On Wednesday April 4, the University of North Dakota held an electronic student election in which they voted for UND’s student body president, vice president, and student body senator.  

Wednesday turned out to be a day of constant confusion, with voters complaining of difficulties in voting. The election commission suspended the vote for hours, resulting in the entire day being thrown into chaos. 

When the election opened, there was initially massive confusion amongst the voters. Students were notified of the issues and called for an emergency meeting in the Memorial Union with Election Committee Advisor Jeff Gibson and Committee Chair William Candia and Committee Chair William Candia and Committee Chair William Candia.  

The Grand Forks native is a senior investments major with a long history of political activism on campus. Some of his more notable work includes being the student chair for the tailgating committee, which reformed the layout of the Alumni Center parking lot, as well as the student chair for the new mascot committee for UND Athletics.  

The Code of Elections doesn’t mention what actions can be made when situations like these happen. The code does give the election committee powers to make on-the-spot decisions. However, many decisions were made as an ad-hoc committee made up of the candidates, Gerhardt, Gibson and Candia.  

“Whatever decision was made had at least some input from the candidates,” Candia said. “Hanley said she and Morlock are unsure of whether or not to appeal the results of the election. However, they did agree that if they do appeal, they will not relate to the appeal on that.”  

“Everything that happened was the high number of appeals the election that could come up as a result of the day’s events.”  

Hanson’s vice president will be current chief of staff to President Bachmeier, Kaleb Dschaak. Dschaak is a junior marketing major, served as a staff writer for Dakota Student. He can be reached at jacob.nottenmann@unitedstudents.edu.
City busses could replace UND transportation system

Madison Feltman
Dakota Student

Spring has brought many new changes to the area, including route changes to the Cities Area Transit (CAT) system. The Grand Forks Department of Transportation has been working with outside staff to make changes to their existing routes.

Dale Bergman, Director of Transportation, explained that with the growing infrastructure and job opportunities in the community, there is an increased need amongst areas that do not currently have city transportation.

One of the areas that is getting a huge increase is the University of North Dakota. The university contacted the city with the proposal to have the city take over the university’s transportation.

UND currently leases busses from the state to provide transportation for students. With the city being interested, there has been talk of dissolving the UND bus system and getting instead to something that the city can provide transportation for students.

The city is currently investigating a software known as Remix that provides the community with an interactive approach to the route changes. The software allows individuals to make possible new routes and add on to current routes, while showing the cost. The idea is to provide the community with insight into how the city decided new routes.

There are several new routes that will run throughout the main campus and surrounding areas, including Tour and Some Univeristy Apartments. In addition, there is one student apartment that the cityát would provide transportation from many different areas to campus.

Students who choose to ride the bus will be able to ride for free, as the university provides the cost.

“IF I was provided with the opportunity to ride the bus instead of driving to class, I would totally take advantage of the system,” said UND student Sara Kostرزevski.

There are six planned open houses to be held for community members to attend where information will be provided and comments will be welcome.

“We are excited to get out into the community and show them the new software and get input from individuals,” Bergman said. “The service is for the people and their opinion matters.”

There will be an open house held at the Memorial Union on April 25 from 10 a.m. 2 p.m. where students will be given the chance to voice their opinions and ask questions.
Smartphones are ruining our memories

Jill Morton, Columnist

“Today, trains are not the easiest way to get to various places in the United States. West coast cities built roads for cars and didn’t allow easy access for railways. During the early 1900’s, the focus was on making car transportation better, not public transit.”

Jill Morton is a columnist for Dakota Student. He can be reached at jill.morton@und.edu.
Medium Melinda Vail showcased her abilities in events throughout Grand Forks this past week, including live readings.

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

Melinda Vail, Psychic medium

Devon Abler
Dakota Student

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

"There are many people who just pop in and out of my energy field," Vail said. "Sometimes someone is just chattering away because they want to communicate something important to a loved one or communicate something to a vessel for the other side."

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

Known as "the Medium who makes a difference," Vail strives to help people heal from traumatic experiences in life and heal families finding healing from tragedy. Along with one-on-one sessions, Vail has also partnered alongside the Phoenix Polco Department on cold cases and double homicides.

