

THE SLATE

ALL YOUR BULLDOG NEWS... UNLEASHED!

Crochet club stitches threads of connection, compassion

By Andi Szwast '27
Staff Writer

As one in several hundred others, it's easy for students to feel as though their individual voices have been drowned out; however, that's not the truth in all situations.

It only takes one ripple to create a wave, and that's exactly how freshman Madilynn Husack started the Northern Lehigh Crochet Club. Officially approved since the School Board meeting on January 8th, the club is advised by avid crocheters Mrs. Lisa Martinez and Mrs. Elizabeth Trantham, who are both para-educators for the district.

The club aims to preserve the dying art of crochet, teaching many middle- and high-schoolers this unique textile craft.

"[Madilynn Husack] came and asked me, she came up and she said, 'I know you crochet,' and she said, 'We're looking to open up a club. Would you be interested?'" shared Mrs. Martinez at the School Board meeting on January 2nd. Madilynn demonstrated the power of student voices by reaching out to the faculty around her and asking for assistance. At the

See Crochet, page 2

Taylor Swift's astounding '24

By Susan Gilsbach '24
Editor in Chief

Taylor Swift is one of the most well-known people in the music industry. She's had a career over a decade long spanning albums in genres ranging from country to pop to singer-songwriter indie. With this incredible legacy of music behind her, Swift's latest album *Midnights* won two Grammys, bringing her total to 14 of the prestigious awards. She also became the first person to win four awards in the Grammys' Album of the Year category.

With all of these tremendous musical achievements, it's no wonder that Swift was nominated for TIME magazine's Person of the Year award. Swift was picked from finalists including Barbie and King Charles III. Sam Jacobs, editor in chief of TIME, stated that



Vecteezy Stock

See Swift, page 2

Opportunities Ahead



Photo by Kyndra Dougherty

Julius Unangst practices his culinary skills at Lehigh Career and Technical Institute.



Photos by Kyndra Dougherty

(Left) Carli Herstich and Zoey Tessitore inspect for plaque and cavities. (Right) Emma Everitt prepares baked goods. Lehigh Career & Technical Institute is Pennsylvania's largest career and technical school. See more photos on page 14.

Have Mercy: John Stamos 'liked' one of my Insta posts

And now my life is forever different

By Haven Moore '24
Associate Editor

It was July 10th, 2023 *cue flashback*. I posted a "photo dump" (a handful of insignificant images I found worth sharing) on my personal Instagram account.

The post consisted mostly of random

pictures, some found on the internet, and others being taken by yours truly. One of them in particular was of me sitting on the floor in what I took to be a silly position, and snapped a 0.5 shot from an aerial view because... of course? Isn't that what anyone would do? This is the world



Shutterstock Photo "Hello Haven. It's me, Uncle Jesse."

we live in. The main focal point? The t-shirt I was wearing with an 80s full house era John Stamos face on it, captioned what he famously was known for saying on screen: "Have Mercy".

It was gifted to me by a friend of mine a year prior. The reason? A joke. An inside joke that I had an unhealthy obsession with a celebrity known as *the* John Stamos. I like the guy, he is a great man, in the eyes of myself and many others.

The extent of my liking for him I had was very over-dramatized because it was

funny to me. I feel that the ability to humor oneself is an advantage we all are offered that makes life more enjoyable. But alas, when one starts such a skit, one must commit to the bit.

It was not going to be easy to drop this. Scaling back from that context, I had chosen to tag John Stamos' account in my post. Being the busy and media-popular guy he is, the chances of him seeing this had not even entered my mind. But low and behold, to my pure

See Haven, page 3

INSIDE



The 'Weight' Is Over — New Powerlifting Club preps for gains. Page 10.



College Knowledge — Students need info before applying. Page 2.



Politics in Entertainment? — Patrick Conway has thoughts. Page 7.



Are You In the Stars? Students get connected to Astrology. Page 15.

Why students deserve answers on education costs, alternatives

By **Abby Peartree '24**
Associate Editor

Students are always told that they *have* to go to college, and that they *have* to get a degree, but why? And who is going to pay for it?

These questions are very real and present within the minds of young people today as they navigate their future after they leave the safety net that is high school behind in search of new opportunities, and often, these questions are left unanswered.

All of their young lives, students are told that they should go to college and get a degree in order to enter the workforce, but never really told why.

Of course, they're given the generic answer of money and more opportunities, but the fact that a person can get a steady job without college is rarely brought up. Alongside this, the fact that some college graduates get paid less than non-college graduates also fails to be mentioned. It is an inherent lack of education, ironically, that forbids students from knowing how to continue their education.

Classes like our required future-ready skills class are meant to educate students on how to be ready for their future, but the curriculum does not include much information on college. It is a useful course that definitely teaches things that students should know, but I argue that another class should be created to teach students about their future in the workforce.

While we do have Xello, it does not give us nearly enough information to continue on our path toward a steady job. The program is more focused on résumé building than on actually using that résumé to create one's image as a future employee.

For many students, community col-

lege seems like the only option. While they are shown other schools, and provided with other opportunities, they usually do not know enough to make any decision other than choosing community college.

For one, SAT/ACT prep courses are no longer required. While standardized tests do not make a good student, they are beneficial for those who wish to try their luck at getting into elite colleges such as the Ivy Leagues. Taking an SAT prep course outside of a public high school can cost upwards of five hundred dollars.

This kind of investment is not one that all students can afford to make, nor should they have to. On another note, students are not taught about the many scholarships available to them. There are scholarships available online for almost anything, but most students never find out about them as there is a lack of education regarding the subject.

Besides college, there are other ways to further your education after high school that most students do not realize. While we were all taught in middle school about LCTI and its many programs to choose from during high school, not a lot of students are taught that there are trade schools that you can go to after high school that offer even more trades than LCTI does.

Cosmetology school is a great example of a school that most students do not realize is an option. It should be taught that furthering your education does not always mean going to a typical college. While college is a viable option, it is not the end-all-be-all option that students are told it is.

The standardization of our education system to prepare students for college without preparing them for applying to or paying for college is one that is not benefiting young Americans in the way



that it could. Students are not told of the many opportunities that they have outside of high school.

While clubs like the CFES Scholars Program do exist, there is no guarantee that a student will hear all of their op-

tions. This is why I believe that schools should reform their curriculum to include courses that teach students about their future and how they can become successful in whatever they choose to do.

Rightfully deserved: Person of the Year *swiftly* awarded

Swift, from page 1

"Picking one person who represents the eight billion people on the planet is no easy task. We picked a choice that represents joy. Someone who's bringing light into the world. [Swift] was like weather; she was everywhere."

This is Swift's second time on the cover as Person of the Year, making her the first woman in history to be elected to the honor twice: once in 2017 and again this year. According to TIME, Swift is "the first person to be selected because of her achievement in the arts, and only the fourth individual selection in the last 50 years." She is also the first woman to be recognized more than once, and one of very few to even be recognized more than once.

