



FOREI (Sort of...)  
Tee up on page 10

## Ending senior year as entrepreneurs



Two 12th-graders start up streetwear and skater clothing company

BY BRITTNEY DIEHL  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

It's underground, it's new and life is "2 short" to not check it out. Seniors Elija Albert and Joshua Sandholm independently created a new clothing brand to sweep Northern Lehigh off its feet. It's homegrown and still flourishing as it just takes off.

Any starting company tends to draw on different elements that they find around them, concepts they gravitate toward. It seems that even a close business did such that. "We took some inspiration from different skating brands, and wanted to feature a design that we would wear," Albert said. Mesh of different brands and different ideas came together to form their trending designs.

However, despite the seemingly harmonious front many businesses put up, there are still some places where people and designers do not agree. "There were a few times when we didn't agree on designs, but we would work together to make them everything we were both looking for," Albert said.

Teamwork really does make the dream work in this particular situation. Going at it from different angles, until a consensus was reached, seemed to work best to

Seniors Josh Sandholm and Elija Albert want to help you dress cool. Check out what they have to offer: [lifes2shortapparel.com](http://lifes2shortapparel.com). More than shirts are available.

See Clothing, page 4

## Librarian plays her way to the top

BY BRITTNEY DIEHL  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Most see a librarian stocking books, putting stories of other people on the shelves. Our very own Northern Lehigh librarian takes a different approach, making an impact and writing a part of her own words into a book released late last year in December. And, she does not stop there.

It all started when Mrs. Krystle-Dawn Willing-Tiedeman's husband — a filmmaker — asked if she could work with him on an arcade documentary. "We spent a few years immersed in the world of classic video games where I learned so many interesting things and met a number of new friends. In 2017, a guy named Brett Weiss reached out to my husband with the opportunity to contribute stories to a book about the Super Nintendo System," Mrs. T said.

Weiss was looking for people recognizable in the video game community to come together and form writings as well as antecedents of old games. Mrs. T

and her husband were two of those people. "When I submitted my story on *Earthworm Jim*, Brett let me know he really enjoyed it. It was fun, but I sort of thought it was a once-and-done thing," Mrs. T said.

In 2019, another project arose as well to include as much information as possible. The first publication released in December by Schiffer Publishing only has games with their titles A through L, which happened to include several reflections of Nintendo games from Mrs. T's childhood.

"I was most excited to share my story about *Duck Hunt*, which was the first video game I ever played. They're short memories and some commentary on the games themselves, so a lot of fun to write with not much pressure. I honestly can't remember how many titles I have in *The NES Omnibus Volume 2...*" Mrs. T said.

In this case, word count seemed to be out of the window. Mrs. T was asked to write more and more

See Mrs. T, page 3

## Hope floats at NL pool



Unfortunately, it will be a dry summer at the NL pool, but the 2022 season is looking better, if all goes according to plan. Staff writer Maddy Mack dives in, page 2.

# Board members hope to keep NL pool afloat

BY MADDY MACK  
STAFF WRITER

Many summers were spent at the Northern Lehigh pool by high-schoolers and families alike. However, this past summer, the pool was forced to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On top of that, the pool needs to be completely redone, which also prevents it from opening this season, and possibly summers in the future.

In order for the pool to reopen to the public for the 2022 summer season, a complete overhaul of the pool will need to happen. Unfortunately, it is a big expense. Jessica Mack, president, and Kathy Barhight-Herzog, treasurer, of the Northern Lehigh Swimming Pool Association Board of Directors, say it will cost a minimum of \$170,000 to redo the pool, but are hopeful the community can help to raise \$200,000 in case of extra expenses. Barhight-Herzog said, "The Northern Lehigh Swimming Pool is fundraising and looking for donations to get the pool back up and running, sooner than later. It is upsetting that the pool keeps cracking."

Another important issue the pool is facing is the lack of support from the community. Regardless of many attempts to gain more involvement from the community, only a few people have risen. Fundraising is a crucial part, and the Northern Lehigh Swimming Pool Facebook page has an active GoFundMe account to help with all expenses. "The pool has repeatedly asked for volunteers to join the board and volunteer some time for



The Northern Lehigh pool needs about \$200K for renovations to offer local families more fun summer times.

the success of the pool, but few have stepped up," Mack said.

The community's help is essential for the Northern Lehigh pool to successfully operate. Unfortunately, volunteers are few and far between. The pool board, as a whole, currently consists of four board members, each a volunteer of both their time and service. Sadly, four people are not enough to keep the pool running. Despite this, they are all hopeful that fundraisers and donations will pull through and make the repairs possible. "We really want to be open this summer since we were unable to operate the 2020 season due to COVID-19. The pool is a beautiful place in the summer for families

and kids to be able to come and hang out and enjoy the sunshine. We are hoping that we can get support from the community to raise money so we can continue to have this for years to come for people of the Northern Lehigh area to enjoy," Barhight-Herzog said.

With limited places in Slatington and Walnutport to have family fun, especially during and after the pandemic, it is necessary to preserve what is already there. "If the pool does not open, there is one less place for family and friends to gather in the summer for recreational enjoyment," Mack said.

Unfortunately, many Northern Lehigh High School students work as

either a lifeguard, refreshment stand, or office worker over the summer. This leaves many students looking elsewhere for employment opportunities. "The pool has always employed high school and college students. These students learn valuable job skills, as well as how to work together in a work environment. They learn responsibility in a fun and safe community atmosphere," Mack said.

Hopefully, people from the Northern Lehigh community will step forward and help the Northern Lehigh Swimming Pool, with either their appreciated time, donations, or both. If so, it will continue to be a family-friendly environment for all to enjoy. 🐾

## Back in Time: Greetings from Main Street, 1955



Main Street, Slatington, Pa.

Assistant Principal Mr. David Hauser continues his trip down Memory (Main) Street with a Slatington postcard from 1955. On the left, Handwerk's restaurant, Jones's Shoes, and the 5&10. On the right, ACME. At the end, the former Presbyterian church, now the site of a senior home. Stay tuned for more local history.

# Drug offenders could benefit with rehab over prison

BY LILY GROOVER  
STAFF WRITER

In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at his first CNN town hall on Feb. 16, President Joe Biden made many promises to the American people regarding the pandemic, health care, schooling, and criminal justice.

