

the State



Winter 2016

Issue 1

Slatington, PA

BIGGEST PLOT TWIST OF 2016

By Tori Csanadi

If this election were to be compared to anything, a curveball would be most accurate. In a shocking twist of fate, Donald Trump, the almost guaranteed loser, took the election by storm in an electoral vote win of 306 to 232. No matter who a person voted for or supported in this election, a good majority of people woke up to a surprise on November 9th, 2016. At around 2:30 a.m., Hillary Clinton called Donald Trump to concede and congratulate him on his victory. Despite winning the popular vote with 64.1 million votes compared to Trump's 62.2 million, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton will not be moving back into the White House.

President-Elect Donald Trump is to be the first President in United

States history to not have any prior experience in politics. He has never been in the House of Representatives, the Senate, and he has never been a governor. Due to this, many are on their toes about how he will act once he gets into the Oval Office. There has already been evidence that future President Trump will abandon his prior rhetoric and plans and instead face different matters with a more open mind.

Before he was elected, Mr. Trump said many controversial things that completely shocked some Americans. He claimed that climate change was a "hoax" made up by the Chinese and that he would completely eradicate Obamacare once he took office. As of now, he is taking a more independent stand. On Climate Change, after

meeting for his information briefings, he now sees some connectivity between human activities and climate change. On Obamacare, he is now claiming to see the positives of it, and instead of calling for the immediate repeal of the social program, he is open to simply amending it. Considering these apparent policy changes, it seems likely that America will get a slightly different candidate than the one they voted for.

On January 20th, 2017, Donald Trump will take his oath and become our 45th President. President Barack Obama will step down after 8 years in this position and hand over the presidency. The two are in sharp contrast for sure, but the United States must keep an open mind, like Donald Trump seems to be doing now, as this country moves into the future.



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¡DÍAS DE LOS MUERTOS Y MÁS!

By Blake Schuck



Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a holiday primarily celebrated in Mexico, created to honor deceased ancestors. As the Spanish Club, we incorporated traditional Day of the Dead activities. For example, during each lunch, two Spanish Club representatives distributed candy to each person who signed our banner, honoring a deceased loved one. In addition, we decorated the cafeteria with numerous banners, streamers, and our home-made alter!

We recently implemented this into Spanish Club, as we did not celebrate the popular Mexican holiday in previous years. We hope this new tradition continues in years to come!

Although our annual field trip is usually held in the spring, the Spanish Club, and the Spanish III class, decided to

take the trip earlier this year to the Hispanic Flamenco Ballet! This phenomenal trip consisted of both acting and dancing, along with a heavy influence of Hispanic culture. The dancers in the acts were very interactive with the audience, as well. In fact, Blake Schuck and Zainab Salih danced with them during the

end of the second act. Overall, this was an exciting and wonderful experience for students involved.

On December 16th, Spanish Club will be taking a field trip to Slatington Elementary to share the beauty of the Spanish language with the youngest of learners. Groups of two and three from Span-

ish Club, and a few students from the Spanish III class, will be teaching various lessons, each lasting, approximately, thirty minutes. From my personal experience from teaching last year, it is a heartwarming event, as the students who I taught overwhelmingly enjoyed it.



Join us next year to enjoy the culture, passion, and various activities in relation to Spanish Club.



GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

By Carmen Alvaro



Northern Lehigh's National Honor Society and the Leo Lions club kicked off the holiday season with Breakfast with Santa. Both clubs participated in the setup and execution of this event to brighten the lives of local children and bring them some holiday cheer.

Prior to the event, volunteers started to set up for Breakfast with Santa at Peters Elementary. They set up tables for breakfast, stands for activities, and a throne for Santa. In just a few hours, the hardworking volunteers were able to transform the elementary school into a Christmas

wonderland.

The next morning, children and their parents gathered at Peters Elementary to join Santa for both breakfast and fun. The volunteers controlled several stations that had Christmas-themed crafts, games, and face painting. Attendees were also able to participate in a Chinese auction.

