



Think It's Not a Sport?

You get on top of that pyramid!
A look behind the pom-poms.

Page 9



Taylor Takes it Back

Ms. Swift, among others, are getting control of their music.

Page 13

THE SLATE MAN

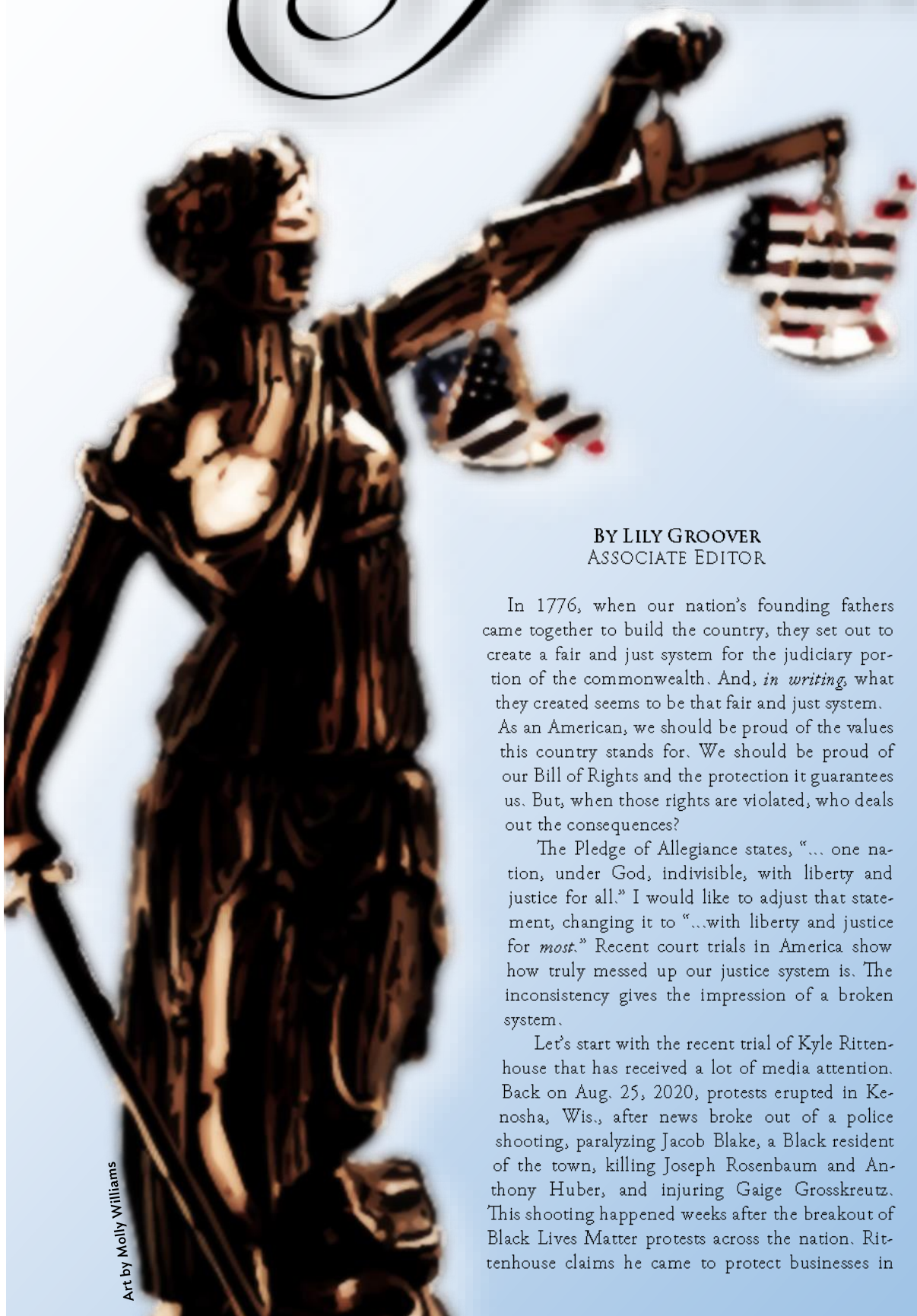
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The Voice of Northern Lehigh High School

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And Justice For...



Art by Molly Williams

WITH A RASH OF CONTROVERSIAL COURT DECISIONS PERVADING OUR NATION'S DOCKETS AND DEBATE STAGES, WHERE DOES AMERICA DRAW THE LINE FOR WHO RECEIVES THE STRONG ARM OF THE LAW OR A FREE PASS?

BY LILY GROOVER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

In 1776, when our nation's founding fathers came together to build the country, they set out to create a fair and just system for the judiciary portion of the commonwealth. And, *in writing*, what they created seems to be that fair and just system.

As an American, we should be proud of the values this country stands for. We should be proud of our Bill of Rights and the protection it guarantees us. But, when those rights are violated, who deals out the consequences?

The Pledge of Allegiance states, "...one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." I would like to adjust that statement, changing it to "...with liberty and justice for *most*." Recent court trials in America show how truly messed up our justice system is. The inconsistency gives the impression of a broken system.

Let's start with the recent trial of Kyle Rittenhouse that has received a lot of media attention. Back on Aug. 25, 2020, protests erupted in Kenosha, Wis., after news broke out of a police shooting, paralyzing Jacob Blake, a Black resident of the town, killing Joseph Rosenbaum and Anthony Huber, and injuring Gaige Grosskreutz. This shooting happened weeks after the breakout of Black Lives Matter protests across the nation. Rittenhouse claims he came to protect businesses in

Kenosha from the protests and provide any services he could as a medic.

Of course, killing people is bad. However, I can believe how his actions were in self-defense. Watching the grotesque video of that night, Rittenhouse is seen being chased and attacked by the rioters. The jury gave a fair assessment, and his case went through the same system every case goes through; although, many argued the judge Bruce Schroeder favored the defense, and had too much of a temperament toward that side, often allowing shouting to occur in the courtroom.

The amount of attention Rittenhouse received after being acquitted on all counts, however, is a perfect example of privilege and how broken the justice system in America is. Rittenhouse is now receiving an alarming number of job offers in D.C. on Capitol Hill, he was featured in a popular podcast, has obtained a large following, and most importantly, was featured on Fox News where Tucker Carlson fangirled over his 'heroic' actions that night. He was acquitted, but he is still a murderer, and we should refrain from calling him a 'hero.' From *his* point of view, he received justice.

However, if he were a minority, his story would have turned out a bit differently. Had Rittenhouse been a Black man, I believe his case would not have received a tenth of the attention, he would have been found guilty, and the media would not have given it a second glance. Privilege is still very active in America today, and the more we let it go, the more it will spread, further unbalancing the scales of

See JUSTICE, page 2

A Twittlerless world, no Books of our Faces

BY GIANA ROSARIO
STAFF WRITER

Most of us can admit that we are addicted to social media. So the question needs to be asked: Would any of us be able to go on without it? It might seem like a funny question, but social media is a very addictive platform. We may not even realize how much we are using it every day. Using social media for long periods of time is not a healthy habit, but it is hard to



stop, sometimes even impossible. It has been a big part of most of our lives, and we have become accustomed to this lifestyle.

For a lot of us, it is impossible to imagine the thought of not having social media in our lives. We have

See SOCIALS, page 4

High school debate: Trumping modern politics

BY NIA NICHOLSON
STAFF WRITER

Wielding their well-supported opinions, Northern Lehigh High School's debate team, headed by the astute school librarian Ms. Krystle-Dawn Willing-Tiedeman, carries the torch of purposeful, open-minded parley. Currently holding six wins from the first four rounds of this year's head-to-head season, Northern Lehigh's two A and B teams are proving successful despite the abundance of first-year members.

In fact, there has been a stunning resurgence in membership for the debate team this year. "During last year's fully-virtual competition, the team held strong with the very dedicated 'Eight Debate' teammates" Ms. Tiedeman explained. "Unfortunately, with only eight students - enough for Affirmative A and Negative A teams - Northern Lehigh was forced to forfeit all of our B team competitions. Even if our team won every round, the forfeits would hold

See DEBATE, page 8

INSIDE



Questionable Casting Dangerous Storytelling
Page 3.



Worldly Influencers The fourth would be...
Page 3.



All Greek to Them Devon Vega gets a bit mythological.
Page 8.

Another dry summer forecasted?

NL's community pool got a cleanup last summer by some local hopefuls wishing for the cool water to flow soon

BY MADDY MACK
STAFF WRITER

For many families in the community, the Northern Lehigh Pool has been a consistent place to have fun and cool off during the summer. However, for the past two summers, the pool has been forced to stay closed. The ongoing pandemic is partially responsible for the pool's closure during the 2020 and 2021 summer seasons. However, the pool also needs to be redone, which poses new challenges to the Northern Lehigh Pool Board Association members.

Seven years ago, the pool was completely redone. However, every year since then the company has come back to fix the issues.