Swift spent her summer breaking records, and spent the decades before doing the same. She breaks barriers for women, allowing them to see just how much a woman can do if she puts her mind to it. She shows people that their emotions are valid, even when the world says otherwise. She is empowering a new generation of women to rise up and become leaders, changemakers, and chal-



Shutterstock Photo

lengers to the double standards set for women, like the idea that women cannot be successful singing songs about their heartbreaks and feelings.

During her performance at her *Eras Tour*, she stresses her achievement, particularly before performing her song "The Man." Swift uses this song to call attention to sexism that women face

daily, and she introduces it in the tour by giving herself credit for her achievements.

Her traditional line is "You're making me feel like *I'm* the man," but it has changed over and over to reflect her achievements throughout *Eras*, like when she stated to crowds in Las Vegas that they were "...making me feel like I'm

the first woman to ever headline Allegiant Stadium."

Swift is unapologetically herself, and inspires many by being unapologetically female and outspoken. She promotes what she is proud of, and isn't afraid of the media or what they will have to say about her.

When she began dating the Kansas City Chiefs' Travis Kelce, many football fans were disgruntled with the amount of screen time she received (even if it was only a few seconds in a game that lasted over an hour). Swift was unphased.

She knew what she was there for: to support her boyfriend while he played the sport he loved. Kelce did the same earlier last year when he was in the audience for one of Swift's *Eras* shows.

Taylor Swift has spent decades breaking barriers for women all over the world. Through her music, people have been able to connect with each other and form lasting relationships. This truly has been a year where Swift has been everywhere, all over headlines and the music scene. Swift truly was a trendsetter this year, and her title shows that.

Crochet club aims to thread together student connections

Crochet, from page 1

same School Board meeting, Representative Mrs. Gale Husack stated, "This is probably the first time in a really long time that we've seen this many clubs come to the table. Our staff [is] stepping up to support those students. The administration is supporting those clubs and getting those students into other activities that are hopefully keeping them off the street, so I think our students are feeling empowered to come and ask for them and to be a part of them. That goes a long way, so thank you to the staff, administration, teachers, and our students for continuing to think of innovative ways to support each other."

Throughout each of their high school years, students are presented with the opportunity to shape the environment around them, but few choose to act upon this power and make a noticeable difference in their community. However, students' opinions are valuable to their education systems, ensuring that clubs and activities remain

places where students feel safe, comfortable, and eager to learn more, as well as reflective of students' interests. The more student voices are heard, the more clubs and activities are adapted to fit their needs. The more students participate in clubs and activities, the more enriched their educations and social connections become, and the more time they spend in a secure environment.

The Crochet Club aims to offer students a relaxed way to interact with others and create long-lasting bonds with both students and the art of crochet. In the future, club members hope to donate their handmade products to senior citizens, chemotherapy patients, and the homeless, among other various charities. Currently, they are working to create blankets for the cats at the Forgotten Felines & Fidos animal shelter in Germansville, PA, as well as expand their communications with other nearby organizations for the future. If you are interested in becoming a member, join us after school in Room 220 on Tuesdays until 4:00 pm!



Lacey Groover spends relaxing homeroom minutes working on her latest creation.

Go Clubbin': A need for diversity in school activities

Perspective from a soon-to-be graduate

By Susan Gilsbach '24
Editor in Chief

Throughout the high school, students are involved in a range of activities. Debate, theater, football, track, and the newspaper are just a few of the options that are available to students here at Northern Lehigh.

However, people often talk about the many benefits of participating in a sport. While these may be true, and have been proven to be, there are also benefits to the other multitude of clubs that are offered at the high school.

All of the non-sport clubs encourage students to socialize and branch out to their fellow students. This networking skill is crucial in the job market and in

college, if students see themselves going down that path. Not only do clubs encourage students to find people with similar interests, they also develop crucial skills for students.

My experience on the Northern Lehigh Debate Team has proved invaluable. Throughout my time on the team, I have been able to develop my research and writing skills, especially my argumentative writing skills, which will prove essential to my future career in law. By crafting an argument that persuades the judges and audience that I am more factually based than my opponent, I have created logical reasoning skills and the ability to have a civilized debate without things getting out of hand (which is often not the case these days).

These skills have proved invaluable to me during my time at the high school, and will continue to do so throughout my life. The theater has helped me to

improve my confidence and public speaking skills immeasurably. I have become so much more confident in myself and my ability to memorize through lines, blocking, and choreography.

I have grown to know my theater castmates and been able to form bonds with them that will last a lifetime.

My time with *The Slate* has helped me to improve my journalistic writing skills so much, and I am so proud to have been able to rise through the ranks throughout my time.

I went from a part time writer, to a core staff member, to associate editor, and finally, to editor in chief in the span of my four years in high school. I have been so lucky to have been able to write about topics that many school newspapers would not dare to come close to. I have developed skills like conversational writing and leadership that will come with me outside the walls of the high school. As editor in chief, I have also had

to make important decisions about page layouts and headlines, which influenced and sharpened my decision making skills.

There are so many other clubs here at Northern Lehigh that encourage students to pursue their passions.

These clubs are essential to young people, as it allows them a well-rounded high school experience that encourages them to explore what they may like. This will prove to be an priceless resource as the next generation looks to go on to higher education, or enter the job market.

Students need that diverse schooling experience in order to meet the requirements of different jobs. The club options here at the high school should serve as a model for how to educate a student in all areas, rather than just the core subjects. These skills developed here will follow us as we pursue higher education and jobs in the future.

From an Oikos yogurt ad straight into Haven's heart

Haven, from page 1

shock, I stumble upon the man's name as a user who *liked my post*. I was stunned.

