

THE SLATE

ALL YOUR BULLDOG NEWS... UNLEASHED!



Photo by Sam Mack

The 'Dawg Pound' student section keeps the stands rowdy for sports events. 'Country Night' was the theme against Northwestern Lehigh, above. Sam Mack takes us into the crowd on page 5.

NL theater announces show lineup

By Susan Gilsbach '24
Editor in Chief

Northern Lehigh's very own little theater is back at it again for the 2023-24 school year. The shows were announced in mid-September, and the cast lists are officially up! The fall play will be "Attack! Of the Killer Man from the Sun!" According to Uproar Theatrics, this is "an over-the-top comedy in the vein of old, sci-fi movies."

The show stars Josh Weaber as Lou Ion, Susan Gilsbach as Anne Ion, Jackson Hunsicker as the announcer, and Abby Peartree as the Killer Man from the Sun. Performances will be Nov. 17, 18, and 19, 2023, with the time still to be determined.



The spring musical was announced to be *Footloose!*, a musical about a small town that bans dancing. This popular musical will star Bailey Smith as Ren McCormac, Jessica Erkinger as Ariel Moore, Jackson Hunsicker as Willard Hewitt, and Abby Peartree as Rusty. The shows will be March 14, 15, 16, and 17, 2024.

Stay tuned to the Slate's Instagram for ticket information and photos as the rehearsals ramp up. (@theslatenews) 🐾

A fresh face joins the pack

By Haven Moore '24
Associate Editor

As everyone embarks on yet another school year, students return to their high school building once again, in a new grade with familiar faces passing them by daily.

Running by acquaintances on the staircase and on the way to class, everyone is tuned into their small school environment. However, some faces are new to the rounds of the hallways.

The warm, enthusiastic voice that echoes from the speakers during a morning announcement; who is she? Well, as a student who has had the pleasure of meeting our new high school principal, please welcome Dr. Lori Bali!

A new addition to our school, Dr. Bali, has been in the education system for 26 years, both as a teacher interacting in the classroom and overseeing buildings as a principal. She began



Photo by Kai Grozier

Dr. Lori Bali, with an early morning smile, helps to hand out breakfast in our lobby.

teaching as a 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade reading teacher at an Allentown center-city middle school.

After five years of climbing the

ranks, she became a principal there for five more years. Then, Bali continued her career as a principal at Northampton High School.

After that, she came to our own Northern Lehigh, and has big plans for the future of the high school. I was fortunate enough to meet Dr. Bali and discuss her transition, time before Northern Lehigh, as who she is, and what she would like students to know as an introduction to the community.

"I absolutely love it," she stated, regarding her time here so far. Past schools she had worked in were significantly larger and encompassed many students, ours paling in comparison. She said her time in Northern Lehigh so far has been very different and has a special touch to it: "I think it's about the community. There's such a shift. Going into lunchrooms, I can hear the kids. I can stop and talk to them one-

See Bali, page 3

Finally flying out of the nest

Trying to handle older siblings leaving for college

By Lacey Groover '26
Staff Writer

The smell of crisp fall air, loose-leaf paper, and body odor fills my nostrils as I head into the building for yet another repetitive year of my high school education. Looking left and right, something seems different. I don't understand why, I mean, everything's the same. It's only been three months since I was here last, things couldn't have changed this much. Realization floods over me when I see her picture on the wall, and the reminder of her absence makes my heart ache.

My sister, Lily, and I are three years apart in age and grade level, and she recently moved out for college. I would be a liar if I said it hasn't been difficult, but I wasn't expecting things to be as difficult as they are. Lily and I are polar opposites; I'm rambunctious, flamboyant, and driven by my passions,

See Siblings, page 4



Lacey Groover (front) had a n easy time showing feelings before with her sister, Lily, (also pictured). Times are different. Sort of.

The future is FEMALE

How women led this summer's entertainment

By Susan Gilsbach '24
Editor in Chief

If all you saw on Instagram or TikTok was Taylor Swift, the *Barbie Movie*, and the *Renaissance Tour*, you're not alone. This summer, women were a force in the world of entertainment.

Musical artists like Taylor Swift and Beyonce filled stadiums with fans wanting to experience their music. The women in the film industry also broke records and thrived. *Barbie: The Movie* has been breaking records since it was released in late July.

Swift practically broke Ticketmaster, the platform she used to sell tickets to her shows through an abundance of traffic. This is impressive, because Ticketmaster is one of the largest online ticketing platforms. Beyonce is expected to make \$2 billion by the end of her tour, according to Forbes.

So, it's safe to say that these three women-led entertainment sources domi-



See Female future, page 2

INSIDE



Body Image — What the mirrors try to say about us, page 14.



Summer Reading — Should there be more options available, page 8.



Football, Soccer, Field Hockey, XC. We got you covered! — page 9-14.



'Around the Pound' — Little things around our classes and halls, page 4.

Empowered women dominated the summer stages

Female future, from page 1

nated the industry this summer. In a world where men often dominate media, it was refreshing and important to see women stepping into their own.

Taylor Swift announced her long-awaited *Eras Tour* this past November. Following her *Reputation Stadium Tour* in 2018, as well as the cancellation of the tour for her seventh album, *Lover*, *Eras* was long-awaited.

In fact, Swift opens up the tour with a lyric from her song "Miss Americana and the Heartbreak Prince," which states "It's been a long time coming." Throughout the show, Swift takes fans through a tour of her musical "eras," performing songs from ten albums in a set that lasts approximately three and a half hours.

In November, Swift announced that she would be selling tickets for this tour through the ticket sale website *Ticketmaster*. By the time that sales got to the general public, *Eras* tickets were a commodity, going for upwards of a thousand dollars.

According to *Fortune*, Swift's tour is projected to be the first musical tour to make a billion dollars in ticket sales alone. Swift also sells merchandise at the shows, which means she may make over a billion at the tour.