What caused significant backlash was Biden's comment on drug abuse in the United States. He said, "No one should go to jail for a drug offense. No one should go to jail for the use of a drug, they should go to drug rehabilitation."

He preaches reversing the mass incarceration of drug abusers, reducing the criminal penalties, and using those tax dollars and federal funds to allow drug abusers to enter rehabilitation centers. In doing this, the prison population will go down and use leftover funds for more prominent problems.

Many right-wing voters, however, find him biased toward the whole situation. Biden's son, Hunter Biden, had dealt with drug addiction and abuse in the past. He was addicted to alcohol, cigarettes, and cocaine from the late 1990s to the early 2000s. His struggles have been highlighted and addressed, and his book *Beautiful Things*, about his experiences, is going to be released on April 6.



Many people say that Biden's view has to do with his son's previous problems. If Hunter Biden had not been a drug abuser, then the president's attitude might be different.

What makes people even angrier is his views on incarceration have changed from the time he was a senator to now, furthering pushing the idea that his son took part in his change of attitude. During

America's war on drugs in the 1980s, Biden helped pass two of the most critical pieces of legislation on the drug crisis, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 and the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988. In 1986, the act racked up sentencing for drug crimes. This sentencing disparity also helped fuel significant racial disparities in incarceration. The act in 1988 called for more strengthening in prison sentences for drug possession and more penalties for transporting drugs. Both of these acts call for harsher

sentencing, opposite to what his views are now.

To become addicted to an illegal drug, criminal activities must take place. So, all in all, these types of people are breaking the law and therefore deserve their prison sentence. From the creation to the transportation to the selling of illegal drugs, many people are involved. Biden's plan only deals with the nonvio-

lent, addicted members of the "drug world." He is not suggesting courts to give sellers, makers, and endorsers free rehabilitation.

Only 20% of the inmates in state and federal prisons are drug offenders. A quarter of that accounts for what the courts deem as 'nonviolent.' Politicians know that they would get the biggest payoff by reducing drug sentences if they endorse reversing mass incarceration. They also know that people are more sympathetic to drug addicts than they are to other criminals.

In 2008, when Biden was campaigning with Barack Obama, he distanced himself from his past of "tough on crime" record. He called his actions "out of line" in a 2008 senate hearing and apologized for being uneducated on the effects of crack cocaine. The epidemic on drugs was a new experience for all lawmakers, and creating harsher laws was one of the only ways to try and prevent more problems.

In July of that year, Biden released a criminal justice reform plan that included decriminalizing marijuana, eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent crimes, and discouraging the incarceration of children. He has since then urged lowering nonviolent drug sentences. 🐾

## Butterflies still flutter with writing

Mrs. T, from page 1

— a continuous addition cycle to the countless memories held between individuals in this book. On top of this, the project starts in the summer, making stress seem almost minuscule without interference with work or personal schedule. The revision was also very anti-stress; Weiss asked for a tweak here and there rather than entire rewrites and negative commenting.

However, Mrs. T's commentary on *Earthworm Jim* was not the only time she has been published. Despite this, this particular anthology had a different air or feel to it. "I've been published before, in academic journals and short fiction anthologies and things like that, but this was the first time I received positive recognition for something I'd just had fun writing. It was great to know people seemed to enjoy reading it too..." Mrs. T said.

However, the book released in this story does not just stop there. In November, Weiss came to Mrs. T again and asked to participate in another anthology. This book is up and coming—many things are unsure regarding this particular book but one thing is certain, Mrs. T definitely wants to be on board this next mission.

Sometimes, projects and our love for certain ideas and concepts have a negative impact on life. However, Mrs. T notes the positive influence in which teaching and participating in Weiss's books had on her. "It reminds me of when I was younger, what it was like

for me as a student, the role video games played in my friendships, and the development of problem-solving skills, patience, and socialization. It helps me to recognize the value in playing *Among Us* together on Game Nights, to remember that you're learning more than just how to play a game when you pick up a controller..." Mrs. T said.

Writing, something tough for most, seemed to be at ease for others — including Mrs. T. It seemed to be second nature, something completely familiar in a world of unknown. "I sit down and close my eyes and recall a specific memory, then I sort of follow that memory to others related to it. I write out a first draft of exactly how I remember playing the game. Then I find the game and try to play it again now to refresh my memory and fill in the details that have blurred..." Mrs. T said.

No matter what, seeing one's own work on an official page seems to fuel anyone into loving what they do. This applies to any situation, as long as you are proud to be doing what you are doing. "I get the same butterflies waiting to see my words in print now as I did when I was on my high school newspaper staff. The work you do is no different... I think what's important is to continue to take steps toward the things that make you happy, that interest you, and that promote the pursuit of your passions. For me, writing is one of those steps." 🐾

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# Teamwork really made this dream work for two seniors

See Clothing, from page 1

form the clothing line of Lifes2Short.

Everything has a starting point, and this particular clothing apparel website began at the end of last year and early this year. "We came up with the idea in early November, and we launched our site and our first designs in early January," Albert said. This means that anyone who visits their website can view and even begin to purchase these personal designs.



Sizing, material, quality. These three things are extremely pertinent regarding any small business. Sizing must be wide-ranged, the product must be sustainably made, and the material must be of good quality for its set price. "So, currently we aren't holding any of our own inventory. We provide our clothing through a site called Tee Public. They offer up to size 5XL and are made out of 100% cotton. Though, once we do hold our own inventory, our shirts will go up to size 4XL, and are also made out of 100% cotton," Albert said. Overall, sizing is extremely friendly to many different shapes and sizes as well as quality being made well. It is obvious that Lifes2Short meets such requirements.

When there is any company, big or

small, there must be a passion, a drive, and an effort put into the ideas and the resulting products. There must also be future prospects and goals as well. "Absolutely, we've put all of our time, effort, and passion into this. We plan to continue this as far as possible," Albert said. Lifes2Short is here to stay, for as long as they possibly can. There is a lot of blood, sweat, tears, and lots of elbow grease that was printed into those t-shirts, masks, and much more.

