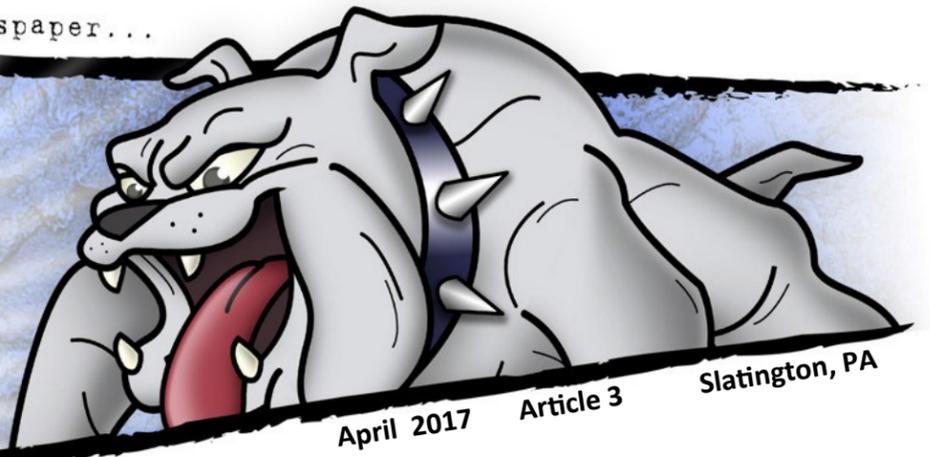


# the Slate



April 2017

Article 3

Slatington, PA

## The Words of a Student Wins the Voice of Democracy

By Bridget Lynch and Nicholas Lehman

Northern Lehigh Student Dylan Kuntz won 2nd place in the Voice of Democracy contest, a yearly writing contest with cash prizes. A new prompt is given each year. This year, the prompt was about student's responsibility to America as a citizen.

On February 17th, a crowd of students, veterans, and his parents gathered to watch the acceptance of award. The veterans present gave thanks to Dylan for helping the community and told stories about the wars they fought in.

In addition to the awards ceremony, Miss Urban's class had a question and answer session with the veterans in attendance.

When asked how it felt to be stationed abroad, one veteran responded:

"We were young, full of you-know-what and vinegar, so we did what we had to do. No crying or moaning about it, just what we had to do to survive and help the country.

Women veterans were present and they were tops, had guts, and were fearless."

Veterans were also asked where they were stationed

wasn't fun, but I did it for survival and necessity."

According to Miss Urban, who was Dylan's English teacher and encouraged her students to partake in this competition, "It was a



during their respective wars. One veteran responded:

"Vietnam, Japan, with Australians, Filipinos, and South Vietnamese people."

Another veteran added:

"On an aircrafts carrier, as an engineer in the hole. It

wonderful experience for everyone who was involved. All of my classes at the time knew what was happening because each student was able to submit something, and to see their own classmate get acknowledged is nice to show that anyone can accomplish great things."

In addition to the wonderful experience, this contest was very competitive. It covered the region which includes schools like Parkland, Northwestern, and most of the Lehigh Valley. As a result, the competition was fierce, and the other two winners were from Parkland.

With it being her second year encouraging students to participate in this amazing contest, Miss Urban said that "this was a big deal for them, which was nice."

Being accepted for this award is a great honor, and we *The Slate* staff speak on behalf of Northern Lehigh in saying congratulations Dylan!

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# The Sports of Northern Lehigh



By Brianna Schuck

As the 2016-2017 winter sports season began, all of our athletes had gold, improvement, and "team" on their minds. From the court to the mat, each and every one of our winter sports athletes deserve recognition.

As our varsity boys and girls basketball teams both say goodbye to two beloved seniors both on and off the court (Joe Egan, Robert Schaeffer, Karlyna Kemery, and Ashley Wilk), they also have the current sophomores, juniors, and even freshman and prepare to welcome some new faces who hopefully can provide a solid future for NL.

Not only did basketball have a year of improving, but our wrestlers also didn't settle for anything less than their own goals. As Ryan Farber, Jason Schaffer, Ezra Neff, Brandon Belfonti, Daniel Belfonti, Austin Hemingway and David Neff dawned their navy blue and white singlets and took the mat as bulldogs for their last time, all of us knew they planted their roots here through

their great accomplishments from home and away matches, even all the way out in Hershey.