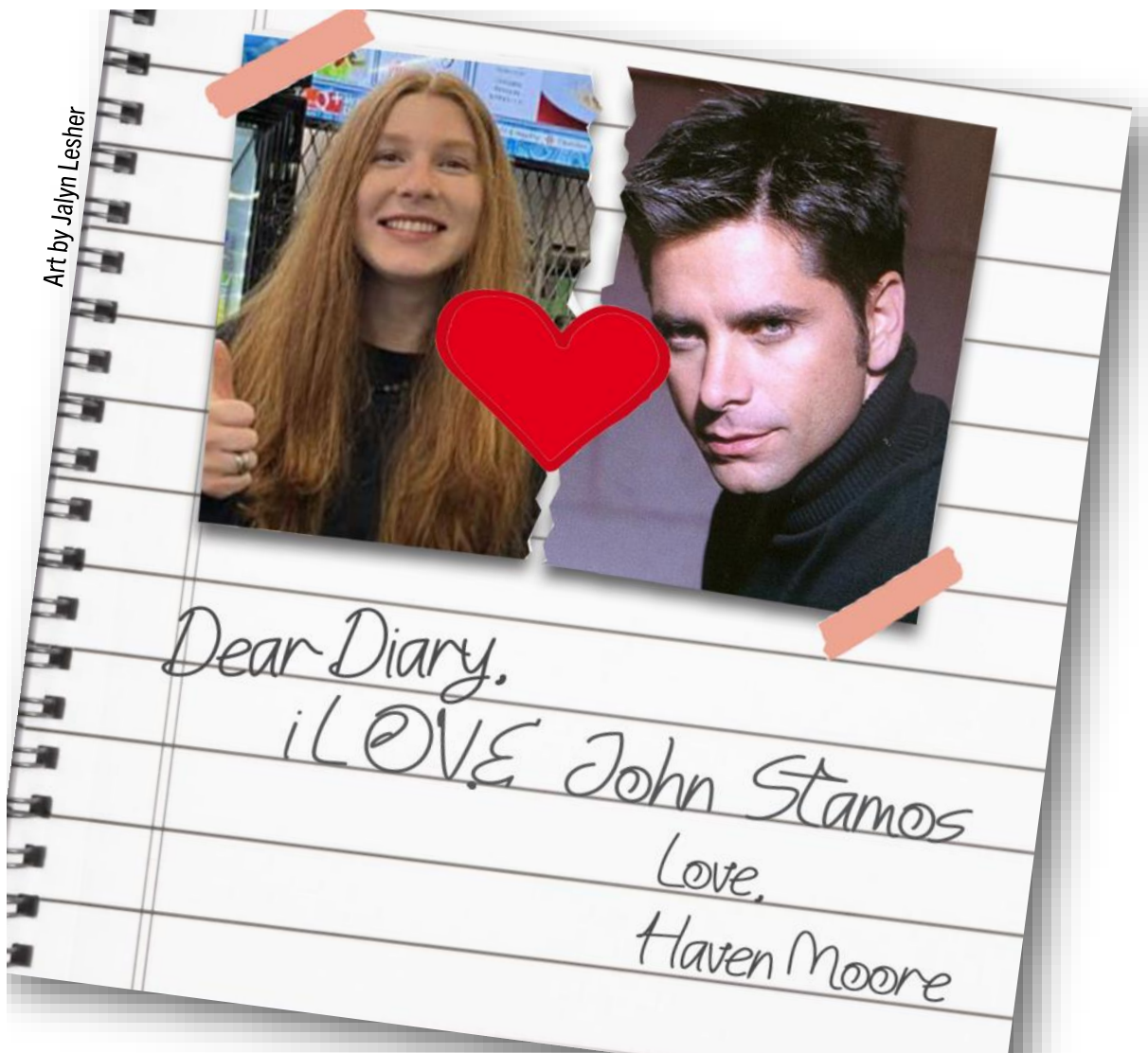
I didn't see it coming. My instant reaction was to take a screenshot and immediately send it to the people I had shared this inside joke with. Heck, anyone. The range of funniness just exponentially increased. I was flooded with delight, as in my mind, I was being recognized by a celebrity!

But then, did I consider, whether had I committed to the bit with such dedication and consistency that I convinced myself to believe this joke? Had I been swept off of my feet by the only cool drop dread gorgeous uncle who also is practically a beach boy (and an occasional drummer - how multi-faceted can he get)? I hoped this was not true. Beyond the lack of shame and doing it all for giggles, I did not want this to be a part of me. However, I could not deny I was sitting blissfully on cloud 9, for this marked as a monumental moment in my life.

To this day, I still reminisce that evening, contemplating the fact that I have an honorary spot in the tagged posts section of his wildly famous profile, his "like" notification etched in my mind. Imagining what was running through his head as his very own eyes were scrolling through the pictures of my little life. Do I consider the possibility that he, Mr. Stamos, Mr. 2007's sexiest man alive, did not in fact double tap that heart on the screen, but that maybe a social media manager of his had?

Yes. And how devastating that would be... however, I choose peace of mind, and to live in optimism.. My friends and I still bring up this joke quite often, and maybe one day, I be blessed enough to reach this joke's fullest potential: being acquainted with him in real life.

Art by Jalyn Leshner



A.F. Boyer Hdw. & Guns

Est. 1868
610-767-3162

Slatington Pa.

Full-Service Hardware & Gun Store

5th-Generation Family-Owned Business
155 Years Serving Our Community

- Cut Keys • Sharpen chainsaws, knives, lawn mower blades & more
- Repair window screens • Custom cut glass & plexiglass
- Huge selection of Electrical, Plumbing, nuts & bolts
- Fishing licenses/Launch permits, fishing supplies & live bait

"Lehigh Valley's Largest Firearms Dealer"

610-767-3162 / 130 MAIN ST. / SLATINGTON, PA 18080
AFBOYER.COM / AFBOYER1868@GMAIL.COM

Mon, Tues & Thurs: 8am-5:30pm Wed: 8am-Noon Fri: 8am-8pm Sat: 8am-5pm Sun: CLOSED
Watch for updates on our Facebook page

Caring Hearts

Strength

Clothing Closet And More

"Where Everything Is Free"

7935 Rt. 873
Slatington, PA 18080

Rentschler's Auto Dealership is our community partner for donation dropoffs. (5 tall kitchen bag maximum). Check out our "Caring Hearts Cache Thrift Booth" inside the Slatington Farmers Market.

We accept:

- ♥ Clothing donations
- ♥ Hygiene donations
- ♥ Household items

We Honor Veterans

caringdamhearts.org

Caring Dam Hearts

Caring Hearts Clothing Closet and More

Denise "Neice Eie" Martinez
Founder | CEO | President
484.240.9774

Patriots Contribute to Tails of Valor, Paws of Honor



Photo by Taylor Everk

Members of the NL Patriot Club recently visited Tails of Valor, Paws of Honor, Coopersburg, to present them with a \$1,000 donation. The flag on the wall is stitched together from various military uniforms. Pictured: Evelina Mayak, Adriana Danyluk, Taylor Everk, Olivia Schaeffer, Brody Rothrock, Jessica Erking, Porter Kern. More photos are available on our Instagram: @theslatenews.

Cuttin' loose before the curtain rises



Photos by K. Grozier

As of press time, "Footloose" rehearsals are wrapping up. (Top left, clockwise) Abby Peartree, Susan Gilsbach, Jalyn Lesh, Jessica Erking; Seth Schaeffer; Bailey Smith and Jackson Hunsicker; Jess Erking.

Time to cut loose, buy tickets now!

Get ready to kick off your Sunday shoes and dance in the aisles! Footloose, the musical, is coming to town, and you don't want to miss this electrifying experience that will have you tapping your toes and singing along all night long.

