

THE SLATE

ALL YOUR BULLDOG NEWS... UNLEASHED!

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The Voice of Northern Lehigh High School

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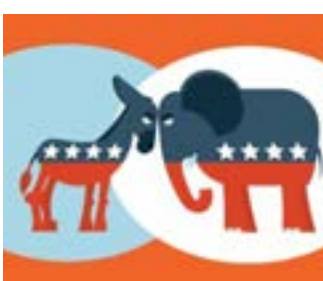
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Loud in the Crowd!



Photo by Mr. Rob Kirk

One of many spirited nights in the Dawg Pound — all costumed up: Maddy Mack, Alexis Traugher, Jordyn Hemingway, Kendall Snyder, Danielle Dougherty, Delia Quier, and Cadence Peters.

Transitioning again?

Is the switch from Google Classroom to Canvas here to stay? Students, faculty hope for consistency

By Lily Groover
Editor in Chief



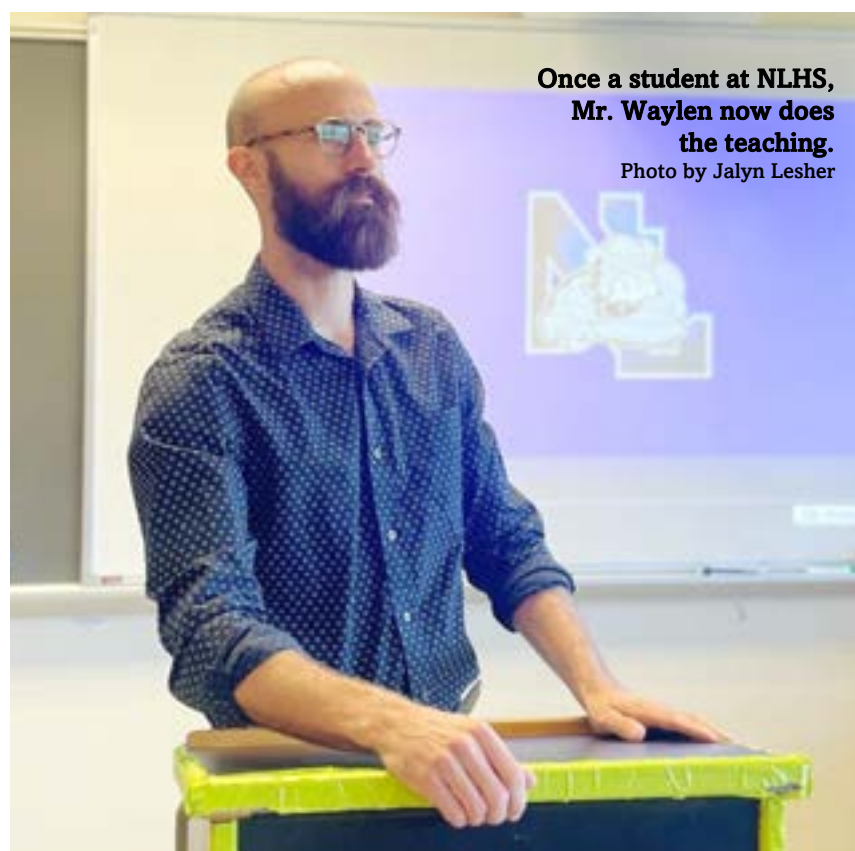
Technically speaking, 2022-2023 is the first “normal” school year Northern Lehigh has had in three years. To help alleviate stress through these last couple of years, NLSD has used Google, and all of its additional resources, to allow communication between teachers, students, administrators, etc. This year, however, the district is doing a school-wide transition from Google Classroom to Canvas.

This changes everything. Canvas is described as a “web-based learning management system” and it's purely used for online learning and teaching. So, all assignments, tests, quizzes, projects, etc., will slowly migrate from other sites to Canvas, completely.

Many students are complaining that Canvas is less useful, more difficult, and

overall not as good as Google Classroom. Students seem to like that everything on their laptop is connected. Google Classroom is connected to their Google Drive, which contains papers, slideshows, spreadsheets, and everything a student uses to complete assignments. With Canvas, extra steps are added to turn in or do an assignment. To turn in a complete assignment, the student needs to open Canvas and upload their Google Doc to the Canvas site, since it is its own entity. In Google Classroom, every

See Canvas, page 2



Once a student at NLHS, Mr. Waylen now does the teaching.
Photo by Jalyn Leshner

Bulldog grad returns to other side of the podium

By Maddy Mack
Staff Writer

Northern Lehigh High School students walked into the building and were greeted by both familiar and unfamiliar faces. Mr. Jacob Waylen is among the new faces that welcomed students this year.

Mr. Jacob (Jake) Waylen is a new English teacher at the high school this year. He is excited to teach English I this semester. He will also be teaching a section of Academic English III. “I

am looking forward to having a productive school year,” he said. “I enjoy teaching all of my students. It has been great getting to know my students since the start of the school year.”

Despite being a new face this year, Mr. Waylen is no stranger to the Northern Lehigh School District. Mr. Waylen grew up in Slatington and graduated in 2008 from Northern Lehigh High School.

See Mr. Waylen, page 2

The orange-card dilemma: Student body is peed off

By Caitlin Kirk
Staff Writer

With the 2022-2023 school year returning to normal, old rules are coming back into frame. Bathroom passes, a rule that administrators of the school implemented to help eliminate bathroom time and misbehavior, are now affecting the student body.

The passes only allow the student body to use the restroom twice a day and 90 times per semester.



License and registration, ma'am.To use the bathroom? ...Yes, ma'am.

While the school does allow students to use the bathroom between classes, the limited amount of time in the hallways makes it difficult for students to use the bathroom at this time.

During the day, according to Harvard doctors and undergraduate students researching daily hydration, it is recommended that you should drink four to six cups of water, about 8 ounces each throughout the day. When doing the math, this would equal around 32 to 48 ounces of water during the beginning of the day. However, with bathroom passes, students cannot adequately hydrate and use the bathroom on a regular

See Bathrooms, page 2

Hail to the King

By Savannah Hall



Having just turned 75 years old, Stephen King — who released his latest book, *Fairy Tale* — still has a cumulative impact on the horror world of literature and beyond.