As for all of our other wrestlers, they too had memorable seasons. Current freshman Preston Bauer's success will hopefully

carry throughout his wrestling career.

Boys Varsity Basketball finished the season 7-15 overall and 5-13 in the league.

Girls Varsity Basketball finished 4-18 overall and 3-15 in the league.

On Winter Sports Awards Night, Jillian Olewine and Danielle Hoffman each received a "Coach's Award", Joe Egan received the "MVP" Award, and Robert "Teddy" Schaeffer received the "Coach's/Sportsmanship Award."

Meanwhile on the mat, our wrestlers went 6-12 overall and 2-6 in the league, but we had a few individuals finish strong. Starting with Ryan Farber who placed second in the state at 160, was the Southeast Regional champion, District 11 Champion, and

4th at Districts at 126, and Preston Bauer finished 6th at Districts at 106.

Ryan Farber will receive the "Most Outstanding Wrestler" Award, Jason Schaffer will receive the "Most Improved Wrestler" Award, and Ezra Neff will receive the "Bulldog Award".

Also on the season, Ryan Farber joined the 100 win club with 124 career wins and Ezra Neff joined the 150 point club along with Ryan and Jason who previously joined the 150 point club as well.

As the winter sports wrapped up, spring sports were just around the corner. Our softball, baseball, and track teams have all been working hard since the start of January, and so far, their

hard work is really paying off.

Our varsity softball team came out ready to grind and started the season off strong with a win over Salisbury, which provided them with motivation going forward. #GameDay #StateChamps

As for Varsity and JV baseball, they look to keep improving and hopefully rack up a couple more wins.

Track and Field athletes are also tearing it up and they too don't let the grind stop.

Please come out and support the Varsity baseball and softball teams on senior night which will be held on May 10th. The girls will play at Walnutport at 7:00 and the boys will play at Breifogel at 7:00. They will be looking to chop down a known rival, the Palmerton Bombers.

Please support the track team at any home meets as well, and congratulations to all of our winter athletes, good luck to our spring athletes, and best wishes to all of our seniors!



he was also first-team all-league at 170.

Jason Schaffer placed second at Districts and Southeast Regionals, and he was also first-team all-league at 265.

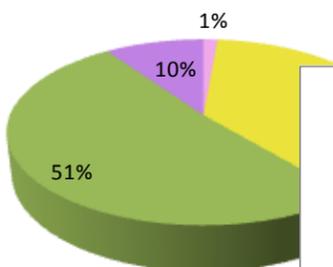
Brandon Belfonti finished 6th at Districts at 152, Ezra Neff finished 3rd at Districts at 132, Seth Fronheiser finished

## Easter Polls!

By Nicholas Lehman and Carmen Alvaro

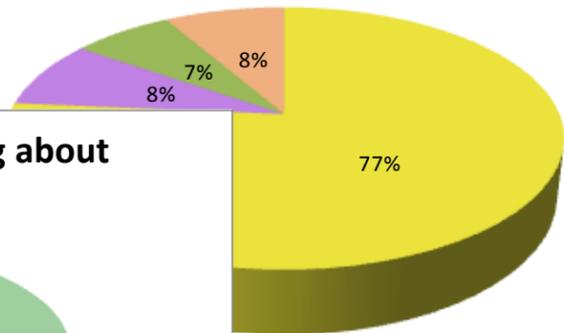
What do you want to find in your Easter basket?

■ Eggs ■ Candy ■ Money ■ Other



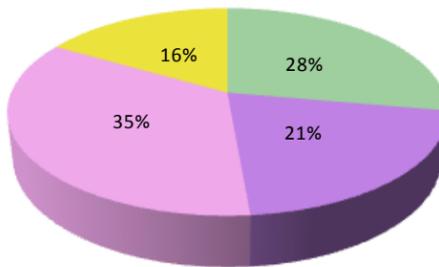
What animal is the best mascot for Cadbury?

■ Bunnies ■ Lions ■ Pigs ■ Other



What's your favorite thing about spring?

