

THE MUSTANG

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# **RAAN RULES THE TENNIS COURT**


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# letter from the editor

Dear Readers,

The winter season is upon us, and as North Dakotans, we know the worst weather is yet to come. With a holiday break fast approaching and snow days looming in our near future, the Mustang Post has decided to deliver the news in a brand-new format... PODCASTS!

Despite our consistent mention of this upcoming feature, progress has been difficult to come by. Our staff has been busy interviewing, writing, designing, and more!

It is our utmost priority to deliver quality content, so that being

said, this e-magazine has seen a late release for the holiday season. We appreciate your patience as we work through the details of creating content and learning how to use software that is new to each one of us.

Since we are so eager to share our passions and the school's latest news even throughout the busy December month, blog posts will be scheduled for release sporadically, so stay on the lookout for a great read!

Make sure to stay warm for the holidays. We will see you next year!

With much appreciation,

*Hailey Boehme*

Hailey Boehme, Editor in Chief





# FOOD FOR THOUGHT: SHEYENNE LUNCHROOM DYNAMICS

By: Dairell Alvarico

There are many aspects to consider when creating a firm grasp on social dynamics. Things like circumstance, environment and relationships can determine how unique and diverse it can be.

Society has always been intertwined with the element of change, even if it's forced. Considering all the characteristics of dynamics, this can be easily applied when it comes to the basic idea of school lunches, more specifically in Sheyenne.

If you were to think about it deeply, there is always a reason for certain students to sit in a particular spot, and it varies based on their personal or practical interests.

But how do these types of things come to be? How does one decide to pick a preference in a place as common as a school cafeteria? There are many factors to evaluate to gain understanding.

We can first consider the new arrangement of the lunch tables that happened recently. Due to this unexpected change, students have taken new spots to eat their meals since the ones they usually go to have been positioned differently from what they remember and yet they migrated to the same, general location yet created new lunchroom dynamics.

Everybody has a preferred spot to sit in the commons. Their reasons differ from each other based on how specific it can be. Understandably, many students wished to remain anonymous. So, we won't

be using the students' real names. Let start with, say Sam. According to Sam, "I sit near the counseling office, because on the first day, me and my friend just chose that spot, so we have been sitting there."

Sam's preference then shows that circumstances may only have been rooted from an in-the-moment decision. There is no deep reasoning other than the fact that they both chose a random spot and stuck with it since it was their first choice.

The same student shared that there were no benefits at all that relates to their position, and if there was a day that their seats were occupied, they would either sit on the front or the back of the commons but only for the reason of finding available seats and nothing more. However, this versatility isn't always

the case.

Many students refuse to sit anywhere else. They've chosen a table, and that is their table. Even within their groups, they have a seating chart: one friend sits on one stool and the others have their own stools.

Take, for example, a person whom we'll call Alex. Alex and Alex's friend group have their seating positions set. This is because they sit together with another group of students well acquainted with one of their companions who isn't fond of eating lunch with just one group.

Alex and the others aren't particularly familiar with them, so they tend to sit on the right while the

other group sits on the left with the mutual friend between them.

This writes down that relationship status is considered when it comes to who sits beside whom. According to a student we'll refer to as Toni, seating arrangements in his group are figured out by who is closer with who because, "Some people are like best friends."

This checks out Alex's situation as well. Several groups in the lunchroom consist of more than two students, a lot tend to sit closer to those they are more friendly with, creating a social dynamic that shows how familiar they are to other people.

In other circumstances, most lunch groups with two people prefer the other person to be across them rather than beside them.

A student, say Amy, agrees with this wholeheartedly: "Me and my friend sit facing each other to talk easier. About whom sits where doesn't really matter. My friend tends to be there first, so I just sit across wherever she is."

Another student who will be called Chris made a similar statement as well. "I mean, I don't like to turn my head to the side when I talk to my friend. It gets awkward later and I like to talk while looking at his entire face. That's why I sit across him."

This preference is based on how comfortable

they prefer to talk to someone. Despite multiple people agreeing with sitting across their friend, there are some students that don't mind being beside them either.

Someone who will be called Kim said, "I'm used to sitting beside my friend. I don't really want to change that."

The number of students in an area can also decide someone's seating arrangements.

Toni prefers an emptier and more obscured spot because he prefers a less crowded room.

But if he were to sit beside other people, he would like to sit near the "smart and goofy" students.

In contrast, Jody is more influenced by the types of people she sits next to. Instead of choosing a more vacant area like Toni, she prefers a controlled environment where other students are not "jumping on tables and smashing food." Which also lies with her sitting with quieter people.

This shows that many students have a bias when it comes to the personalities and behaviors of the people around them if they want to interact with anyone at all.

Usually, many students prefer minimum interaction in the lunchroom for reasons that involve their desire to have time for only themselves, but it



Area near the restroom and garbage cans

doesn't stop there.

Room temperature is also a factor when it comes to choosing different seats.

Jody likes to sit near the doors because she likes a cooler environment. A student named Jacob also has the same preference: "Anywhere is fine as long as it's not in the heat."

From what was gathered, a few students want to be in the cooler area of the lunchroom. This ties with the fact that a crowded room will be likely to form up heat from body temperature.

I have noticed that Jacob doesn't sit near the doors that lead outside, but he is around the area near the vending machines where the double doors that lead to a freezer are usually open and a cold breeze would come out from time to time, also he is always at the edge of the table, the area with less people.

Seating arrangements are also chosen by the conveniences that students want to be closer to for less distance between them and what they need.

Take for example, Jody; she likes it when she is close to the garbage cans and restrooms. The reasons are clear enough.

She likes to clean her tray with less time to waste compared to if she were to be across the room where her walk would be lengthy and time consuming.

Additionally, she would also use the restroom without worrying about borrowed time or vacancy.

Toni's seating position is more on his convenience after lunch break ends. His arrangement helps him with his desired convenience to be closer to his next class.

