

# THE SLATE

ALL YOUR BULLDOG NEWS... UNLEASHED!

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The Voice of Northern Lehigh High School

Volume 88, November 2022, Issue Two.

## INSIDE

### Bulldog Royalty



Revisiting Homecoming. Seth Adams and Bianca Carrior were named Homecoming Royalty. See Pep Rally photos.. Page 4.

### Selective Justice



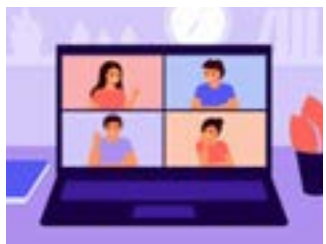
Abby Peartree takes her stand sitting down. Page 7.

### True Crime



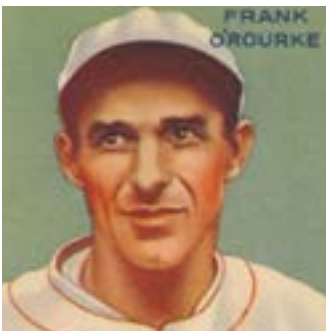
Crossing the Caution Tape. Page 4.

### Online Possibilities?



Who's behind that screen for real? Page 7.

### Local Slugger



Now batting, from Slatington: Frank O'Rourke. Page 13.

### Lotsa Sports



Football, girls soccer, field hockey. Pages 9-13.

## A Night to Remember

Cameron Schmick, Jalah Cook, and Katya Pesesko were some of many homecoming attendees who took advantage of the popular photo booth, supplied by Lehigh Valley Events. More photos are available on our Instagram.



## The goose got loose

Fall play runs Nov. 18-20. Can Sherlock Holmes solve the case before the curtain closes?

BY SUSAN GILSBACH  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

This year, the tradition of theater continues here at Northern Lehigh. With a new director, Kayla Driscoll, the shows have been selected, cast lists announced, and performance dates set. With this year's audition

turnout, larger than the previous two years, the theater is ready to take on the new shows and make them some of the best NL has seen yet.

The fall show selected was *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose*. The theater program has decided to do a holiday show this year, which is something new. Adapted for the stage from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's original Sherlock holiday story, *The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle*, this show is sure to be enjoyed by anyone who loves a good mystery. It follows iconic

characters Sherlock Holmes and John Watson as they investigate the mystery of the stolen Blue Carbuncle.

The play, with about equal parts comedy and mystery, stars Matthew Miller Jr. as Sherlock Holmes, Diego Fenstermaker as Doctor John Watson, and Reece Johnson as Henry Baker. "I knew from the beginning that I wanted to bring back the tradition of a Fall Play. Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose grabbed my attention

See Play, page 3

## Credits to roll on new 2023 Reflections book

Film/movie theme sets the stage for this year's masterpiece on sale now.

BY MADDY MACK  
STAFF WRITER

As the school year begins, the yearbook staff at Northern Lehigh High School have started to plan out the upcoming Reflections yearbook. Hundreds of theme ideas were sorted through, voted on, and discussed. Eventually, the top ideas were chosen, and the editors were left to decide the final theme of the 2022-23 yearbook. While talking about many great ideas, none really stuck out to the editors, until the suggestion "film" was brought up, including the title "Roll the Credits." Everyone immediately loved it, and the theme began to take shape.

Caitlin Kirk, one of the senior editors of the yearbook, came up with this idea unexpectedly. "Honestly, I am not sure how I came up with this theme. I was thinking of different components of a movie and how they are important," she said. The different com-

ponents of movies and photographs inspired many ideas to stem from the theme "film." "While the credits are always "boring" and "unexciting" they are the most important part of the movie. The people in those credits built that movie. Without them, there would not be a movie," she said. "When I mentioned the idea of "Roll the Credits", I figured that no one would like it; however, everyone seemed to immediately love this idea."

The theme gave all of the yearbook staff many different ideas to play with and choose from. "I love the theme of the yearbook. I feel like it gives

us many opportunities to be creative," Kirk said. "Film can mean anything from a motion picture movie to a simple polaroid. It gives a wide range of options when decorating and creating the yearbook." Despite the many different ideas that were brought up, a few have stuck out to Kirk. "I am most excited about the special pages we plan to include in the yearbook, like the pets, funky faculty, and photo booth pages," she said. "I feel like this will give a relaxed feeling

See Yearbook, page 5

## GET TO STEPPIN'



More than a dance team, the NL Steppers are in their second year. The story behind the stomping. Page 3.

## SELF-DEFENDIN'



There is a time, place, and situation to strike back, but its proper timing is misunderstood. Clearing up the blurred line of the 'self-defense' rule. Page 2.



# The generation of school-shooter drills

BY SUSAN GILSBACH  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A normal day of school: you're learning, you're participating, maybe you're bored to tears. Suddenly, an alarm goes off. You know the sound well: a lockdown.

As your anxiety rises, you follow your teacher's instructions and move to your assigned lockdown spot as the lights are turned off. It's just a drill, but what if this happens for real? What if, some day, the alarm sounds and it isn't a drill?

This is a common reality for students across the nation. According to a study that examined social media posts, 39%-42% of students had an increase in anxiety, stress, and depression, according to the journal *Nature*. These drills are anxiety-inducing, and can often impact a student's sense of safety at school.

We live in a generation where school shootings seem to be relatively common. This year, as of Oct. 5, there have been 35 school shootings. 35. That's an astonishingly high number. Kids are being told that they're safe, but are we really? How can we feel safe when there is the constant threat that someone could break into our place of learning? How can we focus when some of us feel like we're in constant danger? Our generation seems

to be desensitized to the idea of a school shooting because we are preparing for it during the school day.

After the Uvalde shooting last year, I felt unsafe coming to school. I couldn't stop thinking about the tragedy that had happened, and how this is way too common across the United States. How this was something that impacted students across the country, and made thousands of students worry that this was going to happen to them. It felt like the news coverage of the event was everywhere. It was constant.

The fact that this was one of the many tragedies to happen in 2022 alone should say something about our country. We need to take a step back and examine the fact that this is happening throughout the country. Simply having kids run drills does not fix the prevalent issue. There is no clear-cut solution to the problem.

But, there are some steps that we can take toward fixing this issue. One step is better gun-control laws. Some people may believe that it infringes upon their Constitutional right to bear arms, but many feel that it does not infringe upon these rights if the safety of children is involved. We require people to get clearances in order to work in schools, yet somehow there are very few gun control laws. At least, not enough to protect stu-



The 1950s saw young students hide under desks in fear of a possible bomb situation. Today, schools train students and faculty to barricade whatever possible in front of all entrances to rooms.

dents in 2022.

As for the future of this issue, I can only hope that schools are finally able to get the safe learning environment that they deserve.

We are bringing up the next generation in an environment filled with fear and anxiety. Running these drills can

help students know what to do, but is it really the students' jobs to know what to do if their safety is put in jeopardy? It shouldn't be. I can only hope that the future brings about a positive change, so that we don't have to be known as the generation of school shooter drills. 🌱

# School rules a 'punch in the gut' for some

BY LILY GROOVER  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Fighting is wrong. Almost every situation that ends in a physical battle could have been solved through other, more effective, solutions. However, during your high school years, emotions are high, brains aren't fully developed, and sometimes, fists fly. Those reasons are not excuses, they are simply an explanation.

However, what happens if I am attacked? If my mere existence angers somebody? What steps am I supposed to take if I am put in a situation where I need to defend myself? In a lot of cases, whoever is involved in the violence is punished, by the school, accordingly. Most schools incorporate a "zero tolerance policy" on fighting on school grounds.

Therefore, if a student retaliates against their attacker, they too would end up in trouble, solely for the fact that they took part in violence.

In the real world, if someone puts their hands on another without permission, they have every right to do whatever

necessary to get them off.

This means that it is legal to hit the aggressor if they attack first.

School is supposed to prepare us for the real world. No, there should not be

**Rational thinking does not occur in times of anger and embarrassment. Alerting a trusted adult, seeking remediation, or simply leaving the situation might not come to mind in the event of an altercation.**

fighting courses where we learn how to punch and kick, but treating high school students like adults will help them in the long run.

There is nothing in the Northern

Lehigh student handbook that specifically mentions self-defense. Mr. David Hauser, middle school principal and former assistant high school principal, says that the student conduct policy "empowers administrators to issue appropriate disciplinary consequences for behaviors infractions." This includes fighting. To issue punishments, teachers and administrators use the handbook and past practices to dictate what those punishments may be. From there, they investigate the altercation to determine context, severity, and other circumstances that led to the fight.

Mr. Hauser states that self defense is "more than just who swung first." He says there is an obvious difference between an attack and a mutual conflict. Administrators hope to understand the whole conflict before acting.

For example, Mr. Hauser says, "If two students are having a verbal shouting match with harsh words thrown at one another, then someone swings, and a mutual fight ensues-both can expect to face consequences."

This type of fight seems to be the most common at Northern Lehigh. How-

ever, whether faculty likes it or not, there is a lot of bullying and harassment that goes on behind administrators' backs. These acts are also inexcusable, but they can be an explanation for one-sided, random conflicts. A lot of the time, students feel embarrassed to come forward about this harassment.