■ It's almost summer ■ Free Rita's ■ Warmer weather ■ Other



## OUR NERDS ARE BETTER THAN LEHIGHTON'S

By **Tori Csanadi**

Scholastic Scrimmage is a club offered at Northern Lehigh that is often overlooked.

On Fridays, after school, you can find the Scholastic Scrimmage team practicing intensely in room 220 under the adviso-ry of Mr. Michael Lehtonen.

While other sports deal with the physical battles of strength, speed, and stamina, Scholastic Scrimmage requires participants to test their ability to rapidly recall information in a competitive setting.

The club takes part in many tournaments over the course of the school year, like the Quiz Bowl at Southern Lehigh.

In said tournament, the team, consisting of Matthew

Schmoyer, Cole Cheesbrough, Gabriel DeLong, and Kyle Detweiler, were able to take a trophy home for our school.

Questions asked in- volved geographic locations of cities and countries, while others involved trivia about other cultures.

Other topics included mathematics, U.S. History, and litera- ture. With the team- work of those four students, our Scho- lastic Scrimmage team beat schools like Southern Lehigh

and Catasauqua. Taking third place, they won a trophy that now calls room 220 its home.

On December 6th, 2016, some of Northern Lehigh's best and brightest, instead of spending the day at the high

and brightest of neighboring school districts.

Cole Cheesbrough, Wyatt Delans, Kyle Detweiler, and Matthew Schmoyer went head-to-head in a battle of wits and trivial knowledge against Lehighton.

Securing a lead in the very beginning, our team was able to land a quick, but cata- clysmic victory over Lehighton.

On January 24th, the episode aired on PBS. The next Scho- lastic Scrimmage event, against Parkland, was a near victory. Parkland High School was a top competitor

for Scholastic Scrimmage and at half-time, the score was tied.

Despite our loss, Northern Lehigh put up a daring fight and proved that we can com- pete with schools ten times our size.

Scholastic Scrimmage, al- though a smaller-sized club, works hard to achieve great things. For any trivia-loving, jeopardy-watching individual, come on out next year and join us!



## My Responsibility to America

By **Dylan Kuntz**

As an American citizen, I have many rights. In order to earn these rights, I must do my part and give back to the community, state, na- tion, etc.

Simply being a nice person can help. When I am kind and respectful to others, it has an impact on me per- sonally and all the people around me.

When I do something for the community, it could be something as simple as pick- ing up trash or reporting suspicious activity.

Voting is a part of a citizen's duty to the country as well, once they are 18 and older. Anything can help, no matter how big or small the task may seem.

I am a member of my

school's Patriot Club. My responsibility in this club is to help raise and lower the high school flags every day.

I will soon be organizing the school sports tournaments and other extra- curricular events as part of the Pa- triot Club.

I am heavily in- volved with youth group events with my church as well. One event I par- ticipate in is the Sleep-out for Homelessness.

This sleep-out spreads awareness of homelessness and helps raise money for a local shelter.

More complicated services

could be volunteering for the community or becom- ing a volunteer firefighter.

I personally volunteer for community

service



through scouting. This in- cludes working at a food bank, cleaning up biking trails, helping fellow scouts with their Eagle

Scout projects.

The most important event as a scout is helping to re- tire old, tattered flags through a formal cere- mony.

After the cere- mony, all scouts get ashes from the retired flags to spread over the graves of fallen soldiers to show thanks for their service to America.

Certain things may be far more challeng- ing and time

consuming, but they help a lot.

Consequently, I look up to the brave men and women

that join the U.S. armed forces. They sacrifice eve- rything they have to pro- tect our country and pro- vide us with freedom that allows us to do daily activi- ties.

I would like to join the armed forces when I am out of high school so that I can protect the country I love.

In conclusion, my responsi- bilities to America vary. I can do small things for the community as well as large community service events through scouting.

The most important re- sponsibility I will have as an American is protecting my country and all the people in it, so that they can enjoy the freedom that I am now.



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## Divide: The Review

By Carmen Alvaro

Ed Sheeran, after a year of a self-proclaimed hiatus, has released his third album.