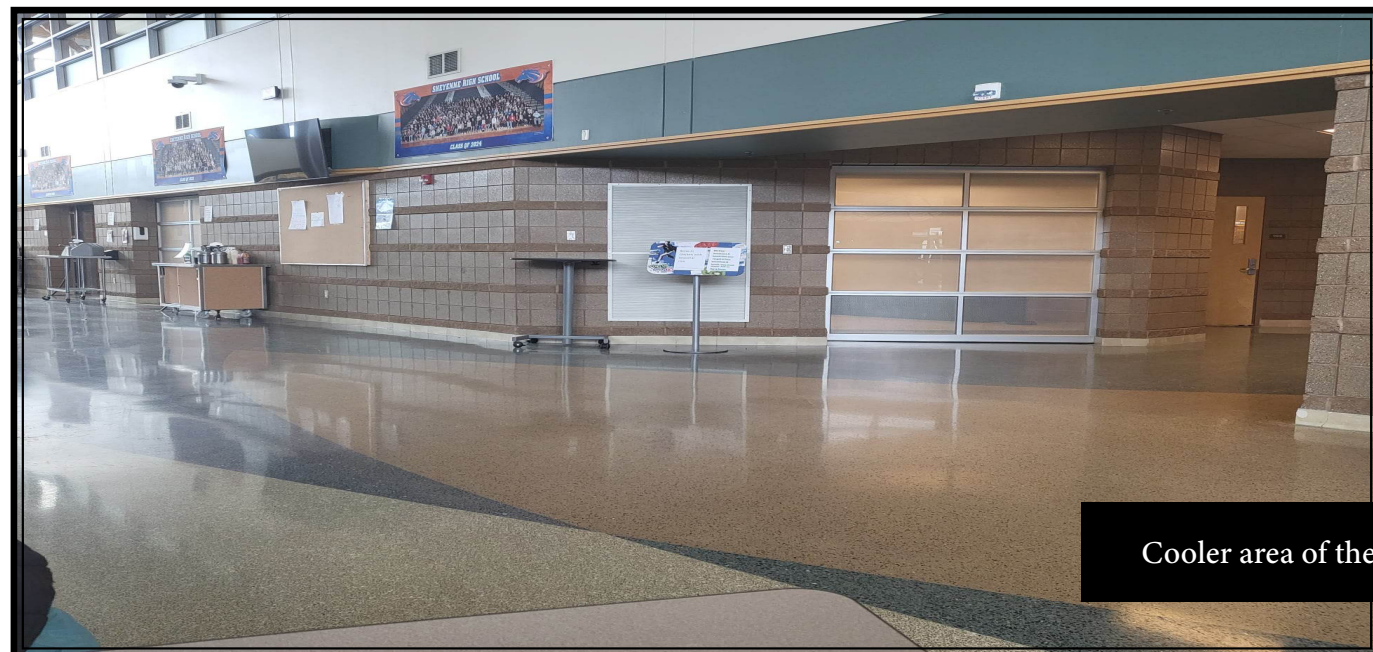
This is applied to many other students who would be near the stairs or the tables across the theater or gym.

Time is of the essence and in this scenario, a factor in how students find their place in the lunchroom.

Surprisingly, the intent to be closer to people is a familiar factor in seating arrangements.

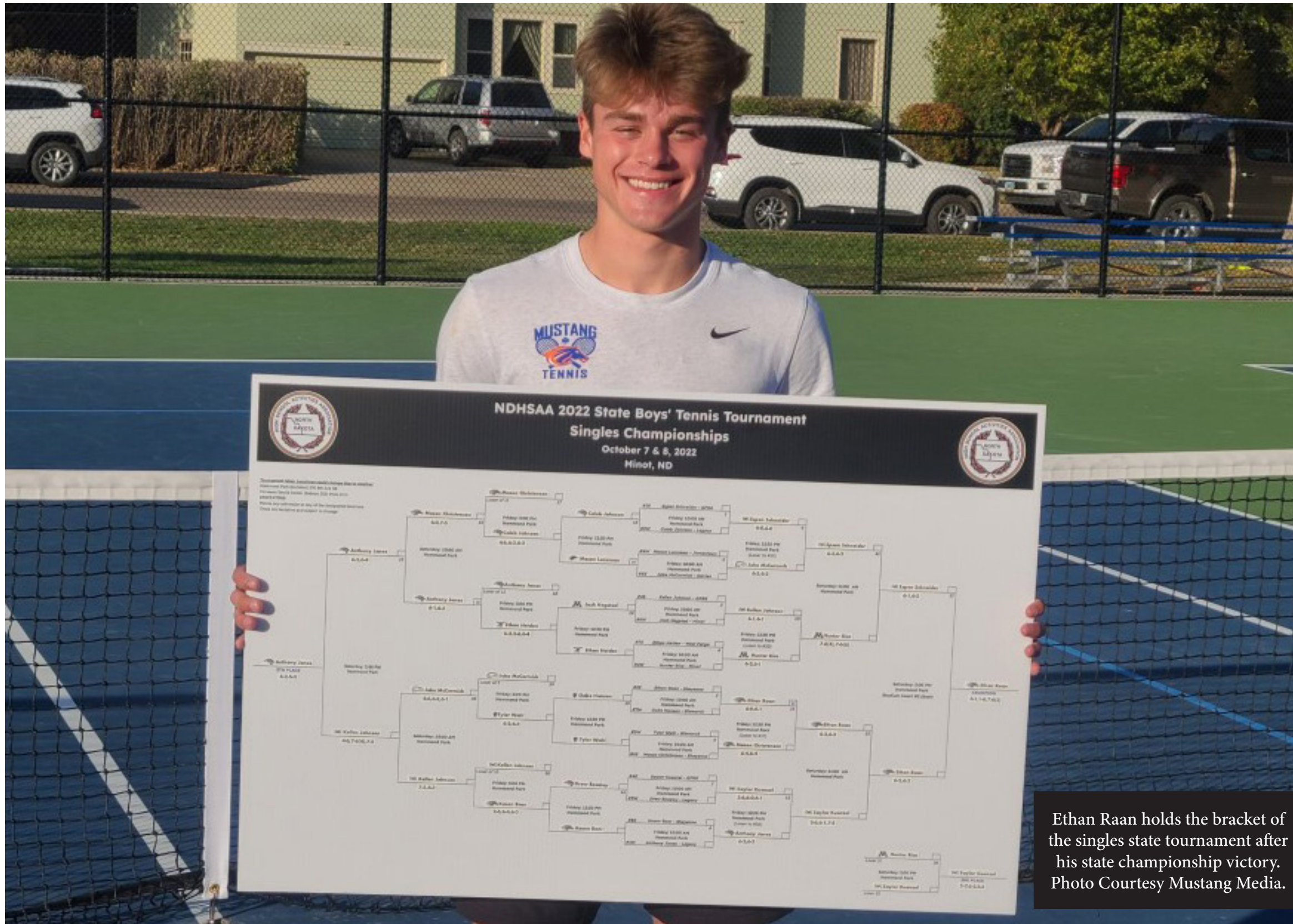
A student called John likes to sit beside someone he is interested in to increase the chances of them talking to each other. Other students have also admitted to this.