Parents, teachers, and administrators sometimes forget what it feels like to be an adolescent in high school. As stated before, the brain is not fully developed in high school.

Rational thinking does not occur in times of anger and embarrassment. Alerting a trusted adult, seeking remediation, or simply leaving the situation might not come to mind in the event of an altercation. Sure, on paper, it is the student's responsibility to follow the appropriate steps when an event like this occurs, but in the moment, it is probably the last thing they are thinking about.

So hopefully, if that bully starts swinging, the victim feels they are allowed to take the chance to stand up and defend themselves, without punishment from the district. 🌱

# Costumes game alive for senior tradition



Senior dress-up day becomes a Halloween tradition at NL. From Captain America to the Phantom of the Opera, the Lorax, and an Angry Bird in between, 12th-graders tricked the halls to treats all day.

(Left to right) Cianni Garcia, Devon Leshner and Colby Rehrig, and Jenna Beatty.



# More than movement

## NL Steppers bring culture/rhythm to dancing club

BY EMILY MACK  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Northern Lehigh High School is home to several clubs and extracurricular activities. Northern Lehigh clubs are a great way to get involved in the community. A new club that really stands out from the rest is the "The Step Club" advised by Mrs. Skye March. Many of you may be wondering "What is The Step Club?"

ing. Stepping is not new to concepts of dance. It was developed in the mid-20th century and takes root in African-American culture.

Groups such as college fraternities and sororities, high schools, and churches are starting to partake in Stepping. Events that Steppers can participate in are stomp shows and competitions. Step classes are even online for people to try, learn, and practice.

Northern Lehigh's Step Club was started in March of last school year, which makes it a pretty new club here at Northern Lehigh. Many students were interested in the idea of creating a step team, and with the help of staff they were successful.

The club has a very relaxed atmosphere and is a place to have a wonderful time. Junior Miguel Betances described Step Club practice as a place to "...comfortable with each other. We always joke around, but at the end of the day we get the work done." The club has newer members and members from the very start of the club. The club is continuing to grow and change, and be a part of creating Northern Lehigh history.

The Step Club is now looking forward to participating in public events. They are awaiting to perform at local "stomp shows," school events, and competitions.

The club is always welcoming new members. Junior Miguel Betances said, "Step team is more than movement, it's about the meaning behind it and the culture."

If anyone is interested in joining the club at any time, reach out to Mrs. March or feel free to attend a meeting. Mrs. March can be reached at her email: smarch@nlsd.org.



The club is a team of students who use their bodies to create rhythms and construct a routine. The routine is practiced and becomes a performance. Now, how do you create "rhythms"? This is called "step", it is a form of percussive dancing, or using your body as a percussion instrument. Students create the rhythm by spoken word, claps, slaps, and stomps. Everyone tries their best to go with the flow and keep things mov-

# Sherlock comes 'Holmes' for the holidays in play



Olivia Handwerk, Susan Gilsbach, and Ayden Scanlon advertised this year's school play at the bonfire. Tickets are available now!

### Play, from page 1

early on in the audition process. It isn't a particularly long show, clocking in at about an hour, but is filled with big characters and wholesome fun for the family.

I wanted to reestablish that link between the theatre and the community and I feel that the show is a great way to do so," said Miss Kayla Driscoll, the director. Performances will be on Friday, Nov. 18 at 7 pm, Saturday, Nov. 19 at 7 pm, and Sunday, Nov. 20 at 2 pm.

For the spring musical, the theater program will be presenting a production of *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*. Adapted into a musical by Rob Rodecki, the musical follows a young boy named Percy Jackson as he embarks on an adventure that will change his life forever. He finds out that the Greek gods are very real, and that they are messing up his life. Based on the *New York Times* bestselling novel by Rick Riordan, the show is a wild adventure that the whole family can enjoy.

When asked why this particular musical, Driscoll said: "When deciding on the show, I kept coming back to the idea of students of this generation and their struggle to want to create and break free from the world's previous struggles. *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musi-*

*cal* inherently celebrates that struggle of identity, of acceptance, of responsibility, of love and of friendship. I just kept coming back to the auditions I had witnessed and the choice was eventually obvious. I don't know a single person, student or otherwise, who can't find a character in this show to relate to.

The characters in the Percy Jackson universe are all full of heart and depth and you can't help but root for them to overcome their obstacles and challenges—whether it be from their powerful adversaries or from the doubts and insecurities that they struggle with internally." The cast of the rock musical includes Ayden Scanlon as Percy Jackson, Jackson Hunsicker as Grover Underwood, and Susan Gilsbach as Annabeth Chase. Performances will be Thursday, March 9 at 7 pm, Friday, March 10 at 7 pm, Saturday, March 11 at 7 pm, and Sunday, March 12, 2023 at 2 pm.

With the shows set and rehearsals underway, it's only a matter of time until live theater returns to Northern Lehigh for the 2022-23 school year. So, we will see you in the fall as the lights begin to dim and the curtain rises.

All tickets are \$7 with shows on Nov. 18, 19 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 20 at 2 p.m. Purchase online or at the door (inside the lobby).

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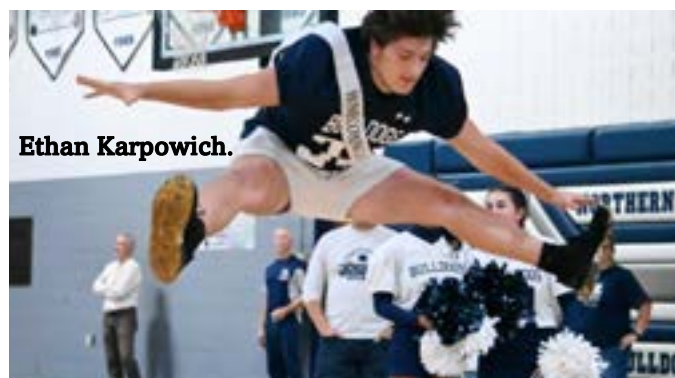
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Mr. Derek Long



Ethan Karpowich.



Ceanna Rivera, Jalyn Leshner, Lizzy Youst, and Tyler Sywensky clowned around at the Pep Rally.



Samantha Mack, Evelina Mayak.

Photos by Alex Feifel

# Crossing the caution tape

## Problems permeate the true crime community

BY LACEY GROOVER  
STAFF WRITER

True crime is a genre of nonfiction film, podcasts, or writing that investigates an actual crime and examines the details and actions of real people associated with and affected by these criminal events.

People love true crime, but learning about these gruesome cases can be harmful. At what point does learning about these horrific people and their actions become unhealthy?

Watching shows like *Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story* or *The Act*, or listening to podcasts like *My Favorite Murders*, *Murder, Mystery, and Makeup* with Bailey Sarain, or *Crime Junkie* in healthy doses is okay. I have been a consumer of all of these shows multiple times and most are very good, informative, and interesting. However, if this were the only type of entertainment I consumed, that could be considered unhealthy.

I mentioned the podcast *Murder, Mystery, and Makeup* with Bailey Sarain, but did I mention how problematic it was? The way that Bailey Sarain, the host, explains what happened to these people is desensitizing to these very real situations.

Her podcasts are just the audio of the videos she posts on YouTube. In the podcast or video, she's casually doing her makeup, giggling, making jokes, and constantly going off-topic to talk and joke about other things. I used to be a fan of her until I realized how she was blatantly exploiting these victims and their families' experiences.

I remember listening to one of her episodes called "Jeffrey Dahmer. Inside His Messed Up Mind & How He Almost Got Away," where she was explaining Jeffrey Dahmer's childhood. She says "So from an early age Mr. Dahmer had an interest in dead animals," saying "dead animals" in a very silly and loud voice. In the same episode, she continues to talk about Dahmer's obsession with dead animals and continues to say "Oh god. That probably had a stink, right? All I can think about, like, how bad he probably smelled which is mean. Is it? No, because it's probably true. He probably

stunk." You can see, she doesn't keep things serious, and doesn't talk about how that could lead to what he did, and kept it lighthearted and fun which is just completely wrong and disgusting.

Jeffery Dahmer's victims' families are still alive today. Just imagine you go through an awful experience like they did and someone is joking around about their killer about how they probably smelled. This behavior is extremely problematic, desensitizing, and exploitative to the true crime community.

A lot of true crime "fans" become

someone has an unhealthy true crime addiction that they're going to be a serial killer, but there is still a potential for that to happen.

People can get addicted to the adrenaline rush that learning about these alarming stories gives them, and they can get desensitized to these cases which will make them seek out progressively worse and worse cases. It's the same thing as a drug addiction; suddenly marijuana isn't enough so people turn to harder stuff like cocaine, heroine, or meth.

People get so desensitized to these

somehow they still find a way to.

When I'm listening to a casual podcast, interview, or show, I often hear the narrator say something along the lines of I ended up finding actual pictures of it accidentally, or Don't look up these pictures if you're squeamish; they are very easy to find, and if you do, just prepare yourself. From personal experience, they are very easy to stumble upon, even if you don't specifically look up pictures. Sometimes they'll be displayed in an article, other times there are just whole websites for the photos. These websites are sketchy and dangerous for anyone.

