



MY NEXT STEP IS TO...

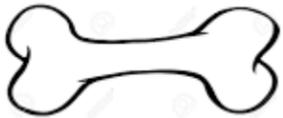
By The Class of 2016

"...get through college, get a very successful job, marry rich or 'Rich', and move to L.A." ~Zach Ohlson"

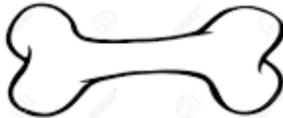
2016

"...complete high school and go to medical school to become a pediatric surgeon." ~Jose Avila

2016

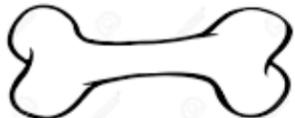


"...go to LCCC for Music & Sound Production." ~Jared Depuy

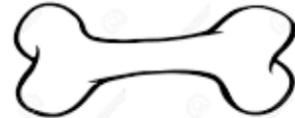


"... attend the University of Richmond to study education and science." ~Meghan Miller-Brown

"...grow up and not be a gas attendant." ~T.J. Dooley



"...go to Bloomsburg University to major in accounting." ~Becca Evans



2016

"...go for engineering." ~Nick Uebele

2016

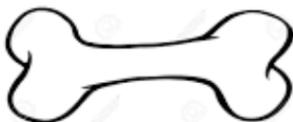
"...go to Embry Riddle to major in Homeland Security." ~Noah Freudenberger

"...marry rich and reign supreme over everyone else." ~Abby Obenski

2016

"...get a degree and go to med school." ~Zach Rex

2016



"...go into either the Marines, State Police, or college." ~Conrad Bevans



"...go to Moravian to major in English, in hopes of pursuing a career in law." ~Gavin Kemery

"...go to school for dental." ~Carlee Hunsicker



"...go to York College to become a high school math teacher." ~Chelsea Vermeulen



2016

"...go to Kutztown to major in Special Education." ~Maddie Bellesfield

2016

"...be better than Gavin Kemery at everything." ~Rebecca Blocker

"...go to Moravian College for biology." ~Ashton Bevans

2016

"...go to Penn State to major in Meteorology-Weather Risk Management." ~Erika Algard

2016

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PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE REVIEW

By Tori Csanadi

On November 8th, 2016, any United States citizen who is 18 or older will have the momentous opportunity to vote for our next leader. On that date, about 30% of our school will be able to help impact our nation's future. However, data shows that in previous years, the voter turnout for younger adults is a bit of a letdown.

Less than half of eligible voters aged 18-24 voted in the 2012 Election according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Less than half.

In a poll where non-voters in this age group were surveyed about their reasons for not voting, about 13% said they were simply *not interested*. They were not

interested about an election that will not only affect our country, but every other with which we have diplomatic (or less-than-diplomatic) relations.

They were not interested in an election that will determine who is going to be the face of our country and who is going to make the big decisions. They are turning down the opportunity to impact the present and future of the United States because they're *not interested*. This is very disheartening.

You may say that your vote doesn't matter in the grand scheme of things, but this couldn't be more wrong. Being interested in politics, discussing

politics, and informing others of your opinions is not only a great way to converse with others, it is also a way to get others (if they're not too stubborn) to reevaluate their opinions – and for you to reevaluate your own.

Of course, if you are voting, it's critical to make sure that you are knowledgeable about the issues and the candidates before casting your vote. It is counterproductive to electing the best candidate if voting is based only on half-formed understandings and superficial reasons. For your convenience, here is a list of the frontrunners and an overview of some of their beliefs:

Republicans:

Donald Trump

Trump supports tighter border security, is pro-life, pro-gun, pro-police, wants to eliminate China's illegal export subsidies, wants to cut taxes, wants to replace Obamacare with something of his own (not specified), and favors expanding the military.

Ted Cruz

Cruz wants tighter border security, is pro-life, pro-gun, pro-police, wants to eliminate the IRS, wants to eliminate Obamacare, is for lowering taxes, giving more power to state governments, and is against the Common Core.

Democrats:

Hillary Clinton

Clinton supports less border security, is pro-choice, supports gun reform, favors a defensive foreign policy, wants to increase taxes for the wealthy, fights for women's rights, and wants to provide more funding for education.

Bernie Sanders

Sanders supports immigration reform, is pro-choice, supports gun reform, wants to make college education free, wants to raise the minimum wage, fights for women's rights, and favors creating more "decent-paying" jobs by increasing taxes.

OUR REAL WEAKNESS

By Zach Rex

This November, it will be our civil duty to go out and select who will be the next leader of the great red, white, and blue. Every four years, the constant bickering between parties becomes more aggressive and we have to see the "If (insert candidate) wins, I'm moving to (insert country)!" Facebook posts.

Nobody really takes notice to why the people constantly argue with each other when the people are barely the ones in charge. This really does not even make sense considering the United States has one of the worst voter turnouts in the world.

The reason for a decline in political participation is not a turnoff from proposals of ideas, such as building walls or universal healthcare. It is simply caused by the fact that we, in America, are becoming "dumber" while the few people that stay afloat get very powerful.

Yes, I know. I used "America" and "dumber" in the same sentence. Normally these things are not permitted in buzzword nation, but let us take a look at some statistics.

The average voter thinks a quarter of their tax dollars go to foreign aid. A majority of Americans cannot name

a single branch of government, nor tell what the Bill of Rights is. Two-thirds do not know what the court case *Roe vs. Wade* pertained to, or what the FDA does. More people than not can't name their own Congressman. And most shockingly, one-fifth of the adult population thinks that the sun revolves around the earth.

You may think that with this in mind, it would be fair to infer that Americans could probably be influenced pretty easily; you would be right!

We have been influenced into going to war over having life necessities. We have

been told to consume more and more, rather than educate ourselves. Our brains have been sucked dry for the personal gain of a few. We are just like dogs. We could be fed anything and we would take it, as long as it is wrapped in bologna.