Passes could pose potential problems

Bathrooms, from page 1

schedule. Only being able to use the bathroom twice a day does not allow for enough water intake to properly hydrate and maintain internal health.

The school day takes up a large portion of a student's day, resulting in a majority of the day being a lost opportunity for hydration. Hydration throughout the day can help with a range of potential problems. For example, without proper hydration, students may end up with headaches, a lack of focus, and a feeling of being tired. While water doesn't sound like much, it is a crucial part of the human body.

Although all students should be hydrating, athletes must be getting their much-needed water. Throughout the day, according to Jessica Buschmann, a registered dietitian with Nationwide Children's Sports Medicine, athletes should be drinking at least 80-120 ounces of water on a normal day, and even more on game days. With the bathroom passes in place, the athletes in the school cannot properly drink enough water throughout the day, causing issues with their gameplay. Potentially during the games due to dehydration, athletes can suffer from cramps and have poor energy levels. When asked about how being dehydrated affects athletics, Danielle Dougherty, Senior soccer player, says "Due to this lack of the ability to obtain water, our soccer team has suffered dehydration



and frequent cramps." Furthermore, Bailey Smith, Junior football player, says "While playing the game, I feel sluggish and tired which affects me and my teammates. We need to stay hydrated throughout the day to perform at our best on Friday nights."

While avoiding time in the bathroom and promoting more time in the classroom is the main objective of the bathroom passes, they also help with misbehavior in the bathroom.

However, these passes will not

stop students from still causing trouble in the restrooms. The same issues with the bathrooms will still arise this year. Katelynn Barthold, Sophomore soccer player, comments on how the passes will not help the issues: "The bathroom passes aren't preventing previous problems we've had in the past years. People still roam the halls and go and skip classes. Vaping, the biggest issue, will still occur in the bathrooms."

The bathroom passes were put in place to better the school, however, the student body, athletes, and teachers feel differently. On top of the student body and the athletes, the teachers now must stop their class momentum and fill out a pass.

Unlike in previous years, students can no longer fill out their passes and sign themselves out. They must interrupt the class flow and ask for a pass to be signed.

The new bathroom passes seem to be posing more issues than solutions to the restroom issues. It is unfair that students and student-athletes cannot properly hydrate and feel good during the day and on game days. The students around the school have expressed discontent with these new passes, as they pose an issue to daily hydration. The students want the intake of water to be encouraged, not diminished. 🍷

English dept. adopts new (old) Dawg

Mr. Waylen, from page 1

After high school, Mr. Waylen attended West Chester University of Pennsylvania and in 2013 received his Bachelor of Arts degree. After earning his Bachelor of Arts degree, he attended Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 2015, he earned a masters degree in education from Temple University. In addition, Mr. Waylen has certifications in secondary education English and social studies.

From 2014 to 2021, Mr. Waylen lived in Philadelphia before returning to the Lehigh Valley area. While living in Philadelphia, he experienced many



Mr. Waylen, new high school English teacher.
Photo by Jalyln Leshner

different educational atmospheres. "I taught in both the city and the suburbs during that time," he said. "I feel very fortunate to now have the opportunity to teach at Northern Lehigh, especially since I attended NL."

In addition to teaching, Mr. Waylen is also an assistant coach for the boys varsity basketball team. "Additionally, I am an assistant coach for the boys varsity basketball team alongside my former high school teammate, Head Coach Patrick Wanamaker," he said.

Outside of school, Mr. Waylen has a variety of interests as well, which span from music to enjoying nature. "In my free time, I enjoy reading, writing, playing disc golf, and strumming my guitar," he said. "I still pen a tune every once in a while." He also enjoys spending time in nature with his wife, who also graduated high school from Northern Lehigh. They like to go on nature walks with their dog Samwell. In addition to Samwell, he also has a pet cat named Sadie.

With a bright year ahead of us, all of Northern Lehigh is looking forward to the exciting things to happen this year. Mr. Waylen will be a great asset to Northern Lehigh High School and the district as a whole. Northern Lehigh staff and students alike gladly welcome Mr. Waylen as a teacher and a member of the bulldog family! 🍷

Canvas causing some students to rewire brains

Canvas, from page 1

single Google Doc is already connected to the teacher's classroom.

Jordyn Hemingway, a senior, says, "Canvas is confusing. I've been using Google Classroom for the past 3 years, and now I have to rewire my brain to Canvas."

Some teachers, however, have been using Canvas for their own classes this whole time. But here at NL, they were always the odd ones out. Hemingway says, "Three out of four of my classes would be on Google Classroom, and then one teacher would like Canvas, so I would have to adjust to that. That probably makes me not like Canvas even more."

Many students are disappointed at yet another transition. Back and forth, and back and forth, from new technology, to new protocols. The student body wants consistency. However, the faculty is happy that we now have a singular standard for web-based assignments. This should be the final transition the school district is going to make regarding this issue.

Mr. Michael Strohl, the assistant principal, says, "The Northern Lehigh High School is transitioning from Google Classroom to Canvas because it has proven to be a Learning Management System that allows differentiation, communication tools, and information warehousing." He goes on to describe Canvas as a "one-stop-shop" program, which can be useful in times when school work becomes overwhelming.

As teachers and students become accustomed to this new system, the dust should settle, and Canvas will be introduced into our new routine. 🍷

Setting the scene to 'roll the credits'



Yearbook staff members are working hard every day to make sure NLHS students get their money's worth. (On Sale Now, by the way). Senior editors Maddy Mack, Caitlin Kirk, Editor in Chief Daisy Richards, and Superlatives Co-Editor Jalyln Leshner discuss big decisions in the 'Byth,' the magical place where yearbook dreams come true.

The Real Pink Tax

The Price to Pay for Being a Woman

By Susan Gilsbach
Associate Editor

As I sit here writing this, I am anxious. I feel like someone is going to try and prove me wrong. But how can my own opinion be proven wrong?