Let's think of a scenario: imagine a young child is scrolling on some social media platform, and comes across a video. This specific video is explaining a toned-down and simplified version of a gruesome murder. This child, being inherently curious, decides to look up the name of the case.

This child then flips through a few websites, and stumbles upon a link in an article, the child clicks, and sees an actual picture of a mutilated dead body. Now depending on the age of the child they'll probably react differently. If they're below the age of eight, they'll either get scared and hopefully go talk to their parents about it, but if the child is scared of getting in trouble, or is curious about more cases, they'll keep looking up more cases with unrestricted internet access,

without adult intervention.

True crime was created to learn about psychological issues and causes to bring awareness. Simply because evil things fascinate people, we can't help but look at a trainwreck, it makes people feel better about their current situation, and can even give people an adrenaline rush. Some people watch true crime to crack an unsolved case. It's important to learn about the dangers of the internet as well as the dangers of this specific genre. These stories are real and should be treated as such. People love true crime, but learning about these gruesome cases can be harmful. ❄



numb to the fact that these people are real and these things happened in real life.

The definition of addiction is "the state of being compulsively committed to a habit or practice or to something that is psychologically or physically habit-forming, as narcotics, to such an extent that its cessation causes severe trauma."

You can form an addiction to any sort of media, but true crime can be the most dangerous to get obsessed with. Most serial killers have an obsession with things like death, murder, and other deranged acts as their brain is still developing. Now, I'm not saying that just because

serial killers and their lives that they start to romanticize them. Going online and seeing edits or cutesy drawings of these literal murderers is disgusting and detached from the reality of what these people actually did.

Stumbling across the wrong website seems to be a big problem in the true crime community, as well. The internet is absolutely huge, like, beyond all of our imaginations type of huge, and there are a lot of illegal and gross websites out there that show real photos that investigators took of these victims. Most of the time, it's unknown how these people got their hands on these restricted photos, but



# How music can affect your brain

BY KIERRA KATEN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

What is your favorite music? Have people ever been surprised with the music you listen to? It has been proven that music does link to your personality. In 2016, psychologist David Greenburg found there were three sections of music.

The first is "arousal" which is the energy of the music. Second is "valence", the difference in sad to happy emotions. The last is



"depth" which is the amount of emotional depth in the music. It's been found that all three sections are connected to "The Big Five" personalities: openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism.

Do you like pop music? Well, it has been said pop fans tend to be hard workers, and have high self-esteem, as well as being more creative and more uneasy. Rap lovers seem to have high self-esteem and are usually out-going. Country listeners are hard-working, conventional, and out-going.

They seem to be more emotionally stable and rank lower on the openness trait. Rock and metal fans are seen to be more introverted, gentle, and have lower self-esteem. Indie lovers are often introverted, smart, and creative. On the other hand, they are also typically less hardworking, and less gentle. Those who enjoy blues, soul, and jazz music are usually more extroverted with high self-esteem, easygoing, creative, and smart. Extroverts often find music with

heavy base lines. Those who enjoy complex styles such as jazz and classical tend to be smarter and more creative. Those who take up jobs such in math and science fields are typically drawn to structured music such as classical, jazz, and world music. It's been found out that you can base someone's personality off of their top 5 songs. Down below I will list four teacher's top 5 songs. Can you guess who they are by their music?

Teacher 1:

1. L'appel Du Vide by ACTORS
2. Of Vultures and Sickles by Pulsations
3. New Life by Glasshouse
4. Disintegration by The Cure
5. Vicious Pastimes by House of Harm

Teacher 2:

1. All for Leyna - Billy Joel
2. Close to You by the Carpenters
3. This Night - Billy Joel
4. Encanto Soundtrack
5. Fancy Like - Walker Hayes

Teacher 3:

1. Cute without the e (cut from the team) - Taking Back Sunday
2. In the End - Linkin Park
3. Saturday - Fall Out Boy
4. Dammit - Blink 182
5. Nuthin' but a "G" thang - Dr. Dre feat. Snoop Dogg

Teacher 4:

1. The Lady and the Tiger - They Might Be Giants
2. Good Intentions - Toad the Wet Sprocket
3. Popular - Wicked Soundtrack
4. Somebody Hates Me - Reel Big Fish
5. Here Comes the Sun - The Beatles

Answers:  
Teacher 1: Ms. Werhbeiser  
Teacher 2: Miss. Urban  
Teacher 3: Mr. Long  
Teacher 4: Miss. Tiedeman

## Enter Sandman



Bailey Smith and Seth Adams brought 'The Waterboy' and 'Happy Gilmore' to life.



Chloe Benner, Amber Oruska, Jameelah Gonzalez Cuevas, and Kynnda Dougherty.

## 'Film' theme takes stage in 2023 Yearbook



Our Reflections Yearbook staff made the film theme come to life on NL's stage.

Photo by Caitlin Kirk

### Yearbook, from page 1

to the yearbook and make it belong in 2022-2023." Working on the back cover, sports pages, and senior quotes pages are some responsibilities Kirk will be helping with. "I hope I can make the best versions of these pages so that it looks perfect," she said.

The theme "film" also gives a lot of inspiration to the yearbook staff. Zoe Edwards, part of the yearbook team, said, "My favorite part of this year's yearbook theme is how far we could go with it to make it the most creative it can be."

Superlatives are always a great addition

tion to the yearbook, and many people enjoy them. This year, some of these superlatives include, "Would Talk Through A Movie," "Walking Party," "Class Clown," and "Straight A Student," among many others. "I am most excited to see the superlative section because I know it will turn out super good," Edwards said.

This year's chief editor, Daisy Richards, is also really thrilled to begin work on the yearbook. "I would say that my favorite part of this year's yearbook theme is the different types of interpretations people can get from it. I am excited to see how the yearbook comes together," she

said. "I like seeing all the effort and ideas being installed into this masterpiece."

While directors tend to have the most responsibility, they also get to play a big role in making the yearbook a great way to look back for everyone.

"My hope for this yearbook is to have something that everyone can look back and reflect on. As the director, I am happy with the progress we are making so far," Richards said. "I have been a part of the yearbook for a few years, so now that I have this role as an editor, I am happy to see all the work that is being put into it."

Playing a major role in the design and

original discussions about the yearbook, Richards is enthusiastic to see the pages come to life. "All this work will eventually become a fantastic final copy. Hearing and seeing everyone's ideas come to life is always such a fun process," she said.

As the production of the 2022-23 yearbook continues, the staff as a whole is looking forward to seeing the finished product. Countless hours of work have already been put into the yearbook to capture all of the memories of this school year, and there is much more to come before "Roll the Credits" is finalized. 🎬



## Memories reunited, legacies ignited at annual bonfire

Yearbook “resurrection” sale was a success. We hoped for cleaner closets and a new camera, but witnessed much more.

About 8:05 p.m. as the tables, boxes, and leftover walking tacos got packed up, one more gentleman approached the Yearbook Club table. “Do you have any 1976?” he asked. As he stood there, tall and shuffling back and forth on his cane, staff members went searching for his requested edition.

It was a successful evening at Northern Lehigh’s (rescheduled) bonfire on Oct. 27 where fall sports seniors were introduced, clubs fundraised to support their causes, and old NL (or Slatington High School) yearbooks were resurrected and placed in the hands of Bulldogs from the past.

When the Reflections staff came across closets and closets of old yearbooks dating back to the mid 1940s, we blew off the dust and wondered what could be done with them. They had been kept dormant for decades moving from storage room to storage room.

We figured that not many were sold in the 1990s or a bunch of sen-



**One of many full carts taken to the bonfire. All leftover yearbooks are still for sale. Contact us for info.**

iors just never picked one up, or possibly forgot about them.

When we realized our club budget was close to red, and the fact that we own no genuine camera (phones have been our exclusive lens), the opportunity to “clean out” the stor-

age rooms became too good to pass up. The community’s response was fantastic too, and eager to reunite with legacies of memories.

At the table, we heard such heartfelt sentiments of yearbooks being purchased for holiday gifts, for

grandparents that never got one, for friends who lost theirs over the years, and by graduates who simply never ordered one. (Technically, by waiting a few decades, they got quite a discount).

Our main focus with the fundraiser is to purchase our own camera (or two). It sounds funny but neither the yearbook nor the Slate owns a genuine camera – we rely on the convenience and quality of phones. Great for a posed shot but horrible for zoom-in action. Thanks to all of the purchases made at the bonfire, our goal will be developed (get it?) but we witnessed many more reunions than we ever anticipated.

What became a little idea to clean out the yearbook storage closets became a night full of rekindled memories (at a fair price, we hope).

We thank you for helping our quest for better-quality photos and zooms, and we hope all the recipients enjoyed a trip down a Northern Lehigh memory lane.

Back to 8:08 p.m., we found the gentleman’s requested 1976. It was the last one remaining. As he gave us a ten-dollar bill, he flipped through a few pages, closed the cover, gave it a little pat, and said, “I finally got my yearbook.”