Although we have one of the most corrupt political systems in the whole world, we can improve by just learning what matters. The first step to solving any problem, however, is admitting there is one. We have been stupid and negligent of how the nation is run.

When hitting the poles, make sure to have your research in and

know exactly what each person stands for, along with knowing what their level of political efficacy is (and what yours is as well).

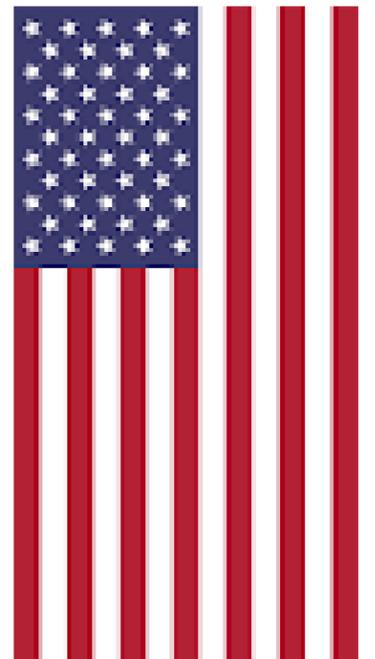


Photo Credits:
wikipedia.com

TO THE DAWGS LEAVING THE POUND...

By NL Staff

Seniors,
 "Your first two semesters are going to be easy. Go to class. Get the credits. Don't sink yourself by starting off your college career by have a terrible GPA. This is cliché, but the next four years truly will be the best but also the quickest of your life thus far. Take every year, every semester, every class, every moment in and outside the academic setting in stride. Enjoy the post-secondary life. Class of 2016."
 ~Mr. Marth

Dear Seniors,
 Strive to give your very best to the world, forgive yourself when you fail, forgive others when they let you down, and never give up on yourself. If we all work together, the world will become a better place. I know the Class of 2016 is capable of great things!
 Best wishes!
 Mrs. Everett

To my good seniors:

Remember when you entered middle school and it was such a big, scary place with odd, new people and vastly different rooms, with lockers to which the combinations were utterly futile? Now look at where you stand...

Cliché as it may sound, this is it – you're on the brink (threshold, verge or fringe for my vocabulary enthusiasts) of something amazing and simultaneously terrifying.

You are about to walk across a stage, clutch a piece of paper, shake a few hands, hug a few relatives, share some tear-soaked smiles for photos, and then hear a very scary sound. I remember it vividly – the sound of a door closing behind you, leaving in your dust 13 years (including kindergarten) of consistent school. I thought, "Now what?" It was paralyzing.

Adulthood can be the scariest thing out there but, like with school and every time you have accomplished something or gotten in trouble, the result has been because of good or bad decisions. I can say firmly, at an immature age of 37, my life has been shaped by both sides of those decisions.

I expect you to make the right ones, of course, but this will not always be the case, and that's OK. Get up, learn from it, chalk it up to experience, move on and teach others.

Many of you know I have two rock-star sons, Ike and Abel. I see it like this: Earth is a broken planet and I want it to be much better for them. Who's to say you can't join the fight to make that happen? They're worth it.

Let's think back again to that first day of middle school. Well, coming up when that door closes, you are about to enter another big, scary place with odd, new people and mysterious places, complete with endless things to which you won't know the many combinations. But if I can do it, certainly you can.

Anyway, I'm proud of you all, more than you will ever know. Please stay in touch down that road. Our planet, my boys, and I will be forever appreciative.

Admirably (that's an adverb, kids)...

Mr. Barnes

A Message from Ms. Mattiola:
 Be the change you wish to see in the world. Don't settle for "Good enough". Use your manners! Don't walk in front of someone talking. Wash your brushes! Feed your mind more often than you feed your belly. Travel. You can always come back to Slatington. Stop using Styrofoam. Eat less meat and more raw veggies. Finally, Don't let ANYTHING stop you from being successful.
 You CAN do it!

Work hard! It will take you far! Having drive, determination, and ambition is a big key to success! Best wishes Class of 2016!
 ~Mrs. Chruscial