*Divide* was released on March 3 and has already gone quadruple platinum, topping the charts across Europe and the United States.

Sheeran has released three singles off of this album, including "Shape of You" and "Castle on the Hill" on January 6 and "Galway Girl" on March 17.

In the U.K., *Divide* became the fastest-selling album by a male artist and had the third-highest opening, only topped by Adele's *25* and Oasis' *Be Here Now*.

The album also broke the record for most Spotify streams in a single day, beating The Weeknd's *Starboy*.

The majority of critics gave *Divide* favorable reviews.

Martin Townsend of the *Daily*

*Express* gave Sheeran a five-star review, stating "Ed does the toughest thing in pop music disarmingly well, he writes and performs songs which are rooted winningly in small-town everyday life but which strike a universal chord."

The album also received four-star reviews from *The Independent*, *Rolling Stone*, and *NME*.

However, *Divide* was met with some unfavorable reviews from *The Guardian*, *Pitchfork*, and *Drowned in Sound*. One critic even called the album "the most anodyne and bland pop album possible."

Clearly, *Divide* has been met with some strong unfavorable reviews, but overall, critics

viewed the album favorably.

Ed Sheeran's third album features his best talent: songwriting.

While his vocals are solid, his music does not highlight his vocal range.



Many of the songs, such as "Supermarket Flowers," show off Sheeran's outstanding songwriting and his ability to

tell a touching story through a song.

However, immediately after is "Barcelona," which is the exact opposite of the prior song. The transition between the two is awkward consider-

ing the songs are polar opposites.

This happens several times throughout the album, with upbeat songs seem to be randomly interrupting those with a much different tone.

Although Ed Sheeran's songs are focused around lyrics, the songs can blur together when listening to the album.

"Perfect," "Happier," "New Man," and "Hearts Don't Break Around Here" are all

incredible songs with powerful messages.

However, it can become difficult to truly understand the meaning behind the songs when they feature similar tunes.

Overall, the album would be better if the track order was rearranged to avoid the awkward transitions and the blur of similar songs.

I would give this album a 7/10. The track order could have been better and Sheeran's vocals should have been shown through his music, but the overall messages of the songs are worth a listen.

Those who like upbeat dance songs would not enjoy many songs on this album, but those who would rather listen to lyrics with a deeper meaning, I recommend spending an hour on *Divide*.

## Discovering Hispanic Literature

By Blake Schuck

Spanish Club had an extraordinary experience when we went to see the Spanish play "Chronicle of a Death Foretold" on a day trip to New York City.

Originally written as a novel by Gabriel García Márquez,

it was transformed into a play very rich in Hispanic culture.

It tells the emotional story of Santiago Nasar's murder, while also explaining the sexual violation of Ángela Vicario.

The interesting part was that the play expresses "magic realism," in which the plot is not told in chronological order and realistic elements are combined with surreal ones.

The play was an unforgettable experience for Spanish Club, as it told an unbelievable story of the life, death and conviction of several different characters.

Being introduced to various aspects of this Hispan-



ic literature has certainly broadened our understanding of Spanish as a whole. We hope to make this field trip an annual one!



## Junior Prom!

By **Tori Csanadi**

On April 29th, 2017, the Junior Prom will commence in a night of natural colors, extravagant flowers, and a forest-y dream.

The theme for this year's prom is Enchanted Forest and our class officers have worked tirelessly to put it together.

The Prom will be held at Iron Lakes Country Club, from 5-10, located in the convenient city of Allentown.

Iron Lakes, in my professional opinion, is the most beautiful venue in the area. The moment the rest of the class officers and I saw it, we knew it was the one.

There is a dance floor able to fit all of our guests and enormous floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking a spectacular view.

The lake surrounding the venue is amazing as it reflects the sky.

Weather-permitting, guests

will have the opportunity to go outside and explore the scenic lake for photo opportunities and more subdued conversation.

The entire room has an aura of sophistication and elegance. The perfect place to host our Junior Prom.

Under a new presidency of Danielle Doll, our class has seen a huge spike in fundraising.

We were heavily lacking in funds from our freshman and sophomore years and this showed.