Adapted from the iconic 1984 film, Footloose tells the story of Ren McCormack, a Chicago teenager who moves to a small town where dancing has been banned. The conservative town, led by Reverend Shaw Moore, has forbidden dancing and loud music as a way to cope with a tragic accident that claimed the lives of several young people years ago. Ren, played by our talented cast, takes on the challenge of overturning this antiquated rule, inspiring the town to rediscover the joy of dance.

What sets Footloose apart is its unforgettable soundtrack featuring hits like "Footloose," "Holding Out for a Hero," and "Let's Hear It for the Boy." These timeless tunes will transport you back to the 80s, making it impossible to resist the urge to get up and dance. The energy and enthusiasm of our cast will be infectious, leaving you with a smile on your face and the tunes stuck in your head long after the final curtain call.

The choreography in Footloose is nothing short of spectacular. Our talented dancers bring the stage to life with high-energy routines that showcase the freedom and joy of dance. From breathtaking solos to exhilarating group numbers, the choreography will leave you on the edge of your seat, marveling at the skill and precision of our incredible performers.

But Footloose isn't just about the music and dance; it's a heartwarming story of rebellion, friendship, and the power of community. As Ren challenges the status quo, he forms deep connections with the locals, including the minister's rebellious daughter, Ariel. The emotional journey of the characters will resonate with audiences of all ages, reminding us that sometimes, breaking the rules is the only way to truly live.

So, what are you waiting for? Grab your friends, dust off your dancing shoes, and head to the theater for a night of pure entertainment. Footloose promises to be a thrilling experience that will leave you buzzing with excitement. Don't miss out on the chance to be part of this musical extravaganza – get your tickets now and prepare to cut loose!

Northern Lehigh High School Little Theatre Presents...

Footloose

THE MUSICAL

Music by TOM SNOW

Lyrics by DEAN PITCHFORD

Stage Adaptation by DEAN PITCHFORD and WALTER ROBBIE

Additional music by ERIC CARMEN, SAMMY HAGAR, KENNY LOGGINS and JIM STEINMAN. Based on the Original Screenplay by Dean Pitchford.

MAR. 14-16 @7PM

MAR. 17 @2PM


\$15 ADULT

\$12 STUDENT/SENIOR

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE OR AT THE DOOR.

1 Bulldog Lane, Slatington, PA 18080 www.nlsd.org 610-767-9832 EXT. 1259

FOOTLOOSE is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.com



Diggity Dogs & More



LOOK WHAT'S NEW at 92!

"BEST KEPT SECRET IN TOWN"

OPEN ALL YEAR

M-F: 7AM-5PM ... SAT,SUN: 7AM-4PM

Located at the D&L Trailhead,
across from Boyer's Hardware



EDITORIAL

From Babbling to Bombastic

Hit the brakes on unfamiliar words and expand that lexicon

W
E
J
V
R
U
O

Consider this. There was once a time in which your language skills were undeveloped. Beyond a shriek, some whimpers, and an adorable yawn, no words were yet known.

Someone would ask, in the most infantile of voices, “Is someone awake already?” or “Does someone want his bah-bah?” You heard ‘em, but didn’t get ‘em.

Then through the magic of adolescent language, you acclimated. *Dada, Mommy, doggie, etc.* That lexicon evolved and your inner-vocabulary stockroom expanded.

When was the last time, these days, you came across an unfamiliar word and paused to research its simple definition? Too often, we view new words as unnecessary obstacles. “Ain’t nobody got time for that.”

We hit the brakes and step over

it, to simply move on leaving “apotheosis,” or “shambolic,” “louche,” and “scion” in the rear-view mirror.

A coruscant¹ vocabulary is not just a tool for effective communication; it is the key to unlocking a world of opportunities. Information is at our fingertips, and the ability to articulate thoughts with precision and nuance is a skill that sets individuals apart. It’s not just a matter of “sounding smart” or grandiloquent², but taking the initiative to learn that new word.

Learning new words opens doors to a broader range of perspectives, fostering a deeper understanding of various subjects and the world at large. This cognitive flexibility is invaluable in preparing students for the challenges they will face in their academic and profes-

sional journeys, regardless of where they end up.

Moreover, an expanded vocabulary enhances reading comprehension. As students encounter unfamiliar words in texts, a well-developed vocabulary enables them to decipher meanings within context, thereby accelerating the learning process. A strong command of language not only improves academic performance but also instills a lifelong love for learning.

Effective communication transcends borders. A diverse vocabulary allows us all to engage with a diverse array of people and cultures, promoting tolerance, empathy, and cultural awareness.

As we recognize the myriad benefits of vocabulary expansion, it becomes evident that investing time and effort in learning new

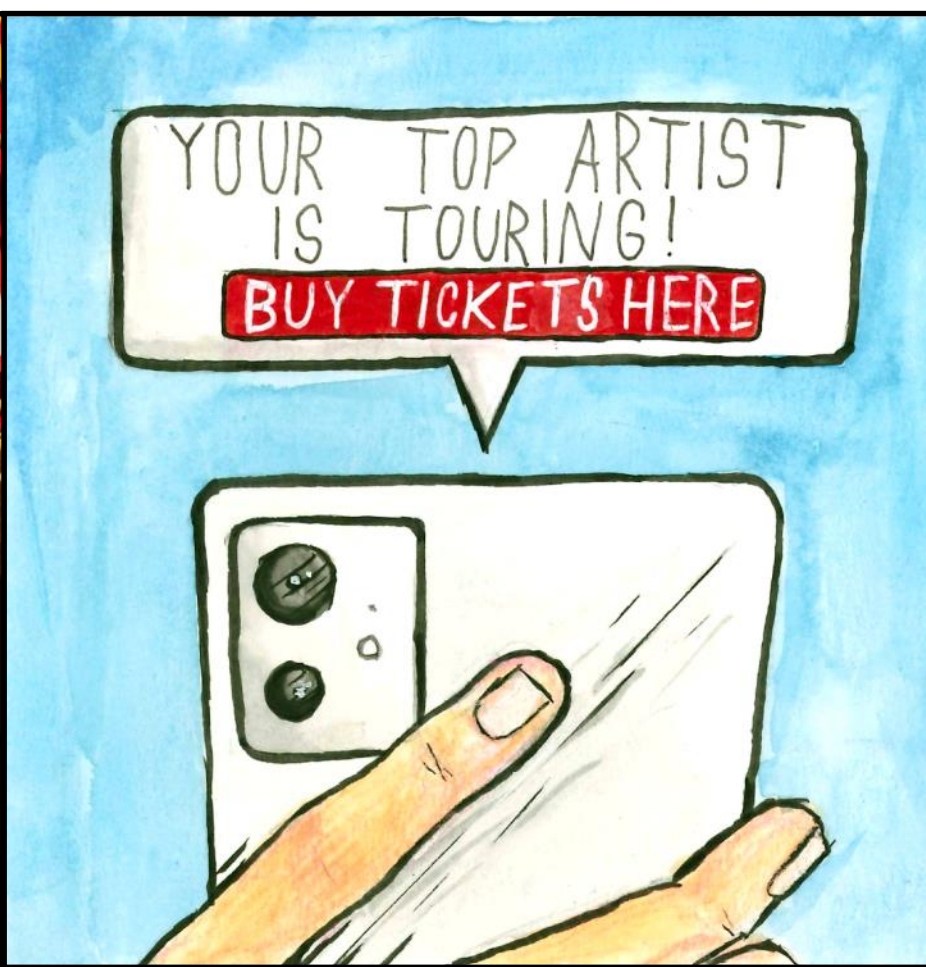
words is an investment in personal and academic success. Educators, parents, and students themselves must embrace the journey of linguistic enrichment, fostering an environment that values the power of words.