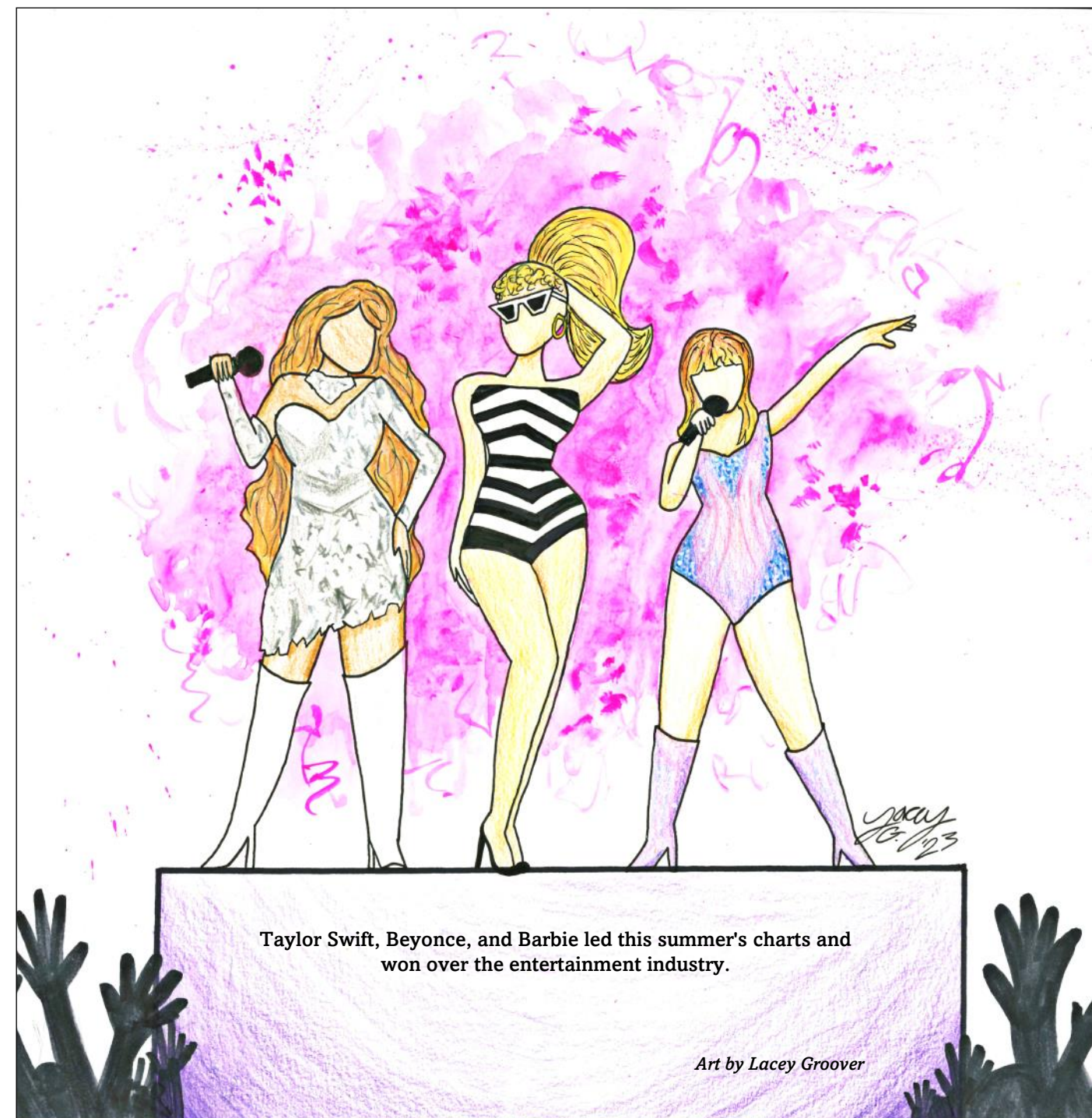
Throughout the summer, Swift's tour dates came and went, with thousands of people attending each show. Fans dressed in elaborate outfits, most inspired by Swift's previous tour costumes or lyrics from her music. Friendship bracelets were exchanged with Swift's lyrics or song titles. The entertainment brought people a safe space to come together and bond over what they loved.

Swift has been one of the female artists to break barriers for women. She is the first artist to sell a billion dollars in ticket sales alone, an impressive feat for a girl who, according to many, "just sings breakup songs." However, Swift's career is more than just a catalog of breakup songs, and the singer is a marketing genius.

In July, *The Barbie Movie*, directed by notorious feminist Greta Gerwig, made its global premier. Similar to *Eras*, *Barbie* was an instant success. Outfits were carefully curated, "Hi Barbie's!" were exchanged, and a community came together to celebrate entertainment.

Barbie was an interesting phenomenon because it explored being a woman in a way that played on nostalgia. The movie was targeted toward people that played with the dolls when they were younger, and it explored femininity and womanhood in a way that appealed perfectly to the audience.

Moviegoers connected to their inner



child throughout the movie, with the references to various *Barbie* toys that we grew up with, while also using *Barbie* as a tool to explore their new adulthood. We watched Barbie go through experiences that many women are faced with everyday: male harassment and sexism, just to name a few.

Through seeing Barbie in situations they have been in or know of, women found themselves relating to the character.

Continuing the women-led billions trend, the film made a billion dollars in its first 17 days in theaters and topped *The Super Mario Brothers Movie* as the highest-grossing film of the year.

It had the biggest opening of 2023, the biggest opening by a female director, and the biggest opening without IMAX, according to *The Direct*. It brought women a sense of nostalgia while also

relating to their struggles. It related a childhood toy to the patriarchy and brought grown-up struggles to the pretty-pink world of Barbieland.

While this all seems impressive, it does not end here. Another woman has been topping the charts and making history in the music world. Beyonce Knowles-Carter, the former member of Destiny's Child, has launched her *Renaissance World Tour* this year.

This tour broke the record, set by Beyonce herself, for the highest-grossing tour by any Black artist, according to *The Evening Standard*. It has already made \$295 million, and it still has 20 shows left in the announced touring list. Artists tend to announce "second legs" of tours, where they take a little break and then start doing shows again. This means that she would make even more money.

According to *Investopedia*, the *Renaissance World Tour* is the highest-grossing tour ever done by a female artist, and Beyonce may break more records as she embarks on more show dates.

This summer was the summer of female entertainment, that is certainly for sure. Women were leading the entertainment world, and they were proud to do so. Not only did the women make money and break records, they also brought people together. All summer, outfits were carefully crafted, hair and makeup were done, merchandise was bought, friends were met with, and people were brought together by women-led entertainment, going out of their way to interact with entertainment led by women. Pretty successful summer, if I do say so myself. 🐾

'B Sharp' and Be Yourselves



Photo by Lifetouch Photography

2023-24's Northern Lehigh Marching Band: (Top) McKenna Kirk, Alexis Keiser, Lily Biszek, Josh Weaber, Reece Johnson, Marlee Rorrer, Kaylee Young, Taylor Everk. (Middle) Dartagnan White, Darrius Minnich, Logan McCartney, Aidan Rudolph, Noah Stettler, Madison Korup, Steycie Rodriguez Delgado, Logan Vas Dias, Brayden Peters, Lucas Fenstermaker, Melody Lindenmoyer, Ethan Binder, Ella Van Norman, Zoey Fried, Andi Szwest.

New NLHS principal ready to celebrate wins

Bali, from page 1

on-one. I just didn't get to know the kids the way I know I will be able to here."

Dr. Bali made it clear that her workings as a principal rely strongly on her sole belief in having effective connection within schools and communities.

She explains, "A core belief I have is that with staff, parents, kids, and so on, is about building relationships. It's about building relationships and rapport with who you work with."

In a school like this, size-wise, she says that she is very excited to have that ability and closeness with the students and staff: "I've just seen something special about this group of kids."

I asked Dr. Bali about her past experiences with administrative work and teaching, and what has inspired her to do all she has done.

She recalls, "In first grade, I had this amazing teacher, and she fostered a love of teaching. I'd go home and teach my imaginary class, play school. My dad was a pastor as well, so I taught bible schools. It was kind of a no-brainer that this was what I wanted to do. All of the opportunities I had to teach, I did it, and loved it."

Dr. Bali goes on to commend the many skilled principals encountered throughout her journey in different teaching positions and schools. She says that they pushed her to pursue that position as well: "I get to know and impact more kids as a building principal."

Indeed, the impact on the kids she is working with is what she aims to achieve in all areas of her profession. She is very content with the field she has chosen and states that so much of it is thanks to how rewarding the work is: "I like to think hopefully I affected a kid's life today, or made an impact, in a really good way. You never know the impression you have on someone."

Dr. Bali admitted that her time as a reading teacher was not an easy time.. However, it did give her many skills and useful knowledge that she feels gave her a boost in her teaching abilities. Before coming to Northern Lehigh, Dr. Bali was



Photo courtesy of the Slate archive
Dr. Lori Bali introduced herself to NLHS at the end of the 2022-23 school year before taking over the full-time role of principal this summer.

the principal at Northampton Area High School.

She was principal there until last year, due to unfortunate circumstances. Her father sadly fell ill, and with the stress of her large family, and the responsibilities of a principal, she decided she needed to take a step back. Instead, she was a teacher for that time.

"I learned so much.", she stated. "We have to be able to keep up because this generation of kids is so able to navigate technology. It was hard. It was kind of a blessing because now I remember how it is to be a teacher. I know that I'm not that far from the classroom as a principal. It gives a lot of insight."

Dr. Bali discussed her first-hand

experience touring the school with former acting principal John Rushefski in May: "It was a privilege to ease in, and observe the position, as well as talk to kids one on one." A few things became obvious issues of concern to focus such as cell phones, and lockers being opened and used to stash items or paraphernalia, and backpacks.

To take proper measures, Dr. Bali feels that it would be best to not change an already well-made set of rules, but rather to enforce the reasons why and meaning behind rules to effectively communicate to students.