"Don't Be a Dummy"
 ~Mr. Meixsell

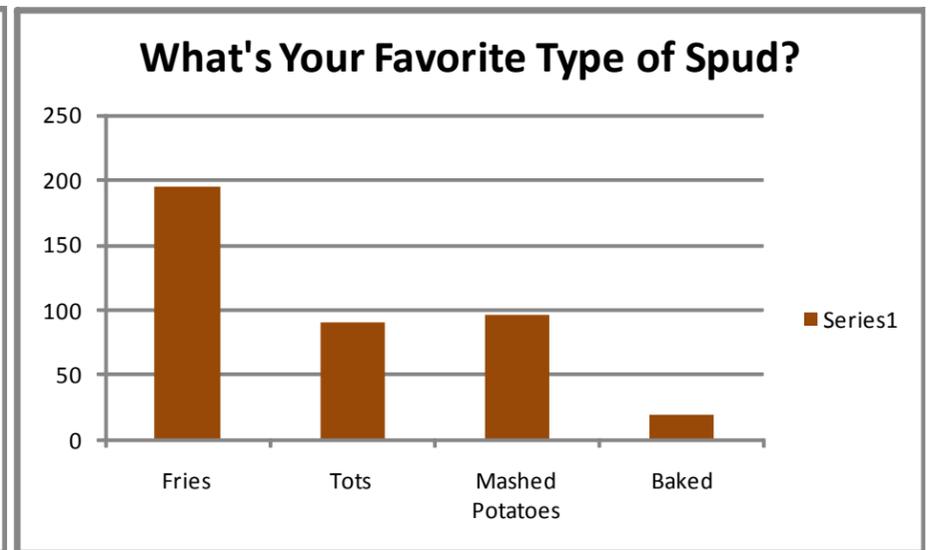
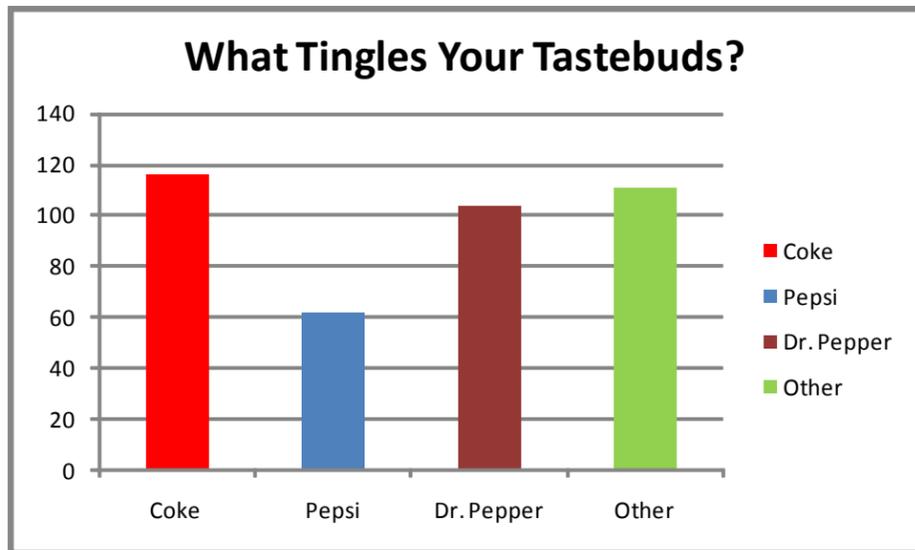
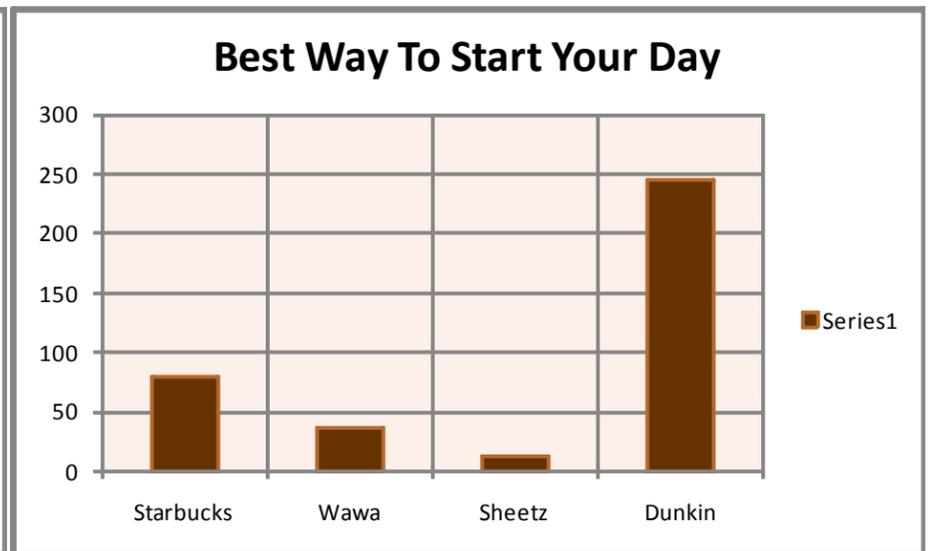
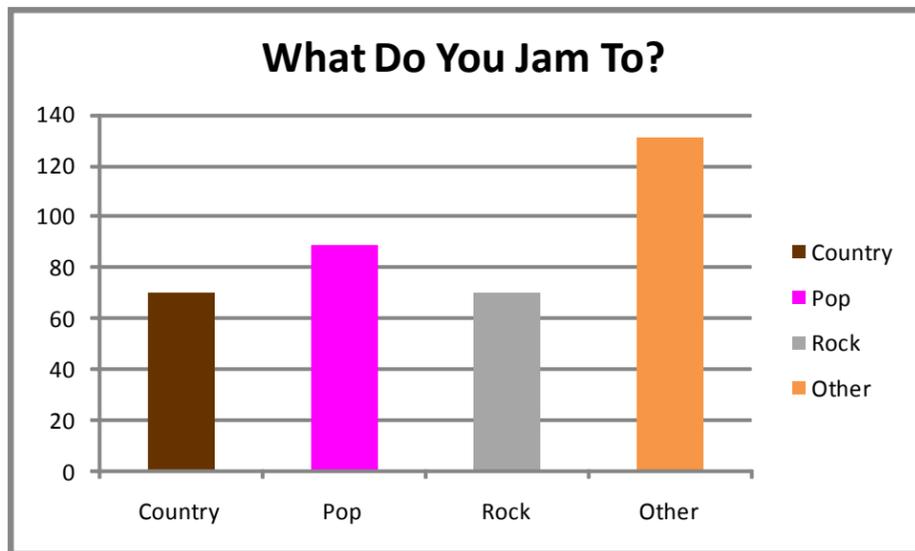
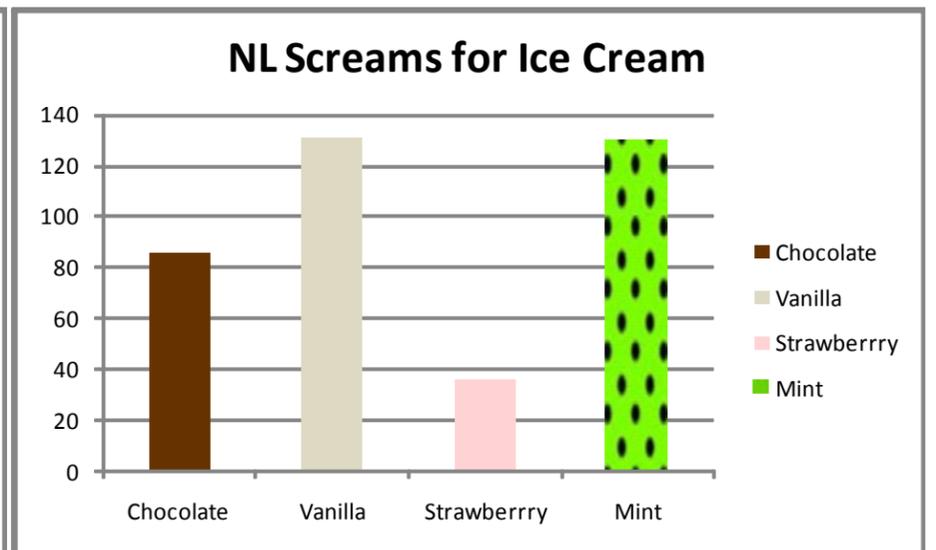
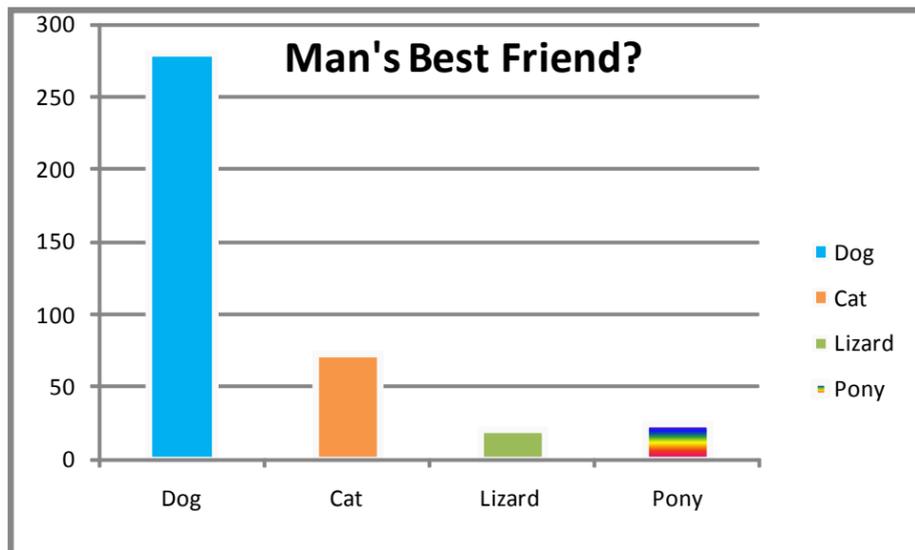
Good luck to all the graduating seniors! I can remember most of you as cute, *little* students who came to the middle school a bit scared of things like lockers and all the teachers you had heard about from older siblings or friends. My memories include things that happened in middle school that will stay with me always...the little quirks, unfortunately some sad times, concerts, plays, sports, dances and all those things that have made you what you are today. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors and much health and happiness. As a retiring teacher, I will miss the visits from former students and updates on graduates who want to share their successes with me. I am leaving Northern Lehigh Middle School with both sadness and excitement, looking forward to some exciting years ahead.