Over the next few weeks, the small company will be having a few new changes and updates, however. "... within the next few weeks, we will be sourcing our own inventory and will be removing some of our designs. Make sure to keep up to date on our website. Thank you guys so much for the questions, and the platform to speak on," Albert said.

A spark must occur for any business to sprout, there must be a desire to create and to start something new. However, if there is ever a need or want, there must be something done about it. "We 100% recommend just going for it. If you have an idea and have the passion for it, then anything can happen," Albert said. When looking at it with a bird's eye perspective, who says one cannot become the next big thing, no? 🐾



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## Is This Generation Ready?

In the past few years, our world has been through so much. Many events occurred that will be in the history books forever. Situations like this will continue to happen throughout our lifetime, and this generation will one day be in charge. For this edition of Free Barking, I asked some students if they are confident in this generation. Will they be hopeful for what they can do for our future, or have they already lost hope?

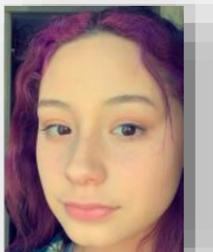


*"I think everyone is a little too focused on themselves. I'm confident that the future of our generation won't do what's best for us as a whole."*

**AIDEN PESESKO, 11TH GRADE**

*"I am both confident and unconfident in our generation. Some of us are focused on the well-being of humanity, while others are focused on making themselves alone comfortable. God forbid you offend them."*

**DEV VEGA, 11TH GRADE**



*"I don't really know. I'm going back and forth because there are some things I am confident that our generation can achieve. I do believe we can achieve equality between all races, sexes, and the LGBTQ+ community."*

**GEEANNA RIVERA, 9TH GRADE**

*"It feels like there's a lack of individuality in our generation due to social media and the news always in our faces always telling us what to do. I have little hope in our generation."*

**CHASE JONES, 11TH GRADE**

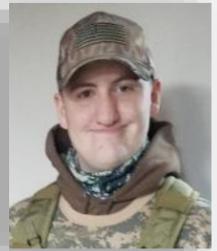


*"I am fairly confident in our generation. I believe our generation is capable of achieving anything that they aspire to do, no matter the task at hand."*

**SETH ADAMS, 10TH GRADE**

*"Yes, I am confident in this generation because of the fact that I think this is the most in-touch generation."*

**SKYLAR MOYER, 11TH GRADE**



*"Yes, because from what I observe my generation sees the flaws of the previous and strives to make it better."*

**TRENT HERMAN, 12TH GRADE**



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## Different shots: Varying views of the vaccine

BY OWEN LEVAN-UHLER  
STAFF WRITER

(As of writing, the percentage of Americans with at least one dose of vaccination against COVID-19 is about 22.2%; over 113 million administered doses.)

Vaccines have been a very controversial subject since their conception in the late 1700s. This controversy has remained steadfast, if not increased, throughout the centuries. The problems surrounding vaccination have enveloped the COVID-19 vaccine just as they envelope other vaccines. And while it is up to each person to have an opinion on matters such as these, there are many extremely important reasons to receive the vaccine if able, and many reasons as to why the vaccine alone will not help the world succeed in its efforts to overcome the virus.

One of the biggest topics surrounding coronavirus vaccination is herd immunity. Herd immunity is "resistance to the spread of an infectious disease within a population that is based on pre-existing immunity of a high proportion of individuals as a result of previous infection or vaccination." The debate around herd immunity and COVID is how many people would need to be vaccinated for the nation (and the world) to feel its effects, and if anybody even *needs* to be vaccinated.

With such a rapidly mutating, highly contagious, injurious *novel* virus, vaccination is a given in order for herd immunity to be even remotely successful. While the exact percentage of people needing to be inoculated for COVID is unknown, for reference, about 95% of the world population needs to be vaccinated for measles and 80% for polio for herd immunity to succeed. Given the severity of this pandemic, the percentage of people vaccinated would need to be around 80-95%, perhaps even more. On a positive note, the U.S. will have enough vaccines to inoculate the entire adult population in the country by the end of May, perhaps even sooner.

What's important about herd immunity is that it will not take effect unless the public continues to do what it can to curb the spread of the virus by masking, avoiding large events, social distancing, etc. By the

rate of vaccinations, the effects of herd immunity will not likely be seen until at least fall 2021, and total herd immunity will not be reached until spring or summer 2022 at the earliest. With the recent loosening of restrictions and other measures in some states, these dates may become even more delayed.

On another important topic, many people are concerned about the speediness of which the vaccine was tested and distributed. And while these are extremely legitimate concerns (and why herd immunity is so important for those who *don't* feel comfortable being vaccinated), the several vaccines for the virus currently being produced and distributed are very safe.

All vaccines go through clinical trials to test effectiveness and make sure they are safe. Given the severity of this virus, clinical trials were rigorous. So how did they finish so quickly? COVID-19 is extremely contagious and widespread, so more volunteers were exposed to the virus, leading to a shorter amount of time to perceive effectiveness. The production of the vaccine itself does not take nearly as long as it takes to actually test it, so once the formulas used in the vaccines were tested and greenlit, it was smoother sailing from there.

For anyone skeptical of getting the virus because of potential health concerns in the short-term or long-term, look at it this way: potential health risks from the virus are exponentially more dangerous than any health effects that could be associated with any of these approved vaccines.

What should be taken away from this article is that approved COVID vaccines are safe and have gone through rigorous testing to ensure that this is true. Herd immunity is only achievable if most of the population is vaccinated, and if the public continues taking preventative measures to curb the spread of the virus.

Stopping the virus before it continues to mutate is arguably more important than the vaccine itself. It may not be easy to do, but please, trust health officials and their advice and guidance. The only way society can return to normal is if people do whatever they can to end the pandemic themselves. 🐾

## Protect your daughters. Educate your sons

BY BREANNA HOPPES  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As a conscious mind travels down the street in the midst of the night, safely following all precautions to avoid frightening altercations, one can understand how incomprehensible it is that these actions led to death. I now welcome you to the life of a woman.

The life of a woman is far from glamorous, despite what one's depiction of womanhood may be. The life of a woman does not revolve around selecting a color for a manicure, or dedicating a day to scrolling through social media. The horrifying and cruel truth behind the life of a woman is the never-ending look over the shoulder, or the immediate decompression after safely making it to the car alone and rapidly locking the doors.