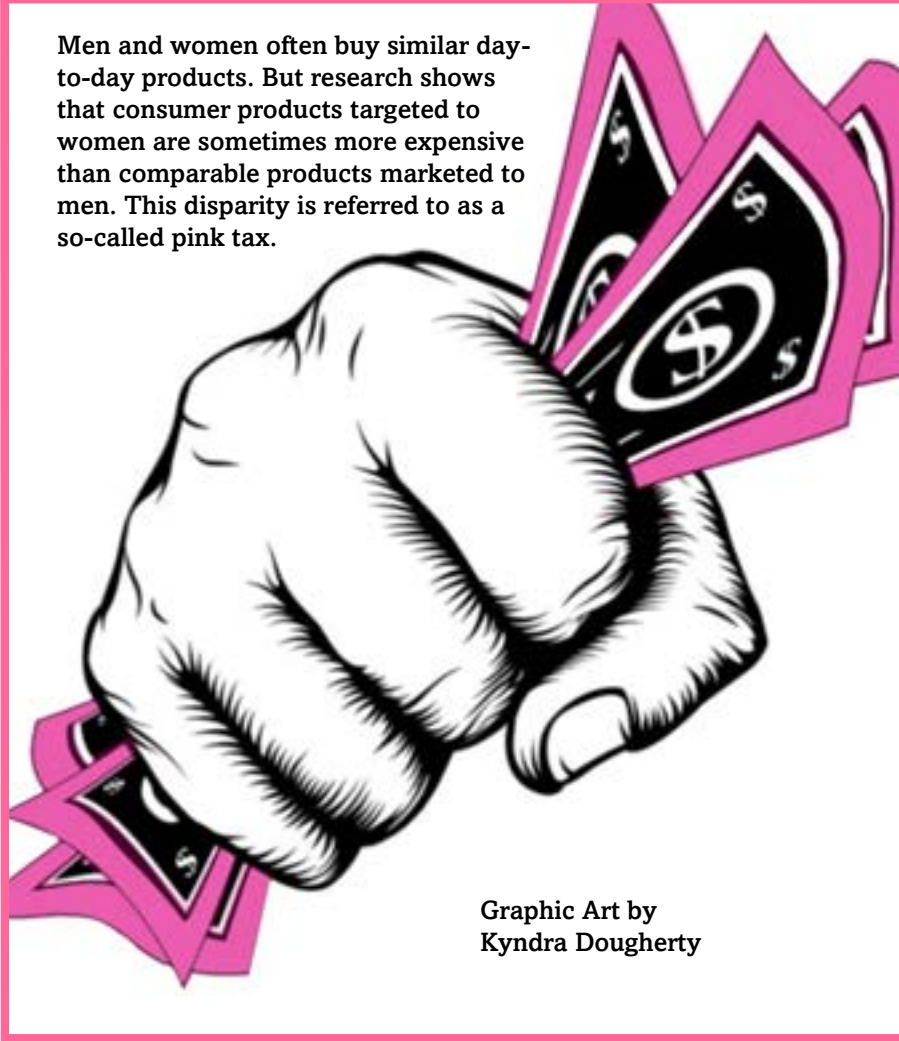
I often make myself think that I care too much about this, but I then realize that I invalidate my own experiences in doing so. And it's not just my experience, it's the experience of so many women that are facing this same type of internal fight when they try to speak up about what they believe in.

Why have other people made it so that many women feel like their opinion is any less valid than the opinions of others?

I have tried to write this article so many times. And yet, each time I get something down on the page, all I can think about is how I shouldn't have to be writing this. It's 2022. I shouldn't even have thought to write about something as sexist as the Pink Tax. That is, the upcharge on products marketed toward women, despite being the same as those for men.

And yet here I am, and the more I think about it, the more I realize that The Pink Tax goes beyond just paying an extra \$2 for... pink plastic being wrapped around our razors instead of gray or blue?

Men and women often buy similar day-to-day products. But research shows that consumer products targeted to women are sometimes more expensive than comparable products marketed to men. This disparity is referred to as a so-called pink tax.



Graphic Art by
Kyndra Dougherty

Society's treatment of women in 2022 is not as progressive as it should be. The good thing: society is becoming

more aware of it. Though, it's disappointing that we've only made such a small amount of progress. While it is

being fought against, the stereotype of women being straight out of a 1950's sitcom is still present in a lot of aspects of life.

Many women are still deemed solely responsible for childcare and various other household jobs with little to no help from their partner.

They are expected by society to tackle domestic roles, all while appearing "presentable" by wearing makeup and having their hair done. It's important for people to understand that these responsibilities should not just fall on one gender, and that the tasks and responsibilities deemed "women's work" are *everyone's work*.

But that's not to say that there aren't people fighting for these stereotypes to change. There are so many people that are campaigning to end these expectations of what a woman should be, trying their best to change the rules and level the playing field.

But they shouldn't have to be. It seems that we take one step forward and three steps back. We're tired. We're exhausted.

But we are going to keep fighting, because that's our pink tax. It's not just about paying more for pink things, although that's rather annoying. But as a society we should step back and examine, what is the price to pay for being a woman? 🍷

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Arrrrrr you ready for football?

Haylie Fenstermaker was swash-bucklin' with Bruiser at a Costume-Out Spirit Night.

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Get to Steppin': A different kind of dance



Northern Lehigh High School is home to several clubs and extracurricular activities. A new club that really stands out from the rest is the "The Step Club" advised by Mrs. March, pictured from last year. Many of you may be wondering "What is 'The Step Club?'" Find out in The Slate, next month!

Tap into your dreams to fulfill guidance

By Haven Moore
Staff Writer

It is almost certain that everyone has woken up from a deep slumber, and the first thing they wondered was, "What the heck just happened?"

