 4, but many of those opposed to this merger believed that the publishing industry would turn into a monopoly. With one of the biggest houses increasing in size, they would have larger control of the authors who write the books, the books that would reach the shelves, and most importantly the voices we would read.

Penguin Random House (PRH) grew into the publishing powerhouse we know today dating back to the 1800s. In 1838, George Palmer Putnam founded G. P. Putnam's Sons. According to the timeline on their website, some of the well-

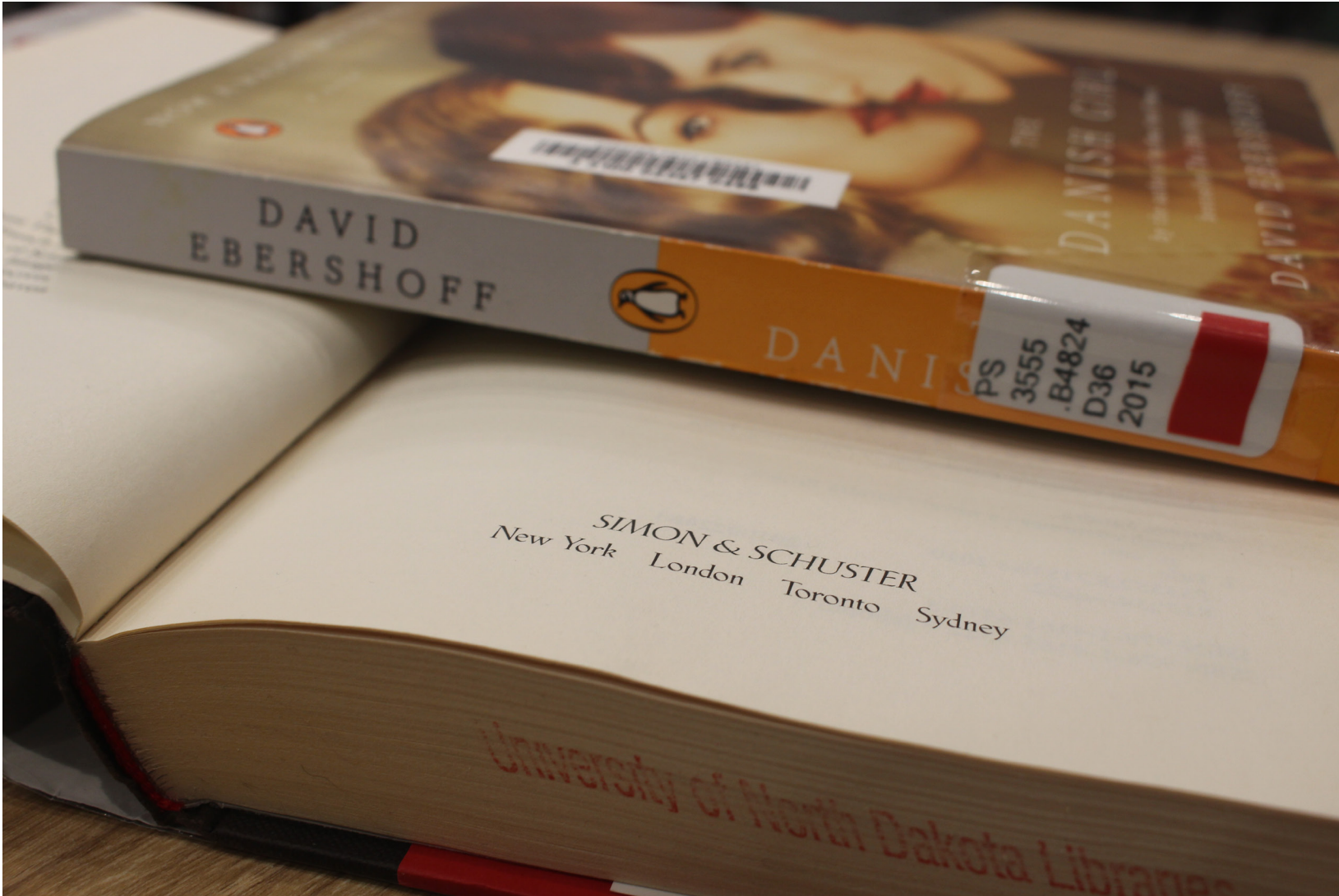


PHOTO COURTESY OF VICTORIA LEDUM

Penguin Random House and Simon Schuster are both well-known publishing companies.

known authors they housed were Edgar Allen Poe, Herman Melville, and Charles Dickens. After going through more and more name changes, they became the loveable flightless bird we know today.

PRH was officially established in 2013 after the shutdown of shareholders Pearson and Bertelsmann. Bertelsmann is now the main owner of the company. According to their website, their mission is that "Penguin Random House is the international home to more than 300 editorially and creatively independent publishing imprints. Our mission is to ignite a universal passion for reading by creating books for everyone. We believe that books, and

the stories and ideas they hold, have the unique capacity to connect us, change us, and carry us toward a better future for generations to come" (2022). Some notable titles from them include the *Game of Thrones* series by George R. R. Martin, *The Love Hypothesis* by Ali Hazelwood, *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio, and even *Becoming* by Michele Obama.