She also emphasized looking into standardized testing, and seeing how we can celebrate all of our accomplishments

and embrace that school morale.

A new principal running a high school can be a daunting idea for those willing to commit to such a responsibility; however, Dr. Lori Bali is more than willing to get to know the ins and outs of the Northern Lehigh High School student body and serve as a figure of leadership in the building.

"This is like a journey together, especially in high school," she shared. "It's the foundation of figuring things out and what you will choose to continue to do. We need to do the best we can with our jobs. Celebrate our small wins and our big wins, give feedback, and grow together. I am lucky to be part of it." 🐾

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By Chloe Benner and Jameelah Gonzalez

School is back in! Have you met the new principal Dr. Bali? She has brought a new setup for grab and go breakfast in the lobbies. The school year is in full swing and moving fast. Changes are being made, but we have all returned to kick off the brand new school year with a bang!

The football team won against Pen Argyl school district, 16-2! The student section was loud and proud for Hawaiian night. We had an awesome group of people out supporting our Bulldogs! We took another great win against Pine Grove final score 45-20 on September 16th! The theme was white out, and even with such a small student section our boys pulled through!

We also have a new setup for grab and go breakfast in the lobbies. Are you hoping to see the funnel cake breakfast back? The line was CRAZY every morning for that stuff. We think they're delicious, no matter how long the line.

The lunch ladies work hard everyday making amazing breakfast and lunches for us. They deserve a lot more recognition.

An exciting announcement from Mr. Barnes and the yearbook team, we have been told the yearbook theme for 2024! This year's theme will be "Hear The Year." What do you interpret this

as? A big thank you to all the students who auditioned for theater this year! Bailey Smith and Jessica Erking will be playing the leads in this year's musical: "Footloose." Josh Weaber, Susan Gilsbach, and Jackson Hunsicker are featured in the play: "Attack! Of the Killer Man from the Sun!" The theater crew will be working long and hard on both productions, and they hope to see you there later this year!

Here's an idea. What if we had a coffee stand in the main lobby every morning to greet us? Maybe we would all go crazy and have a sugar high because, let's be honest, we would all add way too much sugar, but it's better than us falling asleep in class! They should definitely include a nap time if they're not going to give us something to help us stay awake.

Did you enjoy homecoming? Was it a little weird that homecoming this year was so early. Usually it's mid-October. But either way it was still really fun. We can't wait for spring homecoming at the end of this year.

We aren't even halfway into the year, but so much has already happened. We hope the rest of the school year goes well for all of you. Stay tuned for more of what happens Around the Pound!

More than acting and songs



Photos by Kai Grozier

Avery Diaz and Lacey Groover decorated the main lobby during the high school's Open House to promote the theater and arts programs.

Tears waited for the right moment after sibling's departure

Siblings, from page 1

while she is quite reserved, simplistic, and driven by intellect.

Every adult loves to say that when my sister and I grow up, we will end up becoming the best of friends, which, at the time, was laughable in my eyes. Don't get me wrong, I love my sister, but that's all we really seemed to be; Sisters, not friends, just sisters. But from the few weeks that she has been gone already, I can see us becoming closer. We've been communicating more overall, we have more casual conversations on FaceTime, snap each other on Snapchat, send Tiktoks to each other, and text.

Our communication overall is more than it was when we lived together. Apart from her moving away, my family is going through quite a rough patch right now, and I always knew I would have Lily's support if something happened because she was the only one who truly understood things from my point of view and could always give me that comfort and relatability. With that now gone, I'm stuck feeling lonelier than I thought I would.

When Lily still lived at home, we didn't have many things to have a casual conversation about because of our differences, yet we got along well enough. We were both in the Slate and did karate together, and I believe I took her presence within those things for granted. I'm a hectic person and she easily stays on track, so she would help keep me on track of things as well. Her help with those things would drive me to do

better, and I would always strive to be more like her in some ways. As much as I don't want to admit it, I can be a typical younger sibling looking for guidance within certain aspects of my life.

The amount of preparation everyone had for my sister to leave was constant throughout the whole summer. All I heard were questions about how my sister was, where she was going, and all of that kind of thing. I talked about it so much that it began to disinterest me, and when the day she left finally rolled around, I was hit with reality.

My whole family cried seeing their little girl grow up and leave the nest, but I didn't. It only took me a few days for it to finally sink in and have the tears flow. I joked about being excited for my sister to leave and how great things would be when she was gone to mask the impending feeling of the end of this chapter in our relationship.

I deeply regret rushing her moving-out process and not appreciating the time I still had with her. Dealing with these emotions and complicated feelings of regret are challenges to overcome, but I'm learning how to develop better relationships with the people around me before the situation of bonding gets harder to continue.

Even though she may not be around physically, I'm learning how to develop a better relationship with Lily as well by continuing to communicate and reach out.

What I've learned from this experience is very bittersweet: I learned to appreciate people while I still have consistent access to spend time with them. I



Photo courtesy of the Groover family

One final moment between sisters as Lily, NL Class of 2023, began her college life at Penn State University, and Lacey, NL Class of 2026, say a sad so-long to each other.

also learned how drastically relationships can change depending on the situations that they go through. For the rest of my life, I will forever remember the

hardships and lessons this has taught me. Overall, I am extremely grateful for this change in both my life and Lily's.

'Hear the Year': Yearbook rocks out '24 theme



Photos by the Reflections Yearbook staff

This year's Reflections Yearbook staff has chosen "Hear the Year" as its theme. (Above, left) Daisy Richards, Emma Wensing, Jalyn Leshner and Kai Grozier ruminate around the editors' table in our 'Byth,' the magical yearbook headquarters. Danish Rivera and Ella Taylor look for inspiration in old yearbooks. (Middle) Kairi Handwerk, Reese Messinger, and Danish Rivera search for ideas, prior to brainstorming about a theme. (Right) Bruiser is rocking out as only a bulldog can.

Spirit needed beyond football stands

By Sam Mack '26
Staff Writer

Student-athletes are appreciated throughout all areas of a small town like Slatington. Athletes have been recognized throughout the town in many ways, but unfortunately, most support for student-athletes comes from non-students.

Northern Lehigh has our very own Student Section on the home side of our bleachers at the Bulldog Stadium. "The Dawg Pound" is the catchy name for this section that the students created to help support our Bulldogs. Unfortunately, this section is not active enough throughout the year. Football, soccer, field hockey, cheerleading, and cross country are all fall sports that are asking for support from our students.

Most of these teams have created social media platforms to help create more support for the teams. This certainly helps spark morale through technology and is not the only way to gain student-on-student support.

Many teams fundraise to help buy equipment, uniforms, etc. This is also a way students can support NL athletes. Although these fundraisers help our sports, athletes are mainly asking for in-person support. Student attendance is what the Bulldogs are asking for. Involvement is very important because it allows classmates to come together in a special way different from sitting with each other in class. Out of all of the fall sports, football games are most often attended. The majority of students who attend football games generally do not attend other sports.

Emma Heil, a sophomore cross-country runner, says "We try to make football important... it's the only games we dress up for... it is just a convenient time and way to end the week." Most athletes feel the same. Weekly themes are presented on social media for football games, but themes are not decided for any other sport. Heil says that homecoming is the main reason why football is more supported. The homecoming game is a special event that gains support from past alumni. Homecoming is generally the most popular sporting event in the fall. It even inspires a spe-



The student section during a recent Friday night game in warm September and (below) Kairi Handwerk, Reese Messinger, Emily Gad, Annalisa Douglas.

Photos by Kairi Handwerk and Emma Wensing

cial spirit week run by Northern Lehigh's Student Council. Leading up to the week of homecoming, there is a hallway decorating contest that helps students become involved in sports.

A pep rally is also held in school to help gain attendance to the game later that day. During this pep rally, all fall sports are announced and recognized. Rachel Bauer, a sophomore soccer player, said, "I want our team to be remembered as hard workers."