The complete hodgepodge of bizarre, questionable, or sometimes even perfectly rational events that occur in our dreams tend to be fleeting rather than long lasting. Many may immediately dismiss the significance of what they dreamt, but what if there was a meaning behind it? What if there was a way that dreams could provide one with enlightenment? This is all, in fact, very possible.

Dreams, in the simplest of terms, are the visions or images one sees while sleeping. Visuals are the most typical, however, some people have experienced them using more than just one of their senses (scent, taste, touch, hearing, etc.). The quality of sleep determines the vividness of one's dreams (this reason is another fun perk about getting enough good sleep).

Dreams are most apparent when sleeping in a Rapid Eye Movement, REM, cycle, which occurs periodically throughout sleeping. During this time, the brain is active, and in some cases, almost as much as when people are awake.

Psychologically, there is much more to dreaming than what is obvious. Though scientists and researchers are still baffled by the true meaning of dreams in general, there are proven bits and pieces that show how dreams reflect the events happening in one's personal life, outside



the mysterious works of the mind.

Experts have said that dreams can consist of memories, desires, fears, and more, all of which are interpretable

through these visions. What people tend to overlook is how the events that take place in dreams can also be reflective of the events in reality. Conflicts, fixations,

strong feelings, new encounters. They all can be apparent in dreams and signify what the dreamer is feeling. People often have dreams that many can relate to because of their commonality; falling, specific animals, losing teeth, climbing, flying and others. These types of dreams are as ubiquitous as they are because they have a meaning.

For instance, falling signifies a loss of control and hidden anxieties. Whereas flying may represent a yearning for freedom. Another crucial piece of the puzzle is knowing what stands out personally to oneself in a dream. Sometimes, it may take a little contemplation and research to figure out a hidden meaning. Other times, the interpretation is quite personal and can be discovered through only the dreamer's life events being manifested in their dreams.

Dreaming reflects one's apparent reality as well as one's concealed thoughts, feelings, and ideas. In other words, dreams can bring more awareness to what we have hidden in our subconscious. It can be quite helpful to take a closer look at the insight they provide.

Hidden meanings in dreams could signal what a person is truly feeling (depending on the situation or concern) and perhaps, provide some counsel, or steer one in the right direction in dealing with those feelings/thoughts.

While there are no set, step-by-step instructions on how to decipher dreams, dreaming can be a very personal and sacred experience if one is open to it. Spending the time to contemplate the more notable elements of a dream can provide guidance to people seeking such.

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Reflecting on the Class of 2022

Our final issue last year published before NLHS's graduation ceremony. While many of the photos were posted on Instagram (@theslatenews), we did not want to neglect honoring them in print as well.



Kendall Heiney, Brooke Nonnemacher, Emily Moyer, Paige Craddock.



Nellianni Ramos and Haley Hunsicker.



Sophia Lear.



Matt Frame.



Camryn Torres and Nate Walters.



Alicia Quattrocchi, Skylar Schellenberg, Nick Schweitzer, Saige Schellenberg.



Gabby Myster, Nia Nicholson, Emma Niebell.



Assistant Principal Mr. Michael Strohl leads in the graduates at Bulldog Stadium.



Kendall Heiney was ecstatic.



Dylan Smoyer and Ethan Smith.



Emma Niebell and Briana Ojeda.



Too cool for school — even graduation?



Pablo Davila, Dustin Greene, and Skylar Green.



The Slate wishes all 2022 graduates the very best wherever you are.

We are not roosters. Give us a little more time

California passes law requiring schools to start later, which is getting attention on the east coast, too. Should Pennsylvania hop on the sleeping-in bandwagon and try to alleviate some exhaustion?

Try to keep your eyes open enough to read this to the end. We know it's difficult because you're tired. We are all tired. Seriously tired.

Bulldogs, 21st century learners, start our days like local farmers. At 7:30 a.m., our classrooms are alive with the moans and groans of quadratic equations, complex sentences, and chemical reactions. And teachers wonder why more yawning takes place than fluent discussions.

But California teachers are wondering no more. Over the summer, the Golden State became the first in the country to require later homeroom times for schools by passing a law that high schools could start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. and middle schools 8 a.m.

And the idea is striking the east coast too with New York and New Jersey considering similar bills.

Awake now?

Currently, our dismissal time is beautiful. To walk out at



2:10 is an early end to an academic day. But could we sacrifice just a few minutes added on to get a few more desperately-needed Z's in the morning? (Especially in the winter. Those cold, dark homerooms are brutal).

According to The Atlantic news magazine, places that have already pushed back school start times have repeatedly seen positive results. Seattle's public schools shifted start times in 2016 from 7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m., which gave students an average of 44 minutes of extra sleep a night. (Consider how many times you smack that snooze in the morning...an average of nine minutes each – it really adds up. Imagine having that time.)

Most teens have become busier than ever. For many, that 2:10 bell is just another transition

into hours of after-school jobs, sports, clubs, activities, home responsibilities, homework, tests, projects, makeup work. (We are not including video games or obsessive phone-scrolling in that mix.)

The current system could help set up kids to fail. Teen sleep deprivation can affect grades, attendance, and overall attentiveness – especially walking into the building at 7 a.m. It is super tough to take a Calculus II test before the roosters have even had their coffee.

Devil's advocates will say teens can just go to bed earlier. But c'mon. We need lives too. No respectable 15-year-old is checking out at a cool 8:05 p.m.

The new law in California means that in the most populated state, about three million secondary students will now have healthier wake-up times. The Atlantic called this "progress." We call it a request. Last year, The Slate promoted a four-day school week.

While we wait on that one, consider this now on the table. Wake us up when it's passed.

W
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New backpacks policy should be revisited



Dear Bulldog faculty and staff,

Over the past few years Northern Lehigh's teachers and staff have encouraged us as students to use our backpacks and not use our lockers.

We understand that a lot of that has to do with covid. But now we have gotten into a routine of being able to use our backpacks. It is strongly believed that it has become a routine in which all students happen to enjoy.

The last time the 9th grader had a full normal school year before Covid hit, was 5th grade. Then by the end of 6th grade Covid hit.