As of 2021, some of their noticeable accomplishments include opening new imprints in Germany, India, and the U.K. They have established the "We Need Diverse Books" winners. Their LinkedIn says they employ 10,000 people globally and have won more than 80 Nobel Prizes. With so much suc-

cess, the question of why take over a whole other corporation arises.

Simon & Schuster came to be in New York City in 1924. Richard L. Simon and M. Lincoln Schuster published their first book, *The Cross Word Puzzle Book*, and quickly rose to popularity. On their company history page, they explain how they grew into the imprint they are today and how they have many divisions. Divisions such as Atria Books is the main publisher for Colleen Hoover and Scribner, which just published *Fairy Tale* by Stephen King. S&S claim to be giving the buyers many different books by many different authors, making them a very diverse house.

Something you may not know is that they are actually a part of the CBS corporation. Simon & Schuster and CBS are "subsidiaries" of Paramount - a fancy way of saying a holding company making them the ruler of media. That being said, the James Cordon late night show and a publishing house are owned by the same people.

Penguin Random House story continued on page 2



Auto Repair

THUNDER RAY'S

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Penguin Random House story continued

With so many divisions and sub-divisions, it was shocking to hear Bob Bakish, Viacom CBS CEO, say that they wanted to sell Simon & Schuster. In March 2020, from The Wrap, Bakish says, “is not a core asset. It is not video-based. It does not have significant connection for our broader business.” Them selling this subsidiary would make sense since as he said, it is not “video based.”

Many companies expressed interest in purchasing S&S. Bertelsman Germany, owners of PRH were the winners of the bid. At \$2.17, Simon & Schuster sold to them closely following them in taking control of Penguin Random House. Some were overjoyed by the prospects of this merger. Mainly PRH executives, and owners. An article from The Guardian dating back to in November 2020 expresses the views of the chief executive who was outbid. Robert Thomson cautioned onlookers saying “that a Bertelsmann win would lead to an anti-competitive “behemoth of books” that would control one-third of the US book market” (Guardian, 2020).

In November 2021, the United States Department of Justice filed a civil antitrust lawsuit to stop PRH from getting Simon & Schuster. From the Office of Public Affairs,

United States Department of Justice explain its position by saying, “as alleged in the complaint filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, this acquisition would enable Penguin Random House, which is already the largest book publisher in the world, to exert outsized influence over which books are published in the United States and how much authors are paid for their work” (2021).

A year later, the presiding judge blocked the merger between the two companies. As covered by the Vulture, Judge Florence Y. Pan stated, “the Court finds that the United States has shown that ‘the effect of [the proposed merger] may be substantially to lessen competition in the market for the U.S. publishing rights to anticipated top-selling books’” (Bekiempis, 2022). The assistant attorney general, Jonathan Kanter commented “the proposed merger would have reduced competition, decreased author compensation, diminished the breadth, depth, and diversity of our stories and ideas, and ultimately impoverished our democracy.”

The employed main witness by the government, the as before mentioned Stephen King, rejoiced after hearing the news. He tweeted “I am delighted that Judge Florence Pan has blocked the merger of Penguin Random House and Simon & Schuster. The proposed merger was never about readers and writers; it was about preserving (and growing) PRH’s market share. In other words: \$\$\$”

(King, 2022). Media outlets have been covering this story since the beginning, and the publishing community has been thoroughly involved throughout it all. Publishing Perspective, an online magazine that covers all things going on in the book world, has been a close monitor of the trial. In their most recent article covering the trial, they covered those on the opposing side, PRH, who claimed that the whole ordeal would “be a setback for readers and authors,” while Simon & Schuster says the same. These two corporations are upset about the decision made by the government. Neither of them saw the issues with having one mega corporation, but Simon & Schuster said they will continue to thrive and will continue to let voices be heard and words to be read.

Whether you have no idea what this article is about or it has been a good while since you picked up a book, we can agree that they are important to society through the authors who’s words are heard and the readers who pick them up. As of now, they are working on an expedited appeal, which means they wish to go to a higher court that will overrule the decision. All there is to do now is to follow the news and read more books.