Remember...you will ALWAYS be "my kids"!

Mrs. Becker,
 7th Grade Life Science

THE SLATE POLL RESULTS

By The Slate Staff and NL Students



Attention Bulldogs!

Your voices have been heard, we've collected the surveys, tallied the results, and they're finally here! Northern Lehigh's own newspaper, *The Slate's* first annual school-wide poll has come to a close. The students of NL stood by their mascot; the dawgs win again! As far as our favorite sweet treats go, vanilla takes the gold, with mint chocolate chip as a close second. Our music tastes are all different; they definitely break the charts! Most of our student body starts their hard-working school day as a dawg with Dunkin Donuts' coffee. Throughout the day, we have students drinking anything, from Coke, to Pepsi, to Dr. Pepper, and many other fizzy beverages! Lastly, we asked you how you like your potatoes made. French fries took the top of the podium!

Thank you to everyone that gave us responses, we look forward to next year's edition of *The Slate's* student poll.

ALBUM REVIEWS: BLURRYFACE & TRAVELLER

By Carmen Alvaro

Twenty One Pilots is an alternative duo consisting of Josh Dun and Tyler Joseph. *Blurryface* is the most recent of their albums. It is still on the charts after being released a year ago. The band's mixture of rock, hip-hop, and electro has been blurring the lines between music genres for years. *Blurryface* adds reggae and dubstep into the mix to create a chart-topping album.

The album starts off with the fast, upbeat sound of "Heavydirtysoul." This song immediately draws your attention and gets you hooked on their unique sound. Their second song and hit single, "Stressed

Out," slows things down enough to make you reminisce on childhood memories. Up next is the reggae-themed "Ride," which is musically much different than the previous two. This song still has a unique sound and is very strong instrumentally. "Fairly Local" has a more futuristic sound to it, but still follows the laid back feelings set in place with "Ride."

The album suddenly jumps to "Tear In My Heart," a classic pop song with strong lyrics. This is followed by "Lane Boy," which combines the futuristic feeling of "Fairly Local" with the hook of "Heavydirtysoul." It is

also a song that is very good lyrically. "The Judge" takes you to a place of relaxation by returning to the laid back feeling previously set in place. "Doubt" counters this with emotionally heavy lyrics combined with a techno sound.

Blurryface then takes you back to a pop, upbeat sound with "Polarize." It then returns to a fast pace with "We Don't Believe What's On TV." This song combines reggae and pop sounds. Not only does this song sound good, but it also challenges mainstream media with its lyrics. "Message Man" continues with the reggae sound, but slows things down a little and

incorporates a hip-hop sound. "Hometown" is a song that is easy to look over on this album due to the slightly slowed down sound. This song has a different sound than the others, but still has the originality that Twenty One Pilots brings to every song.