See, for men, the truth is they tend to misunderstand the true trepidation that consumes a woman's mind day in and day out. The feeling of panic that fulfills our minds as a man looks in our general direction for just a few seconds too long. The churning of the stomach as the vehicle behind us makes its way onto the same street as us for the fifth turn in a row. Men rarely ever acknowledge their surroundings and in most cases, it's because they are not the ones who are consumed by fear daily, it is women.

Since the beginning of time, women have faced rape, sexual assault, and sexual abuse. From significant others, to strangers, to bosses, and even to family members, who were meant to be the most trustworthy people of all. Rape and what it entails is frightening and chilling to the core. The sad part about rape and other forms of sexual abuse is that it is far from uncommon — 97% of women have endured some form of sexual abuse, sexual misconduct or sexual harassment. Although many men have a poor tendency of declaring the statement, "Not all men," 97% is 3% away from all women...

On March 3, Sarah Everard casually embarked on her way home from a friend's house in South London. As a conscious woman would, she dressed brightly, as it was dark at this time of night, and spoke to her boyfriend on the phone as she traveled home, yet she still

became a part of the 97%. The horrifying thing about this story is not only the devastating death of Sarah Everard, but it is the individual who is being charged with the rape and death of this 33-year-old woman. A South London police officer has been charged with these crimes and has since been arrested. The police officer was meant to be an individual whom Sarah could trust, instead, he became her rapist and murderer... She was only walking home, but she never made it.

Victims of the horrific acts of sexual

violence and abuse surround us each and every day. Whether these women are friends, sisters, mothers, aunts, etc., they are surrounding us constantly. Since the number of victims is devastatingly high, it would make the most sense for one to assume the number of abusers is high as well. Frighteningly enough, every woman knows a victim, yet not every man knows a rapist or abuser... Regardless of an abuser being a close friend, a well-known celebrity, or a significant other, an abuser is an abuser and their horrific acts should

engraved in the mind of a boy to simply understand when to step away from a woman?

Many people in this world barely bat an eyelid at the horrific things occurring in the world regarding abuse and violence toward women. Unfortunately, many individuals will not fully understand and care until it has impacted their own lives. Regardless of wearing the world's brightest jacket, or lingering on the phone on a walk home, women endure sexual violence each and every day.



always be brought to light.

Educating the men of this world from a young age can truly save lives. Teaching a boy from early on the concept of consent and the consequences of neglecting a woman's consent is important.

From early on, women are taught to cover their skin and act a specific way to avoid unwanted sexual altercations, yet is it ever

Maybe it's not all men, but is every man engaging in conversations to become educated on the acts of sexual violence? Are all men attempting to find ways to decrease the numbers significantly? I mean, 97% of women enduring sexual violence is frightening and depressing, but anything above zero is unacceptable.

With numbers being depressingly high, ask yourself, were you being extra cautious, or were you just one of the lucky ones? 🐾



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*Our View*

## Flagged: Flying true colors on a misguided banner

Remember that seemingly simple question from adolescence — *What do you want to be when you grow up?* Beneath the surface, it's impossible to separate the reality from the doctor-athlete-singer dreams.

Now, powerful people are determined to supply the answer or at least dictate its requirements. Who are they to define someone's identity? Teenage students, and many adults, struggle with that challenge with every breath -- who you are, what you represent, how you want others to see you.

Through the halls of Northern Lehigh, many students have responded "present" early on as one gender, yet never quite felt real in that skin. Years later, they received a diploma as someone totally different -- someone they truly are -- burying their "dead

name" deep within the past. How great is that to fully realize the answer to the age-old question before stepping foot in the scary, scrutinizing world?

Sadly (but not surprisingly), little positive guidance is coming from D.C. in supporting these decisions.

In the halls of the House of Representatives, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R) placed a sign outside her office last month mocking Democratic Rep. Marie Newman, whose office is across the hall, after Newman hung a transgender pride flag next to her door in protest over Greene's opposition to a LGBTQ rights bill. (Always heartwarming to see our nation's leaders cooperating for the common good).

Newman, who has a transgender daughter, tweeted a video of herself

putting up the flag Wednesday after she said Greene tried to block the Equality Act on the House floor "because she believes prohibiting discrimination against trans Americans is 'disgusting, immoral, and evil.'"

In response, Greene tweeted a video showing her putting up a large sign that reads, "There are TWO genders: MALE & FEMALE. Trust The Science." *Trust the science?* How about allowing the LGBTQ+ community to trust *themselves* first? (We won't dwell on Greene's consistent disdain for science when related to masks and COVID). There is, however, a difference between these two acts of personal decor.

One shows sincere pride in something (including her own family member) while another states (against

science) a selfish "opinion" that is, thankfully, no longer seen as fact.

That would be like a family flying a Philadelphia Eagles flag to support their team, while a neighbor argues that *no, the Eagles do not exist*. Guess what. They do, and they are here to stay and we hope those who search and (eventually) find their identity fly just as high.

Perhaps the twisted ideals quarreling throughout Capitol Hill could learn a lesson from little old Northern Lehigh. It seems many in D.C. grew up thinking if, one day, they are elected to help lead the land, they could dictate one's road to self-acceptance.

But self-acceptance and self identification do not come from what society screams at us but rather what we scream to it in defiance. 🐾



Internatic

2021 SO FAR

By Camryn Torres

My work has endless beaut

is an abstr

REAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS COR

K. Jung

# Movie and society beginning to normalize ableism

## Pop star Sia stirs up controversy with obscure autism portrayal, questionable actors

BY ABBY PEARTREE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ableism is very prevalent in our society and seems to become more normalized each day. Recently, Sia, a well-known pop star, has directed and written a movie about this.

As much as one would think this is a fantastic idea as she can spread the word regarding issues that the neurodivergent community suffers with, it did not turn out as such. In fact, people who are autistic spoke out against the film and stated that it was the entirely wrong approach.

The first problem that stuck out was that the actor playing the lead character, Maddie Ziegler, is not autistic. Although this is not uncommon in most films with autistic characters, it was later revealed that many autistic actors had said they would do the role and were denied.

Alongside this, the character was originally supposed to be mixed race. This may not appear to be a problem, however, the actor adorned braids and a darker makeup shade in one scene.