In the pursuit of knowledge, the arsenal of words at our disposal shapes the trajectory of our learning and defines our ability to contribute meaningfully to society. Champion the cause of linguistic enrichment, recognizing that in words lies the power to unlock the full potential of every student and to be held in such honorificabilitudinitatibus regard. Yes, that’s a real word. Look it up.

Perhaps we went too far.

¹ Glittering, sparkling.

² Pompous, extravagant



THE SLATE
ALL YOUR BULLDOG NEWS..

Northern Lehigh High School
1 Bulldog Lane
Slatington, PA 18080
theslatenews@nlsd.org

NewsMedia
Foundation

The Slate, published six times a year, is the journalistic voice of Northern Lehigh High School. Support for a free press is provided by Northern Lehigh administration: Dr. Matthew Link (superintendent), Dr. Tania Stoker (assistant superintendent), Dr. Lori Bali (principal) and Mr. Michael Strohl (assistant principal).

Susan Gilsbach
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Haven Moore
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Abigail Peartree
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Delaney Szwast
SPORTS EDITOR

Avery Diaz
SENIOR CONTENT EDITOR

STAFF WRITERS, ARTISTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Jalyn Leshner, Kyndra Dougherty, Alondra Gonzalez Monsalve, Jameelah Gonzalez, Chloe Benner, Samantha Mack, Savannah Hall, Patrick Conway, Lacey Groover, Andi Szwast, Morgan Smith, Fiona Jones, Ada Porobenski, Kristiana Callaby

BILLING MANAGER
Mrs. Kathy Nowlin

MANAGING ADVISER
Mr. Christopher Barnes

@theslatenews

theslatenews@nlsd.org

American Idiots

Should our entertainment be stuffed with politics?

By Patrick Conway '26
 Slate Columnist

How many days have you gone without consuming some form of political media in the last few years? Most likely, if you're similar to the majority of the population, you'll have seen very few periods with a lack of political content. You can be scrolling through television channels and come across an ad slandering the "other side", or come across an Instagram post of a political action group begging you for help, followers, or simply your support.

These ads are a nuisance for most people, resulting from their boring and ineffective strategies. Many people, ironically, opt to ignore the important messages sent from political advertisements as a result of the unrealistic and boring appearance they give of politics.

It's not a bad thing to ignore these advertisements, though. It's very understandable to pay less attention to these ads. Most other advertisements, especially ones relating to consumer goods, do better jobs at making a compelling argument.

Partaking in a consumer-driven market creates a higher demand for products consumers want to buy, which makes them much more compelling than political commercials in most cases. It's much more difficult to consume or buy a politician than your favorite album. For one of the first times in history, our worries, for the most part, are focused on our material and social wants just as much as our material and social needs.

The things we simply want-- what we can consider entertainment-- are, on the surface, almost entirely depoliticized. A large portion of movies, songs, and TV shows focus more on our wants, making a narrative about something fun to consume. There isn't a heavy presence of urgency or expression of material and societal needs in entertainment.

That is, of course, unless you're a Green Day fan.

Green Day is a punk rock band that rose to fame in the 1990s. They've remained popular in the media for a long time and were given the opportunity to perform on this year's edition of the *New Year's Rockin' Eve* on NBC. During the performance of the band's hit song, "American Idiot", Billie Joe Armstrong, frontman of the band, changed the line "I'm not a part of a redneck agenda" to fit his opinions on former President Donald Trump and his voter base, singing, "I'm not a part of the MAGA agenda".

Though many supported this seemingly random political statement, many people-- especially Republicans-- have made fiery arguments against Armstrong, boycotting the band entirely for what they believe to be unnecessary political statements.

The performance has raised a wider question, though many simply ignore it: does politics belong in entertainment?



Art by Lacey Groover

Before we can answer this question, it's best to understand Armstrong's intentions of changing the lyrics.

Green Day's members have always held leftist opinions. They all have made many direct statements about their beliefs, but more importantly, have made indirect statements in their music. Many of their songs have had implicit political messages weaved into them.

One of the most famous ones by the band was, funnily, "American Idiot". The song was originally about Billie Joe Armstrong's opposition to George W. Bush, alongside his conservative following. In particular, Armstrong despised the initiation of the 2003 War in Iraq, going so far as to start petitions online

to beg the former president to cancel his plans. This didn't work, and Armstrong created lyrics for the song to represent what he believed to be the inherent stupidity of the right-wing and Bush's followers.

As time went on, Armstrong's opinions have had new priorities-- one of them being his disgust with former president Donald Trump. In an act of opposition to his recent run, he changed the line to his song to connect it to Bush's aggressive policies. Though it's debatable whether Bush and Trump had similar policies, it isn't debatable that Armstrong strongly dislikes both politicians, and the song captures the band's extreme dislike of Republican talking

points.

This isn't the only Green Day song to do things like this. Many of Green Day's songs express discontent with the system. This isn't a new thing that Armstrong did to make a stunt. This isn't a new thing at all for any media type-- almost all of our entertainment tries to weave values into its narrative.

It isn't always apparent to consumers, but critique and idealism are almost always implemented in entertainment. It is inherent to the medium-- so inherent it is the reason it is made and enjoyed. There's a reason English teachers spend countless hours teaching their

See Politics, page 8

Letters

Boys soccer coach steps down, offers appreciation

Dear Northern Lehigh High School Community,

As I reflect on my time as the boys' varsity coach, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible support and opportunities afforded to me. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the head coach of the boys' varsity team, and I am incredibly proud of the progress and achievements we have accomplished together. We went from a team that won three games in the previous five years to a team that won 10 games, tied 4 in the last two years.

I would like to extend my deepest thank you to Superintendent Dr. Link for entrusting me with the responsibility of leading this team

and to athletic director Bryan Geist for your guidance and support. I am indebted to all the coaches from the other fall sports, for their cooperation and accommodations.

To fellow soccer coach Reinhard for his camaraderie and encouragement, and to his team, for their support and willingness to train and practice with us, your collaboration has been invaluable. A special thanks to assistant coach Tristen Moore your insight was invaluable and Trainer Matt, your help was immeasurable.