"Not Today" is also upbeat and celebrates a victory over darkness. *Blurryface* ends with the much slower sound of "Goner." This final song gives off a feeling of being lost and hopeless.

Overall, *Blurryface* is a very good album that successfully mixes many different genres. Many songs are very emotional and shows the internal struggle a person may

have with oneself. All of the songs on this album are very good instrumentally and lyrically. However, the order of the songs sounds very out of place while listening to this album. It constantly jumps between different tempos and genres, which can make it very hard to follow. This also downplays the last few songs on the album even though they are as good as the rest of album. Despite this, every song on this album is excellent and can be connected to on a variety of emotional levels. Therefore, I still believe that *Blurryface* deserves a listen.

Chris Stapleton has written for artists such as Kenny Chesney, Luke Bryan, and Darius Rucker. Now, he decided to take the next step in his musical career by recording *Traveller*, his debut album.

Traveller features the traditional country sound backed by emotional lyrics. Chris Stapleton has won many awards because of his debut album, including a Grammy for the best country album.

The album starts off with "Traveller." This song, perfect for a road trip, tells about the love a man has for travel. It is wonderfully sung and put together. "Fire Away" is

an emotional ballad about the not-so-good times in a relationship. "Tennessee Whiskey," originally recorded by George Jones, is one of two country favorites featured on this album. Stapleton mixes a rock and country sound in "Parachute" to create a catchy song. His voice perfectly delivers the emotion of "Whiskey And You," using only an acoustic guitar for instrumentation.

Up next is the more upbeat "Nobody To Blame." In this song, a woman rips up a man's possessions after a breakup. He takes full responsibility by admitting it was his fault.

Stapleton's vocals and the harmonica give this song an edge, making it stand out. "More of You" is a love song that he sings with his wife. "When The Stars Come Out" makes you wonder if you will ever reach your goals with the hopeful lyrics. Following this hopeful song is "Daddy Doesn't Pray Anymore." This song shows a father who has given up hope. However, halfway through the song, he realizes his dad does care about him. The lyrics are very emotional, with the stripped-down sound making it even more moving.

"Was It 26" is the second country favorite

on this album, which was originally recorded by The Charlie Daniels Band. This song is about a man who is reflecting on when he was 25 or 26. However, he cannot remember because the two years merge together. Stapleton's voice is outstanding in this song.

"The Devil Named Music" tells about the harsh reality of musicians' lives while on the road. The next song, "Outlaw State of Mind," shows off the instrumentation in addition to Stapleton's vocals. The album ends with a heartbreaking song that was recorded in front of a live audience. In

"Sometimes I Cry," his vocals are as impressive as the guitar playing.

Traveller is a traditional country album that shows off Chris Stapleton's vocal ability. This album is perfectly organized and wonderfully written and produced. It is hard to believe that this is only his debut album because of the way it was put together. He brings his past songwriting experience to this album and balances it out with amazing instrumentation. Overall, *Traveller* is a very good album that deserves a listen by country and non-country fans alike.

BOOK REVIEW- WOLVES OF THE BEYOND: LONE WOLF

By Maryum Garnett-Whyche

In The Harsh Wilderness Beyond the owl world of Ga'Hoole, a wolf mother hides in fear. Her newborn pup,

otherwise healthy, has a twisted paw. The mother knows the rigid rules of her kind. The

pack cannot have weakness. Her pup must be abandoned on an icy riverbank condemned to

die. But alone in the forest, the pup, Faolan, does the unthinkable. He survives. This is Faolan's

story; the story of a courageous wolf pup who rises up to change forever the wolves of the Beyond.

TV SHOW REVIEW: FULLER HOUSE

By Jaclyn Hollenbach and Meghan Miller-Brown

The Tanner family returns in the new hit Netflix series, Fuller House. Everyone remembers the show from the late 80's and early 90's, Full House. Fuller House became a reunion for the old classic, repeating history with both new and old faces. Bob Saget, John Stamos, Candace Cameron-Bure, Jodie Sweetin, Andrea Barber, and many others come back to fill our televisions with laughs again. Michael Campion, Elias Harger, Soni Bringas, and many more join the cast we all know

and love to make Fuller House even better than the Full House we remember.

Years ago, widower Danny is forced to care for his three beloved daughters all by himself, until Uncle Jesse and best friend Joey step in to become part of the family. Now, Danny's all grown up daughter, D.J. Tanner-Fuller is a widow



Then, Danny makes a shocking announcement: he is moving out. This

with three sons. The series opens with her living in the old "full house" with her father.

leaves D.J. alone, scared, and worried about how she will care for her sons. So, D.J.'s sister Stephanie and her long-time, newly divorced best friend Kimmy, bringing her teenage daughter Ramona decide to move into the house and help D.J., the town's veterinarian out.

Throughout the whole series, the audience reminisces of the old times. Though the three women are now all grown up, they still have similarities to their younger selves. The series captures audiences through fond memories, a fantastic cast, hilarious jokes, and riveting storylines. It is truly a joy for all, especially those who miss the old show, Full House.

Photo Credits: People Magazine

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE SOFTBALL SEASON

By Taylor Herman

"Ready for war" is the slogan that means everything to the Northern Lehigh varsity softball team. The girls take it seriously, and have every intention of living up to what it means this season.

To the team, being "ready" means never giving up, pushing each other to be better, and sticking together through the good and bad times. Doing this allows the girls to feel like more than just a team; they feel more like a family. "If you mess with one of us, you mess with all of us," said senior center fielder Taylor Herman.

The overall record for the Lady Dawgs is 7 and 4. The team won their Senior Night game in Walnutport, against the Palmerton Blue Bombers 4 to 2. So far, the team has been very successful and believes that it will

continue to be as the regular season winds down and we head into the post-season.