At Slatington we were allowed to carry our backpacks with us all day. Then when we moved up to seventh, since everything was a mess because of the virus we were allowed to have backpacks in seventh grade along with last year as well. So for the ninth graders using backpacks is the normal thing to be doing.

The upper classman may or may have had the chance to use backpacks in the same years as the freshman, but the teachers and staff at the high school taught them that they need/should be carrying their backpacks. This then became a routine and the normal thing for the upper classman as well.

Sometimes kids do not have the ability to go to their lockers in between every class and be able to make it to where they need to be on time. Some kids' lockers



are on the first floor whereas all their classes are on the second floor or vice versa. This is then causing kids to get marked late for classes just because they were trying to get the supplies/materials for a class out of their locker.

Although teachers and staff want us to use our lockers, for some kids it is just easier to carry their backpacks all day. Some students only have two classes here and then spend the rest of their day at LCTI. So, it is annoying for them to constantly run back and forth to their

lockers when they only have two classes.

Students have sports and gym classes. That means they have extra bags they are carrying. The lockers at our school are not big enough to put multiple bags in let alone one. So if students have a sports and/or gym bag they have no other choice but to carry their bag with them all day.

It should be the students' choice whether they carry a backpack or not, after all it is their materials, they are carrying and they are in charge of making

sure nothing gets damaged or stolen. Also, if it is easier and/or more convenient for the student that should be something they get to decide.

In conclusion students are just simply asking that it be reconsidered for students to be able to keep their backpacks on them all day but still be able to use their lockers as needed/ if necessary.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this very important matter.

Cassidy Snyder
Freshman



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How to fix our politics

By Patrick Conway
 Slate Columnist

Think of the U.S. government as a person. The U.S. started off like a baby. Babies are completely innocent when they're first born. They only know a few things — eating, bawling their eyes out, and sleeping. The young American government wasn't really what we'd call "innocent," but they certainly did a good job. Populist sentiment, proper censuses, voting, and all. We were making some great progress back then.

Then, the U.S. grows up a bit, and turns into a toddler. That progress starts to dwindle for a while, and they make some mistakes while they master some of their skills. They're still relatively innocent, though, and they will occasionally make some great accomplishments, at least for their own benefit. However, once they understand how to abuse the system to get what they want, they do it. The U.S. threw a few tantrums, and made a few other slip ups, however they weren't bad. For that time, toddler U.S. was doing pretty well.

At one point, though, the toddler U.S. government begins forming a more direct connection with some of their, for the sake of this analogy, family—their grandparents. This is where things begin going downhill. It's generally believed that grandparents love to spoil their grandkids. Toys, candy — all of it. They don't need to do anybody favors, as the grandparents are there to stick up for their grandkid's inactivity or general negligence as "they're just a young kid." The "grandparents" have entered the life of the U.S. government, and have used their "charitability" to get the favor of their "grandchild," the government.

Now, the government, even in its older age, continues to suck up to the "grandparents." These grandparents have ruined many senses of their grandchild's decency-- they demand, rather than asking, cry rather than compromise — a lot of this is thanks to these grandparents.

These "grandparents" aren't really an analogy though — they're

real, sort of. *Old people.* The elderly definitely have a huge pull in politics, and most legislature is made for their own agenda.

Don't assume I hate old people, that's not the issue. My point is that a large portion of their politics are self-centered, especially in America. Most old people have very conservative values, but in a governmental sense. The elderly, for the most part, have a deep love for the state, in some way or another. They will put down and ignore the needs of the general public in favor of the state, because the state benefits them.

There is a reason most Republicans are pro-establishment and conservative. Pro-business legislation (50.3 is the average age for a business owner as of Jan 2021) and socially conservative policies (typically due to religious ideas) are popular in the Republican party. This is probably because 56% of the Republican party is over 50.

It's not just Republicans, but Democrats too. While many are socially progressive, they are still politically conservative, and want to avoid most reform in the government. This makes sense, because 50% of the Democrats are also over 50. Most still retain pro-business ideas (we don't talk about Bernie), the primary difference are their ideas on social issues, where most stand progressive. The parties are the same politically and economically, just have nuanced social differences.

On the other hand, we have young people. Millennials, Zoomers and the like, have three sides. They are either apolitical, moderate, or insanely radicalized. The internet has made some old ideas and concepts gain traction.

Old ideas like social democracy and democratic socialism have made a comeback under the umbrella term "millennial socialism." These are not the only radicals, however. We have anarchists, Nazis, libertarians, progressives — **everything.** All of which have different goals. These groups have only one goal in common, which is

See Conway, page 8

The Great USA Divide

By Ayden Scanlon
 Slate Columnist

Picture this: You and your family are settling down for a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner. Your grandma worked really hard putting all her love into all of the yummy food that lays before you on the dining room table.] Everything is going splendidly until Uncle Hank opens his mouth and starts talking about the P-word. Your parents raise their voices and things get hectic pretty fast. You can practically sense the malice in their breath and just sit there speechless. Yup, another family gathering soiled again. So just what was that P-word that Uncle Hank brought up? It was politics.

Anyone who lives in the United States has probably had a run in with a situation like the one above. After all, Politics is something that a lot of people get very emotional about. But why is that? Why is the subject such a tension point in many people's lives? And possibly the most important question, How big of an impact does this tension have on our everyday lives? The answer to that question, much like an ogre, has layers to it.

At surface level, the two party system at play in the United states includes a mix of topics that get thrown around. These may include, but are not limited to, the economy, government spending, foreign policy, human rights, and infrastructure. Of all the concepts listed prior, one of them always seems to rise above the rest in terms of the amount of lip service they get from consumer media, and that's undeniably human rights. Now, some may argue that foreign policy is just as controversial if not more so. Considering all of the current events that have been going on, it doesn't seem all that far fetched. However, the majority of attention seen from the press is primarily focused on the human rights side of foreign policy.

Nine times out of ten, if you ask someone off the street to tell

you about the situation at the US border they will say something about the status of the migrants coming into the US; be that positive or negative. Very few people will make a commentary on what trade agreements Mexico has with the United States. It's simply in human nature to be more fixated on the status of other people.