So glad we could help. 🐾

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## ‘Cosmic Dreams’

By Lacey Groover



“Artists, especially like myself, are confined in a small box that says that the art we create needs to be perfect, pristine, and organized. I wanted to create a piece that is pure CHAOS and shows that random things can look like amazing works of art without having to be *perfect*.”



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## Taking a stand by sitting down

By Abby Pearce  
Slate Columnist

As I sit here in homeroom, I begin to question a lot of things. I look around and notice I am the only one who sits during the pledge of allegiance. I do not stand for the flag. I begin to get self-conscious. Am I out of line? Is this the decision I want to make?

I have come to the conclusion that it isn't out of line as it is a personal choice. I respect the choices of the other students, but I am aware that this choice is the one I stand (or sit) by.

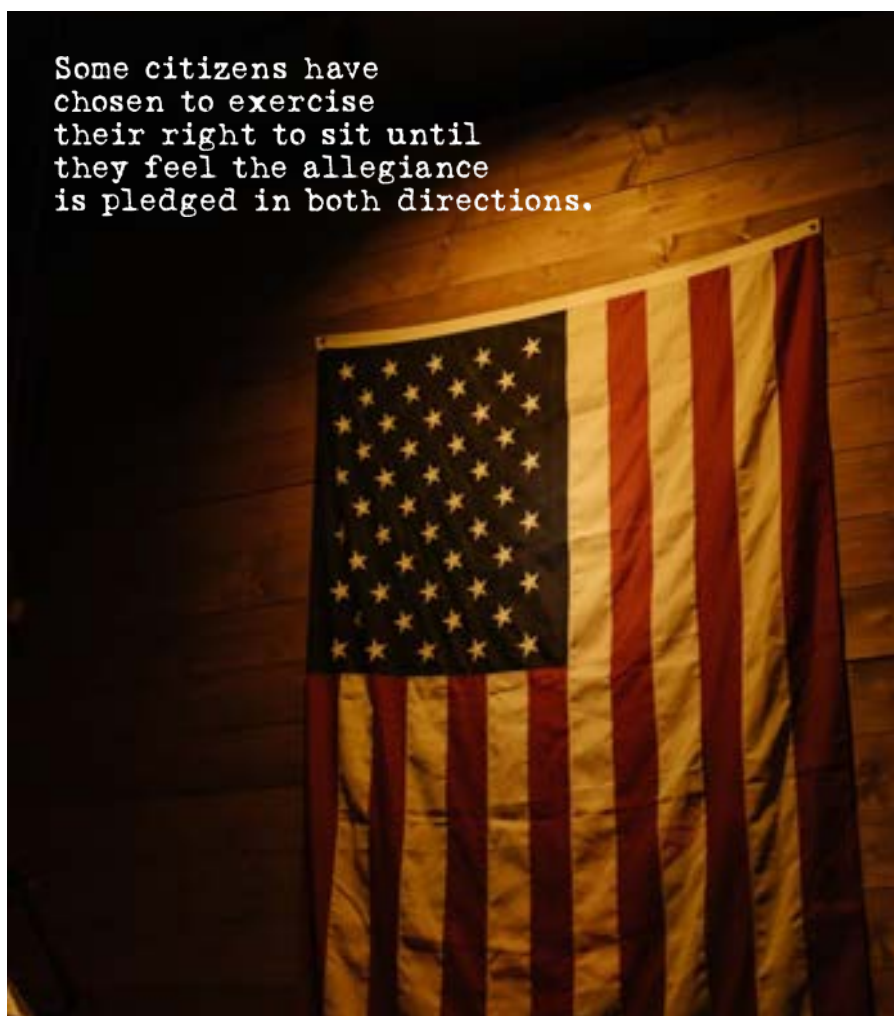
The flag is a confusing symbol, originally meant to represent the unity of the country, it seems as though, today, it represents something much different. It has been used by protesters in the January 6th riots, something that seems un-American.

If the flag is to be used by those who wish to harm the country and its government, then why should anyone who respects this country appreciate it? It no longer holds the same sentiments and values as it once did. In fact, its values have been changing over its entire lifetime.

In 1855, the time in which the original pledge of allegiance was written, the pledge did not have the word 'God' in it. It was only added during the Cold War as there was a belief that this change would prevent the spread of communism in the United States. Although an unnecessary change, it altered the way people would look at the pledge of allegiance.

Now, people disagree with the pledge

Some citizens have chosen to exercise their right to sit until they feel the allegiance is pledged in both directions.



as it holds a slight religious undertone that does not align with the beliefs of every American. Ironically, the pledge may have been more universal, if more people believing in it and the country had kept the original wording without the word 'God'.

Alongside the religious aspect, the

idea that the pledge and the flag stand for a capitalist democratic republic, as indicated by the changing of words, is something that not everyone stands for. Not all Americans wish to stand by a capitalist society. Even those that do don't necessarily agree with all of the ideas of the government.

On the other side, there are the people who do agree with the flag, the pledge, and their meanings. This side usually takes the flag for what it was meant to originally be: a symbol of unity for the country. They believe that the country should be united and reciting the pledge every day is an act of patriotism, not of hate.

However, there are those who do wish to incite hate with it. As stated previously, the January 6th riot was a tremendous hateful attack on America and everything that it is supposed to stand for.

The people in these attacks used the symbols that are meant to unite and represent the nation as harmful symbols to incite violence and invite terror into one of our country's most important government establishments. In another hateful side of the story, the Supreme Court of the United States decided to use its power in order to take away an important civil right that affects all women. Many people did not agree with this choice, however, those that did have decided that this decision is a part of the country's core values, and have used their 'patriotism' to spread their message.

The flag and the pledge of allegiance have seemingly always been a part of this country. To some, they are just symbolic and do not require any attention, but to others they are seemingly very important, some even using them to spark their own personal feuds.

Both sides have aspects that are good and bad. And so comes the question: to sit, or not to sit? 🌟

## Rerouting relations: A disconnect within online bonds

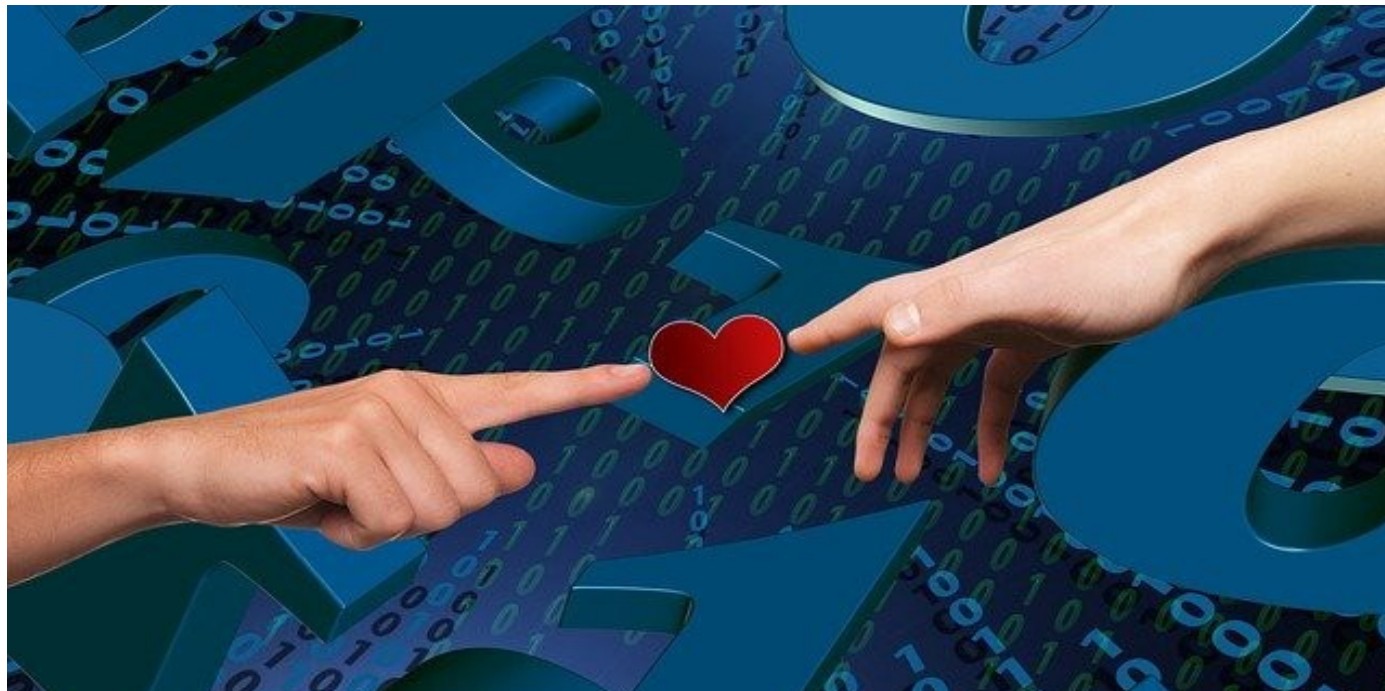
By Ayden Scanlon  
Slate Columnist

In the twenty-first century, the world is privileged enough to have many facets of life that people from previous generations could not have imagined in their early years; things like Mobile phones, digital music, satellite GPS, and Grubhub. All of these things are so common in our society that we hardly bat an eye at the impact they have on the day-to-day lives of the public. One thing, however, has changed the world in such a profound way that society can undoubtedly never return to a world without it. That marvel of technology is the internet; something that most people can carry around in their back pocket.