Of course, the main event was Santa himself. In addition to enjoying the first meal of the day with

the man in the red suit, each child also had a personal visit with him. They were able to personally tell Santa their Christmas lists and be sure that Santa got their messages. Children also enjoyed un-

limited pictures with the jolly red man.

Both the children and the volunteers enjoyed all the fun of Breakfast with Santa. The children participated in several Christmas-themed

activities while the volunteers from both National Honor Society and the Leo Lions club had a great time running the event.

Nick Leh-

man, one of the volunteers, says Breakfast with Santa "was a very rewarding volunteer opportunity, and I am so glad that I participated. I would highly recommend that everyone volunteers next year because the children really enjoyed the event."

Breakfast with Santa was a great way to kick off the holiday season and bring some holiday cheer to the Northern Lehigh community. Anyone who enjoys spreading Christmas spirit should volunteer at Breakfast with Santa next year.



LOCO HOCO

By Kara Steckel



On October 14th, students celebrated Northern Lehigh's homecoming festivities. Leading up to the big game and dance, students got involved in spirit days, such as pajama day, country western day, twin day, and finally blue and white day.

On blue and white day, students showed their school spirit by wearing their best blue and white attire. The school day ended with the annual pep rally. This year's pep rally included sports teams being recognized, jump offs between classes, a cheerleading routine, the announcement of the hallway decorating contest winner, the spirit stick, and the homecoming court announcement. The homecoming court included seven girls escorted by seven boys: Maddie Ligenza escorted by Brandon Belfonti, Samantha Olewine escorted by Dan Belfonti, Sara Hunsicker escorted by Anthony Evangelist, Emily Rex escorted by Ryan Farber, Jocelyn Andino escorted by Tanner Filchner, Meghan Handwerk escorted by Austin Hemingway, and Tiffany Yesik escorted by Seth Keiser. Juniors won both the homecoming hallway decorating and the spirit stick.

Next came the homecoming football game. The Northern Lehigh Bulldogs took on the Salisbury Falcons. They won the game with a score of 28-0. The homecoming queen and king were announced as well. Tiffany Yesik was announced as the Homecoming queen, and Brandon Belfonti the king. Events continued into Saturday with the homecoming dance. The dance took place in the high school gym and was greatly enjoyed by the large number of students who attended.



FALL SPORTS SAY BYE TO SENIORS

By Brianna Shuck

School sports for the 2016-2017 year kicked off with the Fall sports on August 15th, consisting of football, boys soccer, girls soccer, cross country, and field hockey. Overall, the seasons went well, but there are a handful of seniors who will be missed, and some star players who show a promising future for Northern Lehigh athletics.

The varsity cross country team ended their season on October 11th. The boys went 9-15 and placed 10th in the league, while the girls went 10-14 and placed 8th in the league. Meanwhile, the turf hosted plenty of varsity boy and girl soccer games, varsity field hockey games, and varsity and jv football games.

The boys soccer team ended their season on October 10th, and they went 0-12 in the league and 3-15 overall. The girls soccer team ended their season on October 11th, and they went 1-11 in the league and 5-13 overall.

The field hockey team end-

ed their regular season on October 12th, and they went 9-6-1 in the league and 10-7-1 overall, while placing 5th overall. Field Hockey also qualified for a spot in the district playoffs, however, they fell to Northwestern Lehigh in the first round. The varsity football team finished their regular season on October 28th against Palmerton, going 4-6 and placing 8th in the league.

They also made it to the playoffs, however, despite a loss in the first round to Palisades on November 5th.

During the season, there were some top athletes were recognized at the 2016 Fall Sports Awards Night. For cross country, the most outstanding male runner was Preston Kemery (sophomore) and the most outstanding female run-

ner was Alison Lorah (freshman).