With such a large spotlight the political scene has on human rights, it has also become incredibly easy to weaponize the idea and use it to one's advantage. Many of the hot topics that seemingly dominate politics are race, religion, and sexuality.

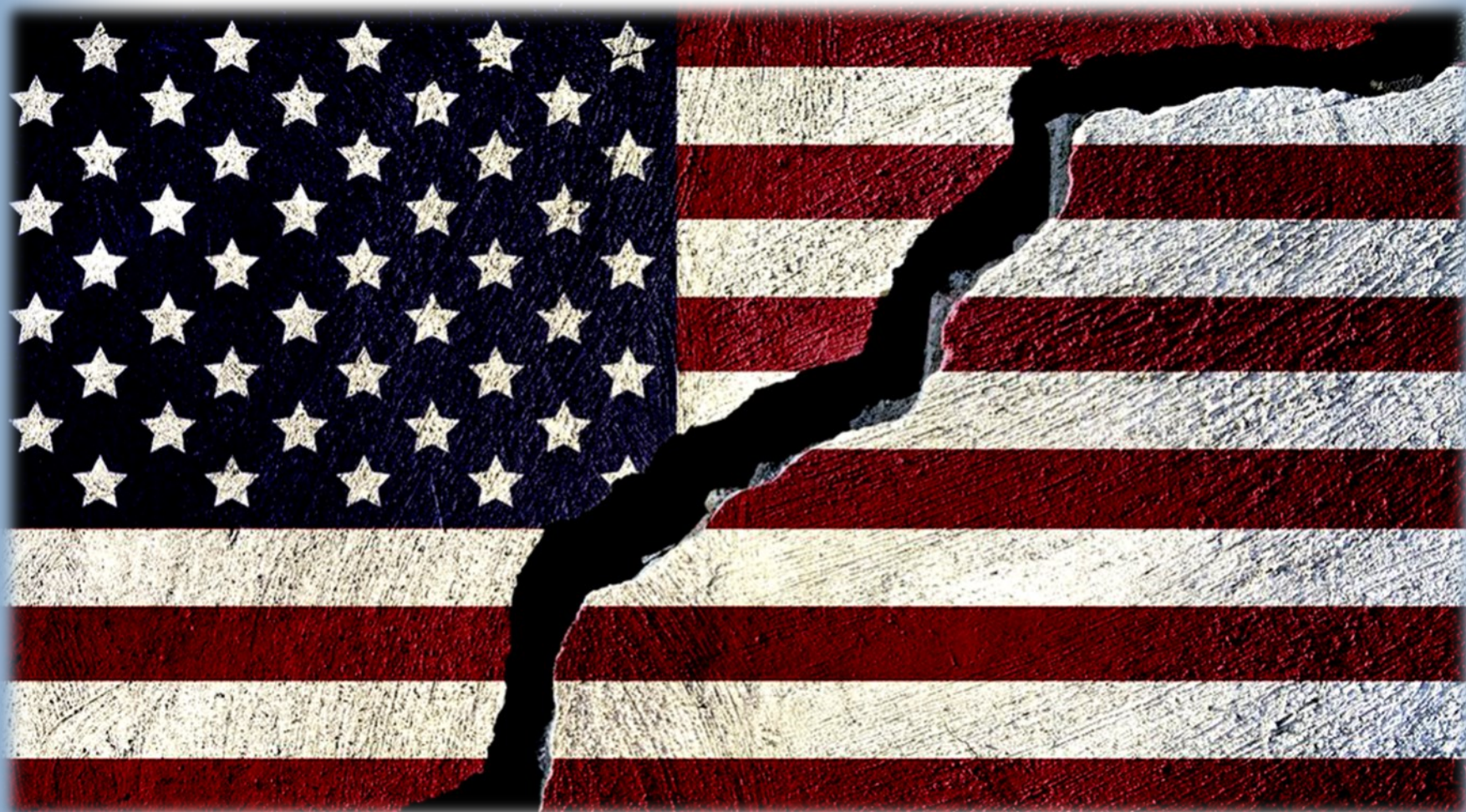
These topics are often used as major points of conflict between the two parties and widen the divide between them even further. And that's no thanks to the constant jabs and accusations that politicians make at the opposing party. Some of the top politician's favorites include calling their opponent a socialist, calling their opponent racist, calling their opponent homophobic, calling their opponents anti-veteran; does anyone else see a pattern here? The entire US political system is primarily built upon slander.

The goal of both parties is to make the public think of their opponent as the bigger monster. And you know what? It's working. Many of the people in this country who identify with one of the two major parties do so because of their incredibly negative opinion on the opposition. But in reality, both sides of the political spectrum have their own ups and downs. There isn't a good party or a bad one. The world isn't all black and white; in this case, red and blue.

It was especially disheartening to see our own president publicly divide the public in our dear state of Pennsylvania just a few short weeks ago.

On September first, 2022, President Biden made a speech that felt like watching a child

See Scanlon, page 8



Hey! You don't have to agree with us!
Students, community members, anyone — let us know!
 Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be sent to: theslateneews@nlsd.org



‘Earth has relinquished its shock value’

By Kona Dyer



You go for a walk and hope to see trees, birds, maybe a flowing river. But it's 2022 — a time where anything and everything can happen with little shock anymore — and in the distance you see the above scene. Would we even be surprised anymore?

How to keep fixing our politics

Conway, from page 7

to get their agenda pushed across and “do what is right,” which varies depending on who you talk to.

This is working out, too. The Democratic Socialists of America have grown by almost 90,000 in the last twenty years. The Libertarians got 4,000,000 votes in the 2016 presidential election. In 2016, the Greens got 1,400,000 votes for the same election. In comparison, the Democrats and Republicans have dropped off in recent years, with exceptions for 2020, which was arguably the most important election in the last fifty years.