And lastly, a special thank you goes to Mr. McCarty and Kristie Wilk for their guidance and support during that crucial first season.

Your encouragement helped me navigate the challenges and set the foundation for our future success. Parents, and fans, thank you for your support. It has been an unforgettable journey, and I am grateful for the memories we have created together.

Lastly, to the current players, to have a chance to succeed you must give it your all. Your fellow teammates deserve that from you and you owe it to yourselves. Keep the program moving forward.

With sincere appreciation,

John Murray
 Former Northern Lehigh High School Boys Varsity Coach

Unveiling the Diminishing Curtain

Society's shift from live theatre to screen entertainment raises concerns about the loss of human connection and imperfection in performances

By Abby Peartree '24
Associate Editor

Live theatre has been the backbone of entertainment since the dawn of time. Ever since the hunter-gatherer era of the world, it has been a way to communicate with and entertain audiences. Starting as ritualistic, it was never intended to be a

time of leisure, but it soon blossomed into one. Recently, however, our society has seen a shift from live theatre to recorded performances.

Television and streaming services have incentivized the modern person to watch their shows from the comfort of their own homes rather than from an auditorium seat. However, the experience of seeing a show on

the TV screen is not the same as experiencing it within a community in an auditorium. The fact that the world has abandoned the stage for the screen is one of society's biggest entertainment losses.

One of the beauties of live theatre is the room for error. In live productions of musicals and plays, people can be people. They can mess up,

they can miss a note, and they can make all sorts of mistakes that are never shown on a pre-recorded program. The screen offers an experience that is unique in the fact that it is without flaw, but this uniqueness is not always good. Being without flaws makes for a huge disconnect between the audience and the performer. To watch live theatre is to watch human beings feel and experience human emotions whilst they reach for a human goal. To watch a movie is to watch perfect robot-like human beings feel and experience those same emotions in a perfect, non-messy, way as they reach for their goal that is only achievable after the 500th take as takes 1-499 were all too messy.

The experience of live theatre is unique every day. On Saturday's performance, an actor may have said a line almost completely different from Friday's performance, and an actor at Rebel Stages may make character choices completely different from an actor at Civic Theatre. Your seat may change what you see. A seat in the middle is typically regarded as the best choice, but a seat to the side may grant you a whole new perspective. Meanwhile, the movies and TV shows that the modern world has come to love are consistent.

The story is always the exact same. The seat you choose does not affect your view of the actors. That DVD of Romeo and Juliet starring Leonardo Di Caprio is always going to be the same, but seeing it live at the Globe one day will never be the same as the next. The names of the characters, and the lines that are said, give or take some improv, are virtually the only consistencies between these performances of the same show.

The human connection is more evident when watching live theatre than it is when watching a movie. Watching a movie, you cannot feel the emotions that you can when you view live theatre. As you sit in the audience of a live performance, you can feel the energy in the room shift at any given moment.

There is an air of tension during emotional scenes, and there is an air of calm when the conflict is resolved. That same feeling is not felt when watching a film. You will find that watching a film does not make your heart pound nearly as much as watching a live performance.

In the modern world in which entertainment is ever needed for our sanity, it is not always clear what choice to make. It is understandable to choose the cheapest and most readily available option, but that does not mean that is your only choice. Every now and then, when you find yourself craving a uniquely human experience, find a live show, pick a seat to the side, and rediscover the magic of live theatre.



Photos by K. Grozier

(Top) Bailey Smith. (Above) Abby Peartree, Susan Gilsbach, Jalyn Leshner, and Jessica Erking in rehearsals for Footloose.

Should politics enter the stage and screen?

Politics, from page 7

students about analyzing literature. Literature may be a form of entertainment, but it often has themes that it wants to develop and messages to send. That is the point of entertainment and media-- sending messages and ideas.

This idea applies to all types of entertainment, and for good reason-- the messages sent are normally up to the consumer's interpretation and is a reason why the meat and potatoes of almost any piece of entertainment takes a bit of thinking. Green Day normally follows this idea, but recently took it one small step further by giving this message more outright.

So, to answer the previous question of politics in entertainment, the answer

is yes. You must think about what you consume. Not everything is in black and white, but rather a shade of gray in between. It's important to learn to understand these nuanced details and learn what they offer to us. Doing this develops our mind and allows us to think critically-- beyond the limits of plot and setting. There is much more to our entertainment than what lies on the surface. That's what makes our books, TV shows, movies, plays, and music art. Art is an expression of the mind; an expression of the human ideal. Being able to develop ideas in the mind that express not just creativity, but opinions and emotion, is what makes entertainment so compelling.

Art isn't just sounds put together, or pens and paper--art is thought. It can

be a blank canvas or a single note, but if it has a purpose, it is art. You don't have to agree with the thought presented, nor do you have to disagree. What is important is that you recognize that art forms are based upon human thought and that the implementation of these ideas is caused by human intellect and ideas-- something all people have. It isn't only Green Day that implements politics into their songs.

All sorts of famous musicians express ideals in their music-- John Lennon, Oliver Anthony, Bob Dylan, Rage Against the Machine, and many other musicians and groups have implemented their thoughts about politics and the human condition in their lyrics. People who are currently slandering Green Day for their bold move have a right to disagree

with the ideas presented, but not the fact they present ideas. All people should be entitled to present their ideas, so long as they don't directly harm others. People that disagree with that idea have no true respect for art's purpose-- expressing thought.

Without thought, there is no ideal: with no ideal, no emotion, and without emotion, there is no art-- just work mindlessly put onto a canvas or track or screen to be served to the naive and mindless people who don't understand the true significance and purpose of art-- expressing emotion through thought, and without emotion, is there such a thing as art?.

SPORTS



Photo by Emma Wensing

The NL Girls Basketball team earned a hard-fought second place in District XI action this year. As of press time, the team was set to face Mast Community Charter School on March 8.

Eagles' soaring start plummets to disappointing end

By Fiona Jones '27
Staff Writer

The Eagles started off the season with a bang. They began the season winning 11 games in a row. They lost their winning streak to the New York Jets. During the game against the Jets, the Eagles' quarterback, Jalen Hurts, started the game off strong, but then the offense started to fade as the game went on.

The Eagles lost their right tackle, Lane Johnson, due to an ankle injury in the first quarter of the game. Due to a variety of bad plays and interceptions the Eagles streak was shattered.

The rest of the season was full of ups and downs as well as emotions from the fans. The Eagles struggled defensively struggled after losing five starters from last year's team. The defensive team did not progress from the start of the season. Ever since Matt Patricia became the defensive play caller, the Eagles' defense was allowing 26.75 points per game. When Sean Desai called the plays, they were allowing 24.69 points per game.

However, the Eagles, against the odds, were able to finish the regular season with a record of 11-6. The Eagles qualified for the post-season due to those early season wins and some key

contributors: Jalen Hurts, AJ Brown, DeVonta Smith, D'A Swift, and Jason Kelce.