The introduction of the world wide web has left a permanent mark on the world as we know it (whether that mark is a scar or a beauty mark is up to interpretation.) Modern day society is almost entirely built around the web to an extent where many jobs cannot function without it. Not only jobs, but also the personal lives of nearly every person in the world. Digital life is almost as important, if not more important, than someone's physical life.

With that being said, it is no surprise that the main method of communication also flows through the internet. Messages that would take days to even weeks to deliver can be sent near instantaneously via social apps such as Instagram, Snapchat, or other forms of instant messaging. Naturally, this leads to an increase in socialization and communication over long distances.

At a passing glance, this is absolutely incredible. People can talk to their friends or family without even needing to do more than tap on a screen. However, that is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to online communication. Someone can be sitting at their couch, munching on a bag of corn nuts with bean dip, while simultaneously chatting with some-



one from Europe or Asia. And maybe, you can even form a digital friendship with someone.

Now, a digital friendship is not the same as a physical friendship. Many people who criticize this form of friend making do not take this factor into account. Real world friendships are complex and beautiful things. They can range from being minor acquaintances with someone to becoming a shoulder for another to cry on. This form of friendship is far more intimate and heartfelt than a digital one. Digital relationships are more comparable to having a pen pal. They are still valid, just not at the same level as school friends or close coworkers. Connections like this are often formed to chat about common interests and laugh at memes on the internet. They should not offer the same level of personal connection as a real, tangible, friend. And therein lies the problem: What if an online friendship tries to cross the boundaries over into something more akin to a real friendship? Or maybe it could escalate into something even more.

It is important to note that there is

nothing wrong with having "internet friends" so long as one can differentiate them from their real world counterparts. If someone starts treating another on the internet like their best friend, they start to run into problems. They won't be able to properly express themselves the same that they do in real life. The physical interaction is gone and replaced with much more streamline digital communication.

Being present for those you care about is very important in a relationship, whether it be platonic or romantic. People like to be around other people; they like to feel appreciated and loved. This is not easily achievable via the internet. Some people may end up feeling frustrated or even depressed that they are unable to form connections that they can in the real world. This is why it is so important to know the difference between your digital and physical friends. Knowing that, it becomes even more troublesome when the relationship escalates from platonic to romantic.

To address the elephant in the room, dating apps are not a part of this prob-

lem. Many dating apps encourage couples to meet in person and get to know each other in person. This is actually a very positive thing. It uses the power of the internet to bring people together in the real world. People who find themselves in a long distance internet romance will most likely be unable to meet in person. This can lead to feeling trapped and upset about not being able to be there for one another. There is no physical intimacy other than blue light coming off of a screen. This is not to say that something like this can never work out, but rather to say that it takes a lot of effort and patience to pull it off. Many people have meet their future partner over online forums or chatrooms, so it is not impossible to accomplish.

All in all, it is better to forge lasting relationships with those who can be with you in person rather than someone online. It is fine to chat online or make internet friends, but just be weary of how that friendship is progressing. In an effort to make each other feel loved, you may be inadvertently causing more heartache for the both of you. 🌟



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## How ‘Tankies’ ruined the left

By Patrick Conway  
Slate Columnist

The left is scary to most Americans. Not just liberals or progressives — **real leftists**. Socialists and anarchists. It’s a strange mindset to hold compared to our current system, so I understand. Many just cannot comprehend a society so different to ours. Most leftist theories require a completely different, collective mindset that most people just don’t hold. This is why most are tied up with social issues, rather than political or economic ones.

Social issues don’t affect our institutions nearly as much as economic or political ones. Why should we care about the economy? We live in a consumer’s paradise as result of our institutions. Everyone has the luxury to get the things they want. Food? Clothes? Toys? Land? Anybody can get things like this here in the U.S.

Anybody with money, that is.

This is the issue leftists have with our society — it’s too exclusive. The rich hold the majority of the world’s wealth, with little benefit to the masses. The left doesn’t find this fair, and wishes to change it.

Most of the left agrees that this economic elite is a bad thing. The movement begins to split up when discussing the politics behind it, however. Through what means should socialism be established? Should we move straight to socialism, or transition through another stage? How should we organize the economy — how should decisions be made? These are all disagreements within the socialist movement, and because of it many ideas inside the movement have become prominent.

Democratic socialists, for example, believe that socialism should be established and sustained democratically, with a transition holding some free-market ideas. Anarchists believe that socialism should be achieved without a state, and that it should be established through unions and individuals. Both of these ideas have become very prominent in the socialist movement, thanks to their anti-government, anti-elitist stances.

These anti-elitist movements, unfortunately, have some opposition. The “successful socialism.” The one that’s founded most socialist states. It, like its libertarian cousins, wants to get rid of capitalism. However, what is **very** different about this ideology is that it doesn’t support anti-elitist ideas. It is not only an elitist ideology, but one that tends to oppress the masses.

We call this movement *Leninism*. The idea behind it is rather simple — socialism is good, but workers and unions aren’t educated enough to support it. The solution, in the mind of a Leninist, is to establish a party to make socialist decisions. This party would consist of educat-

ed scholars and other intellectuals, and would make economic and political decisions. They also tend to enjoy **enforcing** socialist ideas, hence why we call these people “Tankies.” This technocratic form of government is referred to as the “Vanguard Party,” and while it sounds alright on paper, it turns into a mash of corruption, poverty, and bloodshed.

The issue stands within the ideology’s inherent trust of elites to solve problems,

years, he invaded countless countries and killed millions of Jewish people, all for “a better Germany.” Do you see the issue? These ends, as simple as they are, make way for authoritarian and immoral actions. All of this was “permissible” because the end goal was to “make a better Germany.”

In governance, ends do not tend to justify needs. Although they may be righteous, they almost always involve a

tant abuse of power. Leninists strive for a “realistic route to socialism,” but will rigorously do everything possible to avoid actual forms of socialism. This lie is supported to ensure the party takes and keeps power. Almost all Leninists actively support the movement just because of their need for power. It makes it bourgeois, in a way, and continues to separate it from the rest of the left.

Unfortunately, though, the move-



claiming that “the ends justify the means.” We see things like this all the time in our society. For example: Western governments hike interest rates to combat inflation. War is waged to ensure long-term peace, or monetary deflation to slow down the market. Situationally, these things aren’t bad. These general ideas where “the ends justify the means” are fairly common, especially within governments and their mandates.

Unfortunately, however, governments have a tendency to overuse this philosophy. Bureaucratic and totalitarian states have a tendency to use these ends to justify their cruel means.

Hitler makes for a great example of this. His platform was simple: make Germany better for German people. When he began his rule, he began to shut down Jewish businesses, all for “a better Germany.” Then, he committed vandalism against their businesses and houses, all for “a better Germany.” Within only a few

“catch” that can temporarily or permanently hurt a society.

Leninism does something similar as Hitler, but with “achieving socialism.” To begin, the Leninists begin protests, to “achieve socialism.” Once they have enough popularity, they revolt and form a classical Marxist “dictatorship of the proletariat,” with the goal of “achieving socialism.” They begin taking land and industry from the wealthy, with the goal of “achieving socialism.” They continue taking over the means, “to achieve socialism.” They devalue the currency, and centralize the banks, “to achieve socialism.” Then, to “protect and eventually achieve socialism,” the state cracks down on political dissidents, and commits other atrocities along the way. Forced labor, executions, imprisonment, **all** to achieve socialism. This seems rather similar to our Hitler example, doesn’t it?

Leninism has very many flaws. One of its most recognizable issues is its bla-

ment presses on. Leninism is the easiest form of “socialism” to establish, because of its reliance on power structures to get things done. It is inherently authoritarian. So, what can we do to stop these people from gaining influence?

It is simple — fight it. It doesn’t have to mean direct confrontation, but it does mean to express yourself. There is no reason that the Leninist movement should still be alive, and people *need* to know this. Every Leninist must be swayed, every ally educated. Get out there! There are political forums and communities that have an overabundance of Leninists.

This is a great place to start at. If you want a more active role, you can go out and protest, or write articles like myself. It doesn’t matter how it’s done, it just matters it’s done. Do whatever you can before these people normalize authoritarianism in the left. 🗡️

Got blood? Us too. Need blood? Let us help. 



Miller Keystone Blood Center, in conjunction with NL Student Council, visited the high school to accept donations from students, faculty, and community members. Above, Lily Groover and Keona Dyer — both Slate staff members — did their part to “save mosquitoes.”