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Improving Student Well-Being by Implementing Nap Stations

Gabrielle Bossart
Dakota Student

It is fairly common for college students to miss out on a full eight hours of sleep at night. Assignments, studying, jobs, and daily chores can all get in the way of a student's healthy sleep schedule. Research shows that not getting enough sleep at night can affect academic performance and a student's ability to complete their work to the best of their ability. Of course, it is difficult to focus on class when you are exhausted and thinking about when you will be able to go to sleep. Missing out on sleep at night can put a damper on your day, especially if you do not have the time to nap. If you do, however, have the time to nap, what you might be missing is the place to do

so. Some students have busy schedules, meaning they do not have enough time in between classes to make it home, take a nap, and make it back to class. However, they may have enough time to nap if they can stay on campus. An interesting concept that has been picked up by a few companies and universities is the addition of nap pods in the workplace and on campus. The University of Miami and Washington State University have implemented sleep areas with the use of nap pods from a company called MetroNaps. MetroNaps claims to be the home of the world's first nap pod, with other companies now following suit. These pods resemble covered lounge chairs, with the feet elevated and the head and part of the torso covered by a circular

sphere to block out light and provide privacy. These high-tech pods come equipped with a built-in speaker so the user can play soft sounds or music to block out extraneous noise. The pods also feature a gentle alarm, with the combination of lights, music, and soft vibrations working to wake the user up from their nap in a calming way. All this might sound enticing, but a major downside of these pods is their hefty price tag. They can run anywhere from \$8,000 to \$13,000. While practical and affordable for large companies such as Google, they may not be the best option for college campuses. Having multiple users call into question cleanliness and the expensive price may cause those in charge to reconsider the use of limited funds for

something else. However, the idea of having a place to crash on campus still has merit. If not expensive, high-tech pods, then what? In Japan, there exists a concept known as the capsule hotel. If you are unfamiliar, the capsule hotel is essentially a small collection of pods or rectangular boxes roughly the size of a single bed. The pods are stacked, side-by-side and around two units high, with some sort of ladder or stairs leading to the upper level. The pods typically consist of a very simple bed with one pillow, a sheet, and some sort of place to store small personal items. They can be locked from the inside only, and usually provide a shade or curtain for privacy. These pods are exceptionally space efficient, and I think they would work in uni-

versities. Bringing the capsule hotel to a college campus with the intention of using them for nap pods comes with plenty of challenges. However, I believe with a little creativity, these challenges could be overcome. Several things would have to be considered. Using a vinyl mattress with no linens for easy sanitation, including a pillow, making them reservable, deciding how they will be monitored, and many smaller details would have to be sorted out. There are also a couple clear critiques of these pods. For instance, they do unfortunately bring to mind the general set up of a morgue. They are also not conducive to students who experience claustrophobia. Many students, especially those who live off-campus, could find the pods to be a

dependable place to grab a quick nap during their busy days, making them worth the hassle. While the capsule hotel is not a perfect solution to sleep deprivation among college students, it certainly is a compelling one. If UND were to consider adding these pods, they would have obstacles to overcome. However, the pods have the potential to improve the quality of life among college students which is always something to be considered.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF VICTORIA LEDUM

There are lounge areas all over campus such as the space pictured above on the third floor of the Chester Fritz Library where students can study, read, do homework, or even nap.

Classifieds

Comfort Keepers

EMPLOYMENT TYPE: Caregiver/Personal Care Assistant

ADVERT RUNNING DATE: 3 weeks

JOB HOUR PER DAY: 5 hours

SALARY: \$22 per hour

WORKING HOURS: Days flexible

DUTIES: Med reminders, maybe a meal prep, some light house cleaning

INTERESTED CANDIDATE CONTACT francocancano@gmail.com

The Human Rights Film Festival

The Human Rights Film Festival makes its re- turn at the Grand Forks Empire Arts Center

Ava Stockstad
Dakota Student

On November 8th in downtown Grand Forks, the Empire Arts Center held its fourth annual North Dakota Human Rights Film and Art Festival (NDHRFF). The festival has made its way across North Dakota to share feature films and narrative stories about human experience and struggles.

The Empire Arts Center has been open since 1998 and is home to dozens of theatre performances, film showings, and art exhibitions. This year, the festival is showing films of four different genre categories – documentary features, narrative feature films, narrative shorts, and documentary shorts.

In the Documentary Feature category is eight different short films. All these works are listed on the NDHRFF.org website in the Virtual Catalog tab. Here is just a handful of the films that are included in the Documentary Feature category.

Black Kid, White Town; “After George Floyd’s murder, a Minneapolis hip-hop artist named Nur-D decides to fight for change through his actions and music.”

The Bright Path; “Eastern Ukraine, May 2014. Part of the historic Donbas region falls to pro-Russian separatists. Young journalist Stanislav Aseyev reports for several Ukrainian media outlets from Donetsk, his hometown. In May 2017, he is kidnapped and spends 962 days in detention...”

“Bring Her Home follows three Indigenous women... as they work to vindicate and honor their relatives who are victims in the growing epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.”

“Water Talks: Perceptions from Sierra Gorda... documents efforts to promote and improve water and wetland management and conservation in Queretaro, Mexico.”

Rhythms of Migration; “follows a group of African youth migrants living in Sicily as they create a musical album about their migration experiences.”

Next comes the Narrative Feature Film category. These films are said to tell a cohesive fictional story, while the Documentary Feature films are instead used to document

real-time people and events. There are two films included in the Narrative Feature Film category.

First is *Rukh:* “Fate unexpectedly brings two individuals together, changing the lives of both.” The other film in this category is *The Wind and the Reckoning* “reveals the real-life story of a Native Hawaiian ranching family that defies the newly established colonial government and faces down American mercenaries rather than have their freedoms callously ripped away.”