The braids used had cultural significance to African American people and are not meant to be worn by other races. White people using dark makeup to imi-



tate African American people has been a racist practice since before slavery was made illegal. It was often used to mock or show a bad portrayal of African the race.

People also criticized the use of restraint to stop autistic meltdowns in the movie. In one scene the main character 'Music' can be seen listening to music calmly and then a person tries to restrain

her. A majority of autistic people say that restriction during a meltdown or sensory overload will only cause more harm.

A reporter from The Baltimore Sun stated that his son was held face down against a mat in restraint when having a meltdown. He later stated it took a whole year of therapy in order to help resolve the trauma.

And to top it all off, Sia decided to take to Twitter to express her anger at people who had critiqued her, and it only went downhill from there. While Sia was angrily conversing with people she stated that 'Autism Speaks,' a well-known hate group that believes autism can be "fixed," helped work on the movie. Needless to say, many were angered over this. She stated, "I had no idea it was such a polarizing group!"

However, this only angered people more as she had previously stated that she was working with two people on the spectrum to produce the film. Many users stated that she should have known about the group's terrible ways.

More recently, however, Sia was nominated for Golden Globes for the movie. She returned to Twitter to apologize for the ableism and has since deleted her past tweets.

She has stated she will be removing the uses of restraint in any new copies of the movie. Is she still wrong for even continuing to sell the movie at all? Can she be forgiven on the basis of her apology? Lastly, is she the only one to blame? These are questions only society can answer. 🐾

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## SLATE EARNS THREE STATE AWARDS!

We are proud to announce The Slate has earned second place in three categories of the 2020-21 Student Keystone Media Awards sponsored by the Pennsylvania News Media Association. The annual contest recognizes high school and college journalism that provides relevance, integrity, and initiative in serving readers. Congratulations to:

- 2nd place - **Chase Jones** for *Task Force Bulldog / Strange Times at NL High* (Cartoon /Graphic Illustration).
- 2nd place - **Breanna Hoppes** for *'Distanced Learning'* - (Feature Photo).
- 2nd place - **Ava Rosario, Breanna Hoppes, Editorial Staff** - *Urine for a Treat; We. Are. Woman.; When Earth Went Viral.* (Layout & Design).

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# Artist of the Month for March: *Hailey Evans*

BY HAVEN MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

The possibilities are endless when one's creativity springs alive through art. When time, dedication, and passion are put forth, people can bring out the best version of their work. This is even more true when creators are willing to share their work with others and display the masterpieces of their expression for all to admire.

The Artist of the Month is a newly-formed concept. It is a fun way to encourage and highlight the artistic talent of the students at this school. This month's official winner of the contest is Hailey Evans. Congratulations, Hailey!

Hailey is a 12th grader at Northern Lehigh whose specialty is drawing, watercolor, and charcoals. She believes that her work (especially the work displayed here) is special because of how her work allowed her to draw freely. Normally, when Hailey does her drawing, she ends up erasing and fine-checking lines and details multiple times. But, as you will see, she has pushed herself by challenging her artistic abilities to grow as an artist.

Hailey was kind enough to provide us with three of her original art pieces.

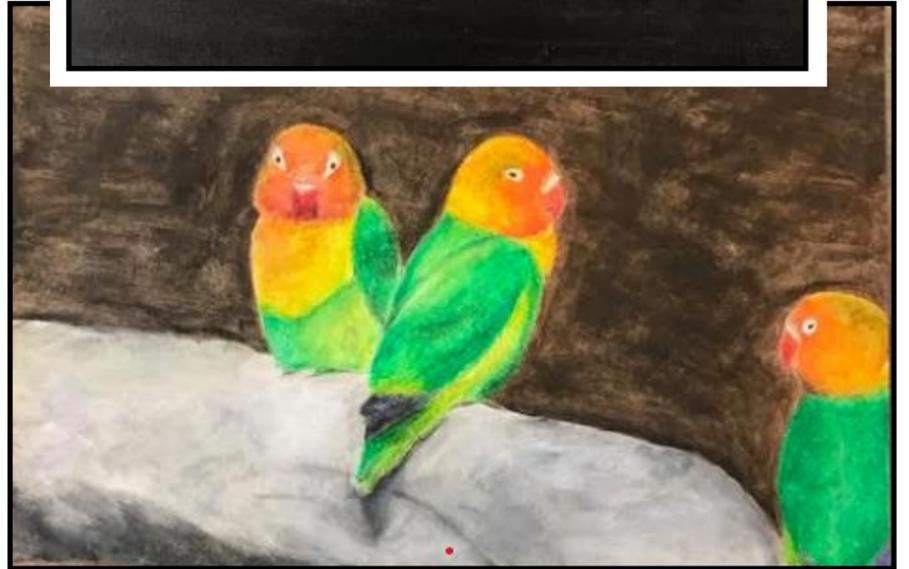
Hailey has created three different but intriguing and beautiful works. She has

made a black and white still-life drawing of a few common objects particularly placed to create an interesting composition. She has also drawn a colorful picture of three tropical birds perched on a wood branch, and amounted on a brown background. The bright, vibrant shades of the bird's feathers jump out against the dark, deep brown backdrop.

Lastly, Hailey has made a breathtaking picture of a sunset and a black silhouette of a tree and land. This was her favorite of the three she had featured above. Her inspiration for this piece was after seeing a picture of it in a magazine. In the process of creating it, she began by sketching out the shape of the tree in pencil and then using charcoal and chalk to add texture and shading.