# SPORTS



## GOING OUT IN STYLE



BY ALEXIS TRAUGHER  
SPORTS EDITOR

Walking out with lights beaming down, friends screaming their name, and being overwhelmed with a spectrum of emotions, senior night was officially upon them. Northern Lehigh's football and cheerleading seniors were given appreciation on Oct. 7, 2022 with a crowd full of proud supporters.

Austin Smyth, Izaiah Ramos, Alexander Jimenez "AJ" Wittong, Isaiah Warner, John Abidelli, Devon Sosa, Jesiah Burton, Lucas Farmer, Ben Reitz, Chase Wisocky, Nick Frame, Ethan Karpowich, Jayden Krempasky, Seth Adams, Jeweliana Andrews, Faith Zelenty, and Bianca Carrion are this year's long list of accomplished seniors.

The football seniors have grown over the past four years under the guidance of Coach Joseph Tout, Mr. Long, and Mr. Frame, as well as many other impactful men. As they grew, so did their passion, commitment, and determination.

"I've seen this group like all of the other groups mature throughout the years. This has been a large class and they have worked very hard to be successful on the field. Some players have been multi-year starters and some have worked very hard to start their senior year. But

overall, this was a group we were excited for and they have done a great job over the past four years," said Mr. Tout.

Along with dedication, comes breakthroughs that leave a mark on athletes forever. Be that catching your first touchdown in the endzone, a game-winning interception, or a groundbreaking tackle, these athletes have more than enough moments to choose from. They have made it to district finals two years in a row, became district champions last year, and are now on an insane record with the hope to bring back their title and go even farther. For Seth Adams, senior starter and homecoming king, his moment is one many share. "My proudest moment thus far would be the State run we had after smoking Palmerton 64-34 in the District Championship game last year."

Additionally, Mr. Tout's proudest moment is from a side NL supporters often do not see: "I'm most proud of their work ethic this past off-season. As a class, they were not satisfied with making it to the state semifinals. They worked very hard in the off-season with the goal of improving this year."

In addition to these seniors and the whole NL football team's hard work, comes goals the whole student body also wishes for: "My goal this year is to win a state championship, and we plan on do-

ing that by trying to better ourselves everyday when we practice," said Austin Smyth, senior starter.

And Adam's adds, "Our goal this year is to go back and win another District Championship. To do this, we all have to be on the same page and give 110% at practice and in games."

As they reach the end of their playing careers at Northern Lehigh, they will forever have blue and white as their strong foundation. And our beloved coaches also continue to learn from them. "What I've learned is that each group is always different. They've added their distinct style to this team through their leadership. Our team has been successful so far with the leadership of our seniors. They have done this by using a different leadership style compared to last year," said Mr. Tout.

In addition to our football seniors, the cheerleading squad's seniors continue to make sure bulldog territory is loud, proud, and appropriate. With stunts, creative cheers, and energy, these women have created an atmosphere we all love to enter every Friday night.

Jeweliana Andrews, senior cheerleader, looks back on her four years and sees it as a time of growth. "What I learned that will stick out to me is that you need to allow change because not everything is

going to stay the same forever... and over the past four years, my happiest moments were doing stunts that I thought I could never do," said Andrews.

Additionally, thanks can be given to cheerleading's new head coach, Michele Richards, who sees these girls as nothing but extravagant. "I believe the seniors have guided our younger cheerleaders by being positive role models in school and in the community... They've aided in raising spirits for Friday Night Lights and supporting other sports teams, when available," said Richards.

Along with the football players, the cheerleaders have grown on the side lines through every loss and win, morphing into the strong women they strived to be. "I've seen them grow as leaders, since tryouts were held in May, up until the latest victory for the football team. I know that they will continue to grow in their leadership ability, whether on the sidelines, in the classroom and wherever the adventures of life take them," said Richards.

With the regular season coming to an end, the overall excitement will not be lost as we cheer our team to victory in the student section, and thank our seniors for their continuous commitment to the blue and white. 🐾



**Senior footballers: (top) Ethan Karpowich, Head Coach Mr. Joe Tout, Seth Adams, Chase Wisocky. (middle) Nick Frame, AJ Wittong, Devon Sosa, Austin Smyth, Izaiah Ramos, Isaiah Warner. (bottom) Lucas Farmer, John Abidelli, Jesiah Burton, Ben Reitz, Jayden Krempasky.**

**Senior Cheerleaders: Bianca Carrion, Jeweliana Andrews, Faith Zelenty.**

Photos by  
Lifetouch Photography



## New tradition begins with shared jerseys

BY BAILEY SMITH  
SPORTS WRITER

The Bulldogs have a lot of ways to show their spirit but they did something that no one has seen before. Every player got to give their jersey to someone in the district that had a meaningful impact throughout their life.

I got to ask Coach Tout about the reason behind the event and he responded with, "I saw another school do this last year; however, it sounded like a great idea and I thought it would be something positive to do within our district."

There were many great thoughts from the players with their teachers but I chose to talk to Seth Adams with the event. "I chose Mrs. Farkas to wear my jersey. I chose her because she is always so kind, and takes the time to talk to me throughout the day. She was very excited and grateful that I chose her to wear my jersey. It was a great experience for the both of us."

I also talked to Mrs. Megan Farkas about her thoughts and she said, "I was very surprised and honored to wear Seth's jersey. Seth is a great kid; he always gives everyone attention even when most students his age would not. Seth always listens to what people have to say even if it's the little kids talking to him about booster club football. Whenever he sees the younger football player, he asks how their games went and is truly interested. Not many 18-year-old men want to be bothered by 10-year-olds."

*The following was sent to press on Nov. 10 and reflects the season to that point.*

### Here come the Bulldogs

How 'bout them Dawgs! Going 7-1 throughout the midseason so far with two games left on the season. The Dawgs have made a few changes as star running back/cornerback Izaiah Ramos was out since week 4 with a collarbone injury. So they responded by putting freshman Grady Newhard in at corner and senior John Abidelli at running back with senior AJ Jimenez.

After talking to starting offense tackle Seth Adams about how this season is going so far and what his thoughts about it, he responded with, "So far the season's going pretty well. I play on the offensive line, and we continue to grow as a unit. This team is very special. We have a lot of talent on both sides of the ball and I'm excited to see how the rest of our season plays out."

In week 7, NL was approached with a huge game against Notre Dame. They have been held in a huge fiery rage after losing to them last year in week 4. The team knew they needed to win so they could prove to people that they were serious and that they could come out on top. So what did they do? Exactly what Bulldogs do... they punched through the 1st quarter to the 4th and kept the foot on the pedal. And that's exactly what they did: the Bulldogs came out on top with a 40-33 win against Green Pond and improved to 6-1.

They went on to the next week clashing with Tamaqua and came out on top as well, turning them 7-1. The Dawgs are one game away from the playoffs. How far will they go? 🐾



Mrs. Chruschal and Grady Newhard

Brody Sterner and Mrs. Bigley

Bailey Smith and Mr. Barnes



Mrs. Farkas and Seth Adams



Teachers, staff members and a principal were honored by wearing jerseys. (top) Mr. Kern, Mr. Gerould, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Strohl, Mrs. Kuhns, Mrs. Farkas, Mr. Sander, Mr. Yadush, Mr. McCarty, Mr. Gupta. (bottom) Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Schmidt, Mrs. Blocker, Mrs. Farber, Mrs. Chruschal.



## Six soccer seniors say 'so long'



Aicha Salih, Danielle Dougherty, Keona Dyer, Caitlin Kirk, Kaylee Wilk, Aiyana Bosch. Check out more coverage on the next page.

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## Soccer season wraps up, seniors bow out

BY ALEXIS TRAUGHER  
SPORTS EDITOR

Watching a game of soccer is an amazing experience. Seeing the players deflect the ball off of their heads, defending in quick situations, and scoring stunning goals, the game is nothing short of entertaining.

This year's many Northern Lehigh Soccer seniors were given recognition throughout the beginning of October. The honorary seniors include Bryce LoPinto, Ethan Kunkle, Jefferey Heintzelman, Danielle Dougherty, Kaylee Wilk, Aicha Salih, Keona Dyer, Caitlin Kirk, and Aiyana Bosch. Each of them had a season to remember, with

boys' soccer reaching the district playoffs for the first time in seven years, and the girls' team going into Districts and Leagues playoffs for the third year in a row. These teams learned that determination and trust in one another pays off and rewards the team as a whole.

For her senior spotlight this year, Caitlin Kirk, senior defenseman and mid, continued where she left off last season, while also merging into a leader position. "It feels so strange to be a senior and leader on the team. Honestly, the years flew by. I never thought that this day would come so quickly. I love having the girls look up to me and ask questions. I love that I have made an environment that is comfortable for all

of the girls... helping my team get to districts and leagues for the past three years. Sophomore year was the first time ever that this happened, so it was incredible that I got to help with this," said Kirk.

Along with her team doing well, Kirk continued to put in the work alongside her fellow athletes, finally being rewarded for their dedication in hard times. "The best moment this season was finding out that all of our hard work had paid off. At the beginning of the season, we all set a team goal: we wanted to make it to leagues and districts.

Halfway through the season; however, we began to battle injuries. We began to fall apart and consistently have low

energy and motivation. Although once finding out that we had qualified for both leagues and districts, we knew our hard work had paid off. Despite the hardships in the middle of the season we still pulled through," said Kirk.