The third category is Narrative Shorts with five different films available for viewing. Here is the synopsis of a few:

Hazard; “A Black family takes a camping road trip for the first time but has a run-in with two white police officers.”

Seesaw; “a fictional account of a child working relentlessly to support his family with lost hope, who represents millions of other like him, and how one activist liberated thousands of these children and brought them into the light.”

Rising Lotus; “A Punjabi immigrant woman stuck in an abusive arranged marriage finally musters the strength to escape when she realizes that her estranged son’s life is in danger.”

In the last category is Documentary Short where a total of eighteen films were available for showing. A few of these films include:

Fisheyes; “...an animated documentary that explores the shift in the identity and values of Hong Kong’s people by addressing the anti-extradition protests in Hong Kong in 2019.”

I Am: “I Am invited an intimate view into an African-Australian experience... reveals a sophisticated relationship of how it feels to be Australian in a country where being African separates Charity from the considered norm.”

On the Pulse of Life; “Dive into the birth justice moment in Alameda County, California, where Black babies are less than half as likely to survive as white babies, fighting for a future where “the first few breaths of life” are equally precious for all.”

That’s None of My Business; “Robert Honeysucker



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASPEN JEWKES

Film and Arts Festival is traveling across the plains of North Dakota making their final stop in Jamestown, ND December 6th.

and Nicholas Bosanquet recall their youthful attempt to desegregate a concert by The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of London... their subsequent arrest, and the ensuing international uproar that inspired prominent musicians to boycott performances before segregated audiences.”

The ND Human Rights Film and Arts Festival has been making its way across the state throughout the month of November. During the first week of November, the NDHRFF made its yearly debut in Fargo. Here in Grand Forks, the festival was scheduled for the 8th. Two days later, the festival occurred in Bismarck, and finally on December 6th, it will make its final appearance in Jamestown. While these events are great to attend in person, the films are also available for viewing online until December 6th. These films can be found on the NDHRFF website.

Because this event is meant to encompass the local North Dakota area, local

filmmakers are welcome to submit works to the festival for the chance to have their films shown. The NDHRFF Facebook page says, “in 2023, selected films and filmmakers will have the opportunity to have their films screened throughout North Dakota.” While there are four categories displayed in the festival this year, there are several other categories available to submit films to such as experimental films and episodic series.

The festival is put on by The Human Family organization, which is based in Fargo and is described as “a multi-disciplinary media organization dedicated to the creation, support, promotion and distribution of human rights, social justice, and social issue-based projects” according to the Human Family website. The organization puts on a handful of other film festivals, including the North Dakota LGBT Film Festival and the ND Environmental Rights Film Festival.

It is important to note

that the NDHRFF is not the only event the arts center has to offer. The Empire Theatre Company, for example, is a professional theatrical group that coordinates and produces plays and musicals at the art center for the public. Also at the Empire is the 1919 Lounge, which is said to “deliver a unique and unforgettable nightlife experience in an intimate setting,” according to empireartscenter.com. Cabaret-style performances are shown here at the 1919 Lounge for the public to attend. There is also the Empire Film Series, where “local film lovers will host themed series followed by open discussion of the films.” Another perk of the arts center is The Music Box, a monthly event where local artists can perform their music. Additionally, the Art Gallery is open to visitors, where regional art pieces are displayed.

More information on the ND Human Rights Film and Arts Festival can be found at www.human-family.org/ndhrff. If you would like to

hear more about the Empire Arts Center, their website can be found at empireartscenter.com. The Empire Arts Center is always seeking volunteers to assist in holding events, and information for auditioning for theatre and music events is available on the website as well.

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What Makes for a Great Film

The Art of Showing in Horror Movies

Gabrielle Bossart
Dakota Student

Why is it so difficult to make a “good” horror movie? Plenty of things in life are scary and even terrifying, so why are successful horror movies hard to come by? While ideas for great films are certainly abundant, the issue is in the execution. It is extremely difficult to create a compelling narrative for horror movies, and the time constraint does not help. Filmmakers have very little time, really only two hours, to develop characters, explain their motives and personalities, and craft a plot that is strong enough to create fear in the viewer. It can be done though, and its successful creation amounts to the art of showing, not telling.

A compelling film respects the intelligence of its viewer. This means that it does not feel the need to explain every detail of the plot or decision of the characters. An engaging film will allow the viewer to form hypotheses, consider motives, parse out personalities, and predict outcomes. Through artfully done shots and context clues, viewers should be able to un-

derstand the character’s decisions and justify them based on what they know about the character’s personality even if they do not agree with them. Creating interesting and well-rounded characters is the first step to creating a compelling horror movie. What typically happens in bad horror movies, and in films in general, is that not enough organic character development is accomplished, leaving the film with empty characters that audiences cannot relate to or simply dislike. If the audience does not care about the character because they do not feel connected to them, then whatever happens to them will not matter either. People like to have someone to root for. In horror movies, this person is usually the hero of the story or the underdog taking on the elusive and powerful villain in a quest to survive until the end. We want them to win because if they do, then we could too.