Field hockey had a handful of outstanding athletes, starting off with the offensive player of the year, Madison Posivak (sophomore), the defensive player of the year, Rebecca Barley (senior), and the most valuable player, Amber Cieri (sophomore).

The most outstanding varsity



football players this season were: junior, Branden Dye (most outstanding offensive lineman), senior, Jason Schaffer (most outstanding defensive lineman), junior, Mason Seiler (most outstanding offensive back), and senior, Austin Hemingway (most

outstanding defensive back).

The girls soccer team had two recognized true team players: junior, Jillian Olewine, who received offensive player of the year, and senior, Samantha Olewine, who received defensive player of the year.

The boys soccer team also had two recognized players: Nick Miller (senior) and Daniel Belfonti (senior) who both received outstanding player awards.

As for the all-league

athletes that were recognized, Nick Miller was named a second-team boys soccer goalkeeper, and Jill Olewine was a second-team forward for the girls soccer team. Becky Barley was a second-team mid, Amber Cieri was a second-team back/defense,

Madison Posivak was a second-team forward, and Sam Wanamaker (senior) was an honorable mention back/defender, all for field hockey.

The football team also had some players land some spots as all-league athletes. Austin Hemingway was a second-team punter, Jason Schaffer was a second-team defensive lineman, Tanner Filchner (senior) was an honorable mention outside linebacker, and David Neff (senior) was an honorable mention tackle.

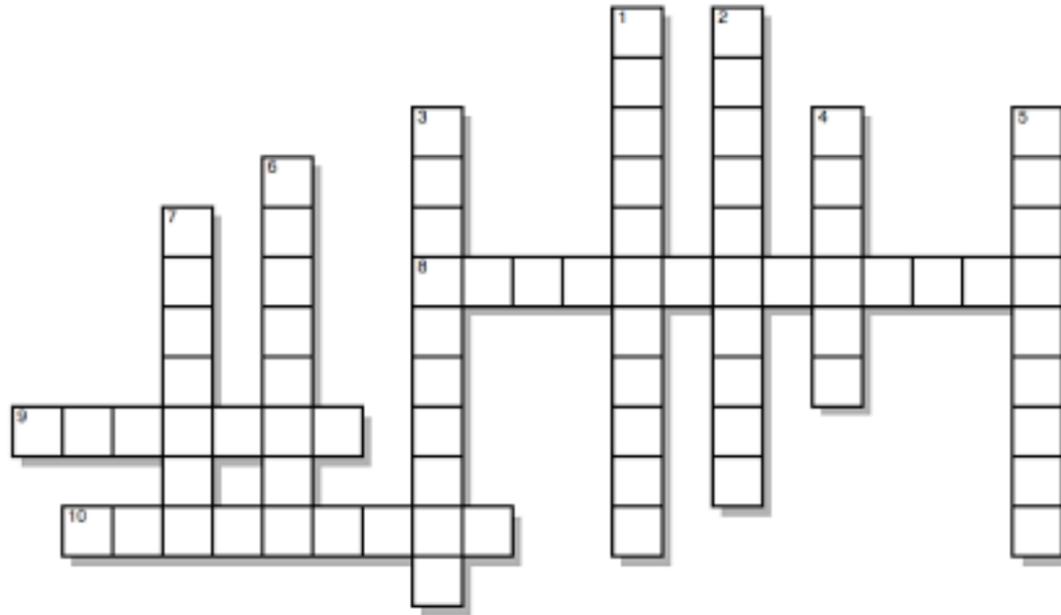
Congratulations to all fall sports teams, athletes, and coaches, and good luck to all the seniors!