Based on all this information, lunchroom dynamics are formed by one or more components based on what a student wants or needs: relationships, environment, peers and personal taste in certain parts of the room. All these alone create diverse surroundings revolving around a student's preference.



Cooler area of the lunchroom

# RAAN RULES TENNIS COURT: MAKES SHS HISTORY



By Jaxson Miller

West Fargo Sheyenne senior Ethan Raan is on top of the North Dakota high school tennis world after he claimed the singles championship on Saturday, October 8, at Hammond Park in Minot.

Raan defeated Grand Forks Red River's Espen Schneider in the final round of the NDHSA (North Dakota High School Activities Association) Boys Tennis Singles State Tournament.

Raan is the first player to win an individual state championship for the Sheyenne boys' tennis program.

"It was very rewarding to bring the boys' tennis program at Sheyenne its first state title and I couldn't have done it without my teammates" Raan said. "Coach Anderson and Coach Healy have always set high standards for the team and encouraged hard work, and I feel that my success is a direct product of that."

He redeemed himself against Schneider in a third set tiebreaker, 6-1, 1-6, 7-6 (7-3). Schneider defeated Raan 6-2 and 6-4 in the EDC (Eastern Dakota Conference) singles championship just a week prior.

Ethan Raan had nothing but a humble attitude towards his state championship opponent, "In regards to Espen, my opponent, it was our fifth time playing against each other this season and at this point we were 2-2. He's a great tennis player and I enjoy playing competitors like him." Raan was able to get the last laugh.

Ethan Raan went into the state tournament as the number two seed player from the East region.

He started off with a great win (6-0, 6-1) over Bismarck's Gabe Hanson in the first round and got the chance to play his Sheyenne teammate, junior Mason Christensen, in the quarterfinal round.

Ethan Raan holds the bracket of the singles state tournament after his state championship victory. Photo Courtesy Mustang Media.

Raan defeated Christensen 6-4, 6-4, to move onto the semifinal round.

He had a blast playing against his teammate in a match that had a lot on the line, “Playing Mason in the quarterfinals was great because it meant we had both been successful in the rounds prior” Raan said. “We had fun playing each other and continued to support each other in the matches that followed. He’s a great player and teammate and I can’t wait to see where next season takes him.”

Raan continued his state title run with a semifinal win over Grand Forks Red River’s Saylor Kuenzel, capturing a 6-2, 6-2 victory.

The journey to the mountain top was complete with the win over Schneider in the final round.

The EDC players came to play at the state tournament as Ethan Raan was in the mix of seven players from Sheyenne, Fargo South, Fargo North, and Fargo Davies, who were either in the championship or consolation semifinals.

Grand Forks Central’s Evan Panzer and Cole

Wilber won the doubles state championship over Mandan’s Karter Hatzenbuhler and Brady Helbling.

Raan was hungry for a state title this year as he was close to achieving one last year but lost in the single semifinals to Shanley’s Kai Pierce (3-6, 7-6(4), 6-4).

He finished last year’s season on a high note with a win (3-6, 6-1, 6-3) over Grand Forks Central’s Ryder McDonald in the third-place match.

Fortunately things turned out differently this year.

The state champion himself was extra motivated all season long, “I didn’t feel that I had to redeem myself after taking third place last year as I went out on a win and played great players in the semis and the third place match. If anything, I gained confidence from it and it encouraged me to work harder for my senior season.”

Due to his success, Ethan Raan was voted the 2022 Senior Athlete of the Year.

Sheyenne’s boys tennis team went 19-3 overall



The 2022 West Fargo Sheyenne boys tennis team took third place as a team at the state tournament in Minot, North Dakota. Photo courtesy Mustang Media.



The three seniors Ethan Raan (left), Nate Angus (middle), and Kasen Baer (right), with the third place team trophy. Photo courtesy Mustang Media.

and 8-1 in conference play. The program took third place as a team in the state tournament.

Raan felt that the team’s success helped him create a champion mindset going into the state championship against Espen Schneider, “My mindset going into the state championship was it was now or never. It was my last match of my high school tennis career and for that reason I wanted to win for myself and for my team” he said.

With that mindset, Raan also felt no pressure, “Although I was very motivated to win, I was also grateful to have made it that far and felt fortunate to have the opportunity. With the team qualifying for state, it had already been a great season that I and my teammates were proud of. So I went into the match feeling no pressure.”

One of the best things an athlete can do is finish their high school career on a high note, and go out with a bang, and Ethan Raan did just that. The young man has a bright future ahead of him.

Raan spoke about his future plans, “I plan on playing tennis in college in some capacity, whether

it’s for a college team or club team. It all depends on what school I attend. At the moment, I’m interested in studying astrophysics/astronomy and aerospace engineering and aspire to have a career in a space-related field.”

It is safe to say that the Mustang family is very proud of Ethan Raan. He will look to have more success this spring, which will be his final high school track season.

Raan is an explosive, fast-twitch athlete, who will qualify for state in the 100m and 200m dashes once again along with being on the 4x100 and 4x200 relay teams.

One thing is for certain, Ethan Raan’s tennis state title run is something he will remember for the rest of his life.

# TWO RAPPERS' RISE AND ONE'S FALL

By Logan Jacobs

Chance The Rapper was a name that used to rule the world of Hip Hop, after the release of "Coloring Book", "Acid Rain", and "10 Day" Chance felt like an artist that could never fail. Six years later Redveil is making a name for himself long after Chance's era.