For a case study, let us examine the new horror movie, *Barbarian*. This recently released horror film is an example of simply fantastic storytelling with a positively horrific premise. *Barbarian*

does what a lot of films fail to do - it is committed to simply showing the viewer details, giving them the pieces and letting them solve the puzzle. The character development is strong in that each main character’s nature is developed and logical. The decisions they make further into the film, though perhaps not the most intelligent, make perfect sense in regard to the nature of their personalities that have been revealed to us through their past actions. In this way, their choices are incredibly realistic, adding a layer of depth to the movie that other films struggle to achieve.

Let us look at the main character, Tess. She is a relatable modern-day woman. She works hard, she is capable, and she is appropriately attentive to her surroundings. The film does not say these things to you outright. No friend calls Tess to tell her she is too careful and needs to live a little. She does not come out and tell the other characters in the film that she is cautious and intelligent. You discover this for yourself based on carefully placed and well thought out shots in the movie. When Tess arrives at

her AirBnB to find it already occupied by a stranger claiming they had booked the place through another service, you get to see her cautious nature firsthand. If you are paying attention, you will notice that she makes a point to always lock the door behind her immediately after entering a room. She does not drink the tea offered to her when she has not witnessed it being made. She keeps her phone on her and even takes a picture of the license of the man claiming to have also booked the house. She asks to see the confirmation email that the stranger has also booked the home. She does not go down the dark, creepy hallway when locked in the basement, saying blatantly, “nope.” The audience is simply shown these small details throughout the film, but they all say things about Tess and her nature, allowing the viewer to draw conclusions about her personality and how she would handle certain situations. This plays an important role later on, when she uses her intelligence, keen observation skills, and protective intuition to understand what is going on in the creepy basement caverns and to sur-

vive the ordeal. The complete opposite is seen in her counterpart, AJ. AJ is not observant, has low emotional intelligence, no situational awareness, and seemingly no survival instincts. We understand through his short backstory that he is poor at reading social cues, selfish, and only concerned with how his immediate environment and the people in it can serve him. As an example, when AJ, who happens to be the owner of the AirBnB house, arrives at the home in order to see about selling it to get him out of some financial difficulty, his actions make complete sense. Whereas Tess was horrified at discovering the secret caverns below and ponders what terrible events might have happened there; AJ is not even phased. In a completely opposite reaction, we witness him begin to measure the square footage of the space, unconcerned with all the typical signs of foul play and captivity that literally litter the walls and basement space. While this reaction is entirely on the other end of Tess’s, it is a completely realistic example of his behavior, based on what we have been

shown about his nature. The film shows us Tess’s and AJ’s behavior in a way that justifies the later scenes of the movie where the characters are put to the test.

In addition to strong character development, *Barbarian* leaves the real monster of the movie up to the interpretation of the viewer. The original threat, when pondered, cannot be held completely responsible for its actions as ignorance and appalling circumstances define its life. The real threat could be interpreted as the very nature of man and the evil that he is capable of carrying out. There are several monsters in this film, and one gets the sense when watching that the filmmakers are inviting the audience to consider how much they really know about the people in their lives. After all, how well do we really know our neighbors?

Overall, *Barbarian* is a great example of a horror movie done well. The plot is insane and certainly not for the faint of heart, but the storytelling is exceptional. This movie, like other great horror movies, seeks to form a conversation with the viewer. It extends an invitation to draw out its secrets, put together its clues, and gain meaning from its subtle details. The strong character building and the complexity of the plot in this film adds an additional entertaining aspect. Because the viewer gets to understand the nature of each characters’ personality, they can begin to guess how the story will play out. In the end, the viewer either gets the satisfaction of having successfully played detective or the pleasure of being surprised by an unexpected, but still likely, outcome. Either way, these aspects make for a film that is memorable, fun to watch, and creatively accomplished.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF VICTORIA LEDUM
UND students are able to check out books and movies from the Chester Fritz Library with their U-card or student ID number.

Classifieds

Help Wanted: Personal Home Care with disabled, public school/collegeinstructor. Meal prep, light housekeeping, toileting, showering, transfers. Will train. \$18.00/hr.Flexible 2 hour shifts workwell with student schedules. US Citizen or green card. Paul Mortenson: Home 701.775.5176 Cell 701.610.1548 pemortenson@gmail.com No texts please!

Who is Hoover?

Colleen Hoover’s Rise to Fame

Claire Arneson
Dakota Student

If you are an avid reader such as me, or even if you dabble in books, I am sure you have heard of Colleen Hoover. This author has stolen hearts, cut them out, and shoved them down her reader’s throats through her works. Some of her notable titles are, *Ugly Love*, *Verity*, and her most famous, *It Ends With Us*. Whether you read romance, psychological thrillers, realistic fiction, or young adult, she has something for you. Recently the New York Times released an article titled, “How Colleen Hoover Rose to Rule the Best-Seller List,” by Alexander Alter centered around Hoover herself. In this article, they talk about her amazing success. They start the article by saying “Colleen Hoover has sold more books this year than Dr. Seuss. She has sold more books than James Pat-

terson and John Grisham — combined.” How did she do this? What was her master plan? Did she even have one?