"It is now at the point where a total renovation must occur once again," Northern Lehigh Pool Board Association President Jessica Mack said. "The bottom and sides of the pool need to be completely redone in order for it to reopen." As time goes on, the surface and sides of the pool continue to crack and crumble.

The ongoing COVID crisis also poses problems for the association. "Several contractors were contacted and the estimated cost is around \$300,000," Celeste Williams, the head of the fundraising committee, said. Prices have increased, causing a new renovation to cost more than it has in the past. To combat this challenge, the board has applied for grants to provide financial assistance.

Kathy Barhight Herzog, NL Pool Board Treasurer, said, "The stars will all need to align to make it happen in time for this summer. We need the actual funds to be deposited to us from the grants, and a contractor that would be available to do the work for this summer. Contractors have been backed up due to shortages in materials, so even though the funding should be in place in time, the contractor who is awarded the job may not have time this summer."

In addition to the grants, multiple fundraisers have been conducted to help raise money. In November, the board held a purse bingo; in September, they held a raffle contest. These fundraisers were able to help raise more money, and more fundraisers are planned for the coming months.

"In January, we will begin our next fundraiser, which will be a \$300 gift card to Kalahari Waterpark and Resort in Tannersville. Tickets are \$5 a ticket. All support is greatly appreciated," Williams said. "Any fundraising ideas are always welcome."



High school students helping with pool cleanup over the summer were: (top) Brianna Kuhns, Kendall Heiney, Sophia Lear, Raven Klimek, Brooke Nonnemacher, Sam Slack, Arianna Williams, Zach Lehman, Gabe Diaz, Ryan Lynch.

(Left) Raven Klimek, Gabe Diaz, Brooke Nonnemacher and Sam Slack.

Photos by Mr. Eric Heiney

Not only does the pool need to be redone, many improvements will be made as well. A new roof, handicap bathroom, and chair lifts will need to be added in the future. These will help more people enjoy their time spent swimming. "We are hopeful that if we are able to secure the necessary funds, we will be able to open for the 2022 summer season," Mack said. All members of the pool board donate their time and energy to provide the community with a place for them to enjoy their summer. "Unlike other community pools, the Northern Lehigh Pool is a self-supporting, nonprofit run by volunteers, which many people do not realize," Williams said.

Even though the pool is not currently open, there is always work that needs to be done. "Whether we are open or not,

we still need to upkeep the grounds and other maintenance duties," Mack said. This gives students many opportunities for community service.

In fall, the Rotary Club of Slatington sponsored a clean-up day with many high school kids helping to maintain the grounds. "We would like to have another clean-up day in the spring, and if we could get more volunteers; a lot of work could be done in a short amount of time," Barhight Herzog said.

Students that participated ran push mowers, weed-wacked, pulled weeds, raked leaves, cleaned out the bath house, and more.

Community support is also one of the most important things needed for the pool to open again. "Most importantly, people should come swim when the pool

is open! We need the members of the community to patronize the pool in order to keep it going," Mack said. On the pool's Facebook page, monthly meetings and fundraisers are regularly advertised, which everyone is welcome to help with. "It's nice to hear people supporting our efforts instead of picking fault or looking for blame as to why the pool isn't open. The volunteers who have put a ton of their spare time into helping the pool never wanted to be in the position that we are in with a damaged pool," Barhight Herzog said. The board will continue to work hard to save the Northern Lehigh Community Pool. "We thank everyone for supporting the pool and realizing we are doing everything we can to get the pool back up and running for the community." 🐾

Can the scales of justice favor one side over others?

JUSTICE, from page 1

justice.

This is seen with a case that has been kept quieter than Rittenhouse's. The murder of Ahmaud Arbery is a case that also represents privilege and the violation of justice in America. Arbery was jogging in his neighborhood when he was suddenly attacked by a father and son, Gregory McMichaels, 65, and son Travis, 35, chasing him with a pick-up truck. Their neighbor, William Bryan, 52, joined the pursuit. The two claimed they thought he looked like a burglar they saw before. After a quick dispute, the son fired a shotgun three times at Arbery, killing him.

It took two months for police in the area to arrest the father and son, who had attempted to cover up the killing. Once they were finally arrested, the judicial circuit judge of the area recused, or excused herself from the case because McMichaels worked in her office. It was then sent to Judge George Barnhill, who also recused the case after conflicts with Arbery's mother.

Before that, however, he wrote a letter to the police department because he thought there was no probable cause to arrest Arbery's pursuers.

He said that the McMichaelses, under the Georgian law, had the right to open-carry, had the right to pursue a "burglary suspect," and the right to use deadly force

in self-defense. There is no evidence that Arbery was armed, nor that he attacked either of the pair. The case was saved when a video of the attack was leaked, and the public learned about the lack of consequences.

Once the case was finally in court, Arbery's lawyer made it clear that his client was the one acting in defense, not McMichaels. In a final act, the leading prosecutor said that McMichaels attacked Arbery because "... he was a Black man running down the street." This statement opened the argument that race was a leading reason for the trial. Arbery has yet to receive justice. His attackers appeared in federal court Jan. 7 for their sentencing. All three received life sentences with only Mr. Bryan eventually eligible for parole.

America is shown to have a bias against race and ethnicity when it comes to its court system. America is shown to have a bias against women as well. Chris Belter, 18, pleaded guilty to rape, attempted sexual abuse, and two misdemeanors in attacks on four separate girls between 2017 and 2018. Before the judge announced the decision, he declared that he prayed for answers on the

appropriate sentencing.

Apparently, "incarceration was not appropriate at this time." Belter has eight years of probation and must register as a sex offender. The judge then offered no further explanation as to why the sentence did not include prison time. Letting this man walk free is an injustice to me as a woman, his victims, and any other fe-

male in the country. Rape is illegal.

If people like Belter and Rittenhouse get away with crimes because of their race, gender, or any other advantage they have, we have a broken justice system. For our country to claim liberty and justice for all, it must genuinely validate that statement through actions by the justice system. 🐾



Courtrooms across the country are gaining scrutiny over the roles of jury, judges, and how race has seemingly influenced recent decisions.

The trauma and pseudo-maturity of girls in film

BY NIA NICHOLSON
STAFF WRITER

Dolores Haze, the 14-year-old nicknamed Lolita, the victim of Humbert Humbert, the romanticized face of a mature, young lady.

The 1997 film *Lolita* is a poignant, and possibly the most popular, example of a young girl being abused in film and portrayed as a beautiful, mature for her age character. She is just one of the many faces of this phenomenon. Mathilda Lando and Angela Hayes are two more examples. The shared trait of all of these characters: their sexualization and romanticized trauma at a young age.

Mathilda Lando, played by Natalie Portman, is a cigarette-smoking twelve-year-old taken in by Leon, a hitman, in the film *Leon: The Professional* (1995). Her entire family has been murdered and she is forced to seek shelter with Leon, who goes on to make her his protegee in his hitman business.

This concept at a surface level is a silly, heartwarming, film of an unfortunate circumstance leading to a bond between two troubled characters. The issue is the way Mathilda is portrayed and the nuances and sexual undertones that prevail through the two characters' relationship.

Mathilda makes attempts to appear older throughout the film for Leon, wearing lingerie and lipstick and flirting, all of which could be explained as a trauma response to the murder of her family, as even the character rationalizes.

Mathilda is twelve, chain smoking and courting a grown man. She introduces herself as eighteen to Leon, and throughout the film tells him she loves him and wants to "have it" with him. Despite her being portrayed in this way, girlhood prevails. In her dressing up as famous figures and performing "Like a Virgin" to Leon, she is not proving her maturity. She is emphasizing the fact that she is twelve: she is experiencing girlhood and play.

This, juxtaposed with the latent portrayal of the sexual potential of Mathilda's character, is undeniably uncomfortable to view. Sexualization and its symbolic pseudo-maturity has become a defining factor of girlhood in the media



and its insensitive portrayal of girls growing up.

Angela Hayes, the friend of Jane Burnham in *American Beauty* (1999), is possibly one of the most notorious examples of a sexualized young girl in film. She is idealized by Jane's father, Lester, and represents teenage promiscuity and the titular *American Beauty*.

But Angela is not portrayed as a victim, a teenager being lusted after by a middle-aged man, or a girl being groomed. Instead, Angela is written as a mature, confident, promiscuous girl whose romance with Lester is acceptable, if not a little absurd. This is until the facade falls: Angela is a virgin. And that is a pillar of comedy in this film.

One must ask, who are these characters being written for? Are they genuine attempts at capturing the nuance, absurdity, and creativity of young women and maturing, or are they empty, pandering, tropes of sexual precociousness for the male gaze? This phenomenon stretches past the writing of young white girls in film. In fact, young Black girls appear to suffer the most potent consequences of this.

Films surrounding Black people already tend to have trauma-based plots, rather than a celebration of culture and

life. Specific films like *Precious* (2009) are entirely based on the trauma of a young Black girl. While this in itself is not an issue, the implication remains.

