March 6, 2018

The Dakota Student

Follow this and additional works at: https://commons.und.edu/dakota-student

Recommended Citation

The Dakota Student, "March 6, 2018" (2018). The Dakota Student. 82.
https://commons.und.edu/dakota-student/82
Chase Johnson, student government treasurer, was arrested Thursday night for misapplication of entrusted property and is being held at the Grand Forks County Correctional Center.

According to the University of North Dakota Police Department, Johnson was arrested and charged with a class B felony after allegedly embezzling between $10,000 and $50,000 from his fraternity. Johnson is the former treasurer of Phi Delta Theta. According to Phi Delta Theta, the chapter reported these accusations to police.

Cole Bachmeier, UND Student Body President, said there is no reason to believe his former treasurer had been tampering with student government funds. The Student Government has a budget of roughly $550,000.

“We’re doing our due diligence and even though, like I said, there’s no reason to believe there’s been misappropriation we’ve sent it through internal auditing and we’ll just make sure,” Bachmeier said.

Bachmeier has previously served as president of Phi Delta Theta. According to the Grand Forks Herald, he is listed as a witness for the prosecution.

About a month before the arrest, a student government official met with the Dakota Student regarding allegations regarding Johnson. In this meeting, the official was asked if student government was aware of the allegations against the treasurer and certain specifics regarding the accusations. It is unclear whether or not Phi Delta Theta President Eric Gefroh had discovered some of Johnson’s alleged purchases in old boxes under a different name. The Dakota Student acquired this intelligence via a tip from someone familiar with the allegations. Despite the source alleging the student official was aware of the accusations and the circumstances, the student official did not respond to questioning.

Johnson, a senior, was a heavily involved student. In 2016, Johnson served as Vice President of the Interfraternity Council (IFC). According to the IFC Fraternity and Sorority Life webpage, the treasurer position was vacant during Johnson’s term. During his time at UND, his positions and experiences commonly involved university funds and or other financial reserves. Johnson has served a role in the Student Government since 2015, when he served as the Honors Program Student Senator. In this position, he played a fundamental role in bringing Uber to Grand Forks and wrote a bill to spend $3,000 from the Student Government General Account Fund “to introduce a marketing campaign supporting Uber.” This bill passed in November 2015.

In his Senator role, he authored a number of bills which included refunding and or altering the bylaws of the Student Organization Funding Agency. His Facebook page consists of regular posts and pictures regarding political and social work he was regularly involved in. He also posted his former positions as Government Affairs Commissioner at UND as well as an internship for Congressman Kevin Cramer. The preliminary hearing and or arraignment for Johnson is scheduled for April 4.
President Kennedy’s trip to Florida

André Washington
Dakota Student

The University of North Dakota’s president may become the University of Central Florida’s president. Last week, President Mark Kennedy and other candidates for the position were in Orlando on the campus of UCF, interviewing in front of a 15-person UCF search committee.

At the UCF interview, Kennedy was the only candidate with a non-academic background. Two years ago, Kennedy was also the only candidate without an academic background interviewing for the UND presidency, but Kennedy is not one to shy away from his lack of experience in academia. In the UCF interview last week, when Kennedy was asked about his non-academic background, he said, “If you want two provosts, look for someone with a traditional academic background. If you want somebody who does what presidents do, which is raise money, build partnerships, worry about campuses and communities and attract students and make sure the marketing is focused on students and not on the chamber of commerce, then hire a president.”

Kennedy’s business and political background is further evident in his eight-page, pictured cover letter, which showcases a stark distinction from the other three finalists’ two-page traditional cover letters. Following the interview, UCF’s 15-person search committee selected Kennedy as a finalist and invited him back to UCF for one final meet and greet with the UCF presidency.

Next Wednesday, March 7 at 11 a.m., President Kennedy is scheduled to present his qualifications and intentions for the UCF presidency at an open forum. The UCF community and public will be in attendance.

On March 9, UCF will announce their next president. The University of North Dakota is a great place to be and a great place to be president,” Kennedy said. “I hope that the UND community understands that while this may be a momentary distraction, I am committed to moving forward with the same fervor and level of energy. My advice is for the UND community to continue to work together to reach the goals we collectively set through the One UND Strategic Plan process.”

Mark Kennedy, UND president

UND President Mark Kennedy is a finalist for the vacant president position at the University of Central Florida.
The rise of the athletainers

Bilal Suleiman

Running the fast break, he gets the ball on the left wing. After taking one look at the defense, he fakes to the left, steps to the right, and launches the left-handed layup. The sharp sound of the whistle is the only sound heard for a moment. It is allowed. “Quavo to the Cavs.” The clip of Quavo doing some fancy dribbling and pull up for a three-pointer labeled the caption, “The Rapper’s Move.”