GAMES

By Kyle Detweiler and Nick Lehman

Fantastic Beasts

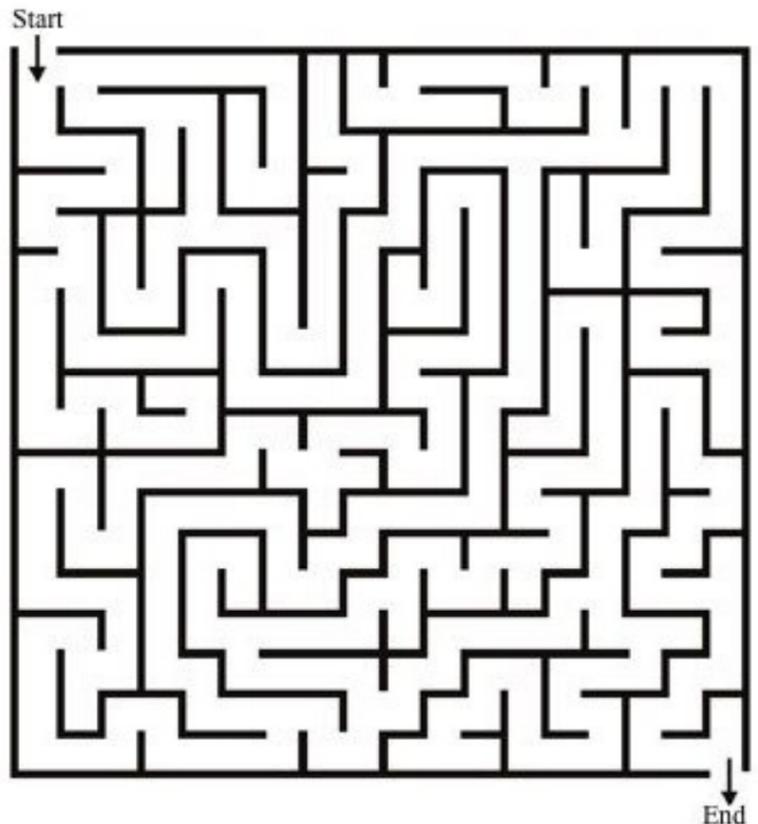
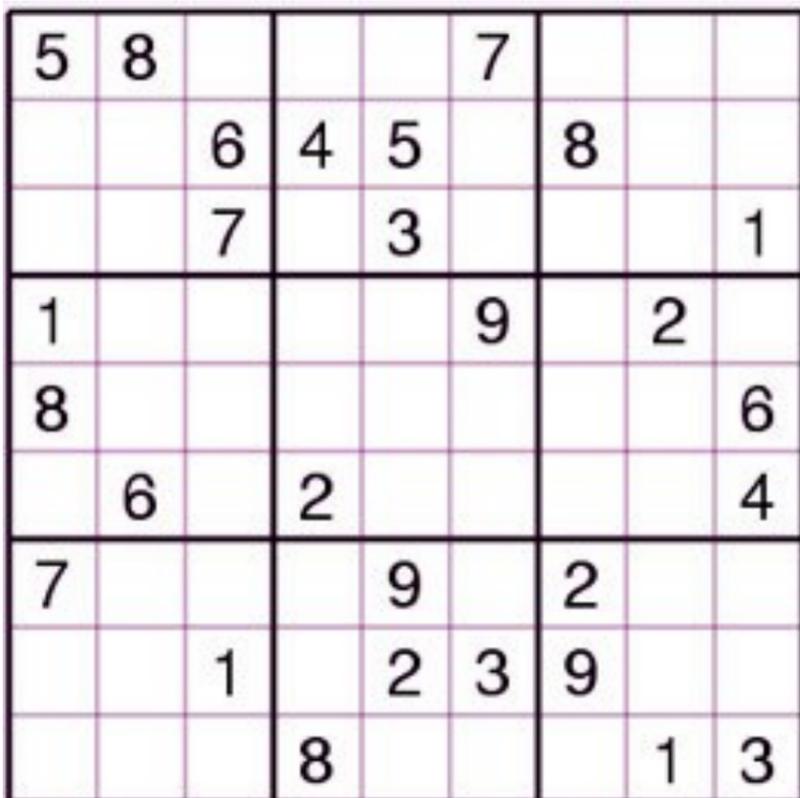