An academic paper written in 2014 by Rebecca Epstein, Jamilia J. Blake, and Thalia González for the Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality highlights the disparity in how people view Black girls versus white girls.

Compared to white girls of the same age, surveys show that people believe Black girls "know more about adult topics", "know more about sex", and "need less protection". This viewpoint is not helped by how these young girls are often portrayed in films, on the rare instance that the protagonist is a Black girl.

Another example of this phenomenon extending past young girls and onto other women is the Manic Pixie Dream Girl trope. This term, coined by Nathan Rabin, describes female characters who "exist solely in the fevered imaginations of sensitive writer-directors to teach broodingly soulful young men to embrace life and its infinite mysteries and adventures."

Criticisms of this term have been poised, saying that the characters themselves are not intentionally written this way but instead are perceived as this due to pre-existing misogynistic and diminu-

tive views of women in general.

However, it is difficult to deny the underdeveloped characters such as Ramona Flowers or Marla Singer who exemplify those quirky characters that male protagonists' plots hinge upon.

Film in general has misrepresented women for practically as long as the art has existed. Barbara in *Night of the Living Dead* (1968) remains in a catatonic state for almost the entire film, a depiction of how weak and inefficient a woman would be believed to be in an apocalypse in the 60s. Fifty-three years later, not much has progressed.

Women are still the weak, tortured, slaughtered stock of most slasher films. Women are still the quirky prize of the male protagonist in most rom-coms. Girls' adolescence is still severely garbled in the majority of films featuring it.

While the ferocity of these films' misguided delineation of women and girls has decreased through the years, its misogynistic roots and the prevalence that still remains must be examined and avoided by future filmmakers.

Society as a whole must learn to protect and nurture young girls, and ameliorating the film representations they grow up with is one of the easiest routes to begin with. 🌱

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The Mt. Rushmore of World Shapers

After trailblazers for compassion, creativity, and kindness to animals, who would be the fourth leader of influence?

BY HAVEN MOORE
STAFF WRITER

People, just like trends, have entered and left the spotlight. However, few people have stood out for shaping our world for the better. Those select few stick with us over time, they leave their footprints to be globally recognized. Presidents, for instance, have had their faces etched into stone. This is great and all, and no offence to those faces currently at Mount Rushmore, but wouldn't it be interesting if things were slightly more updated?

There are three great men worth mentioning: Fred McFeely Rogers, Robert Norman Ross, and Stephen Robert Irwin. At this point, most of you are probably experiencing some sense of nostalgia. If some of you aren't and perhaps don't recognize their names, hopefully, this article will kindle a newfound appreciation for them and their legacies.

Have you ever watched *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*? The TV show was critically acclaimed for focusing on children's emotional and physical concerns. It ran from 1968 to 2001 and was hosted and created by a man named Mister Rogers.

Fred Rogers was born on March 20, 1928, in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Rogers was a children's television presenter, actor, puppeteer, singer, composer, television producer, author, educator, and Presbyterian minister. He is known for his work toward the benefit and education of youth, bringing the world an outlet of peace with back-to-the-basics lessons about life. He worked endlessly for the good of others and encouraged creativity and kindness in society.

He has been awarded the Presidential Medal of Honor, a Television Hall of Fame induction, the Television Critics Association Career Achievement, a Life-

time Achievement Emmy, among many more achievements.

He sadly died of stomach cancer on February 27, 2003, at age 74. Though he has passed, he is still alive in people's hearts. The lessons Mr. Rogers taught and the morals he instilled continue to bring light to the world.

Have you ever heard of a certain little show on television in the early 80s to mid-90s that featured a "happy little paint-

er" here served as inspiration for his paintings. When Ross returned to Florida, he took to painting. According to him, "The [Air Force] requires you to be a mean, tough person... I promised myself that if I ever got away from it, it wasn't going to be that way anymore."

The origins of his show are unclear, but it rose in popularity among the public fairly quickly. The tranquil simplicity of every painting brought a whole new

lymphoma on July 4, 1995 at the age of 52. He is still widely viewed on YouTube, memorable for his unique persona, and his positive outlook on life continues to influence people. A recent documentary of his paintings' whereabouts was even released on Netflix a few months ago.

Steve Irwin, "The Crocodile Hunter," was born on February 22, 1962, in Upper Ferntree Gully, Australia. Irwin was a zookeeper, conservationist, television personality, wildlife expert, and environmentalist, whose love for animals brought him fame, and a platform, through his television series *The Crocodile Hunter*. He and his wife explored the world's wildlife and hosted various documentaries such as *Croc Files*, *The Crocodile Hunter Diaries*, and *New Breed Vets*. People from all over the world grew to love Steve and gained more knowledge of the environment outside their homes.

In 2006, while filming in Australia's Great Barrier Reef, tragedy hit. Mr. Irwin suffered a terminal accident from being pierced in the chest by a short-tail stingray. When a memorial service took place in Australia Zoo's Crocoseum the same year, the broadcast was estimated to have been viewed by over 300 million people.

Since that tragic accident, many parks, zoos, and streets have been named in his honor. Irwin's legacy lives on as he continues to be a symbol of a person who captured the world's love of adventure and wildlife.

Being that Mount Rushmore consists of four heads, one more person is still needed. It would not feel right to list four people of my choice to take those world-shaper spots. So, I ask the reader, who do you think deserves the fourth position? Who has left a legacy in being a significant factor in the betterment of the world, and humanity itself? 🐾



er"? That soft-spoken man was Bob Ross, a famous American painter, art instructor, and television host who brought the art of painting back into millions of people's homes, on his program *The Joy of Painting*.

Ross was born in Daytona Beach, Florida, on October 29, 1942. In 1961, 18-year-old Ross enlisted in the United States Air Force and served as the first sergeant of the clinic at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska. The beautiful mountains

perspective of the beauty of nature to viewers.

Ross's fun little jokes and wholesome dialogue served as a comfort to many. You may recall hearing a few famous sayings of his, such as: "happy little trees", "we don't make mistakes; we just have happy accidents". He not only illustrated helpful artistic techniques, but reminded his viewers to relax, enjoy, and have fun with their paintings.

Mr. Ross died of complications from



Much of the world's grace, compassion, love for animals, creativity, and happy little clouds are brought to you by Mister Rogers, Steve Irwin, and Bob Ross.

Where would we be without those apps?

SOCIALS, from page 1

lived with it for as long as we can remember and have grown up with it. It has found a way into our lives whether we have actively engaged in it or not. Social media has influenced us since we were born. It was introduced to most of us at a young age and we have used it ever since. Over half of the world's population uses at least one type of social media. Almost five billion people in this world choose to use internet platforms.

Even though I and many others are not aware of a life without apps like Instagram and Twitter, I still believe the world would be a better place. Although this may be my own opinion, there is plenty of factual evidence to show that social media has a bad effect on people. There is no benefit to using it as it negatively influences our social lives. I wish it was never invented because of the problems that stem from it. Social media has only been around for a short time, yet there has been so much destruction from it. It is sad to think that people develop depression and other serious mental health issues just from the internet.

I think if we got rid of social media there would be fewer mental health issues, cyberbullying would not be a problem, and people would have more confidence in themselves. They would be able to see their true beauty and not compare themselves with the other unrealistic beauty standards we have today.



Though people of all ages use social media, teenagers are affected the most. Almost all people, about ninety percent, ages thirteen to seventeen have at least one type of social media. Our young minds can be easily persuaded to whatever we are seeing. This means we are more exposed to mental health problems, cyberbullying, and other issues that can affect us later in life. But, just because teenagers are the most susceptible to these problems, does not mean we are the only ones who suffer. They can happen to anyone who uses social media.

Social media is a truly cruel place, yet we all continue to use it. I do not think anyone would be able to give it up now that we are all so attached to it. But, if it had never been introduced to the world, there would be a lot fewer problems to deal with. Change is needed, but would anyone truly be willing to change? 🐾

SHE BELIEVES!



Photo by Daisy Richards for the Reflections Yearbook

Lola Millroy believes in a plastic Santa Claus during NLH's Positive Behavior Activity Day, Dec. 22, that included movies, ping-pong, volleyball, and others. More photos available in our yearbook, on sale now!

Backpacks?
WE DON'T NEED NO
STINKIN' BACKPACKS



Student Council's first "Use Anything But a Backpack" Day was an interesting success. (Top) Chase Jones carried his items in a Gatorade cooler. (Main photo) Bryce LoPinto and Tyler Sollars brought their materials in actual mini cars — even up the steps. More photos are available on The Slate's Instagram.

FREE BARKING

With Molly Williams

In December's Free Barking, I asked other students what they don't like about school. For this one, I asked the opposite. People always have mixed opinions on how they feel about school and now we can all get a better perspective on what is both good and bad.



"I like being around my classmates. I've had the same few people in my classes my entire life so they're like a weird little family."