The team attributes its success so far to the incredible amount of

time, dedication, and effort put into every practice, every day. "Everybody works so hard and focuses all the time. We pick each other up and help each other be

the best we can be. Although practices can become long and repetitious, our team will do anything it takes to win. We put our whole heart into every game,"

said Taylor. Even though the team takes softball very seriously, they still like to have fun whenever they can, especially during their singing

parties on the bus ride home from the games. They also have fun sticking to all of their pre-game rituals for good luck.

These rituals include wearing eye-black (even when the sun isn't out), braiding each other's hair, listening to certain songs, and having meetings in the team room. According to the

players, these things all help get them in the right frame of mind to play. Additionally, they build team chemistry, which the girls agree has been the key to their success this year.

"All the girls get along really well, so we're like a big family. We're always there for each other through the ups and downs, which has helped us win some key games," said senior Maddie Bellesfield

Of the season as a whole, Sage Hargreaves said "We hit when its needed and feed off of each other. Our defense is always there for one another. Overall its been a great season."

Photo Credits: Taylor Herman



THE ADVENTURES OF SPANISH CLUB

By Erika Algard

We were sitting on an almost-empty, yellow school bus, watching the rain trickle down the finger smudged windows as the large, rubber tires sped their way along the pothole-dominated Pennsylvania roads toward Allentown. Everyone on the rain-covered yellow bus is a small part of Northern Lehigh's Spanish Club, Senora Eckert's Spanish

IV class, and some students from Senorita Hill's Spanish classes.

The destination of our rainy-day journey was the Scottish Rite Center, on West Hamilton Street, to watch two Spanish dancing performances produced by the Hispanic Flamenco Ballet. Schools from all around – some even as far away as Philadelphia – came to experience the

Ballet's magnificent production.

The first show incorporated dance routines from multiple Spanish-speaking countries such as Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico. The dancers wore flashy clothes and performed the traditional dances wonderfully.

The second show was entirely about dances from Spain. Unlike in the previous performance, most of the Spanish dances were of a style much closer to flamenco.

Flamenco dancing is an emotional style of dance in which performers attempt to express their deepest emotions through their body movements and facial expressions. Clapping hands, kicking feet, or castanets (small, handheld percussion instruments) are often



used to enhance the performance.

After thoroughly enjoying ourselves at the show, we stopped to order lunch at Panera and Qdoba. Much to our advisers' dismay, most of the group made a beeline to Panera instead of opting for a platter of traditional Mexican cuisine at Qdoba. As we sat at the quaint lunch tables to eat our freshly-prepared food, we

discussed the performances we'd just observed. The general consensus was that the first show was better than the second and that the entire experience was one we will never forget.

"The trip was a success. It was educational and fun for everyone," said Senorita Hill.

Photo Credits: Hispanic Flamenco Ballet

SCIENCE CLUB TAKES ON EARTH DAY

By Blake Schuck

Earth Day was Friday, April 22nd, and the Science Club was ready! After months of planning, it made its Earth Day celebration come to life.

On Earth Day, each fourth-block class, if the teachers applied, went outside to clean up the environment, beautify the garden, and

participate in other fun activities.

In an effort to raise awareness of the importance of environmental protection and preservation, and to start Earth Day early, the Science Club put trivia questions on the Dog Dish for a week. The club hopes that by making the Earth Day celebration a

week long, more people will start to pitch in and recognize that with everyone's help, and one step at a time, that a lasting impact can be made towards protecting the environment.

On May 3rd, Sara Hunsicker, Maddie Ligenza, Nathan Cunfer, Zai Salih, and Blake Schuck competed in the

Pennsylvania Envirothon. Together, we will compete against other schools with numerous environmental topics, such as: forestry, soils, aquatics, wildlife, and invasive species. We sincerely hope to win the Pennsylvania Envirothon for Northern Lehigh this year.

We must preserve the environment for the

future generations to come. If everyone just did their part, we can do it!

Left hand picture: Blake Schuck & Chase Ohlson

Right hand picture: Ryan Fine, Justin Steier, & Mrs. Everett

(Photo credits: Blake Schuck)



A NIGHT OF GLITZ AND GLAMOUR

By Karlyna Kemery & Ashley Wilk

The Junior Prom was held on Saturday, April 23, and was a night to remember for the graduating class of 2017. Preparations for the prom took the majority of the day for everyone.

To get ready, the girls got their hair, nails, and make-up done. They also put on their dresses to prepare for pictures.

The boys did their hair and put on their tuxedos. Dates had to go to the flower shops to pick up the corsages and boutonnieres. After the preparations were finished, friends and dates headed to different places to get pictures.

Many students took pictures at the Palmerton Park. Fortunately, the rain cleared and the sun came out.

After pictures, everyone headed to the

Jim Thorpe Memorial Hall and lined up until the doors opened at 5:30 p.m. Everyone checked in and entered the main room to pick tables at which to sit.

The prom theme was “A Night of Glitz and Glamour.” The tables were decorated with beautiful centerpieces and lights were hung around the room. There was a fence separating the tables from the dance floor and lanterns hung above our heads. There was even a giant picture frame for self portraits.

When everyone was inside the main room, the socializing and picture taking began. The music played while we waiting in anticipation for dinner.

The meal was a sit-down buffet that included salads, chicken parmesan, beef tips with

mushrooms, ziti, mashed potatoes, and corn. After a particularly filling dinner, everyone headed to the dance floor to burn some calories.

While the dancing went on, people were able to go into the photo booth to take pictures, which were the party favors for the evening.

Partway through the night, there was a break from the dancing to announce the prom court. The prom court consisted of Jessica Evans and Joe Egan, Meghan Handwerk and Ryan Farber, Maddie Ligenza and Everette Bevans, Sam Olewine and Seth Keiser, Emily Rex and Tanner Filchner, Ashleigh Sell and Austin Hemingway, Sami Wanamaker and Ryan Hoffer.