These third parties aren't even the most radical. We have growing numbers of anarchists, Marxists, and Nazis that are slowly starting to make their way into our political scheme. These groups have the potential to double in size in a very short period of time. To most people, this isn't good. So, how do we solve the issue and preserve at least parts of our current state?

There's a few things we can do. However, most are unrealistic. Do you expect to change your ultra-conservative grandfather's mind? Likely not. The realistic choices are limited. Unless we want to wait for another fifty years, there's little we can do. That doesn't mean we can't try, though. So, there's one thing we can do, to change minds and to save the best parts of our society — get active. To preserve our establishment, we have to break it down, otherwise it will be overthrown. It doesn't entail fighting, though. There are a plethora of ways to get active in politics. You could go to a

protest. You could join a forum. You could join a group. You could simply educate yourself about theories and ongoing situations. Writing articles like these is the way I spread the word. Find what works for you — there's plenty of other ways to make a statement. It doesn't matter if you're old or young, or how you align.

Stay staunch in your beliefs, but give a bit of leeway when it's important. Argue in favor of your ideas, not yourself. If you think you're right, stick to it. If you think you're wrong, change your ideas — ideology should not turn into a



religious following. Don't let it consume you as a character, or you'll likely never be acknowledged.

It doesn't matter how you fight, it just matters that you fight. If it's against the establishment, so be it. If it's in favor of the establishment, fight it anyway. It just matters that we take down this status quo so other factors cannot come into play. I'd rather protest against my own government than one controlled by Nazis, *what about you?*

Still dividing greatly

Scanlon, from page 7

having a tantrum. A concerningly large portion of the speech was blatant slander of his opposition. On top of being full of contradictions and general unprofessionalism, it was an embarrassing display of what this nation's political scene has become. It's just one big blame game. Whether you agree with what he said or not, it was pitiful.

Another thing to take into consideration is what happens when those negative stereotypes of the opposite party rub off onto individual party members. Hushed conversations full of hasty generalizations happen every day. Friendships are made and broken based on the sole virtue of politics. It

truly is a sad thing.

But here's the thing, politics don't need to be such a harsh subject. This is America, we should be celebrating our differences, not fighting over them. It's a wonderful thing to be able to think differently; if we all think the same, life wouldn't be very interesting. As a young journalist, I enjoy engaging in productive conversation about politics.

Imagine a world where we could collectively agree to disagree. Of course, nothing will ever be perfect. There will always be the jerks and curmudgeons of society, and that's ok. There will always be people like us to continue on this amazing American dream. And maybe one day we can even bridge the political divide. 🍀

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‘Bulldogs on 3’



Photo courtesy of some cool football moms

It's a brotherhood, not just a team. The Slate will have more football coverage in issue 2.

By Bailey Smith
#44 Starting Linebacker

After last season's dominant performance on the field, there were a ton of questions on how this year would go. So, how is it going?

As of press time, we are currently 4-1! Key parts on the winning games: We had a little struggle choosing where guys would go at the start but eventually found a rhythm and stuck to it. Last year, the team lost many seniors -- Matt Frame, Trevor Amorim, Brett Misera, and Dylan Smoyer. But several starters came back including senior Nick Frame, Izaiah Ramos, Ethan Karpowich, Austin Smyth, Alexander Jimenez, and Jayden Krempasky. We will have a lot of

strength up front this year having our entire line coming back on offense and defense from last year.

Hungry dawgs coming up to varsity from JV is whole new game. Chase Moffit, Landon Moll, and Ayden Oswald stepped up to play with the big dawgs. In the summer, the team had a lot of training from the weight room to speed camps, which seemed to really helped us get better. Many older players motivated younger players to do their best and helped them to get better. Our team has three keys to winning a game: offense, defense, and special teams. As we grinded through the summer, we got to our first game at home against Catasaququa. As a team, we were ready and we wanted to prove our greatness

and physicality. Then it was on to the Mountain Road Rivalry.

Northwestern's Beatdown!

There have been many rivalries in Northern Lehigh's history but none bigger than Northwestern. The Bulldogs haven't conquered the Tigers in five years! The entire team wanted this win. We knew as a team we were better and we wanted to prove it.

Then Friday night arrived and everyone got locked in. Ready for a fight. Kickoff started and NL came right out of the gates and scored. The Bulldogs' defense did a great job putting the Tigers in bad positions and preventing them from scoring. It was 19-6 (Bulldogs) but the Tigers weren't going down without a battle -- coming back in the game and

scoring 27 points! But the Bulldogs' offense also scored points, trailing the Tigers by one point in the 4th quarter. The Dawgs got down field into scoring range and got the touchdown, making the score 34-27 with 47 seconds left in the 4th.

With 7 seconds left for the Tigers on 4th down, and both stands on their feet and cheering like crazy, the Tigers took the snap and threw the ball for one last hope -- incomplete! The Bulldogs won, tears streaming off players from both teams. The Dawgs were awarded the trophy as "Kings of Mountain Road." After the game, NL came together with a great deal of emotion, preparing for the next game.

How will the season end? 🍀

New leadership hits field hockey season

By Delaney Szwest
Contributing Writer

This season, the Northern Lehigh field hockey program is under the direction of new coaches. After the resignation of former head coach Megan Leadbetter, Coach Cassandra Beller stepped up to become the head coach. She shares her leadership responsibilities with Coach Gabryella Wilder, who has assumed the position of assistant coach.

Both are familiar faces to the players. Coach Beller was previously the assistant coach and has been with the field hockey team since last season. Coach Wilder is new to the team this season, but she is not new to Northern Lehigh. She teaches biology at the high school and is a class advisor for the class of 2024.

Both coaches bring their knowledge and high school field hockey experience to the team. Coach Beller played field hockey for Northern Lehigh from 2011-2016, and she was part of the 2013 team that defeated Southern Lehigh for the first time and won the Colonial League Championship. This team also qualified for States.

Unfortunately, Northern Lehigh has not recently made it into the playoffs, but Coach Beller plans to change this in the years to come. "I decided to coach to help build the Northern Lehigh Program back up to what it was back in 2012-2014 and to make it a successful program," she explained. She hopes to be able to "add another year to the banner in the gymnasium". Coach Beller wants to help students learn about field hockey, and she encourages them to come play for the team.