Colleen Hoover was born on December 11th, 1979 in Sulphur Springs, Texas, which makes her a Sagittarius. After graduating from college with a degree in social work, she worked in the field and held teaching jobs before pursuing her writing career. She wrote a book called *Slammed*, which is based on a teenage girl finding slam poetry. Hoover states on her personal website, that she never expected anything to come from it. She self-published this book and the sequel, and slowly but surely, she started to gain a following. As Alter notes, *Slammed* made it to their best-seller list seven months after publication. Many publishers were going after Hoover, wanting to get a piece of her writing. Ultimately, Atria Books, which is a division of Simon

& Schuster, picked up these books and republished them.

Hoover continued to write and create stories for her readers, but one of her most notable works is the popular book, *It Ends With Us*. This book follows a tale of a young woman named Lilly who falls in love with Ryle. It showcases their love and how it leads to domestic violence in their relationship. The book was released in 2016 but gained popularity through BookTok in 2019, which are the book nerds of TikTok i.e. me . This led to the novel being number one on the New York Times best-seller list in January 2022. The immense fame and love for this novel made moves toward the sequel which was just released. *It Starts With Us* hit the shelves in October and according to Atria Books (a subdivision of Simon & Schuster) has already had 800,000 sales, including pre-orders. Altogether, Hoover

claims she has sold more than 20 million books.

If you recall an earlier article I wrote titled, “What is BookTok,” you will understand what I am talking about when I say that advertising through TikTok has completely altered the publishing industry. Many readers and I get all of our book recommendations through our 30-second book recommendation videos. Hoover used this to her advantage early on in the game. By creating a TikTok before she was well-known, she was able to gain a following early on in the game. When the pandemic hit and we were all being confined to our homes, we turned to media to help us ignore what was happening outside our doors. Hoover’s books soared to the top of the charts because it is what readers needed at the time: a distraction. Something else to focus on rather than the news or the fact that the world

would never go back to normal.

Many have said that her writing is not that good. Many believe her books are overrated and are not as good as others. and she feels the same way. In her NYT interview, she says, “I read other people’s books, and I am so envious. I am thinking, ‘Oh my God, these are so much better, so why are mine selling the way they are?’” She answers her own question in her following statement where she says, “ it is not me,” she continued. “The readers are controlling what is selling right now.” We crave her books. They helped us through a tough and ongoing pandemic, and they hold both hope and a way for us to get in a few minutes alone, just us and a book.

Whether you are reading this article and have never heard the name Colleen Hoover or if you are CoHort like myself, she is an author

worth checking out. Whether you are thinking of reading something thrilling like *Verity*, or something that will totally destroy you such as *It Ends With Us*, she has got a book for you. She defies the limits of what a writer can write and inspires readers across the world to not give up on their passions and never sell themselves short. What do you think about her, well, that starts with you?

Works Cited

- Alter, A. (2022, October 10). How colleen hoover rose to rule the best-seller list. The New York Times. Retrieved November 10, 2022, from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/09/books/colleen-hoover.html>