"The police department is rather ambiguous on whether or not I'm right," Vail said. "They do keep coming back to me so I assume that I'm right on the mark, but they'll never tell you."

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

"Life after life means that the spirit has given you. If there is anything that is the A&C editor for the book, Vail is transparent about her life and uses her story to help others understand karmic profiling. A quick and easy read, Vail is unafraid to talk about difficult things and writes with wisdom."

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

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

"Due to the reputation that many practicing mediums have received, a majority of individuals believe there is some form of trickery that occurs during readings. I was invited to observe the live readings that Vail does on her Facebook page, Melinda Vail Medium. She takes random calls from around the world and does readings for these individuals. Vail relies on specific details to tell the spirits communicate to her. This includes names, dates and specific information that only that individual would know."

"You don't have to be an angel to talk to the dead." Vail said.

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

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

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

Maddie Ardelean
Dakota Student

Psychics income hundreds of varieties of stones, dream interpretations, decks of cards and natural healing. Many may call these individuals "sages" or "quacks," but the practitioners strongly believe they are onto something with these alternative healing methods.

The people who believe in alternative healing methods have to demonstrate commitment to their method. This is not something you can just pick up and start doing one day. There is an art to it. Shimen Lynn drove from Iowa to Wyoming for 10 years in order to attain a certification in crystal healing. She says she teaches will work with students online, but she prefers to commit to in-person training.

"I like to touch the stones and feel what they were meant to do," Lynn said. Although many from outside of the community believe there is no science backing the field of crystal healing, practitioner Joe Rothengass really believes there is. He explains the theory of why crystal healing works.

"Basically, everything is an electromagnetic field: the earth, humans, our cell phones, plants, everything," Rothengass said. "Our bioclectric field gets out of balance and the crystals, since they hold a constant frequency, can help rebalance that by way of the vibrations they give off. Our body reads the frequency and balances."

People used to grind these stones together before they used modern pharmaceuticals. They would grind up certain minerals and ingest them or carry them in pockets or purses. Now, we have instruments to read frequencies and we can tell that crystals really do vibrate. We also know from modern technology and electronics that electromagnetic fields affect each other.

"People way back knew," Rothengass said. "They just didn't have the science to back it up."

Now, Rothengass believes we have the science to back up these beliefs but "no one is putting the pieces together be cause that would mean we'd be able to 'quack' a cure." One example Rothengass gave was amethyst. People used to grind it up and ingest it when they showed symptoms of a low magnesium level. Amethyst contains magnesium, it even though they didn't know that. Today, instead of ingesting it, "the crystals' vibrations prepare your body for magnesium. The next time you eat something, with magnesium in it, it will absorb better," Rothengass said.

In a convention room full of crystals and mediums, Marilyn McGregor was the old one out. She does dream interpretation using the ancient Hebraic method. She has been interpreting dreams for 12 years and got into it out of curiosity. "When I heard about it, I was intrigued," McGregor said. "I want to share wisdom to steer your life onto the path you're created for."

But dream interpretation is not something you just start doing. McGregor went through ministry training to learn her craft and says that accurate interpretations come through a personal relationship with Jesus, even though she never uses the terms "Jesus" or "God" of the stones and feel what they were meant to do."

"I like to touch the stones and feel what they were meant to do."

Marilyn McGregor, Medium

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Madie Ardelean is an A&C writer for Dakotan Student. She can be reached at madie.ardelean@akrotiri.edu
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after graduating from UND, center Carson Shanks transferred to Loyola Chicago to play as a graduate transfer student athlete in his final year of NCAA eligibility.