A homecoming game is an event that particularly pertains to football but is one of the most attended student games, which is why the tradition of recognizing all sports at the pep rally is upheld. It creates a sense of togetherness among all sports at Northern Lehigh. Something that every Northern Lehigh sport should have is a Senior Night.

This night recognizes our current senior bulldog athletes. The seniors are walked out onto the field or court by family members. They are announced and the night is purely dedicated to them. Although most sports have a Sen-



ior Night, some sports do not. These include track and field as well as cross country.

This night is very important attendance-wise because it is the last chance for senior athletes to show their love for their sport. Students should be attending senior night for all sports because it

shows the support that a small town can give out to students who deserve to be recognized.

Between Homecoming and Senior Night, NL students are encouraged to become more involved and supportive of our athletes who dedicate themselves to their sport. 🐾

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EDITORIAL

John Hancock, We Hardly Knew Ye

Stop teaching the swirls as we witness the decline of the cursive generation

Let us not judge a sentence by the swirling of an 'S' or the sharp loops of a bouncy 'B.' There was once a time after we learned the ABC's, thanks to our first year in school or with the sing-song help of Big Bird, when we then had to learn a brand-new set of 26 crypto-letters.

Each mostly resembled its normal letter but curvier, and they each somehow had the ability to connect to each subsequent letter: the soon-to-be-lost art of cursive.

Then there are the identity-crisis individuals like the 'Q' that resembles a '2,' an 'F' that looks almost like a ship's anchor, and a 'Z' which is just a big, crooked '3.'

What we know as cursive writing



Art by Kyndra Dougherty

is attributed to 15th-century Italian Niccolo Niccoli. His unique script evolved over time into what we now call *italics*. However, forms of cur-

sive writing had been in use long before – some dating back to the ancient Egyptians, Romans, and Greeks.

Featherly quills of the past were significantly more fragile and easily broken than the top-tier Ticonderoga tools we have today, so cursive was invented as a way of overcoming their fragile limitations. It allowed people to write for a sustained period of time without having to lift their oversized feathers from the parchment.

Cursive has seemingly become a lost art, yet something that (no offense) older folk still cling to.

Is it time to hang up *calligraphical* communication as the world's social connections evolve?

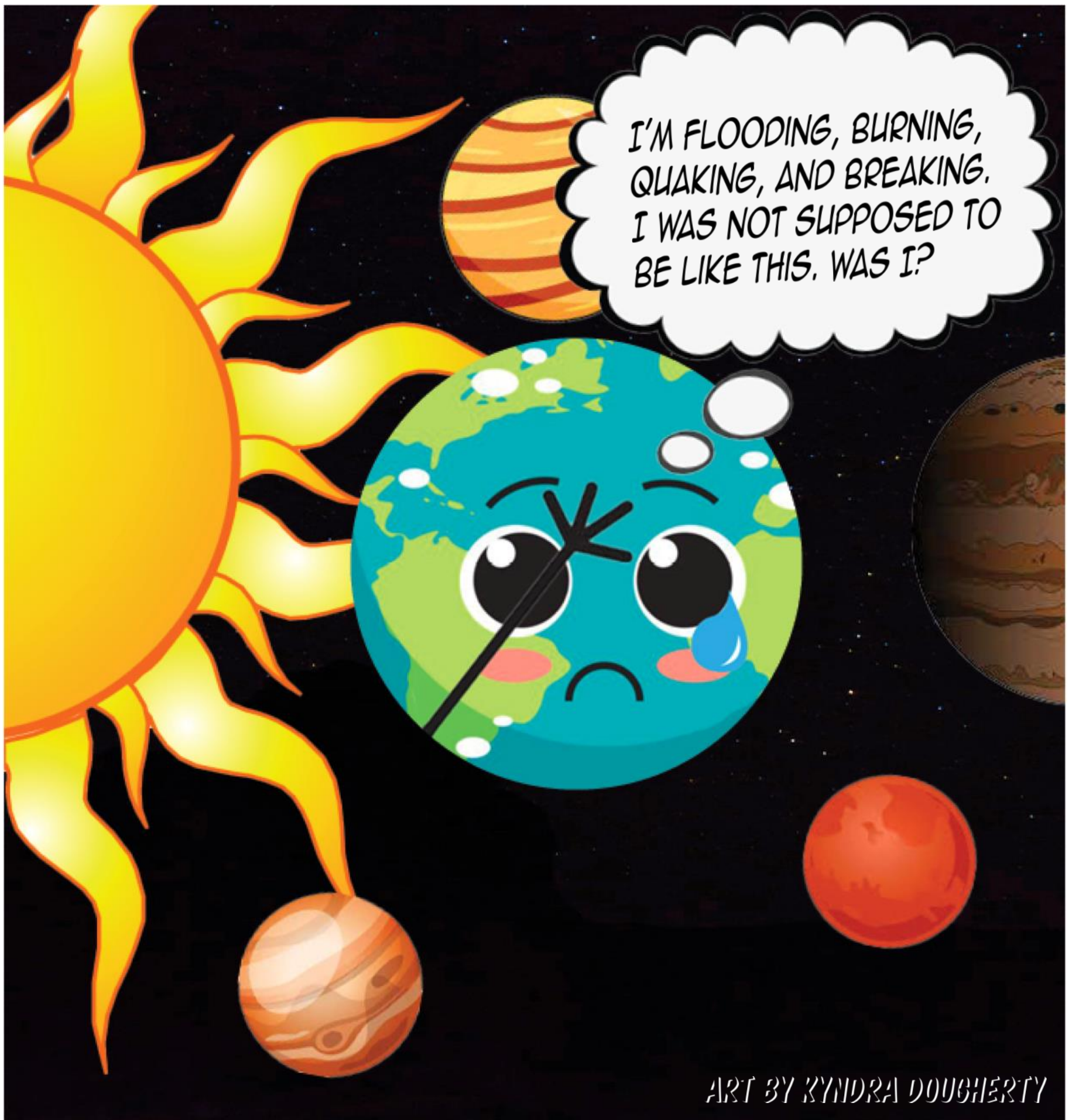
Schools strive to mold good writers, which is an arduous challenge thanks to the Tik-Tok'ers, Instagrammers, and perpetual texters. That focus needs to remain because the world always needs a good, old-fashioned scribes.

Schools should surrender against incorporating cursive into a sometimes outdated curriculum.

Stick with the plain old standard ways of adding letters on paper. Words don't need to connect. People do. With quality introductory clauses, a reserved number of adjectives, and a conscious attention to spelling.

Leave cursive to grandma, Benjamin Franklin, and the vintage-minded teachers who were offended by this article. (Sorry, again). 🐾

Out of its Orbit



ART BY KYNDRA DOUGHERTY



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Modern Disobedience

Are they being heard? The Greens have changed how we protest

By Patrick Conway '26
Slate Columnist

Democracy is an incredible way for voices to be heard. The way we live our lives can be attributed almost directly to the establishment of it— there have been few times in history when people of all sorts of groups were capable of expressing their opinions and addressing their grievances to their rulers.

It is an unfortunate truth that many groups are simply unable to take action within the political system. Whether it be for better or worse, nearly all political establishments oppose some group

binary oppositions— conflicts between large groups of people with similar traits, with prominent ones being race against race, creed against creed, and class against class.

While smaller movements can be found within both camps, the majority typically fit into either the reactive or progressive label. Though some ideological differences within these two camps are common, both share a fundamental opposition to some aspects of the current state's mandates, primarily those regarding either the preservation or destruction of hierarchies.

As philosophical innovation grows,

aspects of the Green movement is its approach to civil disobedience.

It doesn't only revolve around strikes and rallies made by larger, collective groups of ideologues. Particularly amongst its youngest radicals, individual attacks are brought up against modern displays of art and industrialism— embracing aspects of many contemporary philosophical theories and movements such as the post-modernist movement. This has become an increasingly large problem for the establishment and reactionary movements due to its somewhat destructive nature.