ACROSS

- 8 Actor who plays Newt in the film
- 9 Author of the script
- 10 Tina Goldstein's full first name

DOWN

- 1 Former friend of Dumbledore who became the biggest threat to the Wizarding World at the time (1920s)
- 2 Newt Scamander's house at Hogwarts
- 3 American wizarding school
- 4 American word for "muggle"
- 5 Place where Newt keeps his Fantastic Beasts
- 6 Disturbed male portrayed by Ezra Miller
- 7 Gold-digging creature seen at the beginning of the movie



From the Debate Trail:

SHOULD PENNSYLVANIA “PASS” ON P.A.S.?

Negative: The main argument against the legalization of physician assisted suicide is that the mental health of the patients decline with progressing terminal illnesses. In patients with terminal illnesses, their depression, anxiety, and delirium are commonly under diagnosed or even untreated. According to the National Institute of Health, the incidence of major depression in terminally ill patients ranges from 25% to 75%. As a result, this wide range causes for a diagnosis that is very difficult to determine. Even though the patients are supposed to be screened for mental illnesses, their examinations can miss depression and other mental illnesses that can hinder a patient's judgment. During the final stages of a terminal illness, it is very common for a patient to suffer from delirium. It is usually presented as fluctuation levels of consciousness and cognitive impairment. Because of how similar delirium is to dementia, they are often confused, and delirium is most common in patients with dementia. Many elderly patients are able to hide their dementia from their families. Delirium is more difficult to diagnose, and it can be missed during a physician examination. The patients who have a terminal illness and impaired judgment could make the decision to end their life. In addition to the mental health of a patient, it can be very costly to keep a terminal patient alive. In Oregon, Fox News and ABC News reported that some terminally ill patients who are uninsured and unable to pay for treatment applied to the state-run health plan for financial assistance. As a result, the state denied to cover their payment for treatment, but they offered to cover the cost of physician assisted suicide. In the state of Oregon, physician assisted suicide is used to lower the costs of care. If this were to be legalized in Pennsylvania, then the insurance companies could use this to lower their costs by offering to pay for physician assisted suicide but not for treatment. In Oregon, the most commonly used drug is pentobarbital, which does not always allow for a quick, pain-free death. According to Above the Law, six patients have regained consciousness after ingesting the medication. In 2005, a patient regained consciousness 65 hours after taking the medication, and died 14 days later. Then in 2010, a patient regained consciousness 88 hours after ingesting the medication and died three months later. All of these patients were expecting to have a quick, painless death. However, there were issues with the administration of this medication, and the patients had to suffer from the mistakes. Before a doctor can prescribe the lethal drug, a physician must evaluate the patient. However, it is unclear what makes a person eligible for physician assisted suicide. A diagnosis of a terminal illness should not be enough to determine eligibility, and the estimated length of time left to live is not always accurate and should not always be a determining factor in whether or not a patient should be eligible. Because there is virtually no way to determine whether or not a patient is eligible, this process is largely unregulated. There are also no regulations as to what illnesses are eligible to physician assisted suicide. Limiting physician assisted suicide to only some patients could be found to discriminate against other patients who wish to take their lives. But expanding this to too many patients can take lives that could have been saved. Determining who is eligible and what illnesses are eligible are extremely difficult and can cause both discrimination and loss of life. Even though physician assisted suicide could help some suffering patients, there are many flaws in the system the can cause for a painful outcome.