Last year’s prom queen and king, Maddie Bellesfield and Chad Cederberg, were there and gave this year’s prom king and queen the crown and tiara. Emily Rex and Ryan Farber were crowned this year’s king and queen, respectively.

They both headed out to the dance floor to dance to a slow song. Eventually, the rest of the court joined them.

After the announcement of the prom court, dessert was served. There were cupcakes and a delicious chocolate fountain where snacks could be dipped in the chocolate. By the dessert, there was a punch fountain to quench your thirst.

The consensus among the attendees was that the prom was an excellent

event. “It was definitely a night I will always remember and my favorite part was the chocolate fountain,” said prom queen Emily Rex.

Prom king Ryan Farber said, “I think I can speak for everyone in the class when I say that the prom was a huge success with good food, good dancing, and good people!”

“It was a night to remember and a lot of fun,” said Haley Stragatiano. Overall, the class of 2017 prom proved to be a great success.

SENIORS ENJOY “A NIGHT AT THE BEACH”

By Gavin Kemery

After a long day’s work of setting up for the senior farewell, students flooded the doors of Northern Lehigh to enter a door outlined by an arch of innertubes and beach balls. All who attended were greeted with a warm welcome and a lei as they made their ways to their seats.

The ocean was in the air on May 14th as everyone witnessed the sight of a “night at the beach.” Students got to walk the boardwalk alongside a wide variety of food and would eventually find themselves standing in front

of a chocolate fountain and brownie bar.

The way the lights glistened off of the illumined dance floor was truly a sight to see as friends and dates danced their hearts out. The night flew by, as did the flashing lights of roller coasters and amusement rides did in the distance. Glowing orbs hung above the festivities, branching off of a circular ring like that of a massive chandelier.

The dance was fun on and off of the dance floor. Students had a good time dancing and spending time with their friends at their tables.

The food was delicious and the mood was very upbeat. It was evident that the dance was the last one to be shared by the class of 2016 as a whole.

As the night came to an end, the seniors all gathered into a circle in the center of the gym, swaying back and forth in unity to Pat Benatar’s “We Belong.” Hand in hand the class of 2016 concluded their “night at the beach” before leaving their last dance at Northern Lehigh High School with smiles on their faces and memories in their hearts.



Photo credits: Erika Algard

CREATIVE WRITING



Oklahoma

By Gavin Kemery

The sun has begun to set on the prairies of Oklahoma.
 The tall, wavering grass but skinny dancers in the wind.
 The dying breath of day soars far off into the east,
 While grazing cattle search to find a place for them to rest.
 The ranchers, now retired, tuck themselves away inside their cots.
 Faint, golden lamplight keeps their chambers all aglow.
 Outside each dusty ranch house lies the sleeping world of night,
 Detached from the slumber of the ranch hands packed away.
 Crickets sound their cheerful tune by the way of chirping wing.
 Listlessly, unsaddled horses sigh to their shrill calls.
 All life by now has laid down to clear skies.
 The wide open spaces now glist'ning foreign light.
 A moonlit haze of darkness rests upon the dusty ranch,
 While all lay motionless to its horizons.
 The night is still as the world takes its course;
 And yet, it remains so alive,
 With all of them sharing, together, the night
 As Oklahoma sleeps.

The Lark

by Blake Schuck

Long ago, I have dreamed of past;
 A dream that has awakened dark.
 Ah, how it could have been the last.
 The last dream of the appalling lark.

The lark of independence and freedom.
 Should it, mind you, choose its path.
 Its path of the man who needs 'em.
 To see along that, rage and wrath.

What I would give to see the lark in vain.
 Though, it has new chapters, new plans.
 The lark has yet to release its chain,
 Which has turned back upon lands.

This is the last I have seen of the lark.
 Its life is completely over.
 A new sense of society has a spark,
 Which is as unique as a four-leaf clover.

I will be ending this with sorrow.
 The lark did not make it through.
 As we hope for a better tomorrow,
 The lark has lost it all, too.

Precious Gift

By Noah Freudenberger

When I was younger my brother left me
 My mother cried all day and night for him
 He had left us to sail upon the sea
 Taking the ship into the light so dim

His men were all very loyal to him
 Following his orders without a doubt
 And as the sky and clouds all grew so grim
 They wondered what their lives had been about

Their adventure became a disaster
 All of the men died with fear in their eyes
 And as the ship went down even faster
 Even the wives could hear their final cries

Love your life, for it is a precious gift
 Or quickly away from you she may drift

LEGALLY BLONDE

By Sara Hunsicker

Since 1971, Northern Lehigh Little Theater has wowed audiences with its musical productions, and this year was no exception. This year's show was *Legally Blonde*, based on the 2001 movie starring Reese Witherspoon.

As in the movie, *Legally Blonde* the musical follows the transformation of Elle Woods, portrayed by senior Kasey Wayda, as she tackles stereotypes and scandal in pursuit of her dreams.

"I could really relate to Elle because a lot of my mannerisms are similar to hers," said Kasey. "I had never been the lead in a show before, so it was a huge challenge trying to memorize everything, but it was fun to get in character and really sell it for the audience."

Throughout her journey of self-discovery, Elle meets a heartwarming cast of characters. "I think just about everyone who participated in or watched the show could relate to at least one character in one way or another," said Cassie Zaleski, who played Elle's friend Paulette.

This action-packed musical exploded on the stage with catchy songs, impressive vocals, and memorable dances. The storyline is fast-paced and energized, which kept the momentum of the show going throughout. However, keeping up with the demands of performing this particularly upbeat

musical certainly wasn't easy.

This show was huge undertaking for Northern Lehigh Little Theater. In *Legally Blonde*, the choreography is difficult, the vocals are demanding, and character development is key.