Ava Segur



"I mostly enjoy school for the social aspect with both teachers and peers. Extracurriculars are also a big plus, even if NL's clubs are so underfunded."



Nia Nicholson



"The cool thing about school is that it's not worrying. You don't have to worry about really anything if you just avoid drama and keep to yourself. Eventually we will all graduate (hopefully) and then it's all over, and you have to worry more about making money and supporting yourself and maybe family."

Ty Moffitt

"One thing I really like about the school is that we are all in this together, students and teachers alike. Everyone respects everyone and we can always rely on each other to be the best versions of ourselves."



Brooke Delancey



"I can't think of anything I like about school."

Tucker Deibert



"I like that I am able to spend each day with my best friends at school. It is enjoyable to do my classwork alongside them."



Danielle Dougherty



"I like that school gives people a chance to find friends and make memories."

Serena Haas



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Give these minds more credit

Our View

Should touchy topics be off-limits to student journalists? Some say school newspapers only need roses and rainbows, but we are not in the greeting card business

We strive to be a superior student newspaper. Our staff strives for excellence. For that reason, we approach topics beyond the average teenage mind, regardless of controversy.

As you currently hold (or are reading online) our third issue, it is no secret some headlines in this and previous Slates might raise an eyebrow. *Hmm, they're discussing religious hypocrisy? The pro-birther movement? The ownership of offensive slurs?*

There have been vaccine opinions – both pro and anti; a front-page (award-winning) spread on two sides

of gun control following the Parkland shooting of 2018; pleas during the rise of the #MeToo movement for parents to educate their sons over solely protecting your daughters; and

this," has been one refrain. Respectfully, we disagree.

High school kids have lived more than they should at times, and if they can form firm perspectives on ideas



our current front-page analysis on the state of justice in 2022 America.

We have been told, and have also heard, that these topics do not belong in a high school newspaper. "High school kids haven't lived enough to have opinions on something like

that spark, smolder, and ignite the conversations of the world's revolutions, why should they be stifled?

Granted, our articles may lean a certain way but it is not for blocking an alternate side. Writers' topics are not refused or rejected. If someone

would want to counterpoint Devon Vega's religious hypocrisy point, it is welcomed. Pro-life and proud of it? We have space on the page ready.

But to say the brains on this staff cannot yet process such cognitive levels is selling them way short. Plus, our dear readers are always welcome to disagree with a headline, sentence, word choice, etc. That's the beauty and curse of a free press – even at the scholastic level.

Last month, we were told by a taxpaying citizen of our community that he would no longer pick up our paper because of the garbage inside. On the phone though, he admitted otherwise if *his* opinion was included.

Look, no one wants to hear that disgusting other side, but the other side is where our freedom lives. You may reside down the block or in a different state altogether, but our high school staff should not be shunned from that neighborhood. 🐾

UNBEARABLE CONSEQUENCES

by Keona Dyer



"Here's to a happy and healthy 2022," said no polar bear anywhere. With mountain fires raging through the mid-west, temperatures rising and dipping more than ever before, multiple tornados destroying the south, in addition to floods, movies not-so-subtly warning about planet-destroying comets, and anything else in between — how happy and healthy, exactly, is Earth itself? Only time will tell.

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Thank you, slur. May I have another?

Reclaiming slurs empowers people, advances society

BY OWEN LEVAN-UHLER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

I possess the privilege of living in an advancing society — one that is having an important discourse on reappropriation: the reclaiming of slurs.

Forty years ago, if you asked a person in the LGBTQ community if they agreed with the ubiquitous use of the word 'queer,' they might be uncomfortable with, or even against, the idea. Back then, the word was still derogatory. Now, things have largely changed.

There are, of course, people still uneasy with the usage of the word and similar words, but many people in and outside the community use it as a blanket term, to simply refer to people in the community. I agree with 'queer' as a blanket term, as it is important to have a term to refer to *anyone* in the community.

Queer has existed for centuries, and for most of that time, it simply meant 'odd' or 'strange.' If someone was acting strangely, they were acting queer. If someone felt sick, they felt queer. *The Oxford English Dictionary* says that 'queer' was first used to mean 'homosexual' in 1894.

This was mostly apparent in the U.S. by the 1910s, though its use of self-description was forming even back then: dictionaries in the 50s and 60s, the time when 'queer' was seen as an insult or a slur, listed the word as slang for gay people. Not negative slang, not a slur. Just... *slang*. Many dictionaries now still see the

word as slang, but also a blanket term people use in the LGBTQ community, or a term people use to describe the community.

Many see that the first official positive adoption of the word was in the 1990s by Queer Nation, a group combating violence against gays. They adopted the term to "disarm homophobes." *The Associated Press* says: "*Queer* is acceptable for people and organizations that use the term to identify themselves. Do not use it when intended as a slur."

And though the word is largely recognized as a descriptor nowadays, there are many, in and outside the LGBTQ community, who still have a negative perception of the word.

For many people, the word is difficult to accept in a positive way because it is painful: it has been used to hurt many people; therefore, some are still hurt by its presence, no matter the context. Many people understand the reasons for which the word is used today, but are still awkward with it because they realize it was once extremely derogatory, or they actually came from the time where it was



er minority community than my own, but I can say that it is common knowledge that the only people who are "allowed" to use slurs are the people who the slurs are directed toward. This idea has been surfacing in recent decades, often as a form of combatting hatred and discrimination.

When communities reclaim slurs, it empowers them. It allows them to use a pejorative to be prideful. Reclaiming the words strips power away from those who use them to slight others. Scientific studies have even backed up this idea, maintaining that people felt more powerful after reclaiming words that were once used against them.

Someone once told me that they do not care if they are called a slur. They were raised to dismiss the word as an insult, and embrace it as their identity, instead of being offended. The moral of the story basically being: "Yes, I am *this*, thank you. What's your point?"

While I think that people should not use slurs unless they are in the targeted community, I think there is a really important sentiment in a story like the one above.

Words change over time, and a community's attitude toward a word can and should change, as well. When you embrace a word, or you do not let it affect you, that word changes for the better. What legitimacy does an insult hold if no one is insulted, but instead celebrates it?

Recognizing the harm that people have endured by certain words is *important*, but embracing slurs is perhaps the most important step of creating a more positive and unified environment, for people inside of communities, and out. 🌱

derogatory. It is important to recognize the history of this word, and to be discretionary when using it, especially if you are not queer.

I cannot particularly speak for another

Would you buy something just based on the label?

BY LAURENCE NICHOLS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Companies will often make the exact same product, but change the way that they advertise it in order to try and use gendered stereotypes in their products. For instance: putting a pink label on one item, a blue label on another, and then calling them two separate products when they both accomplish the same thing.

Companies often do this for children's products, especially toys. They might make a pink car and label it as a girl's toy and a blue truck labeled as a boy's toy. This forces gender stereotypes onto children and instills the harmful views of a company onto their consumers.