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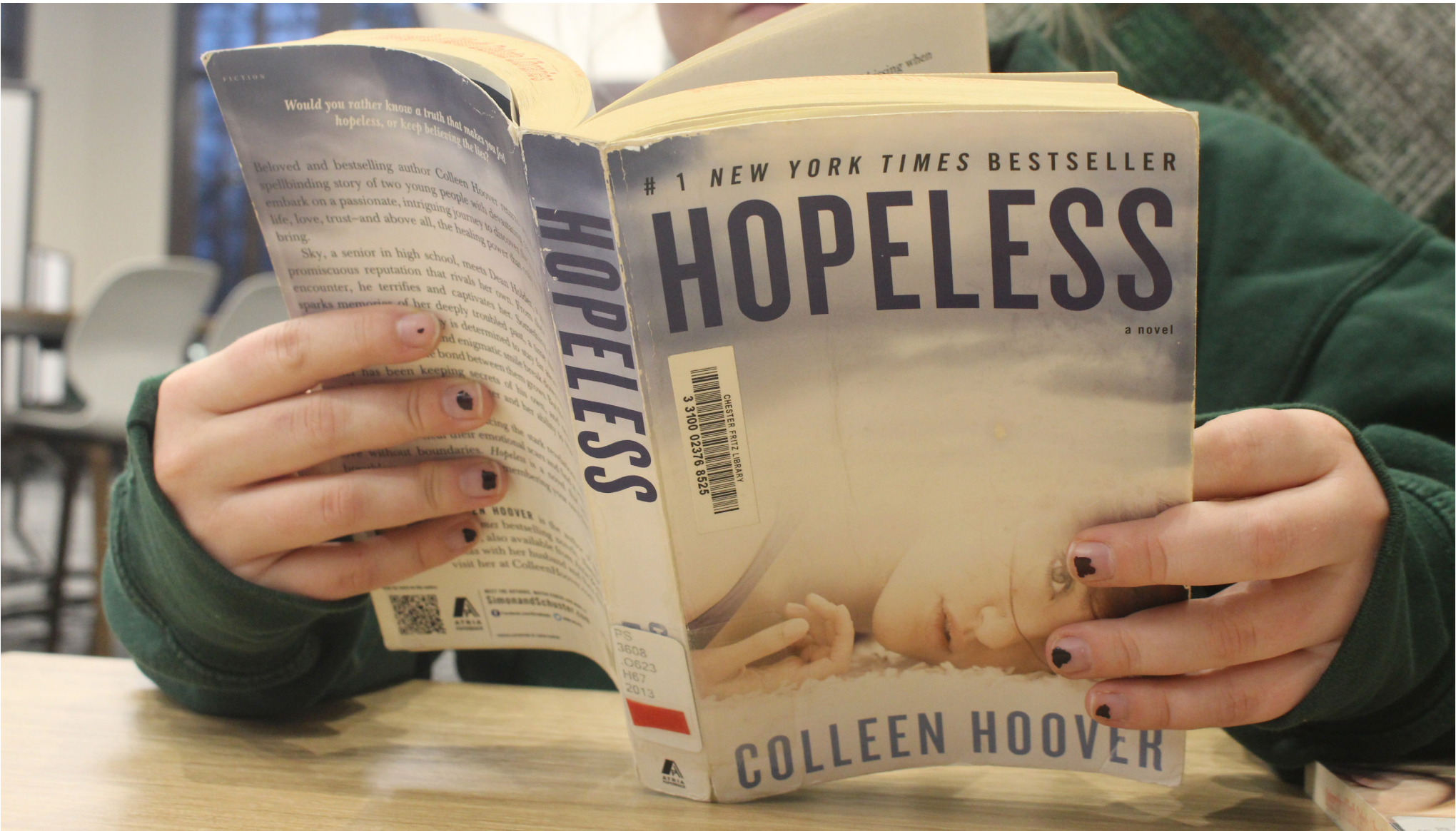


PHOTO COURTESY OF VICTORIA LEDUM

Colleen Hoover has had many self-published books as well as books published by Simon & Schuster.

NOVEMBER 2022-DECEMBER 2022

If you want an event, meeting, or organization to be included in Dakota Student’s biweekly calendar, email kelsie.hildebrand@und.edu with the details.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
13	14	15 - Mens basketball vs Pacific @7	16	17 - Nap-A-Thon at the Wellness Center 1-3 - Cake Pop Day 11-1	18 - Mens Hockey vs Miami @7:07 at the Ralph	19 - Mens Hockey vs Miami @6:07 at the Ralph
20 - Mens Basketball vs Montana State @1	21	22 - Next Dakota Student E-newsletter out! Subscribe @dakotastudent.com - Mens Basketball vs Wisconsin-Stout @7	23 - Thanksgiving break starts	24 - Thanksgiving Day	25 - Black Friday Shopping - Mens Basketball vs Utah Tech @1	26 - Mens Hockey vs Bemidji @6:07 at the Ralph
27 - Mens Basketball vs Cal State Fullerton @1	28	29	30 - Culture Fest 6-9 at the MU	1	2 - Finals Week vouchers start	3

Denver Sweeps North Dakota in Two Game Series

Maeve Hushman
Dakota Student

“You cannot just play good and expect to be great,” Alternate Captain Judd Caulfield said after the University of North Dakota’s Saturday night loss to the University of Denver. The #2 ranked defending NCAA Men’s Ice Hockey Champion University of Denver Pioneers defeated UND in their two-game series with scores of 3-2 and 6-3, respectively, giving DU their first sweep in Grand Forks since 2010.

UND’s performance in Friday’s game was promising. They lost by only one goal, the play seemed evenly matched with a few lapses, and they outshot Denver 23-19. The performance that should have been built off that first night was notably absent.

In Saturday’s game, UND scored the fastest goal in NCHC history. Freshman Dylan James took the puck off the opening faceoff and carried it into Denver’s zone before quickly passing it across the ice to Caulfield. The puck hit Caulfield’s skate, but he quickly maneuvered it onto his stick while still skating toward the net. With a quick shot glove side, Caulfield gave the Hawks a 1-0 lead only 7 seconds into the first period. Even though they opened scoring quickly, UND would only manage two more shots that period, while Denver had 14.

DU scored quickly into the second period, but the goal was waived off due to goaltender interference, while the disallowed goal seemed to kill off DU’s momentum for a moment; DU would score two goals to take the lead. Penalties on Denver’s Kyle Mayhew (Roughing) and Mike Benning (Cross checking) gave UND a 5-on-3 advantage which they capitalized on with Cooper Moore scoring to tie the game briefly. Brent Johnson took a tripping penalty quickly after that game-tying goal. On the power play, Denver’s Carter Mazur restored the lead for Denver, with a 3-2 score coming out of the second.