The lines between basketball and popular music are becoming more blurred than ever. This isn’t a new phenomenon. Rappers and entertainers have always been trying their best to get spotted near the basketball court because their fans have always been trying to show their support. Nowadays, thanks to social media, the link between the two groups aimed at a young, urban demographic is even more being turned into more than just a pass.

Our lord and savior Drake said it best in his song titled “Thank Me Now.” “Damn, I swear sports and music are so synonymous.” “Cause we want to be them and they want to be us,” he rapped in the 2010 song.

Drake himself can be seen courtside at many Toronto Raptors games. He, along with the other NBA stars and other popular rappers, are frequently spotted on NBA courtides. It’s happening with such regularity these days that it seems like no nationbroadcasted game would be quite complete without seeing a famous rapper on the sidelines. It’s a shrewd marketing move on their part, with many of their listeners also being NBA basketball fans. Being spotted on national TV ensures that they will receive publicity for their latest album, mix-tapes, or concert tour. How- ever, there are just basketball fans at heart and are at the games simply to just enjoy them- selves and their vehicles. In the opposite direction, NBA players can free themselves from the ring trap studio. Since Quavo and Offset first made it am- bient in the rap game, there have been a litany of rap songs being released music. From former stars like Kobe Bryant and Allen Iverson to popular up-andcomers like Damian Lillard and Lonzo Ball, basketball players of all levels are us- ing a visible platform to promote their off-court tal- ents. Some take it quite se- riously, spending hours in the studio working on mix- tapes during the offseason. Damian Lillard has been receiving many kudos for his ability to 소. On the court, the 27-year-old point guard is averaging 26.4 points along with 6.3 assists per game this season for the Portland TrailBlazers. Off the court, his rapper alter ego Dame D.O.L.L.A. is a giant chunk of metal flying at a very fast speed of 450 to 570 miles per hour. He is averaging 149,479 monthly listeners on Spotify. His smoker sponsor, Adida- s, seems to be embrac- ing the synergy between the two forms of entertain- ment and using it to their advantage. I think it’s only a matter of time be- fore rappers start playing professional sports. One day we will hear an- nouncements say, “And starting for the Cleveland Cava- liers, number 91, Quavo.”

Bilal Suleiman is a columnist for Dakota Student.

Jill Morton

Picture this: Your alarm goes off at 6 a.m. You jolt out of bed and rush to get ready and out the door, still barely awake. You jump into your car, where you re- black out and re- line your night’s sleep with the way to work. Work- day, self-driving cars are coming to reality. How cool would it be for your car to automatically drive you to wherever you go without you actually driv- ing, with nothing but the single push of a button? It’s a future where technology to become cheap enough for the average Joe to use. However, as with any new technol- ogy, there will be main prob- lems that need to be cleared to make this a reality. Once the autonomous cars become the norm, the roads will become much safer because the vehicles on the road will be mak- ing decisions based on algorithms and not on human error. The same laws, not based on variable human instinct. It’s 2018 and I can’t tell a single passenger what the difference between a self-driving car and a human-driven car is. It’s a new phenomenon, once coming more and more into the vehicle market. Self-driving cars will soon be able to commu- nicate a new phenomenon, further ensuring safe- ty in case a car is on the road. So, if a car starts to break, it will alert the cars behind it and pre- vent the tragic multi- vehicle accident that occurs too often these days. Besides increasing safety, self-driving cars will help traffic flow. For smaller cities like Grand Forks, that’s not a huge deal, but in our major highway cong- estion, such as the Twin Cities commutes, the never-ending traffic会被穿料通过 by almost everyone. The other major reason why society will love self-driving cars is the fact that insurance is considered, the price for a self-driv- ing car might appeal to much more people. Once the autonomous cars prove to be safer than human drivers, insur- ance companies will have much higher fees for human-driven cars than the much cheaper advanced counterparts. With so many aspects of autonomous cars, insur- ance safety and affordability, I am so excited to get myself a self-driving car in the next decade or so and catch some more sleep on the way to work every morning.
Bluegrass music isn’t something one would think to hear in Grand Forks, North Dakota but the Flatt Mountain Bluegrass Boys brought an excellent musical experience to their audience at Half Brothers Brewing Company Friday.

Having grown up with bluegrass and country music, I was excited to hear the Flatt Mountain Bluegrass Boys play. They did not disappoint. Listening to them reminded me of my grandmother’s house in southern Missouri and hearing my dad play guitar on the front porch. It was like going to a home I had not been to in many years.