Sophomore Victoria Lear, who played Brooke Windham, agreed that the process of developing and perfecting the musical was rigorous for all involved. "Even though we don't run laps, or do burpees, we go through the same frustrations when we mess up numbers or sing a flat note; while this is stressful, it brings us closer together and encourages so much positivity and respect towards one another."

It's this positivity and respect that shines through on performance night, as it's clear that the cast and crew have come together in order to be

prepared for opening night.

The production team was fantastic, and truly pushed the cast to work hard and aim high. Mr. Shuey, the musical's director, treated the cast like professionals. In addition, the phenomenal

Kensington, believes that the contributions of all involved are what allow a performance like *Legally Blonde* to become such a standout. "The cast, crew, orchestra, producers: everyone put in an immense amount of time

high school," said sophomore Pierce McGowan, who played Elle's first boyfriend in the play, Warner Huntington. "You get to express yourself in new, more creative ways and you create bonds in the process. I never would have seen myself doing theater but after a friend persuaded me to do it, I didn't regret signing up once. It's been the most fun I've had in my high school career."

Sophomore Chase Ohlson, who played Elle's mentor-turned-boyfriend, Emmett, agreed with Pierce. "What makes the musical so fun is the people who are in it. It's a place where you can be yourself."

Overall, it was the "music that's still stuck in people's heads, the hilarious script, the lovable characters, and the amazing choreography," that made the show so spectacular, according to Jake Kistler.

Thankfully, the musical didn't truly end when the curtain closed on March 20th. Northern Lehigh will be participating in the 2016 Freddy Awards, a Pennsylvania and New Jersey competition that recognizes outstanding performances in high school theater. The Freddy Awards will be broadcast live on WFMZ in May.

choreographer, Colette, had a huge impact on the theater program. She pushed all of the actors and encouraged them to try their best.

"Our choreographer Colette is an angel. She taught me, Everette Bevans, and a good half of the cast how to Irish step dance, which I can assure you, is not easy. She made the Greek chorus girls, prison inmates, and cheerleaders work their butts off. She never gave up on our dancing abilities, regardless of how awful our whipping and nae nae-ing was during our warm ups," said Cassie.

Junior Andrea Snyder, who played Elle's rival-turned-ally, Vivian

to guarantee a brilliant show. Practices get long and the hours add up, but it's all worth it in the end when you get to walk out on stage and put everything you have into your performance. Whether you have one line or one hundred, when you're under the lights, it's your stage and your moment," she said.

Putting together *Legally Blonde* was entirely a group effort, which is part of the reason so many students have been helping the size of the Northern Lehigh theater program to continually expand over the course of the past two years.

"Theater is one of the best things you can do in

Photo Credits: Mr. Mankos



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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...

By Meghan Miller-Brown

Well, Northern Lehigh. Another year is in the books. The 2015-2016 school year seemed to fly by, particularly quicker than other years. As many of you know, this is my last year here at Northern Lehigh, and this is my last issue of The Slate. Four years ago, when I walked these halls for the first time as a freshman, I knew I wanted to be a part of The Slate staff. I had written for Mr. Barnes' middle school newspaper, and I couldn't stop there. Writing for the school newspaper was a way for me to get my voice out. It was an escape for me. I never enjoyed writing papers for classes (Who does?). But writing for the school newspaper was something different.

I would often hear people say, "You know

that no one reads the paper, right?" "No one cares about your stupid articles anyway. Why bother writing them?" At first, this was hard to hear, especially because I knew there was some truth in it. However, I never let it stop me. Writing for newspaper was something that someone's words could not take away from me. Now, six years later, I have written in over 15 issues of both the Bulldog Bark and The Slate.

When I hit junior year, I was blessed with the opportunity to become the editor. I began working on the technology layout part of things, as well as reading through articles, making sure all mistakes were gone. This became my new favorite thing. Hours upon hours after

school, I would make sure everything was as perfect as could be. Though it was never perfect, all the time was worth it when my hands would turn black from the ink, as I held the freshly printed papers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that helped me throughout this incredible journey. First, to Mr. Barnes. He always encouraged me to be the best writer I could be. Although I never had the privilege to be in his classroom, he became one of my role models. Next, to Mrs. Turoscy. For those of you who do not know her, she was The Slate's advisor for my first three years at NL. She put up with my procrastination and constant questions. To Israel Moore and Gavin Kemery: Anytime I

needed an extra article, or more space filled, they automatically jumped right to the computer to let their creativity shine. I appreciate their help more than anyone could know.

This year, I was a bit worried we would not have an advisor for The Slate. Now I know we got the best one available: Ms. Hock. Immediately, she was all on board for anything and everything. She helped with recruitment, and most importantly, getting The Slate to the level it needed and deserved to be on. We are now better than ever, and will stay that way for long after I am gone.

Lastly, I need to thank my right-hand helpers, Erika Algard and Noah Freudenberger. Just because I told them to, they jumped on board

to help me edit and write this year. I definitely do not think I could have stayed as sane as I was without their help and assistance. Though we had many arguments over layout and the old dinosaur that is our computer, I would not have wanted to take this incredible journey without them. So, a million times, I say "Thank you".

To the students and staff at Northern Lehigh, read The Slate. Students here work hard to get their voices out, and keep you all informed. They deserve to be appreciated and read.

Thank you for a great four years, Northern Lehigh. It's been real.

The Slate Staff

Advisor - Ms. Hock

President - Erika Algard

**Technology Editors and Layout Specialists -
Noah Freudenberger and Meghan Miller-Brown**

Writers

Erika Algard
Carmen Alvaro
Tori Csanadi
Noah Freudenberger
Maryum Garnett-Whyche
Taylor Herman
Jaclyn Hollenbach
Sara Hunsicker
Gavin Kemery
Karlyna Kemery
Meghan Miller-Brown
Blake Schuck
Ashley Wilk

Special Thanks

Northern Lehigh Staff
Class of 2016
Mr. Barnes