Affirmative: If physician assisted suicide is legalized in Pennsylvania, it would give many suffering patients the chance to end their lives in order to stop their insufferable pain. Despite most patients being able to live comfortably in palliative care, there are still some patients that will experience great suffering. If the patient is left to live with only a chance and cure with negative side effects, physician assisted suicide could be their escape from their apprehensive future. As of now, physician assisted suicide is legalized in the states of Vermont, Washington, Oregon, California, and Montana to try to give their citizens a way to end their lives on their terms. However, there is a process to go through and many prerequisites that have to be met in order for this to even be a possibility for suffering patients. Just to name a few of the requirements, the Oregon Health Authority requires possible patients to apply, and in that application, two additional witnesses, one family and one non-family member, have to sign that document declaring that the person in question is personally known to them, that person appears to be of sound mind and not under duress, not under fraud or undue influence, and that they are not an attending physician for the patient. In addition, the patient has to be expected to live for less than six months. The application also states that “I understand that I have the right to rescind this request at any time. I understand the full import of this request, and I expect to die when I take the medication to be prescribed. I make this request voluntarily and without reservation, and I accept full moral responsibility for my actions. I further understand that although most deaths occur within three hours, my death may take longer and my physician has counseled me about this possibility.” Therefore, the patients are completely aware of what they are requesting and that they are unquestionably prepared for what they are agreeing to. In addition to the intense requirements, the option of physician assisted suicide could provide for many patients' anxiety and apprehension to be put at ease. According to the Oregon Health Authority, in the year of 2015, 218 patients received the lethal medication under the Death with Dignity act. Of those 218 possible deaths, 132 of them actually ingested the medication and passed away. Because 40% of the patients decided not to take their lives, it can be shown that a significant amount of the P.A.S. patients may not want to die. Instead, they might want an alternative that will allow them to be free of immense pain and suffering if it comes down to it. Even when they feel it is time to take the dosage, they can still back out and decide to live if they so choose. In an article done by CNN, former brain cancer patient Brittany Maynard stated “now that I have the prescription filled and in my possession, I have experienced a huge sense of relief. And if I decide not to take the medication, I will not take it.” The reason for her relief was not because she was suicidal. She was relieved because she wanted to “die on her own terms,” and physician assisted suicide allowed for her to fulfill her wish. Despite her imminent death swiftly approaching, she was able to live her life as normally as possible. She was even able to celebrate her husband's birthday. Without the option of physician assisted suicide, she could not have lived her life as she would have wanted. Instead she would have had to undergo intense treatments of chemotherapy and radiation in an attempt to combat her disease, which would have left her in a weak stake of body and mind. On November 1, 2014, Brittany died peacefully in Portland, Oregon through the Death with Dignity Act.

POETRY

A Gust of Wind

One lonely night, on my way above,
home, As I look back upon to Earth,
I stopped along to smell a rose. It appears as nothing but anger and hate.
Along the road, I heard a faint "om." The doves push a faint wind dearth,
But perhaps it was only a gust of wind. Down upon people's minds.
I separate myself from the past, The town folk gather around,
To hear this "om" once again. But people remark with a frown,
Upon traveling to it, what is cast? As it is too late to act now.
Millions of white doves flying by me. Perhaps it was only a gust of wind.
They carry me into the sky,
Seeing this in magnificence.
Appearing way up high,
Showing me terror from

By Blake Shuck

A Toucan in the Desert, A Camel in the Forest

A toucan lives in the forest, A toucan struggling to live,
With an abundance of trees. With very little to create life.
A rain so heavy in August, A camel has it all to give,
With animals fleeing by three. Without the toucan's strife.
A camel lives in the desert, A toucan is placed in the desert,
With very little plants and rain. With no help from the above.
A sun that shines him unhurt, A toucan met the same hurt,
With enough water not to cause pain. With the camel seeing black doves.
A toucan is placed in the desert, Had the camel stayed in its place,
With the camel in the forest. With the toucan in its.
A famine higher than life kills the camel, A camel would have continued pace,
With the toucan still flying high. With the toucan's life in

"A FANTASTIC REVIEW!"

By Kyle Detweiler

On November 18th, 2016, runs into a man named Jacob the highly anticipated film, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* was released. As a prequel to the vastly popular *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling, this film had a hard act to follow. In my humble opinion, this movie exceeded all expectations by a large margin. Featuring the talents of Eddie Redmayne, Katherine Watson, Dan Fogler, and Alison Sudol, the film was set to succeed.