However, both teams fell short in their last games of the season. The girls fell to Pine Grove 1-0, proving they leave everything out there and play hard. And the boys fell to Schuylkill Haven after a hard fought game.

Furthermore, these two teams continue to make the NL community proud and give it their all. With senior guidance and strong coaching, hard work truly does pay off. 🍀



Ethan Kunkle, Jeff Heintzelman, Bryce LoPinto



Aiyana Bosch



Caitlin Kirk



Mikayla Gordon



Danielle Dougherty



Nicole Zarayko



Kaylee Wilk

## Girls soccer team kicks through districts

BY CASSIDY SNYDER  
SPORTS WRITER

The Northern Lehigh Lady Dawgs worked hard all summer to ensure a strong soccer season. They met on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays all summer long.

The girls' hard work and determination has now paid off. This is the girls third season in a row making Leagues and Districts. Although the girls were very excited to have made it and be given the opportunity, it was not as easy as it seemed.

First, they are the smallest team in the league. Second, they had girls on and off of injuries all year long, resulting in short 'subs'. Many girls were playing the full eighty minutes of hardcore soccer. The team was still able to stick together

and stay strong propelling them into another postseason run. The team happens to be very close, it's like a sisterhood. They build each other up and always try to make the best of every situation, good or bad. Not just their skills and talents on the field, but their strong bond as a team causes them to excel overall.

Head Coach Mr. Jason Reinhard was very happy and proud of the girls for making it to where they are. "It is an incredible accomplishment for this team. We are the smallest public school in the colonial league. To qualify for both Leagues and Districts, three years in a row, is an amazing feeling. There are teams that have three or four times as many girls as we do that don't make it as far as we have," said Reinhard

Furthermore, Reinhard added on the

team's ability to adapt to their constantly changing circumstances. "While the injuries have been difficult to deal with, the girls have played harder despite it. It would have been easy for them to use the injuries as an excuse for them to just give up and stop playing, but they never did that. Instead, they doubled down and because of their effort we qualified."

Reinhard then explained what his hopes are for these up and coming games. "I want us to show up to every game ready to play and work to the best of our abilities. If we are able to do that, everything else will sort itself out."

Girls soccer assistant coach Mrs. Shelby Bailey was also very happy about leagues and districts. "Coaching has brought back a lot of good memories for me. I used to be where these girls are. It's really cool to be a part of a team that has

made it this far. Seeing these girls get ready for Leagues and Districts is very exciting. It's cool to see how far these girls have come after a long history of NL girls soccer losses."

Bailey then went on to explain what she thinks shines out on the team. "One of the best parts of this team is everyone's abilities to play together, as a team. Everyone gets along really well on and off the field."

All the girls are very close friends and it's really neat to see as a coach. I would like to see that continue, no matter if we win or lose Leagues and Districts. The fact that everyone plays for each other on this team is something that I hope to see continue."

Congratulations to the Girls Varsity soccer team on making Leagues and District! 🍀



## Despite record, seniors valued moments



Seniors: Zoe Hathaway, Alexis Traugher, Delia Quier

BY CAITLIN KIRK  
STAFF WRITER

While this year's field hockey season did not go as planned, the team's spirit still outshined any negative influence. The seniors, Delia Quier, Zoe Hathaway, Alexis Traugher, and Elena Henning fought for a positive and inclusive atmosphere, on and off the field.

After abruptly losing their coach for undisclosed reasons, the team, as a whole, worked incredibly hard to fight through diverse situations that no other Northern Lehigh sports team has ever had to experience. The team bonded over these adversities and worked together to overcome them. The senior captains, Delia Quier and Zoe Hathaway, worked hard to keep the spirit alive and give the team a fighting chance this season.

Although the outcome was not ideal for a senior year, Quier comments on how it felt to be a senior: "Being a senior on the team was surreal. I still felt like I was a freshman. The time went by so fast, but it was a great experience. I had the ability to meet great new girls throughout my four years. I also learned the most about the sport in my senior year than ever before. I wish that my senior year could have been my freshman year, but I still wouldn't take back any of the people or experiences I had."

No matter the results, or history of the team, the NL student section still showed support. Regardless of the score, the support that NL showed to these girls was amazing. While only having 11 or 12 players each game, the girls on the team showed determination and perseverance to get through the season. Quier says, "On Senior Night, we lost 2-1 to Catau-

qua; however, this was by far our best game of the season. The student section and the drive we had to do our best were unlike anything I have ever seen."

Despite the season, the girls on the team still valued every moment. The adversities over the season helped the girls become closer with each other and with the coach. Alexis Traugher, team manager, said "The best thing about the season was getting close to our new coaches as well as each other...But in general, the best part of the season was us just becoming an actual team and playing for ourselves and each other."

The hard-fought season led many of the girls to self-realization. This season has taught each of the girls something vital that they can use in their future. Traugher says, "I have been thinking about being a manager in college, so I would use the experience of running the books, talking to refs, and learning the game inside and out as a way to get me there."

Furthermore, Zoe Hathaway mentions, "Being the captain and a senior has taught me how to be a leader and how to help others out when they need it. It's given me the discipline to know what is right and how to fix things when others don't know exactly what to do. But overall, this season has shown me a lot of new things that most teams would never experience and for that, I am very grateful."

Overall, while the season might have been a rough one, the girls made the most out of it. This season proved that the girls on the field hockey team are strong, independent, and can fight through anything. It showed the girls that, despite the circumstances, a team effort is stronger than anything. 🍀

## Local slugger O'Rourke called Slatington home

BY GABBY LONBERGER  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Frank O'Rourke from Washington Township, was born in Canada, on November 28, but there is some uncertainty as to the year even in his own mind. On his World War I draft registration, he indicated that his birth year was 1893, but on his World War II draft registration, he said it was 1894.

And in 1942, his brother John, swore he had been born in 1891. On his Hall of Fame player questionnaire, completed in 1960, the player said he was born in 1894. A birth certificate rendered in 1942 gives the year of birth as 1894. Frank O'Rourke played professional baseball, possibly from the age of 18 to 47. A little more than half of his 1,131 major-league games were as a third baseman (598) he also played 289 games at shortstop and 220 at second. He was a career .254 batter, with 430 RBIs and 547 runs scored.

He played for two National League teams and four in the American League. He was right-handed, stood 5-foot-10, and is listed at 165 pounds. In a 1929 article in the St. Louis Star, O'Rourke wrote that he and his family moved to Elizabeth, NJ in about 1905 when Frank was fourteen.

He said that he "did not care much for baseball until we moved to Elizabeth. I got interested in baseball, [and] found I could play it." In 1911 he was playing for the Belmont semi-professional team in Elizabeth when he was discovered. The next year he was off to the Bridgeport Orators then, that June he was sold to the Boston Braves.

As O'Rourke later recalled, he showed up in Boston and was in the lineup the next day for his first major league game,

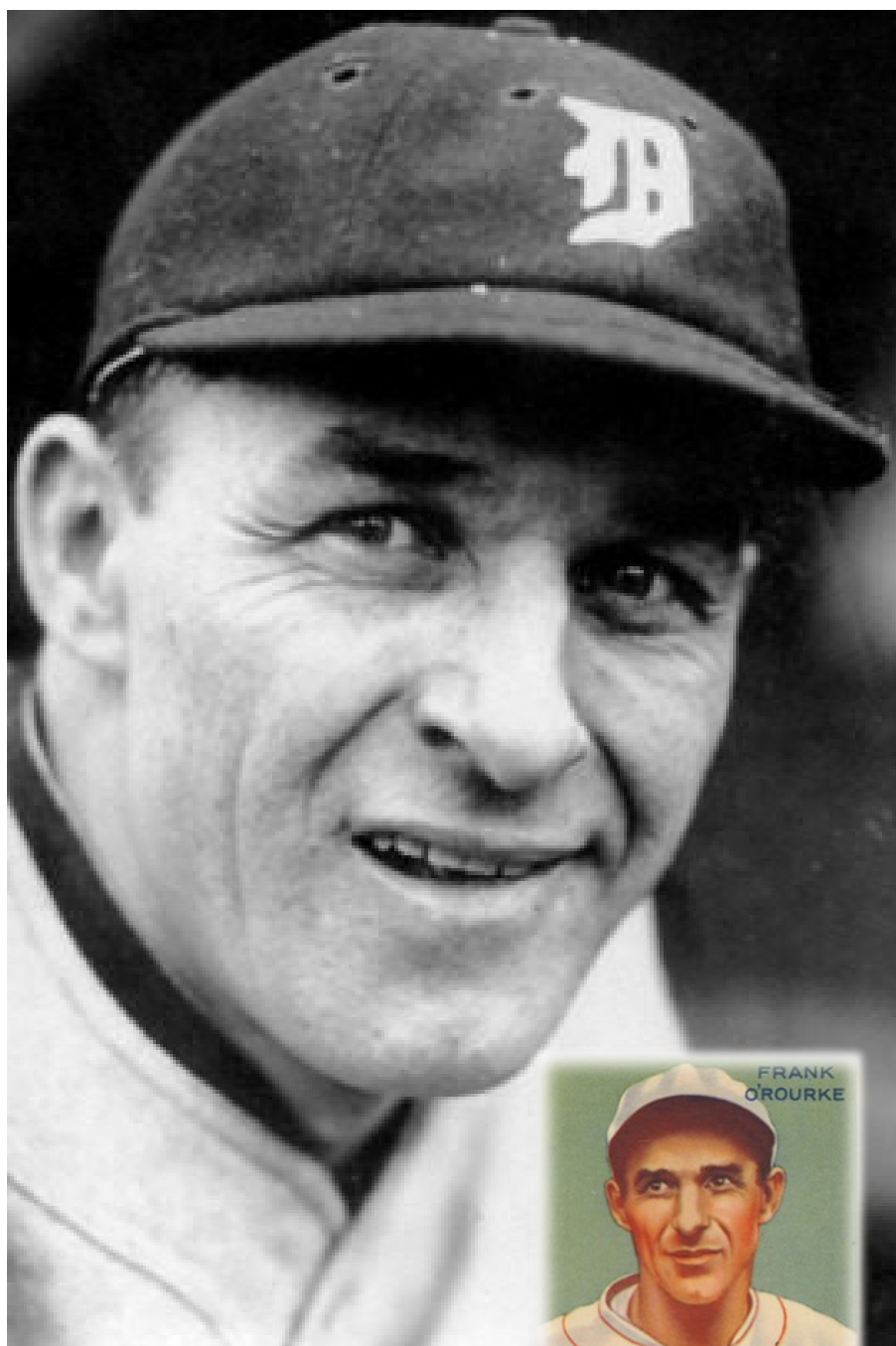
but he was found to be "too inexperienced," and in the winter he was traded to Buffalo. Then began a long caravan of teams through the minor and major leagues: Wilkes-Barre, Utica, briefly the Brooklyn Robins, New London, Binghamton, Toronto, Washington Senators, Boston Red Sox, Toronto, Detroit Tigers and finally the St. Louis Browns in 1927.