Chance The Rapper or Chancelor Bennett started his early career releasing his first mixtape, "10 Day" when he was only 18 years old. 10 years later Redveil or Marcus Morton would release his third album "Learn 2 Swim" at 18 years old.

Both young artists would soon find success because of their breakout hit. But will Redveil make the same mistakes Chance did, or will he continue his success?

Chance in 2011 would get caught on campus with marijuana and soon get suspended for 10 days, inspiring his mixtape "10 Day." Eight months after that incident Chance would release his first mixtape.

Chance was an artist who instantly blew up and with that came people's expectations. During the 2012 tour Chance would be working on his new mixtape, "Acid Rap."

This new work would delve into Chance and his relationship with drugs and smoking. Chance

would meet the expectations put on him and even surpass them, Acid Rap really showed Chance's talent for making music. With his talent Chance would continue to rise in the Hip HOP SCENE.

Chance's last mixtape would come out to critical acclaim and became the first project ever to chart



Chance The Rapper performing on tour

solely because of streams. In May of 2016 after almost 3 years of radio silence about his next project Chance would release "Coloring Book."

Once again, it felt like Chance had surpassed his previous work and with it Chance took his spot on top of the music world. Over the next three



years Chance would tour two times all while working on "The Big Day."

Despite how much time he put in, his first studio album would not turn out the way fans or Chance wanted. At no where near the quality of his past works, fans were left wondering what could have led to such a failure. About a year after The Big Day was released, the public would find out the reasons behind the subpar album.

During the recording sessions Chance reportedly had "Procrastination and lackadaisical effort." Chance's future is now full of uncertainty, with no clue on when or if he will release another mixtape or album.

Redveil was just 12 when he got into making music, but it wouldn't be until 16 that he would release his first album, "Bittersweet City."

His first album wouldn't give him immediate success but instead lay the groundwork for his future projects. Just under a year later Marcus would drop his second album "Niagara", Marcus' breakout hit would not come until about a year and a half later. "Learn 2 Swim" would come out to almost instant success because of the lead single, "pg baby."

After blowing up the expectations on Marcus increased ten-fold. For right now we have no clue if Marcus will keep up the trend of improving with every work, or if he will stumble like Chance.

Redveil performing at NextNOW Fest



# LOSS AND AGONY FOR SHS FOOTBALL

By Jaxson Miller

There's two things every athlete feels in sports based on the outcome of their games. The thrill of victory, or the agony of defeat.

However, it is all about how athletes respond to the wins or to the losses. More importantly, the losses.

Maybe more specifically, when expectations are not met, how should athletes react to the unexpected? Change, or the unexpected is hard and challenging.

And yet, in that change, in the unexpected, there's more to learn, more to achieve, more to reflect upon, more to look forward to. This may be the case for the 2022 Sheyenne Mustangs' football squad.

West Fargo Sheyenne went into the first round of the NDHSAA (North Dakota High School Activities Association) Class 11AA playoffs with a seven-game winning streak and as the number one seed.

The Mustangs were coming off a 28-17 victory against the #2 Mandan Braves in the regular season finale. Sheyenne finished the regular season at 8-1.

The Mustangs faced off against the Bismarck Century Patriots, the number eight seed.

Bismarck Century was most dominant program of the 2010s and the team who defeated West Fargo Sheyenne in back-to-back Dakota Bowls in 2019 and 2020.

However, the Patriots finished the 2022 regular season with a losing record of 3-6, which is something that fans are not used to seeing.

West Fargo Sheyenne defeated Bismarck Century in week 3 of the regular season, 41-14.

The Mustangs looked to begin another playoff run against the Patriots in order to reach their fourth straight Dakota Bowl and have a shot at winning



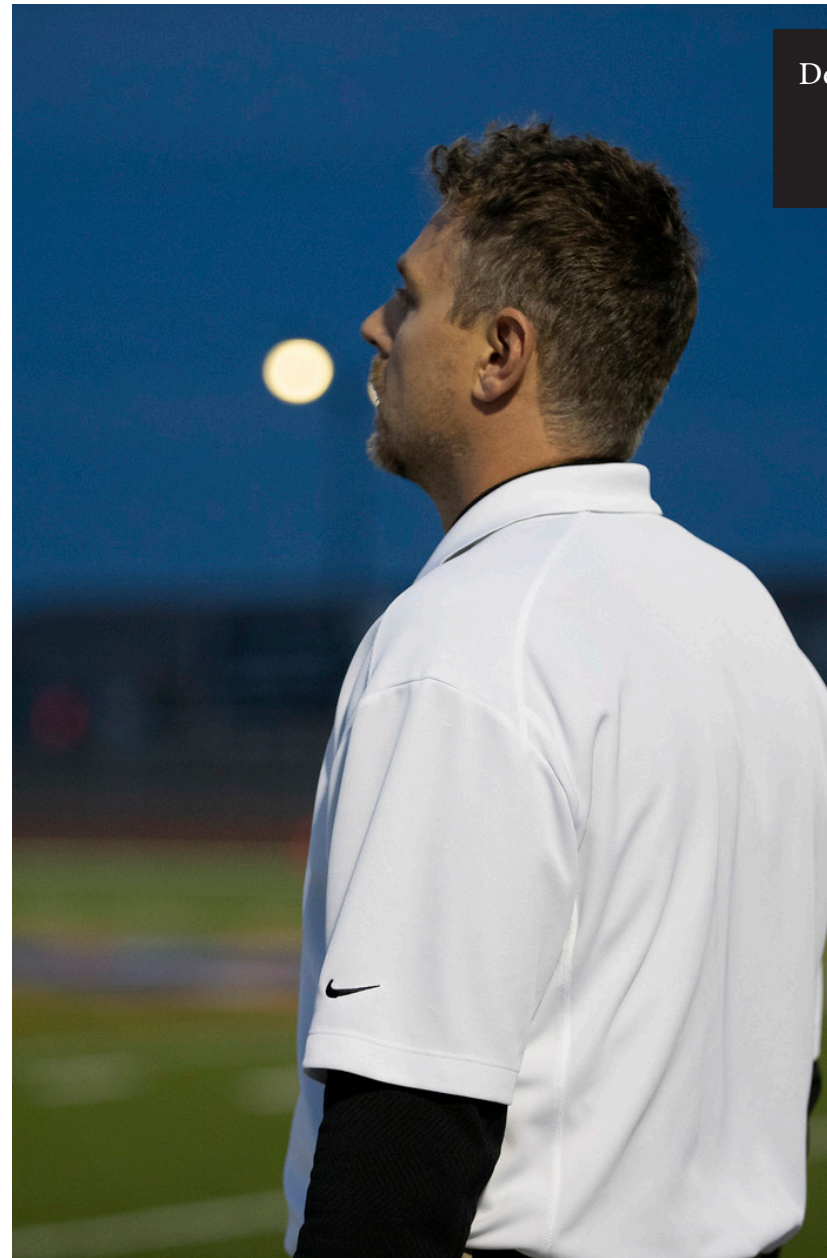
Slot back Race Wilson gets ready to run his route during Sheyenne's 11AA quarterfinal playoff game against Bismarck Century on Friday, October 28, at Essentia Health Mustang Stadium.