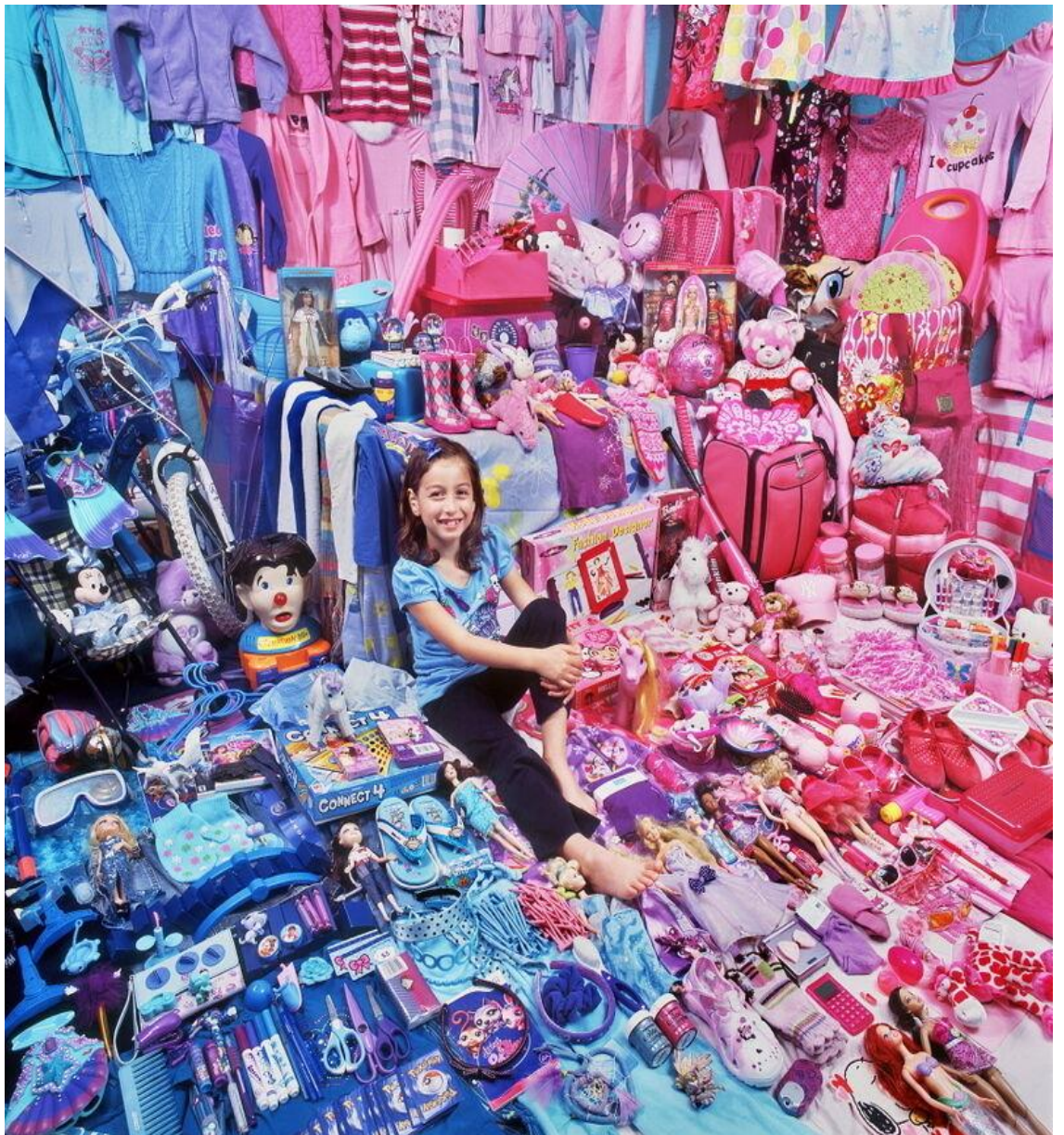
When companies do this, it creates a variety of problems. Gendering products only helps to reinforce the gender binary and gender stereotypes. By marketing unnecessarily gendered products, people often fail to realize that not everybody is male or female. By doing this it might feel as if they are silently saying that everybody is either male or female, which perpetuates the harmful gender binary.

In addition, companies are also sending the message that they know what everybody does and should think or act like based on whether they think somebody is a boy or a girl. This normalizes gendered stereotypes, which can be hurtful since not all people fit into the stereotype of their gender. This could also be interpreted as them trying to convince consumers that if they feel as if they can relate to one stereotype more than another, then they must be the gender that they associate with that stereotype. When companies do this they don't realize that they are hurting lots of people. People, most often transgender people and those who fall outside of the gender binary are most affected by this.

Although unnecessary gendering is still a problem for many people and companies, some places have actually already opted to sell and market gender-neutral, or genderless products. Bic has started making gender-neutral razors and calling them "Made For YOU" razors. Instead of the typical "For Him" or "For Her" products.

Target also got rid of its gendered pink and blue toy aisles in 2015 and replaced them with general toy aisles. In 2017, Target also had back-to-school displays that were designed to appeal to everybody in the age range that they were marketed toward instead of the usual marketing to boys and girls. These are huge steps in the right direction. Gender-affirming products, even if that does mean making something genderless, can be super helpful and encouraging for many people. People who are gender-nonconforming may feel seen, acknowledged, included, or have many other strong feelings about seeing advertising, and marketing that is meant to appeal to them, along with people of any gender.

Despite how well some places are doing with making progress, some companies and brands still aren't progressing. According to Kantar Millward Brown,



98% of baby, laundry, and home cleaners, among many others, are mostly targeted at women.

While some people like being able to purchase products specifically marketed toward men and women, companies and brands should be more aware of shifting

gender norms. They could begin to change by including gender-neutral and gender-inclusive products instead of just men's and women's products. More people would be satisfied if they saw their gender identity being represented on their favorite products. 🌱



Hey! You don't have to agree with us!

Students, community members, anyone with another opinion — let us know!

Letters should not exceed 175 words and may be sent to: theslatenews@nlsd.org



The universe's creation through ancient Greek minds and how such a story should be told



Columnist

Dev Vega

Can I talk about Greek Mythology for a few minutes, please? Before I discuss my thoughts on it, however, I need to start from the beginning.

Before there was anything, there was Khaos. It's kind of up for debate whether or not Khaos was an actual entity representing primordial nothingness or just a cool word for it. Nevertheless, time brought about the creation of Gaia, Tartaros, and Eros; Earth, the underworld, and Love respectively.

Gaia builds herself a partner, Ouranos, the sky. They promptly start having children of their own: the Titans, the Cyclopes, and the Hecatoncheires (giant monsters with 100 arms and 50 heads.)

Ouranos hides his more monstrous kids underground, and is a prick to his other children. Gaia, loving all of her children equally *apparently*, grows tired of his crap and forges a stone sickle, and asks the Titans to aid her in stopping him. The youngest Titan, Kronos, accepts the task and lies in wait for his father.

When his time has come, Kronos proceeds to enact some... unsavory revenge... on his dad by making him unable to have children. Ouranos—impressed and probably doubled over in pain—grants rule of the universe to the Titans.

And all of that is *before* the Olympian Gods even come into existence. Their story begins when Kronos and his sister-wife Rhea are warned by Gaia that one of their kids will overthrow them. Kronos, not willing to give up being king, solves the issue by literally swallowing (whole) every single baby his wife has. Rhea, naturally unhappy about the baby breakfast, begs Gaia to help her save her next child,

Zeus. Gaia agrees and sneaks Zeus away from Rhea, who fools Kronos into eating stone in a blanket instead of a baby.

Gaia takes Zeus to a small island populated by water nymphs and raises him to become an incredibly strong young man before telling him about his parents. Zeus enlists the help of the original three Cyclopes, who forge his famous lightning bolts. He and Metis, a clever little ocean nymph, slip Kronos a poison that causes him to throw up all of the children he had eaten. Zeus, his siblings, the Cyclopes, the Hecatoncheires, and a few minor gods rallied together and kicked major Titan rear-end and banished them all to Tartaros: the deepest parts of the underworld.

Zeus, Hades, and Poseidon then drew sticks to see who would rule each respective part of the world. Zeus was granted power over the sky, Poseidon the ocean, and Hades the underworld.

Zeus marries Metis and is warned by Gaia that she is destined to birth a child who will overthrow him and probably castrate him the same way he did his father and his father did his grandfather. Zeus, not down for that at all, promptly absorbs Metis. Don't ask me how, I really don't know.

Zeus remarries to his sister Hera and gets a splitting headache after absorbing Metis which causes Athena to be born from his forehead. She ends up being a huge daddy's girl, and the prophecy is finally dodged. Now securing the throne of Olympus, Zeus promptly starts sleeping around with any woman he finds pretty enough, leading to many, many babies.

Before, during, and after all of that, many other gods are born from the Olympians. Zeus eventually realizes he kind of hates the dumb little human project that Prometheus—a Titan god who didn't side with Kronos—made and punishes them all by unleashing every evil in the world onto them with Pandora's Box. But that's *not that bad*, right?

Now that all the complicated lore is out of the way, I can finally talk about my opinion on all of it...

It's cool.

It's really freakin' cool.



It's probably more interesting when not being told by me, but the Greek Pantheon has some of the best potential for amazing stories. Ask any *Percy Jackson* kid and they'll talk your ear off about it. If I didn't have to keep this short I would rattle off the entire history of Greek Mythology. As in real-life history. Not just the stories.

At the end of the day, my favorite aspect of ancient Greek stories about the Olympians or even just the Gods in general is that they're not perfect. They were made as an explanation for why things happen in the world and why people are the way they are, so they act like real peo-

ple: cruel and greedy, blinded by love, anxious, jealous, sympathetic, faulty and strong.

I never personally liked painting a higher being as perfect, especially when they're specifically designed to explain nature and the universe. The universe isn't perfect, it doesn't love everyone and everything just because it can. Nature isn't benign. It kills, it batters you down. But it's also kind, it can aid you, it can give you nice sunny days that nurse your ailments. Nature, in a way, is a lot like people, and Gods should be exactly the same. 🐾

Winning is the perk; experience is the goal

DEBATE, from page 1

our ranking near the bottom of the pack."

This year, however, Northern Lehigh's team has grown to about 22 members, fluctuating slightly but remaining on an optimistic path of growth.

The point of contention for these four rounds was whether the United States should institute a Universal Basic Income. The affirmative team, in support of a UBI, and the negative team, in opposition to this, both must utilize factual information with reputable sources in order to support their point. Teams consist of two speakers, a questioner, and a rebuttalist. At the first round of debating, every single Northern Lehigh team won their second round, an astounding feat when taking into consideration the fourteen members who had never filled these roles before.

Team Vice President Nate Walters, when asked what the significance of debate is to him, says "Throughout my life I have habitually had the problem of not being able to properly articulate how I am feeling which has led to many problems.