According to O'Rourke, he acquired his nickname of "Blackie" when he was with the Utica Utes in 1917. O'Rourke led a protest by four players that unless salaries were paid, they would not play. The owners said that there was no money for the men.

When the players returned to the ballpark that afternoon, they discovered that the game was in progress, and they sat down in the bleachers. A sportswriter led his account of the game with the heading, "Four Blackbirds, Sitting on a Fence," and the "Blackie" nickname stuck for Frank.. that club disbanded a few days later.

On March 28th 1913, in Slatington he married Jennie Roberts of town. They had two daughters, One died in 1914. They divorced in 1915. O'Rourke's kept up his ties to Slatington during his early baseball career. It is not clear when exactly he left Slatington permanently.

He often visited the town through the 1910s and 1920s, and several times he returned to play semi-professional baseball with the town's team. He also brought a barn-storming major league team through the town in the late 1920s. He retired from baseball in 1985 at age 91 O'Rourke died on May 14, 1986, at the King James Nursing Home in Chatham, New Jersey. He was predeceased by his wife Elizabeth Smith they married in 1916 the couple had one daughter, Frances Weidman. 🍀





# MONUMENTAL MOMENTS IN HISTORY

## History of the SS John W. Brown

BY CALLUM ZIMMERMAN  
SLATE HISTORIAN

World War II began with the invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany in 1939 and on December 7, 1941, when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. The following day, America declared war on Japan and officially entered the War. Germany began attacking and sinking American ships, so the United States needed to quickly build ships to replace the destroyed ships and move troops and supplies.

The S.S. John W. Brown is a WWII Liberty class merchant ship. She was launched on September 7th, 1942, and was in service until 1946. The S.S. John W. Brown was then changed into a floating maritime high school. The last graduating class of students preparing to become merchant marines was in 1982. She was taken in by Project Liberty Ship, Inc., and brought to Baltimore Harbor to serve as the only "Liberty" class museum ship and memorial on the east coast in 1988.

### WHAT IS A LIBERTY SHIP?

On January 3, 1941, President Roosevelt announced a \$350 million shipbuilding program. In September, 1941, the nation launched an emergency ship construction program that would involve building the equivalent of more than half of the pre-war merchant ships of the world in three years, while at the same time building the greatest fleet of fighting ships the world had ever seen.

The U.S. Maritime Commission made adjustments to the British "Ocean" design, designing a ship to meet manufacturing and shipbuilding standards, accommodate America's needs for certain materials, and to build as rapidly and cheaply as possible.

The ships were originally referred to as "emergency ships." These ships were often nicknamed the "Ugly Duckling"

for their utilitarian appearance. When the first of these new Liberty class ships, the SS PATRICK HENRY, was launched in 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt referred to Patrick Henry's speech of March 23, 1775, ending with the famous phrase "give me liberty, or give me death." The President told the country that these ships would bring liberty to

Africa, Italy and southern France. She moved in convoys taking supplies, equipment and troops to where they were needed. The BROWN had a crew of about 45 civilian merchant seamen, with her guns manned by 41 Navy Armed Guard personnel. Immediately after the war was over, the BROWN carried government cargoes to help rebuild a war-

Liberty fleet. There are about fifty old navy ships located all around our coasts as naval memorials, but only five merchant ships. Four of those merchant ships are active memorials that can be seen by the public. The all-volunteer crews have returned them to operating condition in order to show visitors just how it was to operate a World War II-era merchant



Europe, which is where the nickname

Most of the rest of the BROWN's wartime voyages were to the Mediterranean Sea. She was part of the invasion force of southern France during Operation Dragoon in August 1944. While there, the BROWN usually spent several months moving between ports in North

torn Europe.

### RESTORATION

The BROWN has been rededicated as a memorial museum ship and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. She honors the shipyard workers, merchant seamen and Naval Armed Guard who built, sailed and defended the

ship. These men and women, who are often veterans of the shipyards, merchant marine or Armed guard, believe this is the best way to rekindle the American spirit that saw this country through the dark days of World War II. JOHN W. BROWN is a 'living' example of how an united America can accomplish any goal.

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# How our homeless population got so bad

BY OLIVIA HANDWERK  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Even before scientists came up with a model for the brain, we have been working on curing people's mental disorders through medication. Schizophrenia, a condition that changes the way you perceive the world, was the first to be "cured" by medication.

Before we could produce this medication, people were locked in asylums and mass institutions because of their

Just look at it. Structures are made jagged and with bars sticking out. The only reason for it is to prevent people from sleeping. Really? Is that how little empathy our world has? These troubled people are robbed of the resources they need and then aren't even given the right to sleep comfortably when they inevitably struggle to function in society. Homelessness is predicted only to keep increasing, so why can't we learn to adapt to it or prevent it instead of punishing those afflicted? Most of these



differences. These places had horrible hygiene and staff practices, but they still offered refuge and the structure dysfunctional minds need. Now with more recent technology, we can medicate these people, but where did the people who need the most help go? To the streets. The homeless that live silently among us usually took refuge in these, albeit, horrible places, but now that we have a way to "cure" them, we tossed them out. With medications giving many people the ability to live normal lives, many others got kicked out of one of the only refuges that helped them.

Approximately 80% of the homeless population has a mental disorder, and without proper treatment and support, most have stopped taking the medication that warranted leaving those institutions to begin with. The world offers no sympathy; you can see it yourself in New York. The amount of anti-homeless architecture is appalling.

people are lonely; however, their gender and race punishes them at every turn. When it comes to individual homeless people, 70% are men. And when it comes to race, numerically, white people are the largest group; however, marginalized racial and ethnic groups are much more likely to experience homelessness.

Why do we do this? Is our society's obsession with money so bad that we see revenue over people? Our homeless population is only increasing, but there are things we can do to help. Firstly, we need to stop the idea that it is the sole duty of non-profit organizations to help these people. Our government needs to step up further to help those who are without homes through setting up programs to help those affected by homelessness get jobs, which in turn allows them to get out of poverty and homelessness. 🙏

## Students put 'Service Above Self'



The Rotary Club of Slatington recently volunteered at the Walnutport "Canalfest." They offered face painting, a bounce house and had a collection cart for the Northern Lehigh foodbank raising \$423. Pictured are Elizabeth Binder, Seth and Olivia Schaeffer, Chase Moffitt, and Katelynn Barthold.

Photos courtesy of Mr. Eric Heiney, Rotary Club President.

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# 'Down to the Bone'

By Keona Dyer



People starve themselves thinking they need to fit a certain standard or weight when in reality they are just hurting themselves. This shows what people do to themselves when they don't think they fit this standard and still try to make themselves fit it.

## Scrimmaging in the Christmas city



Despite an unfortunate defeat by Whitehall, the high school Scholastic Scrimmage team had a great experience in Bethlehem at PBS Studios. Pictured: Bianca Carrion - Captain, Aisha Pjetrovic, Taylor Everk, Jackson Hunsicker. Adviser: Mr. Mike Lehtonen (not pictured). Big Bird did not assist in the competition.