“ence” intellectuals, as the goals of these protests have a large amount of targets which causes more approval and, adversely, disapproval. It is part of the reason the populist right has become so popular in the last few years— as green movements fail to make it into government, more centrist and moderate conservatives are pushed to more reactionary positions to retain their power.

It's important to consider this isn't the only protest of this type— it includes other popular tactics, such as ones where protesters glue themselves to walls, break windows, and cause other forms of property damage that have given many environmental activists notoriety abroad.

We've always just been able to protest or strike instead of using some actual destructive capacity, though. Why are these demonstrations becoming so prominent when they are also so destructive and disrespectful?

Well, the developments seen within this new protesting philosophy have become incredibly influential in modern radical politics. Some have formed deeper opinions about it, but even its recognition goes to show how much influence it has garnered in the last couple of years. It's clearly become recognized, especially as other strange forms of protests begin to break out in similar fashions. It has, at the very least, given attention to the Green movement as a whole.

Since these tactics have gathered more popularity and polarization, it's also made the Green movement more popular and polarizing— there are more environmentalists and anti-environmentalists than ever. Other movements, though to lesser extents, have used tactics like these and have also seen growing numbers of supporters. It is clearly a proven way to improve your popularity.

It goes further beyond the reaches of “Civil Disobedience” as outlined by Henry David Thoreau, toeing the line between violent insurrectionary action and peaceful protest. It is this fact that makes it appealing to some and appalling to others. Whether these actions are violent or not is up to the individual, making the movement and their action incredibly polarizing and attracting plenty of popularity.

So, out of all the things you should consider about the Green movement, it should be an understanding of their protests and using similar creative tactics to make a statement.

It never entails violence, instead focusing on the use of unusual tactics to accomplish your goals. Rather than staying in the realms of basic protest and strike, use new and creative methods to peacefully strike against opposing forces.

They are much better for expressing exactly what you want out of your system. Democracy requires agitators— people who act out to get what they need.

Use whatever means necessary, because to keep our liberty and ideas alive, we need to give it fuel from the people that wish to uphold democracy. 🌱



or another, and it can be for just about any taboo. Political disagreement is no stranger to modern society, but the most frightening part about a political establishment is its capability to repress its opposition.

We have seen many forms over civilization's history— the removal of religious minorities, the enslavement of foreign prisoners, and the appropriation of wealth from economic classes are all examples in which one group gains priority over another— whether it be institutionalized or just a byproduct of societal disagreement. When certain groups are outcast from a political system, it becomes inherently more autocratic.

It is for these reasons we often see two dominant political movements pulling back and forth for power in government— the center. Most people understand these as rightists and leftists. It is, at this point in time, more accurate to define these groups as reactionary and progressive.

Their respective rhetorics are normally caused by the development of

the understanding of political movements becomes increasingly more complicated when tied to their philosophies, and typically pushes the politically moderate away. It is why extremist movements have to find more creative ways to express themselves outside of direct political action— normally expressed through social events such as strikes and rallies that are typically referred to under the umbrella term of *civil disobedience*.

Keeping this in mind, it becomes quite clear to see what sorts of dominant political movements constitute our political extremes. Right-wing populist movements are for the most part dominant on the reactionary, traditionalist side of our political landscape.

The one that takes a much more active approach in gaining recognition, however, sits on the opposite side of the political landscape— the environmental movement.

The environmental movement— colloquially called the Greens— is very seasoned within the art of civil disobedience. One of the most interesting

In recent times, we've seen a heavy focus on the destruction of art— most prominently caused by environmentalists throwing cake at the Mona Lisa.

It seemed to be a protest with multiple goals— focusing on environmentalism while also seemingly sending implicit messages about the validity, or, in this case, the invalidity of former philosophical currents targeting ideas such as humanism and things with more tangibility, such as industry.

The abstractness of the attack made it more symbolic than something like a strike or protest— it created a message with more ideas than may have even been intended. These attacks are, in a sense, poetic— the use of abnormal uses of protests aren't uncommon, but ones attacking romantic and realist art have been almost unheard of until recently.

Unusual cases like this have been seen throughout modern leftist movements, and at the surface seem very foolish. However, with some nuance looking into it, these protests become much more likely to attract “on-the-

Disagree with us!

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Freewill or forced selection?

Why summer reading should offer students more freedom

By Andi Szwest '27
Staff Writer

According to research published by the American Psychological Association (APA), less than twenty percent of American teenagers spend time reading for leisure every day. This number has rapidly decreased since the late 1970s, where, on average, sixty percent of U.S. adolescents read for pleasure daily.

A countless number of studies aiming to uncover what methods of motivation can encourage children to read of their own free will have been conducted, and one commonly recurring answer is to let students choose their reading material instead of having it be assigned. In their article *Reading Motivation: What the Research Says*, authors Linda Gambrell and Barbara Marinak write, “[A study] found that allowing students to make choices about their reading material increased the likelihood that they would engage more in reading.”

Most modern-day high school curriculums don’t offer many, if any, opportunities for students to choose their own books to read, both in the regular curriculum and within summer reading. I have been assigned summer reading for two years, and each time my motivation to read the book I was assigned has been virtually nonexistent.

What little interest I have in the assigned text is drowned out purely because I am being forced to read the book instead of stumbling across it of my own free will. I understand the importance of exploring the literary works of our histo-



ry and the significance they still have on us today; however, a novel from the eighteenth century or a biography is not necessarily appealing reading material to most high school students.

In the article *Freedom, Not Force, Creates Lifelong Readers and Learners*, Kerry McDonald writes, “If we were to design a system of reading instruction certain to fuel a general dislike of reading, and by extension learning, then we would create a system that forces chil-

dren to read things they don’t like and that have no meaning for them, at ever-earlier ages, with rampant labeling, tracking, testing, and interventions to ensure that they meet an artificial curriculum standard.”

In an ideal world, students’ summer reading assignments could be of their own choice, followed by a universal assignment to test their comprehension of the text, such as a paragraph describing how the main character of the novel

represents a certain quality, for example. However, there are several flaws with this plan, such as the inability to tell if the student has actually read the book, as well as the difficulty for the teacher to grade the assignments if they have not read the book themselves.

With this in mind, a modified system involving multiple relevant and interesting texts for students to choose from could be considered, which would simultaneously provide easier grading material for teachers and offer students a sufficient amount of freedom in choosing their own books.

The Effects of Free Choice on Student Learning: A Study of Summer Reading, a study conducted and published by Ya-Ling Lu and Carol Gordon, shares, “On average, students agreed that giving them more choices enriched their reading experiences. More than half the students enjoyed the freedom to browse and select among a variety of book lists.

They commented that this summer reading experience was different and fun because of the variety of books and project choices and that they felt more enthusiastic about summer reading because they found the books they chose interesting.”

If the intention of summer reading is to keep students reading over the summer and encourage them to take the step to read on their own outside of school, the freedom to choose and to be engaged in a topic that is personally interesting may be the solution. 🌟

Beyond the 19th Amendment



By Lacey Groover

Being selfish has its moments, for yourself

I believe that enjoying life is something everyone should prioritize, because if you spend most of your life being miserable or choosing to keep yourself unhappy, there’s going to be a lot of things you might miss that you wanted to experience.

You only get one chance in life, and you want to be careful not to waste it. Taking a moment to appreciate and think about things that make you happy or notice daily can count, because even the smallest things matter. A reason that a lot of people feel the way they do is because they act and believe everything they do will never stop making them feel miserable, but it doesn’t have to be that way.

Every day you have no guarantee that you’re going to be alive tomorrow, and if people took that into consideration more they could be even the smallest bit happier. Just enjoying life isn’t going to fix all of your problems, but it’s something that should be done more so

that you’re not as unhappy and miserable.

People fail to realize the control they have over some things and tend to focus on what they can’t control. Whatever you can control should be all that matters to you. As an example, I used to be a very mean and angry person, and what I never managed to realize was things didn’t have to be that way.