The writing, which was done by J.K. Rowling herself, gave a very strong platform for the rest of the new series to stand on. The story of this film follows British wizard Newt Scamander as he takes a trip to New York City to procure a new beast. Along the way though he

Kowalski, who gets dragged into the wizarding world after unwittingly releasing some of Newt's beasts. It is then up to Newt, Jacob, and an American witch named Porpetina to recapture the beasts before they wreak too much havoc on the people of New York. With a funny yet sometimes earnest script, there is never a dull moment during the two hour runtime.

Overall, this film provides a great time for the hardcore *Harry Potter* fan, or just a regular casual moviegoer who enjoys fantasy. With great writing and a phenomenal cast, this film is a must see for pretty much anyone.

SNAPSHOTS: A REVIEW

By: Bridget Lynch

"Life is full of ups and downs, romance and tragedy, love and loss. *Snapshots* captures those moments of life."

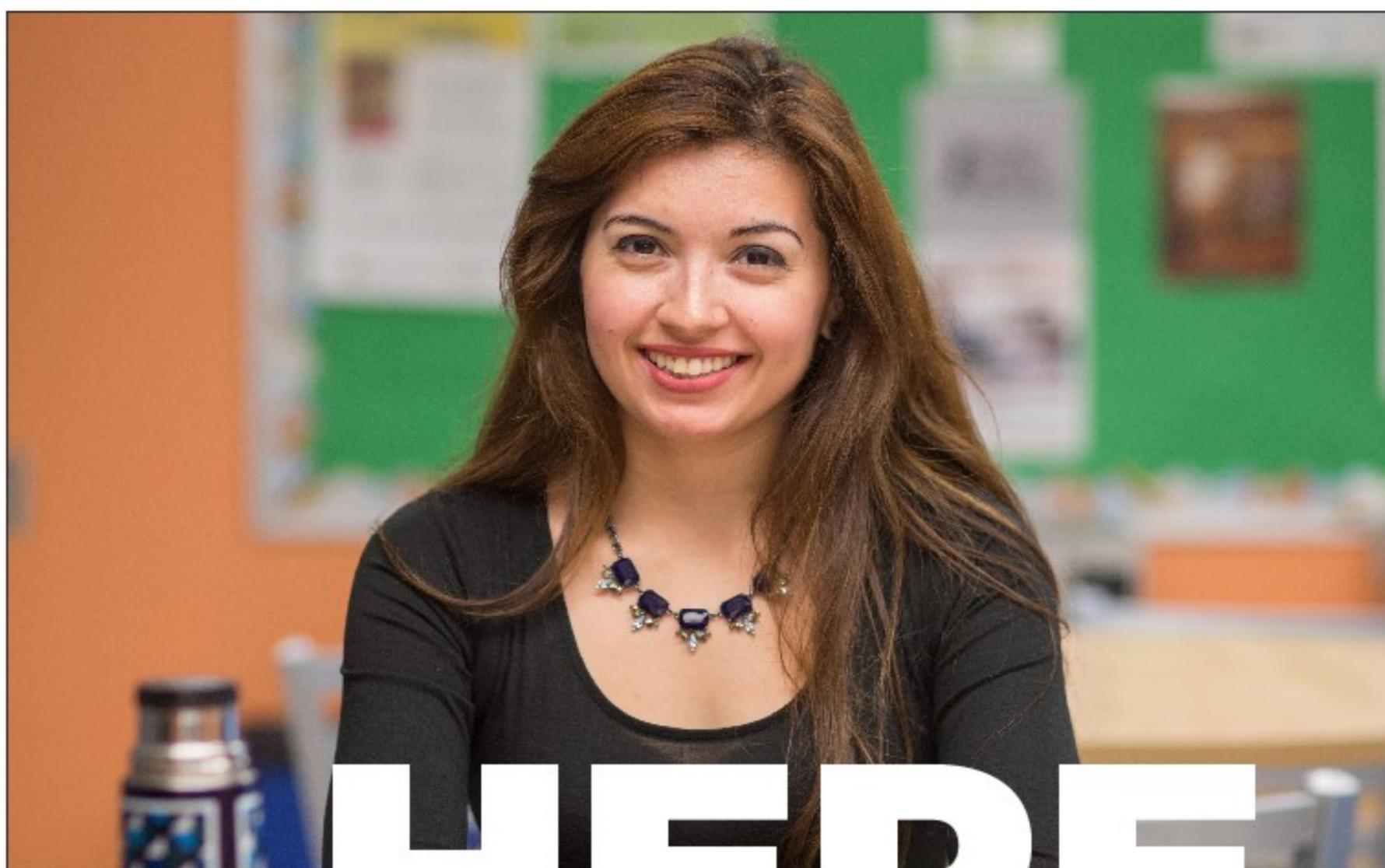
On November 18th, 19th, and 20th, Northern Lehigh Little Theatre performed their fall play: *Snapshots- A Collection of Classics*. The show was formatted in an unconventional way. Instead of one story, each scene was from a different show, with different cast members as leads. By having each scene be a separate story, every single cast member had a chance to shine and work one-on-one with the director.