Photo courtesy Lillian Wirtz.



Cornerback Ty Schlichting gets ready to defend during Sheyenne's 11AA quarterfinal playoff game against Bismarck Century on Friday, October 28, at Essentia Health Mustang Stadium.

Photo courtesy Lillian Wirtz.



Defensive coordinator Josh Karch moments before kickoff.  
Photo courtesy Lillian Wirtz.

The Mustangs turned the ball over a whopping six times.

Sheyenne fumbled on their second drive of the game.

Century capitalized with a touchdown reception by William Ware, a Minot State basketball commit.

For the majority of the first half, the Sheyenne defense was able to keep Century at seven points. The Mustang offense on the other hand, could not get anything going.

Century's quarterback, Kyan Barth, connected with wide receiver Ryan Brynjolfson for a 44-yard touchdown pass late in the second quarter, after Sheyenne fumbled again.

Century led 14-0 at halftime.

The Patriots got the ball to start the second half.

Century faced a third down and needed eight yards to get a first down. Kyan Barth threw a 38-yard touchdown pass to running back Peyton Arndt.

Century took a 20-0 lead.

Sheyenne answered by driving down the field easily on their next drive, which was capped off with a rushing touchdown by Kaden Rahr.

The Mustangs were able to convert on the two-point conversion to make it a 20-8 game, with 4:34 to go in the third quarter.

Sheyenne's defense came up with big stops on the next two Century drives. One of those defensive stops included a top-ten play.

Marcus Johnson intercepted Kyan Barth on 3rd and 23, with 11:04 to go in the fourth quarter.

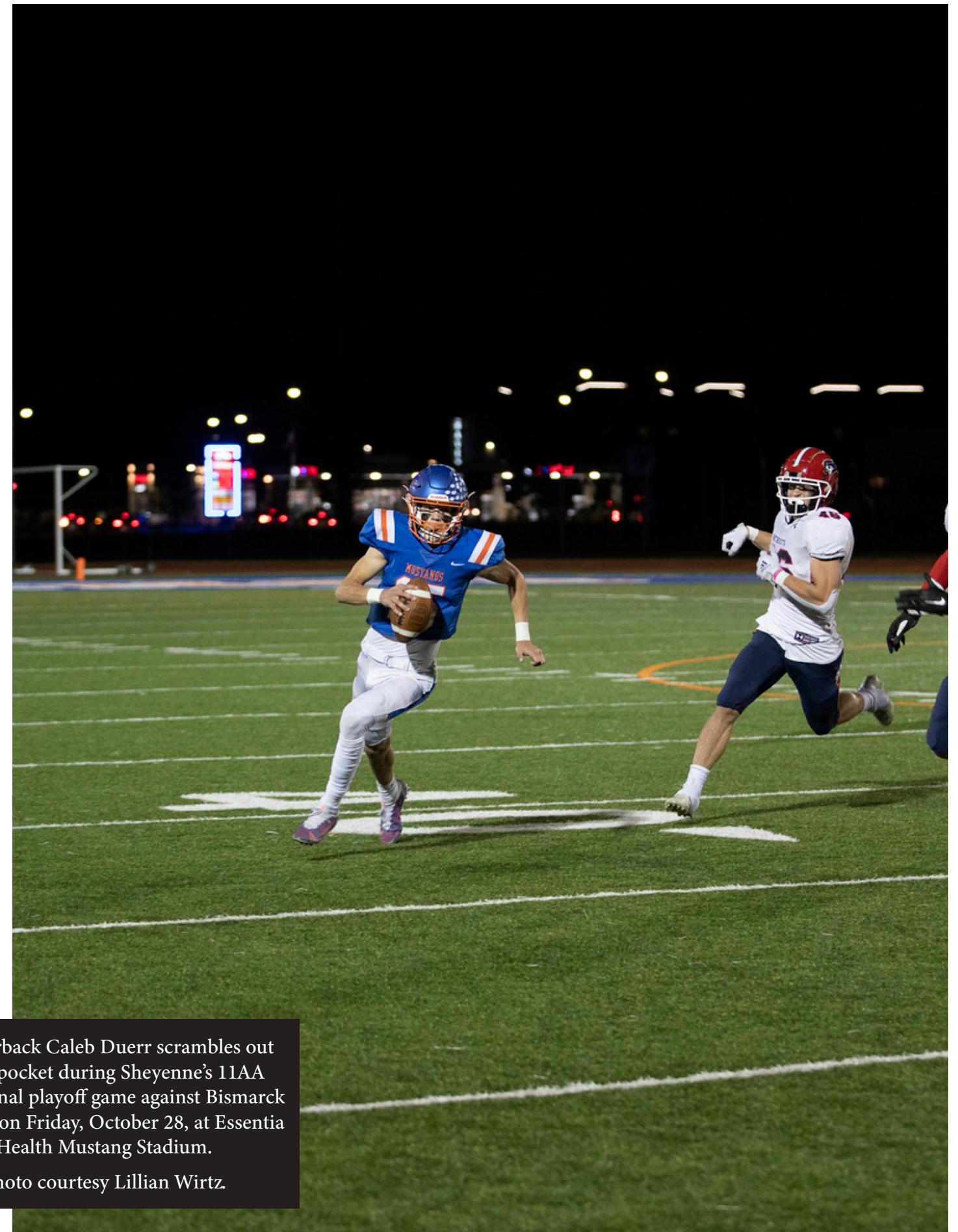
their second straight state title.