Simply waking up and thinking even the smallest bit positive or happy can at least make you have a semi-good day compared to getting upset over one small thing and believing everything is ruined when there’s so much more time to experience good things.

If someone in your life chooses to be miserable and doesn’t try to get better despite promising to, you shouldn’t bother trying to get them to. Saving

Elementary,

My Dear Readers



Kristiana Callaby

someone who doesn’t wish to be saved will only tire and ruin you in the long run, because it isn’t your job to make someone else happy.

It’s there’s. Never prioritize someone over yourself, because being your best is worth more than pleasing someone who can’t help you the way you yourself can.

Being a good person and treating people kindly is something that I would recommend doing for as long as possible. Even if someone doesn’t accept or return your kindness, you at least did the right thing and helped them, and that’s what matters.

Doing things for people will always end in favor of you, but it shouldn’t just be because it’s beneficial to you. You should treat people with kindness, be-

cause doing it is the right thing to do, even if it sounds like a corny old phrase.

It’s okay to be selfish sometimes as well, but treating and putting yourself above others shouldn’t be something you always do. However; it should be done at least once and a while before you forget how to be as nice to yourself as you are to others.

How you perceive yourself is a way of getting into or staying out of some toxic relationships, because when you view yourself negatively and get with or be around people who treat you horribly, there won’t be a way for you to realize what they’re doing isn’t okay.

Enjoy your life and have fun from time to time, because if you don’t there’s going to be a lot of things that you can and will miss out on that might just make life a little more worth it.

Kristiana Callaby is a guest staff writer for The Slate and a sixth-grader at Slatington Elementary School.

SPORTS



FOOTBALL DAWGS TRY TO EXPAND ON LAST YEAR'S SUCCESS



Conner Martinez



Brody Dye



Jackson Van Norman

By Fiona Jones '27
Staff Writer

The mighty bulldogs are back this season, and looking to defend their title. With returning starters, the Bulldogs are hoping to make another run at districts. With a loss of a few key players due to graduation, they have their work cut out for them. This season started out difficult due to injuries of some players, but the Dawgs are fighting each week.

The football team was faced with a major setback at the beginning of the season when the quarterback prospect Aiden Oswald was injured. He suffered a knee injury that ended his season before it even began. The football team turned to freshman Garrett Smoyer to take the lead. Seniors Jack Tosh and Sam Frame Junior as well as Bailey Smith have taken leadership roles on the field by putting up stats and leading the team this season.

The Dawgs were having a difficult time when the team was defeated by Catasauqua. It was a rough game with more injuries on the field. Senior Zach Lehman suffered a season-ending knee injury. Then during the game, Senior Bailey Smith was taken to the hospital for a possible neck injury. Luckily, he was cleared and ready to go for the next week. The Bulldogs fell to the Rough Riders 48-22.

We knew this year's battle with Northwestern was not going to be an easy one. Despite giving their best efforts, the Dawgs were unable to defeat the Tigers. Northwestern dominated,

winning 48-0. However, the Dawgs held their heads high and began focusing on the next week. Coach Tout said, "Injuries are a part of every season. With this year's injuries we have had to change our passing game a bit. We are also relying heavily on our offensive line- Sam Frame, Brody Dye, Jackson Van Norman, Landon Moll, Cyrus Kinchen, Chase Moffitt, Conner Martinez. We are also relying on our running game in Jack Tosh, Bailey Smith, and Grady Newhard. I have been impressed with the growth of Garret Smoyer- he is getting better with each game rep he is getting."

"We have a good group of seniors and they have become the leaders of our team. We have several seniors who have been captains. Jack Tosh, Chase Moffitt, Brody Dye, Jackson Van Norman, Sam Frame, and Bailey Smith. Our other seniors have contributed on offense, defense, and special teams- Conner Martinez, Owen Mikulski. Zach Lehman was rotating in the lineup as well until his injury."

The Dawgs were able to come together during their game against Pen Argyl. The team worked hard and pulled out a pivotal win. The game was a nail bitter with every possession, but the Bulldogs came out on top with a score of 16-12.

Many players contributed to the victory with key carries throughout the game by Jack Tosh, Grady Newhard, Chris Frame, and Reese Lipsky. The Dawgs looked to the next battle and

See Football, page 13



Jack Tosh



Owen Mikulski



Chase Moffitt



Bailey Smith



Sam Frame



Zach Lehman

Ready to Race: Cross country runs again

By Delaney Szwast '24
Sports Editor

The cross country teams are back on the roads of Slatington, and they are ready to race. They began their season with the annual Alumni Race, which welcomed back Northern Lehigh graduates and Palmerton alumni to race against the schools' current teams.

"The alumni race gives us a good opportunity to see where we are coming into the season and how the summer training paid off," head coach Michael Lehtonen said. "It's a good benchmark because we usually start the season with just distance runs, so that is our first hard run of the year." He also noted that it is nice to have extra competition from Palmerton coming to compete as well.

Many alumni attended the race, including former cross country state champion Bob Chandler and Katrina Wehr, who was part of the last state championship qualifying team from Northern Lehigh. Assistant cross country coach and NL high school math teacher Mr. Greg King participated in the race as a Palmerton alumnus as well.

The girls cross country team returns this season with a group of experienced runners from last year's team. Coach Lehtonen stated that the competitive 2022 girls team "narrowly missed qualifying for the PIAA State Championship race in Hershey."

"There were a bunch of 'what ifs' to the District Championship race results



Photo by Lifetouch Photography

(Back row) Edward Benedict, Emma Heil, Katelynn Barthold, Emily Gad, Seth Schaeffer, (front) Coach Mr. Greg King, Haylie Fenstermaker, Ayden Scanlon, Delaney Szwast, Kasia Dos Santos, Coach Mr. Mike Lehtonen.

and some disappointment, however, the good news was that no girls team members left with graduation," Lehtonen said. "The 2023 girls team has goals of 'unfinished business' for the District Championship race this year!"

The girls team returns with three senior runners this year: Kasia Dos Santos, Haylie Fenstermaker, and Delaney Szwast. The team is led to the finish line by sophomore Emma Heil, and it is

partially composed of a group of multi-sport athletes, including Dekota Barthold (soccer), Emily Gad (soccer), and Delaney Szwast (field hockey).

The team is looking to continue to be very competitive again this season, with hopes of being able to qualify for the State Championship race; however, with Kasia Dos Santos currently injured, the team may need to focus on some individual goals for the season.

"[Kasia] came into the season in great shape. We are optimistic that she might be able to run a race at the end of the season, however, there is much uncertainty," Coach Lehtonen said. "As individuals, I hope that everyone progresses to where we are running our best times by the end of the season."

He noted that Heil and Szwast were very close to qualifying for States as well.

See XC, page 11

Soccer teams kick off new seasons

By Delaney Szwast '24
Sports Editor

The girls and boys soccer teams are back in action, and members of both teams are working towards achieving goals that they set for themselves this season.

The girls soccer team is led by two seniors, Jayden Fischer and Victoria Hanna, and has several experienced players returning. “We return eight starters from last season,” Head Coach Jason Reinhard said. “Seniors Victoria Hanna and Jayden Fischer are our leaders, while our juniors, Dekota and Katelyn Barthold, Mikayla Gordon, Gabriella Hanna, Katya Pesesko and Nicole Zarayko bring a wealth of starting experience.” He also noted that the sophomores and freshmen are “improving rapidly.”

“We are trying to qualify for leagues and districts for the fourth straight year, but more importantly, we are trying to improve every day,” Reinhard explained. “We have a great group of girls and it’s fun to coach them every day. They get along really well and all are on the same page: team comes first.”