However, despite this, we came back junior year and quadrupled our account. We are now able to offer Prom tickets at the low price of \$60.

Yes, that's a decent price! In comparison, Northampton's Prom comes in at a whopping

\$170 a ticket!

Putting a prom together is hard work. There are so many people to talk to, so



many things to do, and so much to discuss.

A huge thank you must be given to Junior Class President Danielle Doll, who has put in the most effort to

make this night a reality.

Guests attending prom will be given a spectacular three-course meal with d'oeuvres and a dinner with spectacular food like Chicken Marsala And Penne.

The Junior Class was able to hire the lovely and riveting DJ King Leo from Philadelphia who will entertain guests with a wide range of music to please any guest.

To everyone's joy, we were able to satisfy the request of having a photo booth for the night.

If you are hoping for more professional photos, there will be a LifeTouch studio set up downstairs for your convenience.

With these elements, no guest should ever be bored.

As I said before, putting this prom together was a struggle. A lack of fundraising really hurt our flexibility. This year, however, our class really stepped it up and fundraised to the point we had \$7,000 in our account.

All in all, prom is expected to be a great night. Your prom is what you make of it. We have worked tirelessly to ensure that all in attendance are thoroughly entertained.

The class officers and I know, however, that it's impossible to please everyone. We put a lot of work into this and I certainly hope everyone has a great time.

Thank you again for your continued support for the class of 2018. See you on the dance floor!

## Honors Society Inducts New Members

By **Nicholas Lehman**

This year, the Northern Lehigh chapter of the National Honors Society inducted seven new members into their club.

Acceptance into this club is selective and depends on the four pillars: character, scholarship, leadership, and service.

This year's group of inductees includes Gabriel DeLong, Charles Fleischmann, Jamie Knerr, Kyle Krempasky, Bridget Lynch, Jillian Olewine, Sagan Schaffer.

They were added to the already existing members

who include Everette Bevans, Tori Csanadi, Wyatt Delans, Ryan Farber, Sara Hunsicker, Karlyna Kemery, Jennifer Knerr, Shelby Kreglow, Nicholas Lehman, Samantha Olewine, Zainab Salih, Kiera Shellhammer, an Ashley Wilk.

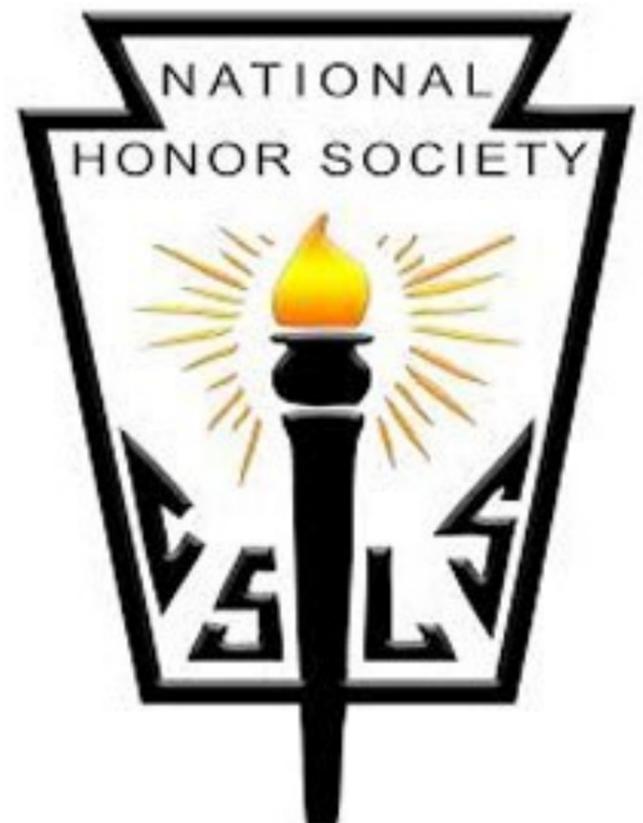
Also at the ceremony, the five officers were officially sworn in with Ashley Wilk as the President, Shelby Kreglow as the Vice President, Karlyna Kemery as the Secretary, Kiera Shellhammer as the Treasurer, and Samantha Olewine as the Historian.