Bismarck Century began to hit their stride going into the quarterfinal round against West Fargo Sheyenne. Century started 0-5 before winning three of their last four regular season games.

The Patriots came out firing on all cylinders against the Mustangs and were able to pull off a 27-8 upset victory at Essentia Health Mustang Stadium on Friday, October 28.

And just like that, the season was over for the Mustangs. There would be no back-to-back champion.

The Mustang faithful was stunned at what just happened. The fans were wondering how this could have happened?



Quarterback Caleb Duerr scrambles out of the pocket during Sheyenne's 11AA quarterfinal playoff game against Bismarck Century on Friday, October 28, at Essentia Health Mustang Stadium.  
Photo courtesy Lillian Wirtz.



Issac Kanega receives a handoff from Caleb Duerr during Sheyenne's 11AA quarterfinal playoff game against Bismarck Century on Friday, October 28, at Essentia Health Mustang Stadium.

Photo courtesy Lillian Wirtz.

Unfortunately, Sheyenne failed to score on their final three drives.

Bismarck Century scored one last touchdown with 1:42 to go in the game, right after they recovered a muffed punt.

The 27-8 first round loss to Bismarck Century will arguably go down as the most heartbreaking loss in Sheyenne's football history. Sheyenne finished the 2022 season 8-2.

Bismarck Century was able to defeat Fargo Davies in the semifinals, 12-0, to punch their ticket to another Dakota Bowl.

The Shanley Deacons blew the Bismarck Century Patriots out of the water in the Dakota Bowl. It was a 48-7 victory for the Deacons and they captured their first state title since 2018 and their 17th overall.

This was also Shanley's 10th state title in the modern era, which began in 1975, and the first time Shanley won the state title in the highest division since 1983.

The 2022 Mustangs featured another great squad that was full of well-rounded athletes. They looked very solid throughout their seven-game winning streak.

The seven-game winning streak started after Sheyenne lost to Fargo Davies, 35-6, in week 2.

Starting quarterback Caleb Duerr finished his first season as a starter with 90 carries, 585 rushing yards, and 9 rushing touchdowns. He was 50/116 through the air and had 839 passing yards, 11 passing touchdowns, and finished with 5 interceptions thrown.

Race Wilson was the leading rusher and receiver on this Mustang football squad this season.

Wilson had 115 carries, 639 rushing yards, and punched in 4 rushing touchdowns. He also caught

21 passes from Caleb Duerr, had 222 receiving yards, and had 2 receiving touchdowns.

Senior fullback Issac Kanega, who can squat 515lbs, ran 123 times, gained a total of 505 yards, and had 7 rushing touchdowns.

Senior slot back Kaden Rahr, ran for 336 yards on 83 carries, and had 4 rushing touchdowns as well. Barieyedum Kpeenu had 48 carries, 331 yards, and 2 rushing touchdowns.

Wide receiver Dylan Beyl finished his senior season with 10 receptions, 194 receiving yards, and 2 receiving touchdowns.

Aiden Knodel, another senior wide receiver, caught 8 passes, had 151 receiving yards, and 1 touchdown.

Defensive end Karter Menz, the University of Minnesota commit, led the EDC AA in sacks for the second straight year, with 10.

The Mustangs defense will also miss the contributions from Nic Renner, Marcus Johnson, Ross Olson, and Ty Schlichting.

Marcus Johnson had four interceptions this season. One of them was a pick-six, which occurred against West Fargo High in week 7.

Sheyenne is going to miss the seniors that are graduating this year, but they also had a few juniors such as Caleb Duerr, Race Wilson, and Barieyedum Kpeenu, who will return next year.

The Mustangs will look to bounce back in 2023 and try to make another run to the Dakota Bowl and capture another state title.

Sheyenne's football program has grown so much since their inaugural season that took place back in 2014, and will be a team that will continue to be fun to watch in the years to come.

# What Makes a Movie Great?

By Carter Phillips

Great prestige is given to cinema. Frequently considered the hardest profession to get into, multimillion dollar industries have you in their scheme. They want you to climb a collapsed ladder and spend all your money hopelessly waiting to be discovered.

Stanley Kubrick is a filmmaker. I am a filmmaker. You can be one too. Wealth and class do not matter.

If you want to be a filmmaker start by getting a camera and shooting. I don't care what you shoot, just shoot something. It is my recommendation that you begin with documentary, as not to worry about working with (most likely non-professional) actors and the mind games that goes along with it.

I've already suggested what could make a great movie. Now I will suggest HOW to make a movie and how to do it with little to no money.

On May 11th, 2022, I publicly released my movie *They Came from the Attic*, to almost entirely positive feedback.

Making the movie was one of the hardest challenges of my life, the most challenging being my current project *The Lost Memories of Slumber* but I am not discouraged.

I am proud, not because I think that the movie is great, but because it is significantly better than what I and everyone else was expecting.

Me and my friends made a nearly feature length movie at the age of 15 and 16.

I am not completely apposed to film school,

but I've seen a lot of student films and thought, "It didn't do them any good."

This is to explain that it's hard to teach art, because its rules are invented within you.

Don't seek approval from other people for you will never be satisfied. Take criticism but don't let it discourage you. Let it help you get better.

I'll mention practical mistakes that can be avoided as well as general advice I want to give.

The type of camera you use doesn't have to be expensive, as long as it is not getting in the way of your camerawork. If the quality is low, then have the films tone become a good fit for it.

Black and white is a good place to start. It looks nice, feels dreamy, and is easier to shoot well.

It took me until my fourth film project to begin working with full color. If you do make films in color, I'd suggest that you make an emphasis on them. Make them look pleasing, not dull. If it feels right, use gels over your lights.