Debate has allowed me to gain the skills to have meaningful discussions I would not otherwise be able to have." Nate has been in debate for the past three years, joining his sophomore year, and has grown with the team while simultaneously watching it dwindle in membership until this year.

A compelling comparison can be made between high school debate and

the debate between modern politicians. While topics may still be controversial, high school debaters are required to remain level-headed and professional in their discord. This is juxtaposed to professional politicians and lobbyists, such as Jacob Wohl, a conservative lobbyist famous for his failed smear campaigns, or Donald Trump, notorious for emotional or loosely-backed exclamations in debates.

The Northern Lehigh debate club is understandably different from that level of politics. While the arguments posed are not being presented to constituents, and are not necessarily even the opinions of those debating, it is still a significant experience of maturity in political discussions and expression of opinions, enhancing the *savoir faire* of students whether or not they intend a future in politics or law.

Ms. Tiedeman, when asked about the purpose of debate, says "The goal - as always - is not to win. Winning is the perk, experience is the goal," and as a member of the team I believe this encapsulates the best parts of the debate.

The experience, a chance to show off your research and nuanced thoughts in a setting outside of the classroom, outside of traditional grades, as well as meet new perspicacious people and even learn new things about yourself and your way of



NL Debate Team, Nov. 2021

thinking is invaluable. Wise reasons aside, debate is the chance to be competitive, witty, mentally agile, and all the fun things like such.

Scores are another paramount piece to debate, though. Districts are ranked based on wins and losses, but individual teams also get scores for every round with specific scores and comments to the individuals competing.

Each district is given an overall ranking based on their total wins and losses. Each team is given a score for every head-to-head round of competition they engage in. And each team member receives scores for their contribution to the debate. The significance of these scores, according to Ms. Tiedeman, is to

"help every member of the Debate Team grow as an individual. Judges' comments offer suggestions to improve. As everyone works to feel more confident, control their pace, or strengthen their understanding of the topic their scores increase and so do the team's."

The debate team will not compete again until February of 2022, with a topic tentatively centered around social media and its effect on mental health. Northern Lehigh has already begun researching our arguments and restructuring our teams to maximize our members' potential and bring home even more wins than we already have this competitive season. 🐾

SPORTS



Yes, it is a
SPORT

Photo by Lifetouch for The Reflections Yearbook
Bianca Carrion, junior, gets good airtime at a football game this year. The cheering team, as reported, does more than just memorize rhymes and routines.

BY ALEXIS TRAUGHER
SPORTS EDITOR

Breathtaking tumbling sequences, firing up a crowd, and gravity-defying stunts. These beautiful yet complex combinations are just the shell of how we define cheerleading. Broken hips, tears, and friendships come out of this life changing sport, too. And yes, it is a sport.

On July 20, 2021, the International Olympic Committee voted on the recognition of cheerleading being a sport, making this one of America's oldest examples of teamwork. Starting in 2024 cheerleading will be included within the Olympic program.

Being alongside a cheerleader, you can sense their undeniable energy. The courage, pride, overall dedication, and strength. You can not only feel, but see, the bond weaved between the team. Cheerleading—along with football, hockey, and many other team sports—shapes the lives of its athletes. Alexis Hollinger, senior cheerleader said, "Cheerleading has shaped my life as it has literally taken me out of my 'shell'. Standing in front of a large crowd at a homecoming game, being held within the air, or being the glint of attention for short bursts of time, these all add to the overall idea that cheerleading is one way to become outgoing and brave. Cheerleading has also opened a state of new opportunities, as certain friendships and opportunities would not have arisen if I had not been part of the team."

Another aspect of this challenging sport is not only personality but overall life skills and enjoyment. "Cheerleading shaped me into learning time management," Jeweliana Andrews said. "With cheerleading, you do different things other than going to games. For example, we decorate for homecoming and plan a whole routine in the span of a couple of weeks," Andrews continued.

Compared to the beloved sport of football, cheerleading enhances the same underlying pieces. Team bonding, learning plays within short time periods, having to be brave and courageous, while also strengthening yourself and the others around you. However, within the society of our world, people deem cheerleading as nothing more than pom poms and flips, or just girls having fun.



Photo by Lifetouch for The Reflections Yearbook
HEY! NO! PLEASE DON'T GO! Senior cheerleaders kept the fall sports' stands alive. Skylar Schellenberg, Alicia Quattrocchi, Saige Schellenberg, Alexis Hollinger, Makenzie Peckham.

No matter the amount of evidence or facts to prove otherwise, no one says any different. The argument over if cheerleading is truly a sport, should have been put to rest years ago. Now it should finally fall into its grave.

"I think people have been saying that it is not a sport because they do not see behind closed doors and rather view the stereotype instead. Just like any other sport, we spend time conditioning, we spend hours in the sun on summer days, we work hard," said Hollinger.

Within recent years, cheerleading has become even more of an attention grabber. After the Olympic news this past July, the sport is probably going to grow in number and with overall love. But to a cheerleader, this news is nothing more than magnificent.

"I am so happy that cheerleading is now a sport in the Olympics. It is finally getting the attention it deserves. This

news makes me even more proud to be a cheerleader," Makenzie Peckham, senior cheerleader said.

Overall, people know this outstanding news will always have backlash. Throughout cheerleading history there has always been someone who puts progress for others down.

However, our NL girls and girls all around the world, are ready and prepared to defend something they are passionate about. "I would express that anything that requires practice and perfecting is a sport, including teammates and learning strong lessons from it. I would state that teamwork is an important part of a sport, and that is found directly in the heart of cheerleading. We put people in the air that we both throw and catch, and some sports require catching a two-pound ball. If you think about it, it requires so much precision just like other sports," said Hollinger.

They are prepared to educate, be a little aggressive, and never let people tell them otherwise. "I would say that they should go see a cheer competition and see what their practices are like. Then have them come back and talk to me to see what they think," said Andrews.

And hopefully, in the end, their dedication and strength will win out. "My team and I have worked so hard to achieve our goals. Cheerleading takes just as much if not more effort and athletic ability as any other sport.

Cheerleaders train and practice all day, day after day for their sport. Cheerleading is seen as easy or effortless because it is typically a female sport, but men and women are cheerleaders. Cheerleading is not easy and not effortless. It is hard work and determination. I love cheerleading and I am so grateful for this sport," said Peckham. 🐾

Bulldog ballers rollin' through a tough year



(Top) Coach Patrick Wanamaker, Nick Frame, Izaiah Ramos, Austin Smyth, Derek Blose, Aiden Parvel, Bryce LoPinto, Devon Sosa, Coach Ryan Cunningham, (bottom) Braydon Tocci, Logan Berfield, Isaac Raber, Connor Simms, Ethan Kunkle, Alex Erdo, Greg Clouse.

BY HAYLEY THODER
SPORTS WRITER

The Northern Lehigh varsity boys basketball team is headed through their season. This year's team is led by head coach Patrick Wanamaker, and assistant coach Ryan Cunningham. Wanamaker is not only excited for the team they have this year but also the staff they have assembled for this year's team.

Coach Wanamaker said "I am very excited for the staff we have assembled this year also. We have a handful of NL graduates in Matt Egan, Devin Glose, and Jacob Waylen. Ryan Cunningham is

also on staff again this year and having a major impact on the progression of our teams. Personally, I feel very fortunate to be starting my second year at NL as the head boys coach."

The varsity team was put to a disappointing halt at the beginning of its season due to Covid issues. However, this season is finally coming to a start with high hopes from team members and the staff.

Wanamaker believes in all of his players. "This season has the potential to be a very positive one for our program. I think coming off of last year and all of the Covid implications and players that we

did not have that we now do, we have a chance to improve a lot from last year. The extreme success of our football team in the fall delayed the arrival of some of our guys slightly, but the kids have been working very hard since they got in the gym and are improving every day." ... (said Patrick Wanamaker).

They have been working very hard to train for the season. He said "Our team works very hard each day at practice using a variety of basketball drills, conditioning drills, and many of them also spend time in the weight room outside of practice each day."

The Varsity team is made up of many

upperclassmen including one senior, Derek Blose, and seven juniors. "I think we will do good as long as we stay strong as a team." ... (said Blose)

Some of the younger members of the team, including Brayden Tocci, had high hopes for the upperclassmen this year. Tocci, Class of 2024, said "Austin Smyth and Bryce LoPinto are some hard working dogs under the rim and Aiden Parvel and Izaiah Ramos are some deadly shooters outside the arc."

The season had a rough start however they're ready for any challenges up ahead and are willing to put in all the hard work and effort. 🐾

HUSTLE AND TUSTLE



Junior Austin Rex.



Coach Scott Snyder

NL's wrestling team keeps opponents on their toes and hopefully flat on the mat.



Bailey Smith, Jonathan Zemlansky, Trey Dieter, Cody Mazzocca.



Freshman Jack Tosh.

Wrestle now. We will smile later



Photo by Lifetouch for the Reflections Yearbook — On Sale Now!