John Gregg
Dakota Student

Shanks was a part of UND’s historic team that reached the NCAA Basketball tournament for the first time in school history just last year. And after making the tough decision to transfer, he had the experience of his life as he competed in the Final Four. But why did he leave just one year after one of the most successful years in program history? I had the unique opportunity to talk to Shanks about his time at UND and what lead to his departure. Shanks came to UND after spending just one semester at Utah State University in the fall of 2013. "Obviously, basketball is what drew me to make my home at UND and in Forks," Shanks said. After sitting out due to NCAA transfer rules, Shanks was able to play that following spring. Shanks went on to have a successful career as a member of the Fighting Hawks and looks back on his time at UND with great admiration and pride. "My time at UND was honestly the best time of my life," Shanks said. "While most people say this about their college years, I truly do mean it wholeheartedly." He also became a part of the UND student athlete family, you really do not understand how incredibly lucky a group it is, he said. "We all support each other, we see each other everywhere, it really does feel like an extended family." During Shanks’ time as an athlete at UND, the school was experiencing major budgetary issues, especially around athletics. Though he felt safe being in a program with a long-standing history of booster support, once Shanks heard the news that UND was going to cut some of the programs, it hit him hard. "I could not have imagined a situation that would have been like to be living your dream playing the sport you love at the highest level and then the next day being told that you could not play it at the place that you made your home," he said. Of all the cuts made, the baseball team really hit home for Shanks. "I had spent a lot of weekends watching those guys play at Kraft Field," he said. "They were some of the most respected and well-liked people on our campus." He wanted to make a difference and see if he could help out his friends and fellow athletes. "I felt as though I should step up because I feel like that’s what someone would do for me in that situation," he said. He left by those vacancies, there are holes left by those vacancies that will never be filled," Shanks said. Though Shanks’ time at UND was filled with great memories and success on and off the court, his eyes were set on something new. "He (Loyola coach, Porter Moser) sold me on living in the amazing city of Chicago," Shanks said. "Playing in a great conference in the Missouri Valley, being around a group of great guys, and obviously getting the opportunity to play alongside some really talented players." Shanks’ decision paid off. This year, Loyola Chicago was an unlikely team to make it all the way to the Final Four. "Going to a Final Four is an experience that so few people ever get the chance to do," he said. "I still don’t believe I’ve fully grasped what we did this past year. We were the Cinderella team that for a few weeks in March, had the eyes of a nation upon them." Even though Shanks now wears a different jersey on the court, UND holds a special place in his heart. "One of the coolest things for me was the continued support throughout the tournament from the people at UND," he said. UND head coach Brian Jones even traveled to San Antonio to support Shanks at his open practice before the big game. As for the future, Shanks plans to continue to pursue his dream of playing basketball. He hopes to be picked up by a team and play overseas. He has his eyes set on coaching once he is finished playing. "Regardless of when that comes to an end I am looking to be involved in the game for the rest of my life as a coach, with being a college coach as my dream job," he said. Shanks has come a long way since his time as a member of UND’s men’s basketball program, but he still attributes a lot of what he got him to where he is to his time at UND.

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Growing up, my dad was an alumnus of the University of Minnesota. As a die-hard Minnesota sports fan, we went to countless Gopher basketball, football and hockey games. We once travelled four hours just to go to a conference tournament game in the mountains. My sister and I were immersed in college athletics before we were out of elementary school. College athletics brings a community of support together. We began idolizing the athletes and cheering them on from home. As a die-hard Minnesota sports fan, we were only interested in the Gophers. North Dakota isn’t typically a “dream location” as life goes on, college athletics doesn’t seem like a priority. Based on a quarter-century study, and continuing research on the subject, he found that on average, "when a school rises from mediocre to great on the gridiron, applications increase by 18.7 percent." Specific to UND, athletics brings more people to Grand Forks. North Dakota isn’t typically a "dream location" by any means. Most out-of-state students are brought to UND either for the aviation program or to be on one of the sports teams. UND Athletics also gives a face to the university. UND alumni are very strong supporters of athletic teams and continue to show their support by generating revenue, purchasing season tickets and building sports complexes for UND. For example, the High Performance Center was just recently built using $19 million of privately funded money, all from UND alumni. The Ralph Engelstad Arena, valued at $104 million, was also very dependent on private funding from community members and alumni. Another way that UND Athletics gives a face to the university is through volunteer work. Each year, the sports teams compete with each other to see who can obtain the most volunteer hours. This motivates members of the team to get out in the community and provide service to those who need it. Just recently, UND Athletics participated in an annual SAAC (Student-Athlete Advisory Committee) food drive that collected over 4000 items. All of the items were donated to the Grand Forks Salvation Army. In the eyes of many, college without athletics doesn’t seem like college. From growing up watching games to giving back to athletics and the university as life goes on, college athletics remains a large part of many students’ lives long before and after graduation.