It is a myth that you need massive and expen-

A frame from my film *The Lost Memories of Slumber* (2023) which showcases what you can do for a shot on a budget



Notice the usage of natural lighting which spotlights the room and envelopes the stairway in shadow, the colors which shine in a heavenly whites, encompassed by blue signifying tragedy and a pinkish red for danger. Also notice the frame within a frame technique which boxes actor Gavin Villareal as he strikes a Conrad Veidt pose. The camera is dramatically placed at the bottom of the steps to create a foreboding feeling.

sive lighting equipment to make good cinematography. A great cinematographer can paint a shot with bare necessities. If you have no lights to use, shoot near a window just be weary of continuity.

I've shot many scenes without having to use more than a lamp, two flashlights, ceiling lights and a strong but small LED light.

I'd recommend using a trick by Akira Kurosawa which was invented in his production: Rashomon. A mirror can amplify and reposition light.

Repositioning your light source is where the fun begins. Changing the angles of where your light(s) are coming from can make a more pleasing image, but more importantly, can change the tone of the shot.

Keep in mind that setting up lighting cannot take hours per shot. I take about an hour to shoot each scene, two occasionally for location shooting. Pillow, effect shots and most inserts can be shot afterwards.

Depending on the mood you want, no artificial lighting is needed for exteriors.

Shooting at night outside is difficult for a beginner, I'd suggest shooting day for night or shooting in the evening because to shoot something, you need a light source.

If you do a day for night shot, make sure shadows aren't distracting.

Do as little effects in post as possible but remember to color grade your film. I color grade each shot, sometimes each take individually to ensure that it looks as good as possible.

It is a myth that you need a budget to make a good movie. You need very little to make a good film.

Write scripts that don't require money. Make a movie about the world your given before you make one about a world you've created.

If you can't afford a tripod then balance your camera on books, chairs and stools. One shot in They Came from the Attic used a tripod.

Under almost all circumstances, you need nice microphones.

Rely on yourself. If you ask your friends if they

Before color grading



A frame from The Lost Memories of Slumber



After color grading

want to be in your movie they will probably say yes. If you want their help, they will abandon you. In middle school I could never get passed pre-production because none of my friends were reliable.

Just before writing this article, I had to talk to a crew member because he was unable to shoot one second unit shot for

the movie. He had been procrastinating for weeks and finally told me that he didn't have time to get it done and that he misunderstood what I wanted.

Regardless of if he was lying, I made sure he knew I was disappointed, but I didn't get mad, even though I wanted to. Loosing your temper is a reckless way to direct. I now know what jobs

I can give him that I can expect him to achieve. I if got mad, he would have viewed me as an angry boss, not a friend.

In moviemaking, it is my belief that a director should see all cast and crew as equal. He should take all of their good ideas and all of his good ideas and filter them together into one vision.

That does not mean he should rely on them. Pouting about not getting all the help you want is childish. A new director should be happy to get any help. His early films are most likely trash anyways, just as my current films often leave me unsatisfied.

If you watch a rough cut of your film and hate it, then learn from your mistakes. Ask people

what you did wrong. You don't need advice from critics, you can also get it from regular people, for it is them who you are making it for.

It is a lie that you are making a film for yourself. Everybody wants recognition. You are making a film for the world, to be eternal through you.

Don't try to please everybody.

We are too diverse a people for that. Pick a demographic and start shooting. If the film has a heart, you are in the right direction.

There will never be enough words to teach filmmaking. You can always learn more. There is always a new level of greatness a film can ascend to.



A frame from my film *They Came from the Attic: The Revised Cut* (2022). Notice the usage of greyscale color grading, artificial lighting, texturing, stylized compression, and dramatic framing

# Hailey's **ULTIMATE** Guide to the Best Holiday Gifts

By Hailey Boehme

## Sentimental:

We all know the classic gifts that everyone resorts to for the holidays: candles, scented lotion, gift cards, stuffed animals, or candy. While all of that is great occasionally, I have more KitKats than I know what to do with.

Please listen to me when I say that my stockpile of random facemasks has never dwindled. Not once.

Now you may be asking yourself “What do I even get anyone then??”

Have no fear..Allow me to present to you Hailey's Ultimate Guide to the Best Holiday Gifts!

Coming from a teenage girl, I feel a lot of pressure to get my closest friends and family the best gifts as a token of my appreciation for them. Over time, it has occurred to me that no one is expecting the most “perfect” and expensive gift.

Sentimental Gifts:

Personally, my favorite gifts, both to give and receive, are those that have sentimental value.

In order to come up with a meaningful gift, I first take time to consider the things I know are most important to that person. To put this into perspective, it's time to dive into the examples.

Those who are close to me know that I never miss out on an opportunity to appreciate the sky. In honor of my passion for admiring the beauty of sunsets, I was gifted a framed collage of my friend's most awe inspiring (and personally captured) sunset images.

Another passion that I've found to be shared amongst a wide variety of people is for mental health. There are ways to get creative with mental health in mind, and the ones I happen to be most fond of include bracelets, shirts, stickers, pins, and room decorations that focus on promoting positive messages. If tangible gifts aren't your thing, coming together to help a non-profit organization that advocates for change is an out of the box way to show support for a loved one.

The last thing that I will mention holds a special place in my heart: DIY gifts. Painted picture frames, handwritten notes, photo albums, tie blankets, beaded or thread bracelets, etc.



## Significant others:

Not everyone tends to agree with my ideas for this topic, BUT HEAR ME OUT!

My first controversial point is that you should not need to spend a lot of money. There are many small things that can go a long way.

1. A clothing swap. If you're anything like me, you love things that remind you of the ones you love, and wearing their clothes is the perfect way to do that.
2. Signature scents. If clothing does not work out, perfume, cologne, or any scented spray is a great way to have a piece of someone with you, even if they can't be there physically.
3. Open when.... letters. This idea is popular on the internet because it is a cheap, yet meaningful, present. These letters come sealed with specific instructions on when to open each one. Some examples of this might be "open when you miss me" or "open when you need a good laugh".
4. Activities to do together. Anything from Legos, puzzles, movies, video games, baking ingredients, and gift cards to your go-to restaurants can work for this idea.
5. Matching is adorable. The most common matching items are stuffed animals, pajama pants, shoes, and jewelry. It can be as subtle or obvious as you want and is a fantastic way to show off your relationship.



This is something I have struggled with my whole life. Mom- if you are reading this: STOP BUYING YOURSELF THINGS RIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS TIME! Anyways...