Director Colette Boudreaux outlined this concept in her touching and emotional opening speech. The show consisted of nine scenes pulled from different plays from many time periods, with all 16 cast members having a chance to

be in the spotlight. Each of the "snapshots" revolved around a central theme of love.

Crowd favorites included scenes such as *The Chopin Playoffs* with Hailey Karpowich, Hunter Haas, and Tyler Hoffman and *Your Mother's Butt* with Jocilyn Dushack and Britni Fenstermaker. The entire production was filled with a skillfully crafted mix of funny, heartfelt, and intense moments.

This play is an indication of the raw dedication and talent our fellow students have for theatre. Every single cast member shined. Good things are surely to come from this group of young actors and actresses, and the theatre program as a whole.



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SNAPSHOTS: A DESCRIPTIPON

By: Bridget Lynch

A Family Affair by Alexander Ostrovsky (1850)

A mother (Monica Mankos) and her daughter (Breanna Hoffman) argue about their different perspectives on life and love.

The Tale of the Allergist's Wife by Charles Busch (2001)

Marjorie (Paige Hemingway) discusses her creative struggles with her husband, Ira (Mason McGowan).

Street Scene by Elmer Rice (1929)

Sam (Hunter Haas) is reassured by Rose (Brianna Strohl) about his problems in life.

Blithe Spirit by Noel Coward (1941)

Charles (Jack Ligenza) sees the ghost of Elvira (Annelise Lutz), while his wife, Ruth (Kira Rex) does not.

The Chaplin Playoffs by Israel Horowitz (1987)

Irving (Hunter Haas) and Stanley (Tyler Hoffman) argue over the affection of Fern (Hailey Karpowich), who cannot tell them apart.

The Rimers of Eldritch by Lanford Wilson (1966)

Friends Patsy (Alyssa Hillegas) and Lena (Danyel Rex) discuss their future.

Your Mother's Butt by Alan Ball

1990)

Client (Britni Fenstermaker) describes her daily struggles and a dream to her therapist (Jocilyn Duschak).

Barefoot in the Park by Neil Simon (1963)

Newlyweds Corrie (Maddie Ligenza) and Paul (Mason McGowan) deal with the beginning of their marriage and their new apartment.

Surprise by Mark Harvey Levine (2005)

Whitney (Kira Rex) takes her psychic boyfriend (Jack Ligenza) out to dump him, and he discovers his waitress (Paige Hemingway) is psychic too.

THE GENIUSES WHO BROUGHT YOU THIS PAPER:

- President Carmen Alvaro**
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- Secretary Bridget Lynch**
- Treasurer Nick Lehman**
- Advisor Mr. Nicholas Sander**

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