Photo by Lifetouch Photography

(Back row) Rachael Bauer, Alondra Gonzalez Monsalve, Natalie Moffitt, Katelynn Barthold, Nicole Zarayko, Karina Wisocky, Katya Pesesko, Ella Tosh. (Middle) Dekota Barthold, Annalisa Douglas, Alexa O’Connell, Gabriella Gentile, Cassidy Snyder, Gabby Hanna, Marley Edwards. (Front) Coach Mr. Jason Reinhard, Jameelah Gonzalez, Victoria Hanna, Jayden Fischer, Emily Gad, Mikayla Gordon, Coach Mrs. Shelby Bailey.

I feel our team is constantly improving. We are competing in games that we would not have had a chance in last year or the year before.



Jackson Hunsicker

Members of the team are not only looking to qualify for playoffs this season; they are eager to win Districts as well. Senior Victoria Hanna and junior Dekota Barthold both expressed that this was one of their goals for the season.

In addition to winning Districts, Barthold is hoping to defeat Jim Thorpe this year. “[I’m] looking forward to playing Jim Thorpe because we lost to them the last two years when we could have beaten them,” she said, noting that it was “revenge time.”

Hanna’s other hope for the season is to keep the team healthy. She speaks highly of her teammates, sharing that they are “very talented, fun, and such a joy to be around.”

“We have been working hard and we plan to go far this season,” she adds. “I am looking forward to playing many games with my teammates and making life-lasting memories.”

The boys soccer team also returns with great ambition this season and hopes of going farther into playoffs than they did last season. Head Coach John Murray states that the team is “a young squad, with only two seniors and three Juniors along with nine underclassmen.”

Murray claims that several players have stepped up this season, including seniors Jackson Hunsicker and James Stock. He shares that Stock has “stepped up and took over the goalie duties for us and has played exceptionally well” and that Hunsicker has “played outstanding as a defensive back.”

“Kellen Bauer, a freshman as our striker, has been a pleasant surprise,” Murray said, noting that he scored three goals in four games. “I am also looking for big things from Mike Wilk and Logan Berfield, and if they take the next step, this team can go further than any team [has] in a very long time.”

The team is looking to continue to improve and to make it to the District playoffs again this year. “My biggest hope for our soccer season is qualifying



Katelynn Barthold goes for the smash.



Photo by Lifetouch Photography

(Back row) Tony Hanna, Chayce Lopinto, Isaac Jackowitz, Skyler Loos, Zaid Salih, Kellen Bauer. (Middle) Edward Benedict, Ethan Moore, Logan Berfield, Michael Wilk, Matt McCarty. (Front) Coach John Tristan Moore, Jackson Hunsicker, James Stock, Coach John Murray.

See Soccer, page 14

Junior Varsity cheerleaders amplify sidelines



Photos by Reese Messinger

Junior Varsity Cheerleaders keep 'em loud too. Aliyah Silva, Zania Braewell, Karina Wisocky, Isabella Seiler, Amyah Fischer, Aireonna Palmer.

Coach Lehtonen hopes for new runners' experience



Photo by Lifetouch Photography

Andrew Rudolph, Ayden Scanlon, Henry Slonaker, Seth Schaeffer and Edward Benedict.

XC, from page 9

individuals last year, and that Fenstermaker is "getting very competitive" and continuing to drop time. He also mentioned that Gad was doing "very well as a freshman."

The boys team returns with one senior runner, Ayden Scanlon, and several new runners, Seth Schaeffer, Andrew Rudolph, and Henry Slonaker. The team is led to the finish line by freshman Edward Benedict, who also plays soccer during the fall season.

With a team of mostly new runners, Coach Lehtonen is looking for them to "gain varsity experience and

over the course of the season, continue to have their times drop in the five kilometer race."

"Now that we have five runners, we will be scoring as a team, and we would like to be competitive against other Colonial League and District single A teams in the area," he said.

This will be the first season in several years that the boys team is able to compete as a team, as the team previously did not have the minimum of five runners for scoring in competitions. With a full roster, the boys team is hoping to become competitive in the League meets and at the District level this season. 🐾

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Field hockey rises in numbers and builds bonds



Photo by Lifetouch Photography

(Top) Gracie Frederick, Morgan Smith, Brylee Herman, McKenzie Chruscial, Addison Cieri, CC Serfass. (Middle) Ada Porobenski, Fiona Jones, Madison Thomas, Ariana Williams, Sarah Hanzarik, Madelynn Husack. (Front) Coach Cassandra Beller, Emily Koch, Hannah Frederick, Daisy Richards, Brianna Eckhart-Brennan, Delaney Szwast, Coach Mrs. Allison Chruscial.

By Morgan Smith '27
Staff Writer

Last year, the field hockey team only had eleven to twelve people the whole season. This year they are very proud to announce that they finally have numbers.

They get to play a 11v11 game with multiple subs. An "11v11 game" is a game that is played with eleven people on the field. A "sub" is short for substitute: they are people that do not start, but go in the game if someone needs a break or gets injured.

In previous years for middle and high school, they haven't had enough players to play an 11v11 game or to have subs.

Senior Daisy Richards said "I feel as though our numbers this year are better than last year. We have more girls,

which are mainly underclassmen.

This alone brings its own challenges, but we are connecting together pretty well as a team. I do believe that we can do great things this year. We are already improving, and having fresh legs helps a lot with that."

Along with that, senior Delaney Szwast said that, "We have more players on the team this year, which I think will really help us.

Last year, we played most games without any subs, and we sometimes had to play without a full team on the field. I think that with having a larger team this season and the ability to make substitutions, we will start to see some positive differences in the scores of the games." Last year's seniors: Delia Quier, Zoe Hathaway, Elena Henning, and team manager Alexis Traugher, were lost due to graduation. However, the

team has gained eight freshmen.

Coach Cassandra Beller spoke well of the incoming freshmen. "The new freshmen starters have taken on a lot of responsibility from playing in middle school games to now being on a varsity team.

The freshmen group is also a large group, which is great to see with the decline in participation in sports. They take direction and feedback easily, which will allow them to be able to constantly gain more skill and knowledge of the game to help them become better players in months and years to come."

After pushing each other and working hard all summer, the team is very well-conditioned. With this newfound sense of teamwork, the team is expecting to be able to recover quickly on defense. As well as being conditioned, they work together and have an incredible

bond. On and off the field, they are all friends and help each other. Whether they win or we lose they still manage to boost each other's spirits and lift each other up.

Their coach has multiple goals for the season, "Our goals this season are to grow from last year's mistakes and not repeat them. To score more goals, and win a few games, and for each of you to grow as players, to be the best player you can be."

But the most important thing was to score. On Saturday, September 2nd, the team scored their first goal against Northampton Area High School. McKenzie Chruscial shot and it got tapped in by Addison Cieri, but not only was the goal scored and our goal as a team was accomplished.

Photos below by Erica and AJ Szwast



Emily Koch.



Delaney Szwast.



McKenzie Chruscial



Ada Porobenski



Daisy Richards

Larger opponents present ready challenges for Bulldogs



Photos by Lifetouch
(Above) Your 2023-24 varsity football team.

(Left) Coaching staff: JR Roth, Shawn Frame, Justin Smoyer, Mike Zambo, Derek Long, Dylan Hofman, head coach Joe Tout, Scott Rothrock, and trainers Matt Schwartz and Mollie Thoreson.

Football, from page 9

set to work. Senior Bailey Smith said, "We are good, but can always be better."

Better they were. The Dawgs continued their winning streak, dominating Pine Grove with a score of 45-20. The team started to show growth and what they were made of! With a good overall team effort, many bulldogs contributed to the effort. Newhard finished with 233 yards and 2 touchdowns, Tosh with 85

yards and 2 touchdowns, and Chris Frame added another 67 yards and 2 touchdowns.

The team has high hopes for the rest of the season. Bailey Smith shared his hopes for the remainder of the season, "I want us to have more wins than losses and make it to the playoffs. I also want to push forward and win a third district championship in a row."

In addition to this, Coach Tout said, "The goal of our season is to improve

every week of the season. We are a single A school playing in the AAA division of the Colonial Schuylkill League, so every game on our schedule is a larger opponent. He is hoping that the team will be able to gain enough points to qualify for the single A playoffs. I believe we can compete for the District IX A championship again this year".