The Eagles ultimately fell to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers during the wild card round of the playoffs. The final score was a dramatic 32-9 loss for the Birds. It was not only an emotional loss for fans because of a brilliant start to the season, but also because many fans feared that this was Jason Kelce's last game.

Jason Kelce, the center and an Eagles captain, has become a Philly icon in recent years. Not only is he a prior Super Bowl champion, a seven time Pro-Bowl selection, and a six time, first team All-Pro selection, he is also regarded as one of the greatest centers of all time.

He is also known for his outlandish dress; New Heights podcast with brother and fellow NFL athlete, Travis Kelce; and his legendary Super Bowl parade speech about underdogs. Fans feel Kelce is inspiring and the spirit of the team. This Toyota Player of the Year hasn't officially announced his retirement after his 13th season, so fans cling to the hope he will return for another season and energize fans and players alike.



Art by Alondra Gonzalez-Monsalve



From the **SIDELINES**
BY DeLaney SzwaSt, SPORTS EDITOR

Coach Fahler (Boys Basketball): How did the season go?

Certainly we all believed we'd have more wins this year. That being said, I believe we all grew as a basketball team this year. Our scoring and competitive disposition were the two areas where we grew the most. Our kids came into the season with great attitudes and maintained them throughout the season. Any coach is fortunate if they have coachable players that give their best efforts. Both qualities definitely apply to our players this year!

Improvement for next year?

We'll have to get stronger and faster

during the off season. This will require a commitment to hitting the weight room and sticking to a consistent workout regimen throughout the summer.

Key players?

We will certainly miss our senior captain, Nick Buskirk, next year. Nick has been an amazing leader by giving his heart and soul for his teammates and coaches this year. He led us in rebounding and modeled what it means to be coachable and hard working each day! We wish Nick success in baseball and college next year. Nick will be a success in anything he chooses to do.

We have many young players returning next year: Junior Connor Simms grew into one of the leading scorers in the Colonial League this year, while averaging 18+ points per game. We counted on Connor to do it all this year, and he responded like a champ. We're counting on Connor to lead us in the offseason and next season!

Freshman Kellen Bauer has grown into an excellent 3 pt shooter this year. He also was among the league leaders in free throw percentage at over 70%. As the season progressed, Kel became more aggressive and confident. We're looking for big things from Kel next year and beyond.

Freshman Dare-Rious Smith had an amazing season. In our offense, we ask a lot of our point guard. Dare-Rious shouldered the burden of handling the ball the majority of each possession. He was asked to beat pressure, understand our numerous sets, get the ball to the right person at the right time, and defend opponents' scorers. In addition to meeting those crucial responsibilities, Dare-Rious is able to take the ball to the basket and finish consistently.

Sophomore Coy Daubert started the majority of games for us. Coy is very coachable and flexible in playing various

See Sidelines, page 11

Pumped up for new weightlifting club

By Delaney Szvast '24
Sports Editor

The 'weight' is over: Northern Lehigh High School's newly-established weightlifting club has finally begun! The club was recently approved at the January School Board meeting, and while it does not yet have an official name, it now gives students of all experience levels the opportunity to learn more about weightlifting and improve their abilities. It also gives students the opportunity to bond more with one of the school's police officers, officer Mark Nicosia.

Officer Nicosia knew that he wanted to form a weightlifting club as soon as he was introduced to the weight room in the field house. He has a passion for powerlifting, bodybuilding, and weightlifting, which he has been doing since he was around age fifteen.

"The knowledge I have gained over my time is essential and something I hope to pass down to the kids in the club to assist in getting better results, better self confidence, and most importantly, less injuries by performing more effective movements safely," he explained. "...My knowledge in supplementation, nutrition, and physical fitness is extremely extensive, which is a benefit because these days influencers on TikTok and Instagram are all trying to sell unrealistic body images by promoting supplements that do nothing and can even cause harm to the body and mind. Sifting through the nonsense and illuminating the good and bad is something no one taught me, and now it's something I can pass on to those who are unaware."

Officer Nicosia wants to give students a worthwhile habit to fall back on when times are rough. Weightlifting, he explains, gives students an outlet for their emotions and something beneficial to reflect on: "I lift in the morning, and some find me crazy, but this ensures no matter how my day goes, I have a positive to fall back on," he shared. "[When you have] a tough day where nothing goes right, and maybe you failed a test or broke up with your partner, think to yourself, 'hey, at least I got a good lift this morning.' Small positives can make a huge difference."

Officer Nicosia's main goal is to get more students to be active and involved in weightlifting while ensuring that they are lifting safely so that they do not experience injuries later in their lives. He also hopes to help athletes become stronger and "more resilient for their sports," which will benefit the school's sports teams as well as the individual athletes.

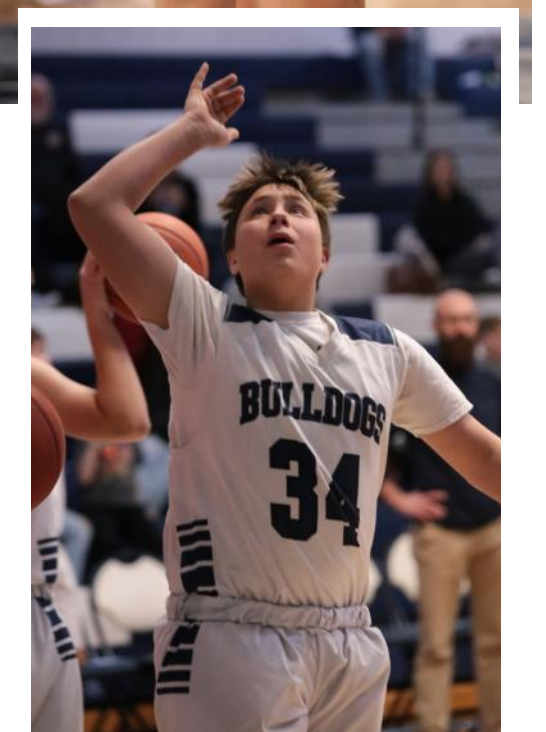
In addition to this, he hopes to eventually expand upon the weightlifting club by introducing a powerlifting team to Northern Lehigh: "A dream of mine is, in a few years time, to also start a powerlifting team to compete with other schools," he said. "...I hope to build a lifting community where everyone pushes each other to be better and push harder. Kids who wouldn't normally associate [with each other] may build relationships, and a whole new culture can rise from this."

Officer Nicosia is very enthusiastic about the weightlifting club, and he is eager to see what the future holds: "The sky's the limit, and this club will be what you, the kids, make of it," he explained. "There is no time like the present to build positive habits and learn things you don't learn in school from teachers that you can use for the rest of your life."