Coach Wilder brings her knowledge of teamwork and leadership from the classroom to the field. "I decided to step on as assistant coach because I wanted to make sure the players and head coach had support for their season," she explained. "I have a skill base for being a good support system and teaching students how to work as a team, which I think is transferable from my classroom to team sports."

Coach Wilder is very enthusiastic about her first season with the team, and she is optimistic about the team's future. "I'm excited for the potential this team has as a unit," she said. "We have a lot of young skills that just need to be developed. I'm excited to bring an aspect of discipline and competitiveness to the team as I think this can help us in the future. I'm excited to be an assistant and am glad I have a team willing to learn and a head coach that works with me to help the team grow."

Together, the coaches plan to develop the skills of the players so that Northern Lehigh will return to the playoffs in the future. "This year we have a really great group of girls, and a lot of skill and potential," Coach Beller notes. "We are starting to build the program little by little. It may take quite some time to get the field hockey program back to where it was in past years, but that is our goal." 🍀



New field hockey coaches, Miss Cassandra Beller and Miss Gabby Wilder.



At a recent game, field hockey players link pinkies, ready for action.

Brotherly support from the stands



Graduates and football veterans of NLIHS, Matt Frame and Joey Abdilelli show their cardboard support for their brothers. Current player, Jayden Kremasky, watches himself from afar too.



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Boys soccer kicks on

At press time, the boys soccer team is 2-10-1 but the season is not over. Photos courtesy of Lifetouch.



Michael Wilk and (in back) Matt McCarty.



Chayce LoPinto.



Bryce LoPinto.



Chayce LoPinto. Again.



Ethan Moore.



Logan Berfield.



Ethan Kunkle, keeper.



Dregan Millroy.



Jackson Hunsicker.



Ethan Moore, Seth Schaeffer, Isaac Jackovitz.

Field hockey shoots through rough season



Emily Koch.



Delaney Szwast.



Hannah Frederick.



Zoe Hathaway and Sarah Hanzarik.



Brianna Eckhart.



Elena Henning.



Elena Henning. Again.



Zoe Hathaway.

Breakfast was served, tunes were shared




The entire NLHS marching band served the community recently at the Diamond Fire Co. They had more than a hundred people enjoy pancakes, all set up and directed by Rebecca Steigerwalt, the band booster's president and manager. The pancakes were cooked by various staff members and volunteers. The band members helped set up tables, serve food, and invite people in (flagging down traffic with the help of Pancake Man and Syrup Boy).

Syrup Boy: Josh Weaber.
Pancake Man: Evan German.
Bruiser the Bulldog is Bruiser the Bulldog!
Left: McKenna Kirk, Taylor Everk, Victoria Halkias and Diego Fenstermaker.



Photos by Caitlin Kirk for The Slate

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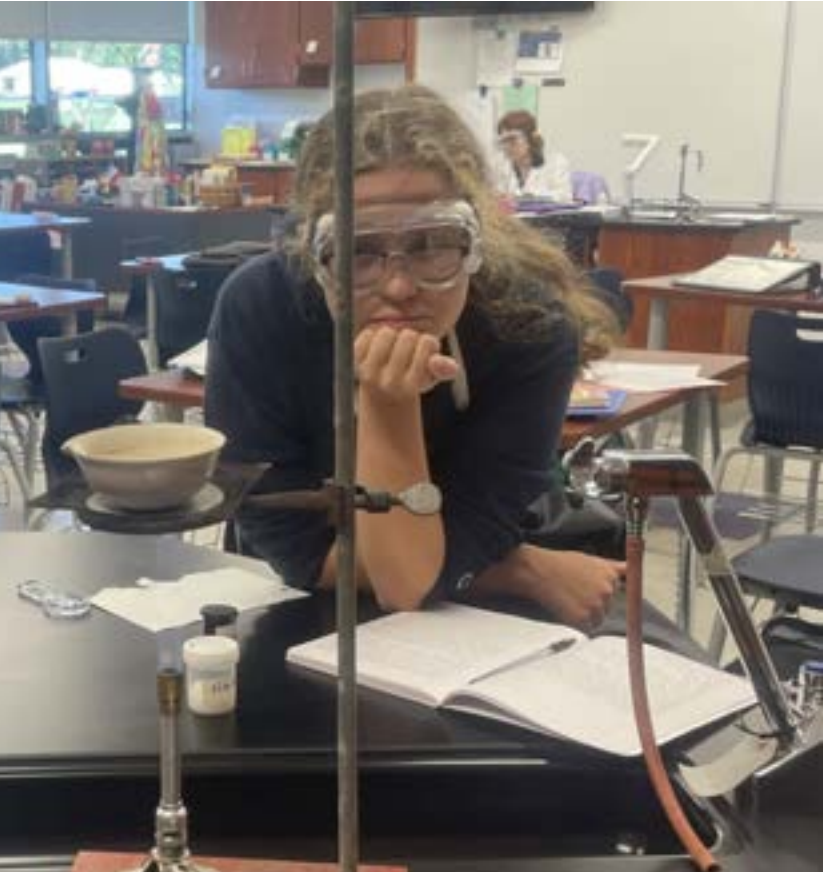


Delaney Szwast and Victoria Hanna follow the scientific method in Dr. Quay's class to document results of different physical and chemical changes.



Sparks ignite wherever Ayden Scanlon goes.

Photos by Kameryn Smith and Kai Grozier



Hannah Frederick practices her patience.

AND SUDDENLY, ALL THE WORDS CAME FLOODING BACK

BY LACEY GROOVER



There is hope. Help is available — here, elsewhere. It's OK to not be OK, but it's even better to seek assistance. If you or someone is in need, the new national suicide prevention lifeline is 988. It's always open and ready to listen.

Costumes, glitter, pinkness: Lots of spirits



NL cheerleaders keep the stands loud and the football team proud. Bruiser helps too!