Senior Zach Lehman said, "I think we are making a good turnaround for some adversity that has been happening

this season, and if we continue down this path, while still putting in the hard work and learning from mistakes from past weeks, it shows the football team changes week by week during the season and how they grow and their adaptability with each other and to their environments, and I would be excited to see them win their third district title game in a row and see where that would take us later down the line." 🐾

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What affects the reflection looking back?

By Abby Peartree '24
Associate Editor

Body positivity is appreciating or accepting one's own body or the bodies of others for what they are. Having this quality of being body positive is important to a person's mental health, but it is being lost on the world due to Instagram models and the unrealistic expectations they set on bodies.

Instagram is inherently negative towards any body shape that is not incredibly unrealistic. When someone posts a picture of themselves and they are too different from Instagram and society's expectations, they do not receive a lot of likes, comments, or shares; however, when someone is in that niche that Instagram/ society likes, they receive millions of likes, shares, and comments.

This is because Instagram is a picture-based platform. Other social media sites, such as Facebook and X, rely on text-based posts.

Text-based posts are inherently less likely to sway someone's view of the ideal body type, while a photo-based posting system and algorithm actively and inherently feeds into society's body-negative views.

When looking into this phenomenon, it is important to understand one key detail: virtually none of the people that have the ideal body or face for Instagram naturally look like that. Kim Kardashian is definitely one of the most notable Instagram influencers.

She was previously the holder of the most-liked post on Instagram. She is known for basically embodying the

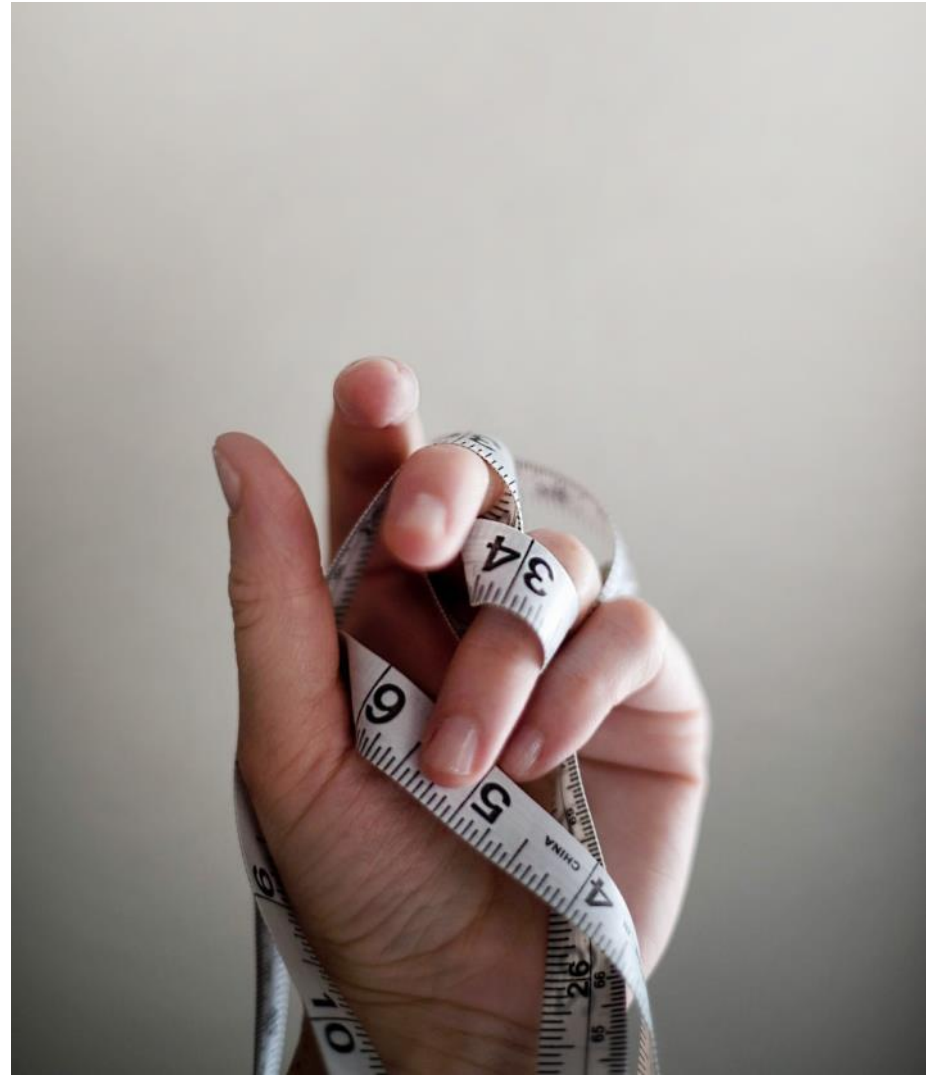
beauty standard. While she claims to have never had any serious operations done, she does admit to a large amount of 'minor' procedures. From Botox to excessive contour, Kim K's look is entirely manufactured for her media presence.

The algorithm knows that the look of being tan with a snatched waist is idealized among the world's youth, and thus, it feeds us more and more of it without any worry of the psychological repercussions.

When people are exposed to the 'ideal' body shape for their gender, height, or other specific detail, they begin to feel insecure. This insecurity compounded with the fact that Instagram's algorithm will repeatedly bring them more and more of the same content can cause depression, anxiety, and/or eating disorders.

The Times News has mentioned that research has also shown that when people are shown a more diverse social media feed, their mental state may be improved. While it is always fun to post pictures of ourselves, it becomes a chore when you feel unrepresented in the media. When every other post is a carbon copy of the other, it becomes hard to live in our own skin.

The truth is body types have so many factors that go into them. To expect oneself to look like another is like comparing apples to oranges. While Kim Kardashian is certainly beautiful, so is Meghan Trainor, and they look nothing alike. They have very different body types, and they both are beautiful inside and out. To make the comparison



of body types is to strip away what really matters about people: their personalities. If someone is horrible and mean, that is something that makes them less beautiful, not their weight, or their

height, or any other 'imperfection'. Letting an application ruin our self-image is like losing our personalities, and we should never let that happen. 🐾

'Future is bright' for boys soccer, coach says



Photos by Lifetouch Photography

James Stock with the save at a recent match; (below) Anthony Hanna preps a blast kick while Jackson Hunsicker guards from behind.



Soccer, from page 10

for Districts. Last year we qualified for the first time. This was a big achievement for us and our team, and I'm hoping we will be able to do the same this year," senior Jackson Hunsicker said.

Murray states that this team "would like to go further than last year's team" in the District playoffs this season. "This year we not only want to make it to Districts," he said. "We want to win our first District playoff game in NL boys soccer history."

Hunsicker is optimistic that the current team will exceed expectations from last year. "I feel our team is constantly improving," he said. "We are competing in games that we would not have had a chance in last year or the year before."

Junior Matt McCarty also believes that the team has a great chance of surpassing their previous record this season. "The past few seasons have been about growing as a team. Every year we have improved our play and now we are very competitive with teams that used to consider us an easy win," he said. "We are a very young team with mostly underclassmen, so we are constantly taking steps forward. The future is bright for NL boys soccer."

Loud & Proud

One of many themed evenings in support of their Bulldogs.



Sam Grady



Patrick Conway



McKenzie Chruscial, Addison Smith



Logan Berfield, Hunter Hoever, and Brayden Tocci



'Arts & Crafts'



By Jalyn Lesher

A symbolic representation of the relationship between humans and animals, how — in our culture — animals are often exploited for entertainment.

Women Leaders of the Press



In addition to the women who upheld this summer's entertainment, this year's Slate staff is women-centered as well. (Middle) Editor in Chief Susan Gilsbach, along with (left to right) Sports Editor Delaney Szwest, Associate Editor Haven Moore, Associate Editor Abby Peartree and Senior Content Editor Avery Diaz.