Bluegrass music’s roots are in Kentucky. Bluegrass is a form of music blended from different cultures and is one of the first forms of traditional music in America, including country, gospel, blues, Cajun and Native American music. Watching the Flatt Mountain Bluegrass Boys play their music was great fun. The audience clapped and stomped out a beat to go along with the music and cheered loudly for every song. Their traditional bluegrass music had themes of love, daily life and home. Their music is easy and fun to listen to and appreciated. I spoke with Michael Prewitt and Joe Andrus after the show. Prewitt, an English graduate student at UND, hails from Kentucky and started playing music at 5-years-old. Andrus is from Minto, North Dakota and grew up listening and playing bluegrass. The two met at Cross Ranch Bluegrass Festival last year and have been playing together since. They explained that bluegrass is a kind of music that is fluid and can be easily improvised. This was shown during the Flatt Mountain Bluegrass Boys performance. Group members from the American folk band Northern Light were there and joined in with the Bluegrass Boys for a couple songs. Despite having not having played with each other before the two bands melded together wonderfully and gave the audience a great treat to hear the blending of the two different styles. Hearing the Flatt Mountain Bluegrass Boys was a wonderful experience. It was something I wouldn’t have expected to hear in North Dakota since Bluegrass has its roots in the south. But Prewitt and Andrus explained “bluegrass is a family thing.” Families grow and move taking their music and traditions with them.

The music of the Flatt Mountain Bluegrass Boys is an excellent addition to the local music scene here in Grand Forks. Bluegrass is a one of a kind sound and is best heard live. For details on their upcoming events see their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FlattMountain.

Aimee Coons is an A&C writer for Dakota Student. She is an A&C writer for Dakota Student. She can be reached at aimee.coons@und.edu

Photos by Trevor Alves here / Dakota Student

Michael Prewitt, Marcy Gross and Joe Andrus perform as The Flatt Mountain Bluegrass Boys during a concert Friday night at Half Brothers Brewing Company.

Michael Prewitt of the band The Flatt Mountain Bluegrass Boys plays banjo Friday night at Half Brothers Brewing Company in downtown Grand Forks.
For Ryan Majerus, finding out he had autism came as a surprise.

“Tackles controversial issues UND Theatre department tackles controversial issues

"I truly did not know I had a disability until like 5th or 6th grade," Majerus said. "My [social worker] was the one that told me I had autism and that I was different." Despite this revelation, Majerus still had dreams of helping others by becoming a doctor.

“But she (the social worker) was like ‘Ryan, you know that you have a disability. You just have to find something you’re passionate about. People with disabilities don’t get far in life. You would be a lot luckier if you were to graduate high school," Majerus said.

"I don’t think he would have been the same person," Ryan’s older sister, Karter Dolan said. "Karter had a unique way of seeing things. But he has a disability."

Understanding this, Ryan is a proponent of accepting others as they are. "I think people who accept the autism spectrum tend to relate to his character," Majerus said. "I think he has really facilitated that." The cast's size and the environment has really facilitated that."

In addition, each case of autism comes with unique weaknesses and strengths. Temple Grandin is a famous example of what someone with autism can achieve in life. According to her website, templegrandin.com, she was unable to speak until she was three and a half years old. She was considered "brain dead" and was raised and educated by her parents for three years. After being readmitted to the school system, she was able to speak.

"Speech and Debate" was the cast's second production of the season. The cast is an A&C writer for Dakota Student.

"One of my New Year’s resolutions this year is to be gayer than ever and I have already facilitated that," Majerus said. "It’s hard to build intimate relationships when you’re working with a large cast."

Gina Undem / UND Theatre Arts
Karan's "Speech and Debate" at the Burtness Laboratory Theater.

"Howie is pretty savage. One of my New Year’s resolutions this year is to be gayer than ever and I have already facilitated that," Majerus said. "Speech and Debate" is different from many UND productions when comparing the size of the cast. With three main actors and one supporting actor, there’s a different vibe on stage.
WE ARE HIRING!

- C, C++ and/or C# Developers
- .NET, SQL, SQL Lite and MySQL Developers
- Web Developers
- Help Desk Support Technicians

WORLD-CLASS PAY

- PAID HEALTH and LIFE INSURANCES
- DENTAL BENEFITS
- 401 K
- HEALTH CLUB BENEFITS

Visit our CAREERS page: aatrix.com/careers
Kyley Foster is a pole vaulter on the UND indoor track and field team. Foster is a junior at UND who has just recently added to her long list of accomplishments by finishing third in the pole vault at the Big Sky Conference Championships for indoor track. Foster also holds the school record in both the indoor and outdoor event, with a vault of 4.01 meters (13 feet 1.75 inches) and 4.06 meters (13 feet 3.75 inches), respectively.