(Top) Coach Nick Hosford, Coach Dylan Hofmann, Zach Lehman, Jonathan Zemlansky, Matt Frame, Cody Mazocco, Bailey Smith, Trey Dieter, Lawson Hoffman, Coach Scott Snyder.

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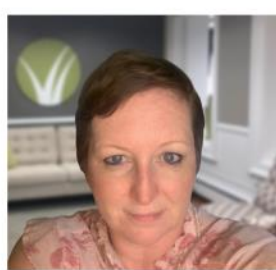


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Holiday lights are so bright, aren't they? ...Maybe just a little too bright

BY LAURENCE NICHOLS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Many people love to put up decorative lights for the holiday season, although in most cases these lights, especially when people go overboard with them can have negative effects on the environment. Often times these lights can even illuminate the planet from space. Space agencies, such as NASA have reported that certain parts of the planet can be at least 50% brighter between the period of time in late November, near when Thanksgiving is, and into early January when New Year's day is.

Along with that, it is said that these lights can confuse nocturnal and flying wildlife, they can wash out stars, and they are responsible for huge amounts of energy losses. All of these energy losses can lead to unwanted predicaments, such as strained power grids and climate change. Holiday lights can also have negative effects on humans. Excessive holiday light can cause humans to have lower melato-

nin levels, which can cause headaches, sleeplessness, and increased anxiety.

Despite the problems that holiday lights are causing the planet, many people still will refuse to find more environmentally friendly options, or refrain from using them. Many TV shows, such as *The Great Christmas Light Fight* and *Crazy Christmas Lights*, are centered around over-the-top or extravagant holiday light displays. Shows like these only encourage people to continue unhealthy environmental practices.

If people insist on having lights up for the holiday season, they should at least try a less destructive option. LED lights could be used as a safer alternative for those who want to still use holiday lights. They use up to 75% less energy than typical incandescent lights, and they stay cooler. Since they do



not get as hot, they pose less of a fire risk, especially for trees. Setting lights to a timer substantially lessens the amount of energy zapped up.

Many people love their lights, but not many will appreciate the effects that come

with them. If you happen to find yourself taking lights down this year, maybe consider leaving them in the box, or replacing them with more Earth-conscious options for the next holiday season. 🐾

Before your homes, a little stop at Peters



Photos by Caitlin Kirk for the Slate Bulldog elves, part of NHS and Student Council, helped with this year's NLEA Breakfast with Santa.



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Musicians slowly reclaim music rights

BY SUSAN GILSBACH
STAFF WRITER

Taylor Swift has recently been headlining news outlets with her new albums that actually aren't so new. In August 2019, Taylor Swift announced that she would be re-recording the first six albums of her discography, including her self-titled debut album.

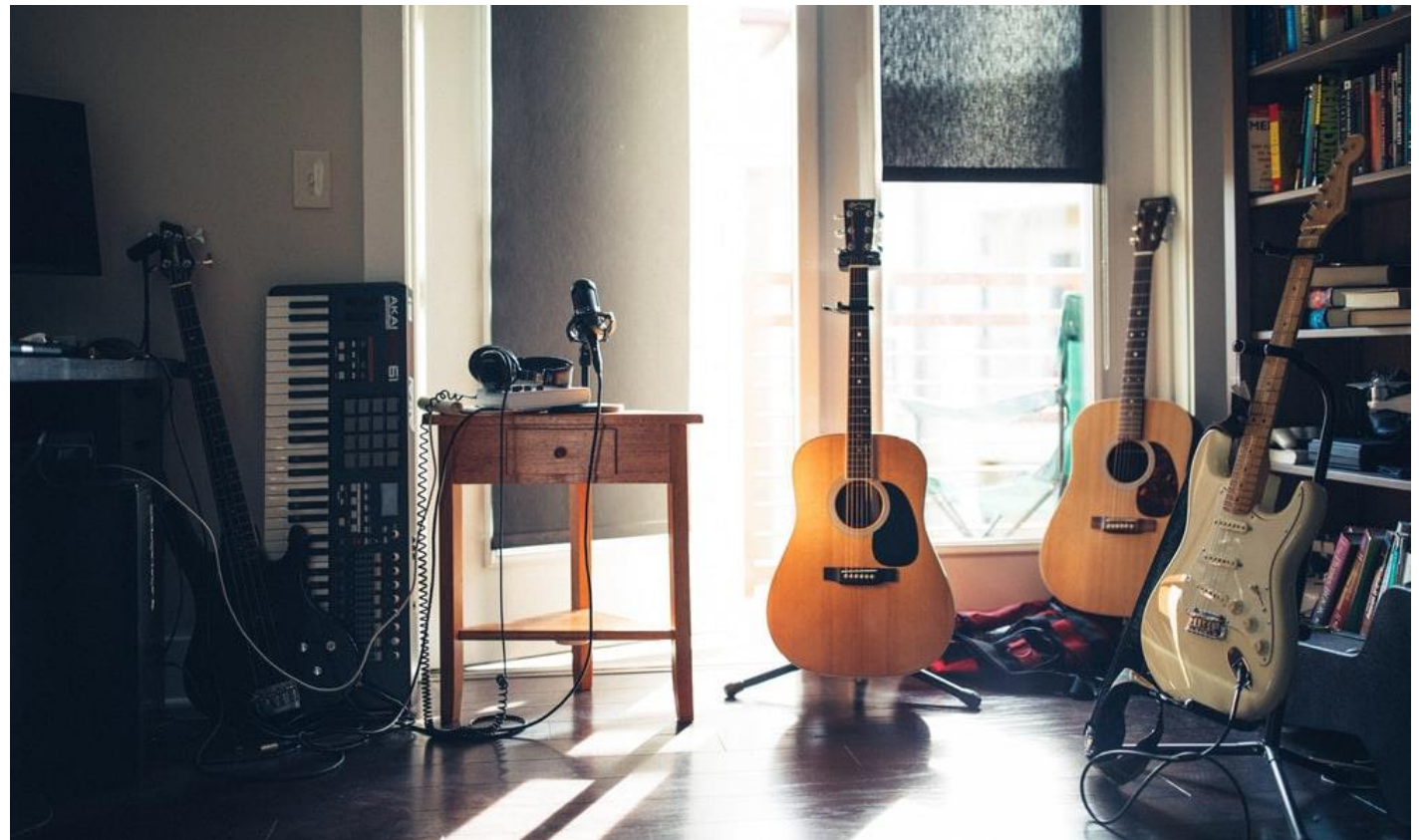
After she split from her original label, Big Machine Records, in 2018, her albums were left with her manager, Scott Borchetta. Borchetta sold these albums to a man named Scooter Braun. Braun, who is the manager of many music industry stars such as Ariana Grande, Justin Bieber, Demi Lovato, and Kanye West (whose legal name has been changed to Ye).

Ye has reportedly bullied Swift, and has been feuding with her since he interrupted the singer's acceptance speech at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards. Swift has also made accusations against Braun and Bieber, saying that they have bullied her for years.

When she found out about the sale, Swift stated: "When I left my masters in Scott's hands, I made peace with the fact that he would eventually sell them. Never in my worst nightmares did I imagine the buyer would be Scooter. Any time Scott Borchetta has heard the words 'Scooter Braun' escape my lips, it was when I was either crying or trying not to. He knew what he was doing; they both did. Controlling a woman that didn't want to be associated with them. In perpetuity. That means forever."

So, what does this situation mean for Swift, and how does it relate to the rest of the music industry? For Swift, it means that she will be making new versions of old songs, instead of releasing new music that she could be writing during this time. In the music industry, it shows that artists are being mistreated and used only for profit: Swift's masters sold for a reported \$300 million.

In the music industry, this mistreatment has been going on for years. There have been many cases of artists being forced into relationships to help sustain



their music careers, with some even being blackmailed. Many people that hold a lot of power in the music industry are using their powers against the young artists coming into the industry.

Many artists, especially artists that start out young, end up battling substance abuse issues or dealing with mental health problems. One example of this is former Disney Channel star Demi Lovato. Lovato was raped at fifteen, and has overdosed a few times throughout their career. The star also is dealing with legal troubles with Dr. Luke, a record producer. Dr. Luke has also been sued by Kesha on the grounds of sexual assault. Dr. Luke got away from the case by countering Kesha on the grounds of slander. This does not apply to just the music industry, but it is very prominent in music.

So how can this type of mistreatment be stopped? Well, there is really not a lot required to start a record label. People who have a lot of influence over these young artists do not have a lot of regula-

tions.

Artists can often be pressured into agreeing to conditions that they might not like. They are often told that if they do not sign one particular contract, they will not succeed in the industry. Many artists, especially young artists, are manipulated into contracts that make it easy for the producers to control them. Contracts often give the composition rights, not the masters rights.


This is what makes it possible for Swift to remake all of her albums. She owns the composition rights, which are the rights that allow her to re-record her songs and distribute them. This was in her contract.