There was a great sense of pride felt throughout all of the new inductees.

New member, Jillian Olewine, was "happy to make her parents proud."

Another inductee, Bridget Lynch, "worked to gather leadership and volunteer experience throughout the past few years, so it's a big honor to have my hard work pay off."

Overall, becoming a member of the National Honors Society is very difficult, but the pride of being inducted is an excellent reward.



# Horoscopes

By Nick Lehman

## Aries

March 21 - April 29

You are a Labrador Retriever because you love doing labs with Dr. Quay.

You share your star sign with Emma Watson, Lady Gaga, Emily Bachman, and Robert Downey Jr.



## Gemini

May 21 - June 20

You are a Husky because you enjoy the cold winter weather.

You share your star sign with Kanye West, Donald Trump, and Angelina Jolie.



## Leo

July 23 - August 22

You are a Shiba Inu because you are the dankest meme out there.

You share your star sign with Barack Obama, J. K. Rowling, and Demi Lovato.



## Libra

September 23 - October 22

You are a Border Collie because you are the leader of your group.

You share your star sign with Avril Lavigne, Zac Efron, and Will Smith.



## Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21

You are a Pit Bull because you are Mr. Worldwide

You share your star sign with Taylor Swift, Mr. Vlasaty, Brad Pitt, and Nicki Minaj.



## Aquarius

January 20 - February 18

You are a dachshund because you're in it for the long run.

You share your star sign with Jeb Bush, Ellen DeGeneres, and Oprah Winfrey.



## Taurus

April 20 - May 20

You are a Golden Retriever because you are a golden student.

You share your star sign with Queen Elizabeth II, John Cena, Mr. Sander, Mr. Defrain, Mr. Yadush, Adele, and Mr. Kern.



## Cancer

June 21 - July 22

You are a German Shepard because you are a great leader.

You share your star sign with Selena Gomez, Ariana Grande, and Chris Pratt.



## Virgo

August 23 - September 22

You are a Pug because you are making great pug-gress in the year.

You share your star sign with Beyonce, Bernie Sanders, and Adam Sandler.



## Scorpio

October 23 - November 21

You are a Bulldog because you have the most school spirit.

You share your star sign with Katy Perry, Hillary Clinton, Miss Scheckler, and Leonardo DiCaprio.



## Capricorn

December 22 - January 19

You are a corgi because you are royalty.

You share your star sign with Betty White, Michelle Obama, and Zayn Malik



## Pisces

February 19 - March 20

You are a boxer because you are willing to fight for what you believe in.

You share your star sign with Justin Bieber, George Washington, and Adam Levine.



## *Continuation of his Reign*

**By Blake Schuck**

As they set out for imperialism,  
The last of the country retreats.  
And we see how the realism,  
Reflected how he will meet.

Oh the faithful king had nothing,  
But the land was still ruled by he.  
Much like our leader distrusting,  
The discoverable truths from we.

And we try to remain a top power,  
Even though the rest advocate peace.  
It appears we must hold up the flower,  
Before the rest of our freedoms cease.

Like a king in a tyrannical rage,  
He destroys all that is in his path.  
And we remain in the old age,  
With the same example of wrath.

But the nation allowed the leader,  
To keep society on short a chain.  
And we can longer live free with her,  
But he can continue his unsuccessful reign.

### **ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS:**

The school year is almost over, but we are going to publish one more newspaper. If anyone is interested in writing for the final issue, we would love to work with you. If you are interested, come see Mr. Sander as soon as possible. Thank you all in advance!

*-The Slate Staff*

## **We Promise, this is all Real News!**

### **Officers:**

**President Carmen Alvaro**

**Vice President Tori Csanadi**

**Treasurer Nicholas Lehman**

**Secretary Bridget Lynch**

**Advisor Mr. Sander**

### **Writers:**

**Blake Schuck**

**Brianna Schuck**

**Kyle Detweiler**

**Kara Steckel**

### **A Special Thanks to...**

**Mr. Vlasaty**

**Miss Urban**

**Dylan Kuntz**

**Emily Bachman**

**Mr. Defrain**

**Mr. Yadush**

**Mr. Kern**

**Miss Scheckler**