In high school, Foster competed in a wide variety of sports. She was in basketball, soccer, swimming and diving, gymnastics and track and field. Her pole vaulting career began early at 12 years old. She was encouraged to try pole vaulting because of her background in gymnastics. "I began cannonballing over the bar when I was around 12," Foster said. "I was a gymnast, so they wanted me to try pole vaulting since they thought I'd have more upper body strength. I believe it took until my sophomore year of college before I actually had upper body strength, so it was a nice thought."

Although anyone looking at her list of accomplishments could only dream of such things, Foster isn’t satisfied. "I did not achieve everything I wanted during indoor season," Foster said. "I was hoping to jump somewhere around 13 feet 5 inches to 13 feet 7 inches but couldn’t quite pull it off this season. I am excited for outdoor because I’ve had some nice attempts around the mid 13 foot range, so hopefully within these next few meets I’ll reach it."

Approaching outdoor season, Foster has goals that look lofty on paper. However, by going into each meet with a strong mindset and a good support system she has the world at her fingertips.

"My biggest fan is Jesus, He’s always got my back," Foster said. "Closely followed by my awesome parents, whose support is incredible. They always say they come to my meets just for a hug and a smile." Anyone who has met Foster would agree that she’s the first person to make sure everyone else is being supported. Putting others before herself is something that seems to come so naturally to her, but once she reaches the runway her vault becomes a completely personal experience.

"Pole vault is a mental game. The technique is difficult too, but pole vault is a very mental sport. There’s always a little bit a fear whenever you grab a big stick you’ve never jumped on or the bar raises higher than ever before. You need to be able to commit 100% to the jump. If you don’t, that’s when things can go wrong," Foster said.
Golf's future still uncertain

Jeremy Kirk, golf team captain

“Some injuries early in high school made me re-evaluate all the sports I was playing,” he said. “I felt that I had the largest ceiling for development in golf and pursuing it would allow me to reach the highest level of college athletics.”

After years of hard work and dedicated practice, Kirk reached collegiate golf and was recruited by UND’s program. As a freshman on the team, Kirk experienced the university’s decision to discontinue the school’s team, leaving the players without options.

“He was still my future in disarray,” said Kirk. UND athletics decided to cut both the golf and baseball programs in the spring of 2016 in an attempt to cut costs by $13 million from the school’s budget. The decision came under heavy scrutiny and launched crowdfunding efforts to try and reinstate the team. Jeremy Kirk explains the “we are currently working on becoming fully reinstated” for the team as a whole, “What ever the future may hold that is also the school’s decision saying, “after that initial discontinuation, we received extraordinary support from alumni of the program, community members, local businesses, and many good-willed people. With their support, we were able to self-fundraise enough funds in a two-month period to support our program for two more years.”

The two years will expire after this season and if the team is not reinstated, it will fall to its previous fate. Jeremy Kirk explained the “we are currently working on becoming fully reinstated for the team as a whole,” “Whatever the future may hold that is also the school’s decision saying, “after that initial discontinuation, we received extraordinary support from alumni of the program, community members, local businesses, and many good-willed people. With their support, we were able to self-fundraise enough funds in a two-month period to support our program for two more years.”

The two years will expire after this season and if the team is not reinstated, it will fall to its previous fate. Jeremy Kirk explained the “we are currently working on becoming fully reinstated for the team as a whole,” “Whatever the future may hold that is also the school’s decision saying, “after that initial discontinuation, we received extraordinary support from alumni of the program, community members, local businesses, and many good-willed people. With their support, we were able to self-fundraise enough funds in a two-month period to support our program for two more years.”

The two years will expire after this season and if the team is not reinstated, it will fall to its previous fate. Jeremy Kirk explained the “we are currently working on becoming fully reinstated for the team as a whole,” “Whatever the future may hold that is also the school’s decision saying, “after that initial discontinuation, we received extraordinary support from alumni of the program, community members, local businesses, and many good-willed people. With their support, we were able to self-fundraise enough funds in a two-month period to support our program for two more years.”

The two years will expire after this season and if the team is not reinstated, it will fall to its previous fate. Jeremy Kirk explained the “we are currently working on becoming fully reinstated for the team as a whole,” “Whatever the future may hold that is also the school’s decision saying, “after that initial discontinuation, we received extraordinary support from alumni of the program, community members, local businesses, and many good-willed people. With their support, we were able to self-fundraise enough funds in a two-month period to support our program for two more years.”