As for all the other sections, the best thing to consider is personal interests and ways to help them with things they frequently complain about. For example, my mother enjoys Hallmark movies, walking our dog, unironically cheesy shirts, and reading. On the other end of the spectrum, she despises cold weather, my dad listening to videos at full volume, and coming up with things to make for family dinner.

To satisfy her movie obsession (yes, I do mean obsession), I planned a movie marathon night. This night would be complete with popcorn, candy, a candle, fuzzy blankets, and heartwarming holiday Hallmark movies.

As for walking the dog, my mom needed some upgrades. The leash was breaking, her coat was not ready to withstand North Dakota chills, and her mittens... well... they have been chewed up a few times.

After returning home from her walks, she usually starts to cook for our family. In an effort to make things easier for her, I have created a recipe book. With the help of recipes, I can not only lend a hand for cooking, but I can also avoid saying "I don't know" when she asks me what I want to eat.

Using my mom's claim of my father having horrible hearing abilities (I am convinced they are entirely selective), I came up with a present my dad would actually enjoy.

Instead of buying him random shirts that he shoves under his bed, never to be seen again, my sister and I pooled our money together to purchase AirPods. This saved him from blasting YouTube videos that you can hear across our house and allowed him to work more efficiently at home by being able to take work calls on the go.

Additionally, my dad LOVES to experiment cooking food on an open fire, smoker, and grill. For as long as I can remember, we have been getting him new tools to try out, and it never seems to get old. From customized spatulas, grill covers, a smokeless firepit, cleaning brushes, and various food items to cook, he loves it all.

In the end, the thing to take away from all of this is to make time to spend with those who are important to you. No gift is better than that of community and coming together. The holidays are ultimately about taking time to reflect on the things you are most grateful for.

No matter the gift you end up giving or getting, it is truly the thought that counts. Happy holidays Mustang Post!

Parents & Adults:



# Rise of Bangtan

## Powerhouse BTS Surges K-pop Popularity

By Ashleigh Varing

Last month we looked at K-pop's rise to fame not only in South Korea, but internationally as well, and why so many have taken to the community. BTS was a huge help in this popularity surge, but how did they become the powerhouses in the industry that they are today?

It all started with Kim Namjoon. At thirteen, he became an underground rapper, his prominence within the community growing over time. He was invited to audition for an underground hip-hop agency, and one of the judges (Sleepy from the rap duo Untouchable) was so impressed with Namjoon's skills that he referred him to Bang Si-hyuk, the CEO of Big Hit Entertainment. Namjoon ended up auditioning for the company, becoming the first member of BTS.

The second member to join was Min Yoongi, who was active as a rapper and producer under the name 'Gloss.' He had made a name for himself as a

member of a group titled "D-TOWN" (named for the city, Daegu, where the group originated). At seventeen years old, he tried out for Big Hit Entertainment after seeing a poster advertising the auditions. He ended up getting second place and joined the agency as a producer. He was later "tricked" into joining BTS, becoming the group's second member.

Jung Hoseok, despite being one of BTS' rappers,

wasn't in the underground hip-hop scene like Namjoon or Yoongi. In fact, he was a street dancer in a dance team called Neuron. He auditioned for one of the largest companies in K-pop, JYP Entertainment, though he was rejected and later decided to give Big Hit a chance. He had plenty of potential, so Si-hyuk didn't hesitate to accept him into the agency as a trainee. He almost wasn't included in BTS' lineup, though Namjoon convinced the company that the group needed him, and so he became the group's third member.

Kim Seokjin, the band's fourth addition, wasn't planning to have a career in music at all; he was an acting major with no experience in singing, rapping, or dancing. A Big Hit representative saw him exiting a bus and persuaded him to sign on with the label, and through eight months of hard work and dedication, Seokjin managed to perfect the pristine vocals he's known for.

Jeon Jungkook, the youngest member of the band, was only thirteen when he auditioned for a show called "Superstar K" in his hometown of Busan. He was eliminated from the competition, though seven agencies scouted him in hopes of signing him to their label, one being JYP Entertainment. Why, then, did Jungkook turn down most of those offers and choose to sign with Big Hit? Well, as said by Jungkook himself, "I thought Namjoon was so cool, so I wanted to sign with them. I told my parents that I wanted to join, and so I signed."

Kim Taehyung, the sixth member to join the group, came to the auditions in Daegu to support a friend of his. He didn't plan on auditioning, though a staff member encouraged him to try out, so he got permission from his father and auditioned on the spot. He passed the audition and was welcomed into the company, though he was kept a secret until eleven days prior to their debut.



BTS (L to R: Taehyung/V, Yoongi/SUGA, Seokjin/Jin, Jungkook, Namjoon/RM, Jimin, Hoseok/j-hope) for their N.O concept photos.

Park Jimin was encouraged by his dance teacher to audition for Big Hit due to his raw talent, and he passed. He became a trainee, though he was nearly kicked out about eight times due to several people thinking he would do poorly in the group. Thankfully, he was included as the seventh and final member of BTS.

They debuted on June 13, 2013 as “Bangtan Sonyeondan,” translating to “Bulletproof Boys,” with their album “2 Cool 4 Skool.” Selling 24,441 copies in total, the album was placed at number 65 for Gaon’s 2013 year-end album chart, which was good for a rookie group not under the Big 3 (JYP, SM, or YG Entertainment). The title track, “No More Dream,” criticized the way society views

dreams and aspirations, a theme reflected in quite a few of their later songs.

Later that same year, on September 11, their album “O!RUL8,2?” (Oh! Are you late, too?) was released. The album debuted at number 4 on the Gaon Weekly Chart and ended the year as the 55th best-selling album in South Korea. The title track, N.O, goes into detail about how the school system forces children to ignore other aspects of life in favor of studying and becoming “the best.” On November 14, 2013, they won the “Rookie of the Year” award at Melon Music Awards, proving their hard work had paid off.

But for BTS, this was only the beginning.



BTS performing on July 27, 2013.



BTS in posing for a photo celebrating them winning Rookie of the Year.



BTS in 2013.

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P O S T



**FOOD FOR  
THOUGHT: LUNCH-  
ROOM DYNAMICS**