As the artist, she gets to keep the composition rights, which are the rights to the orchestrations, lyrics, and every-

thing that makes her songs *her songs*. She does not, however, own the masters rights. Masters rights are the rights that allow her to keep her original recordings. That is why Scott Borchetta could sell the rights to Swift's music. Artists often do not have the control over their masters, which means they cannot control where or how their music is used.

While being a musician seems to be a dream job, upon closer inspection it turns out to be quite the opposite. Artists need better representation to ensure that they have futures in the industry.

While there is no happy way to end this article, Taylor Swift is taking a step toward a happy ending. By rerecording her masters, she is showing that she owns the rights to her music, and making sure that Braun and Borchetta are aware. 🐾




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MONUMENTAL MOMENTS IN HISTORY

The story of history's famous river boat ride

BY CALLUM BRYCE ZIMMERMAN
SLATE HISTORIAN

On December 25, 1776, George Washington crosses the Delaware River with 5,400 soldiers of the Continental Army on their way to attack the Hessians at Trenton, New Jersey.

The attack had been planned in secret and was a "Hail Mary pass" from Washington to save the failing American Revolution. After invading New York in August, Washington's army had been driven out of the colony and across New Jersey late in the year. British forces quickly conquered Rhode Island and set their sights on wiping out Washington's remaining forces and conquering Philadelphia, the home of the rebel Congress.

On the 23rd, Washington informed only the most senior of his officers of the planned attack on Trenton, in order to prevent spies from getting word to the British and Hessian outposts on the other side of the river.

On the 25th, the soldiers were gathered at 4pm and given their orders. The plan was to begin crossing after dark and to divide the men into three different crossing groups. 2,400 men were to cross with Washington at McConkey's Ferry, 9 miles north of Trenton. Another group was to cross over with Lt. Col. John Cadwalader at Dunk's Ferry near Bristol to the south to create a diversion, while a third group was to cross with Brigadier General James Ewing at Trenton Ferry, just south of Trenton.

Drizzle fell during the evening of the 25th, but as dark came on and the evening progressed, the drizzle turned to freezing rain, then to snow. Piercing winds churned the Delaware as the soldiers began to cross on captured boats of every kind. Soldiers later told of hearing Colonel Henry Knox's deep voice carrying across the river-giving orders to the boats on how to get the soldiers, artillery and horses across.

In the end, Washington's boats were

the only ones to make it over safely. General Ewing called off his crossing because of the treacherous ice and wind. Colonel Cadwalader got many of his men over the river, but brought them back when he could not get the artillery over, only to cross again after hearing of Washington's victory at Trenton and to return again

and proved that the Americans could stand up to their British enemies.

Did You Know?

- **The Delaware River** is less than 300 yards (268m) wide at the point where Washington's army crossed.
- **Col. Henry Knox** was given command of the river crossing operation.

greens, with brisk winds coming out of the north east.

- **Spies and deserters** had informed the British and Hessians that Trenton was likely to be attacked.
- **Washington's carefully planned timetable** was woefully behind schedule and Washington contem-



when he learned Washington had taken his captives back to New Jersey.

After the crossing, Washington's men captured nearly 1,000 Hessians at the Battle of Trenton on the 26th and returned to Pennsylvania. Within a few days, they crossed back over and turned back reinforcements at Trenton on January 2nd and defeated another British outpost at Princeton on the 3rd.

The whole operation forced Cornwallis to withdraw all his southern outposts in New Jersey to New Brunswick, while Washington's army wintered at Morristown, New Jersey. The victories of December 25 through January 3 revived the failing spirits of the Continental Army

- **Washington's force** used a collection of cargo boats and ferries to transport his men across the Delaware.
- **Experienced watermen** from New England and the Philadelphia area guided the boats across the challenging river.
- **The crossing was made worse** by the arrival of a strong storm that brought freezing rain, snow, and terrifying winds.
- **The Continentals brought** a great quantity of artillery across the river.
- **Temperatures for the crossing ranged** from 29 degrees to 33 de-

plated cancelling the attack.

- **It took the American army** roughly 4 hours to march from the river crossing site to the outskirts of Trenton.
- **Future US President James Monroe** crossed with the American forces and was wounded at the Battle of Trenton.
- **Washington chose the challenge** or counter-sign of "Victory or Death" for his forces who crossed the river.
- **George Washington was 44 years old** at the time of the Delaware River crossing.

Facts supplied by History.com. 🐾



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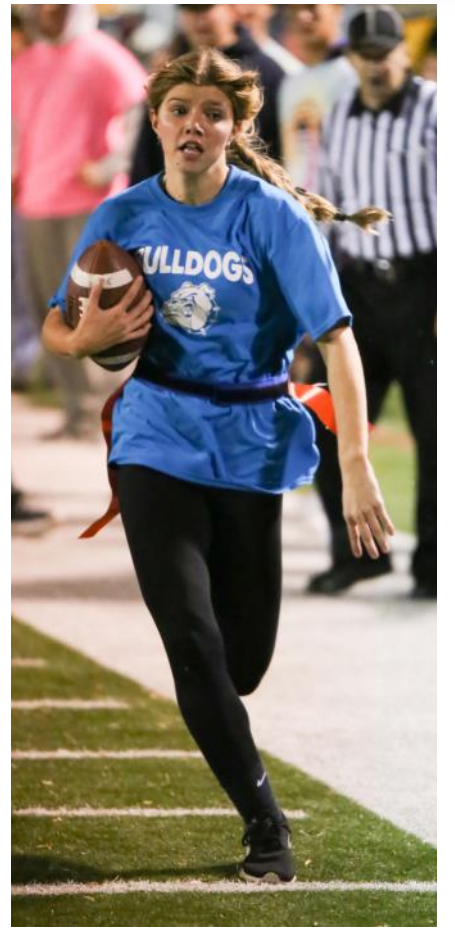
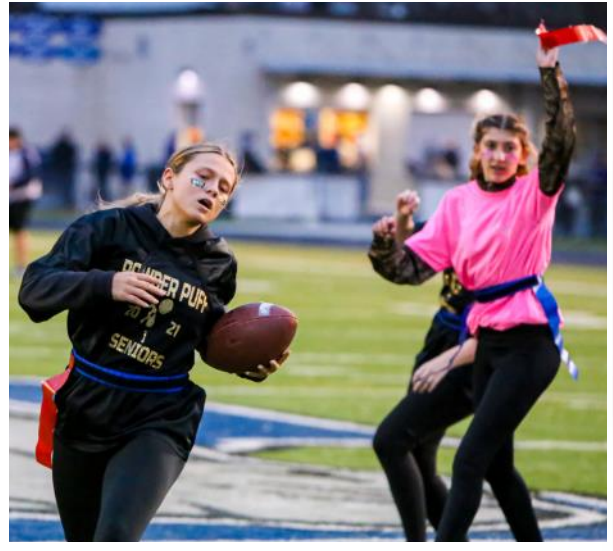
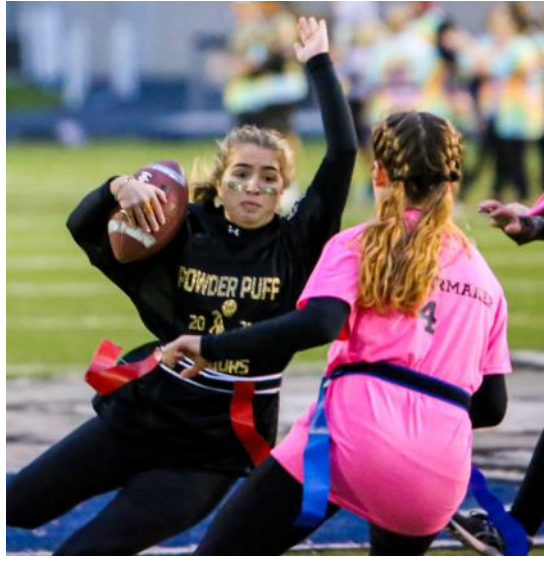
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ML GIRLS WERE POWDERPUFF-TOUGH



Photo courtesy of Lifetouch for the Reflections Yearbook
In a major upset, the Freshwoman Squad were victorious in this year's Powderpuff Battle.



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People try to put us d-down.



Just because we get around.



Things they do look awful c-c-cold.



This my generation,
This is **MY GENERATION**, baby!



I hope I DIE before I get old.

Chase Jones

THE WHO

Candy cane hunting season was a peppermint success



On Dec. 11, candy canes were hunted for the 6th year in a row, sponsored by the Slatington Rotary Club, and with a little help from NL students (l-r) Kamryn Fink, Owen Levan-Uhler, Arianna Williams, Brianna Kuhns, Gabe Diaz, Kendall Heiney, the big man himself, Hayley Thoder, Jeweliana Andrews, Danielle Dougherty, Sam Slack, (and in front) Brody Rothrock. Photo by Mr. Eric Heiney