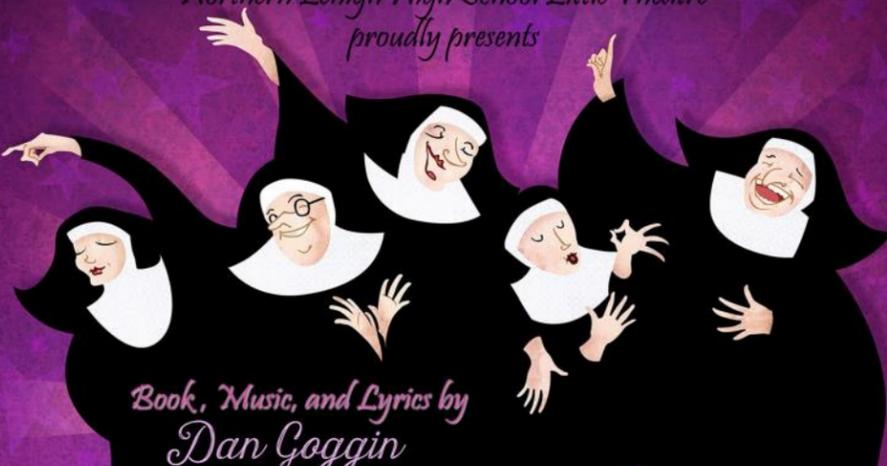
Now in this particular piece, Hailey has mentioned that she stepped out of her comfort zone for this one, and challenged not only her artistic technique but as well as her mindset when making it. As stated earlier, Hailey is very exact about her work and is used to going over it more than a few times to perfect her craft.

But by using charcoal, she was forced to find confidence in her abilities, because, for all who do not know, charcoal is difficult to erase. It is not typically used



See Artist, page 13

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# SPORTS



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## Disc golf soars onto NL campus



BY ALEXIS TRAUGHER  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Frustration and determination flows through your veins as you make a concentrated throw. As the disc glides through the air and lands in the target, you cheer knowing the game is won.

A new form of excitement has arrived at the Northern Lehigh School District campus. The solo or team sport of disc golf has been installed behind the field house and in the surrounding track throwing area. There are many goals and uses for this new equipment.

Disc golf was finalized in the 1970s and is very similar to normal golf. Instead of the regular equipment used in golf, disc golf uses a flying disc or Frisbee, and targets. The participant will throw a disc from the tee pad the correct distance toward the targets. It is known to have obstacles throughout the course—like trees, shrubs, plants, etc. The final goal is to make the disc inside the hole, or metal cage. The courses usually have a minimum of nine holes and up to 18.

Currently, the NL campus has a total of five holes. The goal is to have nine permanent holes. "The NLDGC will be a year-round nine-hole course with the potential to add more targets in the future. The course currently has five installed targets (baskets)... The remaining four targets will be installed off the

See Disc Golf, page 13



Photos by Breanna Hoppes for The Slate  
Mr. Scott Gerould is ready for golf — Frisbee style.

# SPORTS



## Equal ice time increasing for women hockey players

BY ALEXIS TRAUGHER  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Every day we are told we could never, or will never, stand a chance. Every day someone criticizes, discriminates, or tears us down because of who we are. We are women and we are proud of it.

In today's society, a woman is capable of anything, especially in a male-dominated field. For years, women have been making groundbreaking movements throughout the world, especially in ice hockey.

All throughout the hockey community, women are starting conversations, movements, and taking the title in many firsts, starting with the first women in the NHL, the first youth development coach, the first video coach, and many more. Women are becoming unstoppable on and off the ice.

Kendall Coyne is a 28-year-old female hockey player who is inspiring people of all ages. Coyne is a two-time Olympic medalist – gold in 2018 and silver in 2014 – and captain of the United States Women's Ice Hockey team. Her many firsts have led to monumental changes for all. In 2019, she became the first woman to participate in the NHL All-Star Skills Competition. She skated in the Fastest Lap event, taking 14.346 seconds to complete her lap. The next year, the NHL allowed more female participation and a 3-on-3 game. The game consisted of the U.S. team against Canada, resulting in Canada winning 2-1.

Coyne is also fighting for equal treatment and opportunity for her fellow players. She is the president of the players board of the Professional Women's Hockey Players Association (PWHPA) – a group of 200 of the world's best players

who have opted out of playing professionally in North America while fighting for a new league that they believe will be more sustainable than anything currently available. Coyne has become one of the major fighting forces in the PWHPA.

Currently, Coyne is a commentator for NBC Sports and the first female player development coach in Chicago Blackhawks history. Coyne is also a youth hockey specialist and continues to create hockey programs for young girls. Today, the all girls program Coyne created is titled the Golden Coyne's.

Another woman who created more opportunities was Manon Rhéaume. Rhéaume is a retired Canadian Olympic goaltender. She is known throughout the hockey community as being the first woman to play in the NHL. In 1992, the Tampa Bay Lightning had Rhéaume play against the Saint Louis Blues in a preseason game. Later in 1993, Rhéaume played one period in another preseason game against the Boston Bruins. Her participation in those games, named Rhéaume the first to play in any major

North American sports league as a woman. Rhéaume would later go on to play 24 games for many men's minor league teams.

Lastly, a major conversation starter and activist for women is Hilary Knight. Knight is a 31-year-old American hockey player. Today, Knight can be considered one of women's hockey top influencers. Along with the PWHPA, Knight has pushed the #ForTheGame movement, fighting for equal opportunity and for the future of pro women's hockey in North America. In 2017, Knight was one of the major voices when the U.S. team demanded better treatment and opportunities. The team ended up threatening to boycott the world championships on home ice.

All of these individuals have created movement for all, while sacrificing so much.

They have generated the mindset in many young girls to fight toward their goals no matter how hard it becomes, and especially the fact that anything is possible. 🐾

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Tell Kendall Coyne that women can't play ice hockey.

# Masked lil' ballers bounce through tough COVID season



Ballers in the Grade 2-4 NLYAA basketball association stayed strong during their season. (In back) Coaches Jennifer Karetsky, Jackie Hege, and (right) director Heather Truett.

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## A new sport opportunity is available on NL campus



Photos by Breanna Hoppes for The Slate

Over the river, through the woods, a dogleg to the right.. It's in the cage. Mr. Scott Gerould hits the (chain) links on the NL campus's partial disc golf course.

### Disc Golf, from page 10

trail that enters the woods between the throwing area and the Slatinton Skeet Club," said Mr. Scott Gerould, the Wellness Fitness teacher and a coach at NL.