The third started with UND back on their power-play; despite its usual success, UND could not convert. DU would score two more times before Johnson responded, scoring UND’s 3rd and final goal 13:00 minutes into the third. However, the late rally was not enough. Jared Wright scored DU’s 6th goal on an empty net to complete the win.

Denver played fast, continually outskating the Hawks. While the Pioneers

were not sharp, their speed could cover up their mistakes. DU was strong on the forecheck and could go into the corners to dig out pucks, frequently winning puck battles along the boards. While they raced up the ice, UND tried to keep pace. Sometimes they managed to skate in time with the Pioneer players but seemed less willing to battle along the boards like Denver. It got to the point that while in the offensive zone, Denver would ring the pucks around the boards with the confidence that UND would not take possession away there.

In a Wednesday press conference before both games, there were a few talking points echoed by Dylan James, Ty Farmer, and Head Coach Brad Berry. There was an emphasis on playing a full 60 minutes of their best hockey, sticking to the teams’ systems, taking away space, and committing to whole team defense. Some of those strategies were visible in Friday’s performance, but that team was not on the ice in Saturday’s game.

“They played together as a unit, and we did not,” Defenseman Ethan Frisch said, another alternate captain, post-game after Saturday’s loss. Denver looked like a team with identity and a team that knew how they needed to play to pull out a win. They kept a strategy of being strong on the puck and playing so fast that UND would scramble to keep up. With a team that plays more open-fast hockey like the kind DU was playing, a team that commits to defense and to structure can have much success, but UND let DU set the pace of the game. UND’s roster is littered with talent, and they are more than capable of beating DU, but that cannot be playing DU’s game. It cannot be done when a team does not play together and with one cohesive system and style.

Berry took umbrage with the puck management after Saturday’s game, “I thought puck management was not the best ... the execution from our defenseman or forwards and that fit into their momentum.” UND was not able to maintain possession, and Berry placed some of the blame on over-complicated plays: “We tried to make [it] perfectly rather than a simple play ... the simple play is a ten-foot pass to a guy that’s wide open instead of stretching it through two guys and turning the puck over going the other way.” The “keep it simple” method is vital for highly skilled teams, especially in high-speed games when decision-making can

get muddled. Berry says it comes from a place of care, that every player is trying so hard to win that they overthink the plays they are supposed to make. He praised the line of Matteo Costantini, Griffin Ness, and Nick Portz for not falling into that trap. “They have played simply. They played directly, (they) played in the offensive zone, and ... they did it shift after shift.”

One huge factor for both games was the absence of top UND defenseman Tyler Kleven. Kleven was injured early on Friday night and was out of the lineup for Saturday’s game. His physical presence was missed when it came to winning puck battles and slowing down the pace of play. Regarding Kleven’s status, Berry said post-game, “I would be guessing he will be ready for next weekend.” Hopefully, whatever injury Kleven took was minor, and he can get back to full strength as soon as possible.

It is easy to write about how badly a team plays when they lose. There were a few highlights from this weekend. Rookie Dylan James continued his point streak through the weekend with one assist in Friday’s game and two on Saturday. He showed off his speed in Saturday’s game and was a pivotal contributor to the 7-second goal.

There are glimpses of how good this team can be. They pushed Denver to the outside during the first period and kept high-danger shot attempts down. Even though Denver had 14 shot attempts in the first, they could not score on any of them. Keeping Denver away from the net front and away from clear scoring lanes helped maintain UND’s lead. In the third period of both games, UND pushed and gained back momentum showing they had fight left in them no matter the score. But these glimpses are only a mirage of an NCAA. Championship team until the Hawks can put all the pieces together.

“We know we are better than this,” Frisch said. “We are really a team. You look at us on paper; you see some of our practices we have, even some of the games we’ve played. We are a good team. We could play with a team like that. We are a lot better than that.”

This team needs to find itself. “We are going to be the ones that have to turn this ship around,” Caulfield said. “Just holding guys accountable ... if someone is not playing their best game, you have got to pick them up. You cannot just brush it off and expect things to get better.”

Berry echoed this but focused on on-ice systems. “Do your job within the system and the structure and believe in the system, and the structure works.” There must be 100% team buy-in for a structured and systems-based team to work. With some roster turnover, it might take some time for the new roster to figure out how the systems work and how they work together.

Despite some perceived growing pains, Frisch concluded his media availability with this notion surrounding team unity “We are going to have to support each other but be honest with each other ... at the end of the day, we are all on the same team. We are all one unit.”

The answer is within this team, and once they find their

identity, commit to a system, and play with heart for a full 60 minutes, they will find the success their talented roster promised.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ASPEN JEWKES

The University of North Dakota lost to Denver University this past weekend at the Ralph.

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