The overall idea is to allow any student or resident in the area to use the courses. The idea is to get more people active while broadening their horizons to more sports. Also with the courses being located on campus, Gerould and Mr. Ryan Cunningham, the other Wellness Fitness teacher, can use the equipment during Wellness Fitness Classes. "The overall idea of the Northern Lehigh Disc Golf Course is to provide an affordable outdoor pursuit that is also a lifetime activity for the NL students and community. It will be a good complement to the nine holes at Victory Park Disc Golf Course. The hope is to foster growth in the sport and in the use of the 20 or so disc golf courses in Lehigh Valley. Having our own course here at NL provides me with an opportunity to introduce the sport and to teach the particulars to Wellness and Fitness students on a real course," Gerould said.

Looking to the future, a goal of possibly creating an extracurricular activity or club out of this sport, is the idea at hand. This can bring more competition and participation to the NL district. "Eventually, I'll see if there are students interested in forming an intramural or club and then possibly competing with other clubs," Gerould said.

The sport of disc golf is going to bring community to the school and supply more options to the students. 🐾



## Artist of the Month goes for creativity over perfection

### Artist, from page 9

for exact work and smudges easily as well. But, as Hailey's finished product is displayed above, it's obvious that she has done an incredible job of adjusting to the new properties and challenges of using charcoal.

Hailey mentioned that she had a great

time creating this work. She enjoyed learning about a new type of medium, and all the techniques that are utilized for it. In Hailey's own words, she presents her work to the public in the hopes that her artwork shows viewers that, "Sometimes, it is better to have fun with what you are creating, instead of trying to make sure it comes out perfect."

The sunset piece was different from any other piece that she has previously created and was her first time using charcoal. Before, she was more comfortable with using watercolor and acrylic paint. So, it was a new experience for her. If there is one main outcome that should be from spending countless amounts of time and energy creating something you are

passionate about, it should be that you had a good time along the way. Thank you for sharing your artistic talent with your fellow peers, Hailey.

If anyone has any interest or questions about the Artist of the Month, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Shuey via email, or visit him in the Art Room.

# COVID's rapid spread through the globe

BY GIANA ROSARIO  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

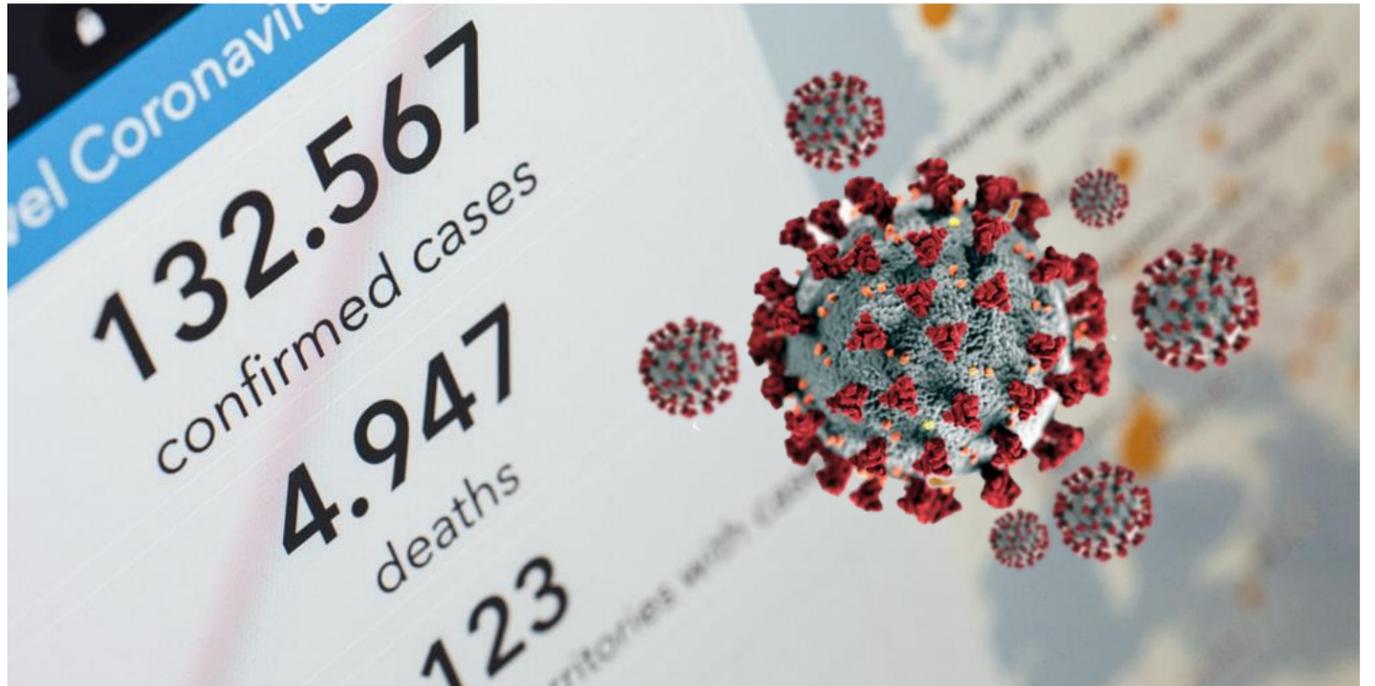
On March 13, 2020, our school went on a two week break due to the spread of COVID-19. That break inevitably turned into a much longer one. This was very unexpected.

It has been over a year since this chaos all started. Everyone was excited to get out of school for a while, but that happiness didn't last very long. It is hard to even remember how life was before this pandemic.

Our country has majorly mishandled this sickness. So far, there have been 28 million cases in the United States alone. Globally, there have been over 114 million cases, and that number is rising everyday. According to movehub.com, the top five countries that handled the pandemic well are: Taiwan, New Zealand, Iceland, Singapore, and Vietnam. These countries have had the least amount of COVID-19 cases and deaths. Taiwan had 955 cases and 9 deaths, New Zealand had 2,378 cases and 26 deaths, Iceland had 6,049 cases and 29 deaths, Singapore had 59,936 cases with 29 deaths, and lastly, Vietnam had 2,448 cases with 35 deaths.

These places are doing well with slowing down the virus. Contrary to those countries, the U.S. isn't close to that. As a matter of fact, it is ranked the number one country that handled COVID-19 the worst.

I believe the majority of people can agree that this pandemic majorly changed their lives. Most schools switched to vir-



tual learning and now many students have to learn from home. In my opinion, learning at home is not an easy task. It is harder to ask questions and learn to the best of our ability. Learning at home can bring down your motivation. Just losing the routine of getting up and physically going to school everyday was challenging. Students were so used to going in person that it made it harder to transition to online schooling.

Working on school work at home is not the only aspect of our lives that changed. We now have to be cautious of our health. Sure, we all cared about our

health before, but when the pandemic hit, our thinking altered. Social distancing and wearing masks have been implemented into many schools and businesses across the country. People were not as careful with germs and their health, but witnessing this pandemic made everyone open their eyes. It is still hard to believe all of the activities people did before COVID-19.

Mental health can also be triggered due to the pandemic. It is not easy to always be home. We all want to go out, but it is just not safe at this point in time. We face challenges daily that can lead to

stress and anxiety. To help cope with stress, cdc.gov says to take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, take care of your body, make time to unwind, and connect with others. Using these techniques can help you feel more relaxed. Additionally, helping other people cope is a great thing. Just a simple phone call can make them feel better.

As you can tell, our lives have been completely changed in many ways due to the pandemic. Last year, we were all very different people. For better or worse, the virus made us change our way of thinking and living. 🐾

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# MONUMENTAL MOMENTS IN HISTORY

## Mercy Dogs: Man's best friend in battle and beyond



BY CALLUM BRYCE ZIMMERMAN  
SLATE HISTORIAN

Man's best friend has also been man's battle buddy for as long as dogs have been domesticated. Our canine companions can do much more than just fight alongside us in times of war. Modern-day uses of dogs include bomb-sniffing and locating the bodies of the fallen.

World War I saw some uses of dogs unique to that war, especially in terms of hunting the rats that spread disease and ate corpses in the trenches. Dogs were used in scouting parties; their unique senses, especially smell, allowed them to detect the presence of enemy troops long before their human counterparts. When on guard duty, sentry dogs alerted their handlers to even the most silent of a human presence. But the Mercy Dogs were truly the most unique among them.

Mercy Dogs, also called casualty dogs, were first trained by the Germanic armies of the 19th Century. Their true skill and dedication were best seen in World War I's new emphasis on prolonged trench warfare. The average World War I Mercy Dog would be equipped with a saddlebag containing water, alcohol, and first aid supplies. Specially trained to quietly move at night or after a battle, these dogs walked through no man's land to find their side's wounded soldiers. They were surprisingly capable of ignoring enemy soldiers, whether dead or merely wounded.

A Mercy Dog's job was simple: as soon as they found a soldier, the medical supplies could be used for them to patch up their own injuries. If their wounds were too severe, the dog would run back to safety with a piece of that soldier's uniform. The dog would then lead a paramedic to the injured soldier, and then the wounded would be taken back for

better treatment.

One of the most valuable services given by these loving Mercy Dogs was the comfort and company they gave to mortally wounded soldiers. Unable to return and on their last breaths, Mercy Dogs would stay with these soldiers and made sure they weren't alone in the end. This act was what caused people to dub them as dogs of mercy.

The most common kind of dog on the battlefields were German Shepherds and Doberman Pinschers, both of German origin. This was mostly due to their intelligence, endurance, and ability to be trained for even the most dangerous tasks. For the Mercy Dog, the most popular and able breed was the Boxer. Boxers are not only able to do what other breeds could, but they were also fiercely loyal and on top of comforting the wounded and dying, they would also guard and defend them until the end.

Up to 10,000 dogs are believed to have served as Mercy Dogs in World War I, and they were seen as a symbol of patriotism with feelings and care that matched any human. However, the work they did was dangerous, and many of them were killed in action or even suffered traumatic stress because of their service.

While mercy dogs continued to help well into the Korean War, the American Red Cross saw a different way to use their love to save lives — as therapy dogs. I'm sure there are thousands of veterans who have healed their trauma through the companionship these dogs continue to bring.

Their instinct for finding the wounded, protecting them until they were safe, and helping them hold on in the hardest times is truly a gift. I'm glad that their age-old service is still being put to use in a time of relatively more peace and now with much less risk to themselves. 🐾



Man's best friend were put to great use during wartime; known as Mercy Dogs, they were mostly used in the trenches and for first-aid.



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# ALL HAIL THE KING OF MARVEL

BY CHASE JONES  
THE SLATE COMIC GUY

Jack Kirby is arguably the most influential comic book artist of all time, reinventing the way we would forever look at comics.

Having worked beside Stan Lee, Kirby co-created some of Marvel's mightiest heroes, including many of the Avengers, the original X-Men, and the Fantastic Four. These creations along with his outrageous and impactful art style would earn him the title of Jack "the King" Kirby, a name given to him by Stan Lee himself.

Kirby was born Jacob Kurtzberg on Aug. 28, 1917, to Jewish immigrants Rose and Benjamin Kurtzberg from Austria. Growing up on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, he was determined to get out and make something of himself. Finding that he had a knack for illustration, he joined the Pratt Institute at age 14; however, he left within the week as it was not the best fit.

As his career began, Kirby would venture to all sorts of areas in illustration. He worked for newspapers, drew comic strips, science fiction magazines, etc. It wouldn't be until 1940 that Kirby would join Atlas Comics, the predecessor to Marvel Comics. At Atlas he would go on and co-create my favorite character, Captain America, with writer and editor Joe Simon. Later, Stan Lee would join the team, writing for the star-spangled character while Kirby drew.

By the 1960s Atlas had become Marvel as we know it and Lee and Kirby had become an unstoppable duo. With Kirby's newly evolved style breaking all the rules and Lee's powerful names and compelling storytelling, the two created hit after hit. With Iron Man, Thor, The Hulk, Black Panther, The X-Men, and The Fantastic Four hitting the shelves, the two men shaped Marvel Comics into what it is today.

There are many kings and queens throughout pop culture. Elvis was the king of rock n' roll, Michael Jackson was king of pop, and Aretha Franklin was the queen of soul. But, my favorite of the pop culture royalty will always be Jack Kirby, the most unsung of them all.

So many nerds like me are eternally grateful for what he did to shape the world we so often disappear into and yet he will never receive the recognition he deserves. For those of you who read this, next time you're watching a Marvel film, remember that it wasn't all Stan Lee and that Jack Kirby is the true king of all that us Marvel fans hold dear. 🐾