Art by Lacey Groover

JV boys basketball action



Photos by Lifetouch

(Clockwise, from top left) Zaid Salih and Dregan Millroy; Parker Schaffer; Coy Daubert; Joseph Chando; Rami Oaziz and coach Jake Waylen; Landon King; Kayden Novicki.



From the Sidelines, by Delaney Szwast

Sidelines, from page 9

positions. He is an excellent 3 point shooter. This year I asked him to guard the opponents' best player on multiple occasions and Coy responded with impressive results.

Freshman Colin Karetsky got a late start this year due to a football injury. Colin began starting at the varsity level for the final two weeks of the season. He is an excellent athlete and really helped our team with his aggressive play in securing both offensive and defensive rebounds for us. We are looking forward to having Colin for a full season next year.

Sophomore Zaid Salih displays a love for competition everyday. Zaid displays great athleticism at practice and in games and will continue to increase his basketball IQ in the years to come. Other players we are counting on in the future include: Sophomores: Kaydon Novicki, Dregan Millroy; Freshman: Parker Schaffer, Landon King, Rami Ouziz, Joseph Chando.

Any other comments?

I want to thank all of our assistant coaches. My son, Bobby Fahler, has been a great assistant to me both on and off the court. His positive attitude and love for our players was evident every day. My son's commitment to others

provides me with a great source of pride. Our JV coach, Mr. Jake Waylen, is Northern Lehigh royalty. Jake was and still is an amazing player. His insights into N. Lehigh basketball history was a great support to me this year. Coach Waylen's laid back demeanor serves as a great support for our players and his contributions to our team have been invaluable this year. Our middle school coaches, Mike Bauer and Zach Williams have been a great support as well. I appreciate their attention to detail in stressing fundamentals with our young and future players. Mike has taken the lead at that level and will be instrumental in develop-

ing players that can lead us to sustained success in the future. I appreciate Mike's commitment to providing our players with summer league opportunities this year.

In short, I feel blessed to be coaching basketball at N. Lehigh. I truly believe the future is bright but will require continual hard work on everyone's part to turn potential into reality. This is a special group of young people, and I look forward to taking the journey ahead with them. Many thanks to Mr. Geist and Dr. Link for providing me with this opportunity.

Overcoming the public speaking stigma

By Sam Mack '26
Staff Writer

Public Speaking has become a new interest as well as fear floating throughout the hallways of Northern Lehigh. The public speaking class has been reintroduced to the students of Northern Lehigh and it has gained much popularity. It is presented as an elective class which are classes that students choose to take. It was immediately a hit.

Great interest made other students want to participate in the elective. Public speaking has never been a topic focus in a regular English setting. However, most English teachers involve some sort of speaking in front of an audience at some point during the semester of the English course.

Northern Lehigh has a large English department filled with multiple views and opinions on the subject as a whole. Mr. Prive currently teaches the public speaking class for the 23-23 school year. Mr. Prive as well as the rest of the English department have become well familiarized with the aspect of speaking in front of the class, due to the requirements of becoming a teacher. Mr. Prive states "I speak in the public setting of my classroom daily, it's a regular part of my job. I also frequently have to communicate information to my co-workers in faculty meetings."

Daily communication with students is important in any class, but especially in an English setting.

Discussions, as well as peer comparisons, not only help students learn but also allow for creativity and the production of one's opinion or voice. Miss Urban also gave insight into her past and present alterations with oral presentation. She said "In school settings, I would feel extreme anxiety about interacting, speaking, etc., but I would be fine

speaking in other situations and even participated in choir...I needed to get outside of my comfort zone all the time by speaking even when I didn't want to... Through regular exposure, public speaking became less scary and more enjoyable."

Miss Urban's thoughts on public speaking show that even the strongest of voices can go through lots of anxiety. Public speaking generally makes a crowd wince, but for what reason? Mr. Prive says in his classes he notices the tense air because his students are afraid of being judged by their fellow peers. This is why speaking in front of others in a class is important to high school students.

Learning how to feel comfortable in front of others in a public setting is the first step to success when conquering the fear of speaking in front of an audience. Miss Urban tries to eliminate this fear in her classroom by providing opportunities for students to be nudged into speaking in front of their peers. She creates many projects that are both individual as well as group projects to help overcome the fear of being judged. She has tactics to assist students with anxiety "I don't spontaneously call on people who don't have their hands raised because I know I hated it when that happened to me in school."

Having a staff-to-student relationship on such a heavy topic, such as anxiety, creates a bond that guides students to find their footing and find a way to greatness.

It is helping students throughout NL to be able to speak in a sophisticated and unbiased manner while maintaining their style of speaking. Public speaking is important for the future of many and is helping the students of Northern Lehigh create new connections and help themselves for the better.



Reece Johnson conquers the perpetual fear of speaking before a crowd.

Photo by Somebody with a Camera

Lions Club OF SLATINGTON

*You are invited
to join us at our
annual fundraisers:*

Big Game Event:
Super Bowl Sunday

Comedy Night:
1st Saturday in March

Summer Bash:
4th Saturday in June

**Christmas
Tree Sales:**
Saturday after
Thanksgiving
until sold-out



We Serve!

**SERVING THE NORTHERN LEHIGH AREA
SINCE 1948**

Navigating the digital abyss

The urgent need for media literacy education in schools

By Ada Porobenski '27
Contributing Writer

The internet is a dangerous place. It is filled to the brim with false and inaccurate information that many need to keep an eye out for. But most people aren't taught or have the skill of knowing how to identify false and/or inaccurate information. That skill and knowledge is known as "media literacy."

Media literacy is critically assessing information found on the internet to make certain it is true and credible. Recently, there has been a decline in media literacy. According to The Daily Universe, a study conducted by the Stanford Graduate School of Education found that more than 80 percent of high school and middle school students (out of the 7,800 that were tested) could not tell the difference between fake news articles and real ones.

Another study conducted by Media Literacy Now found that only 42 percent of respondents recall learning how to analyze information found on the internet. The decline in media literacy has been growing for years and is causing extreme damage, and to prevent that, students should be taught how to properly analyze the media they consume on the internet.

Media literacy is extremely important. It allows one to understand and contribute to public discourse and make good decisions when it comes to



forming an opinion and choosing what to believe. Students are exposed to large amounts of media every day and all day between radio stations, TV, opinionated websites, advertisements, music, video games, and much more.

With this large amount of media stuffed in students' faces, they need to know how to properly consume it. And what better place to teach them how than in the classrooms? Having lessons or classes dedicated to media literacy can help students develop critical thinking skills for the online world and the real one.

Students can also learn how to create their own media effectively and re-

sponsibly with good media literacy, which can be helpful in both a work/school environment and, obviously, online. In another context, media literacy also promotes the skill of communication and working together with its encouragement of respectful discourse. Most students end up turning to the internet for research, and with proper media education, they can navigate information, weigh claims and sources, recognize arguments with bad faith or fallacies, and find reliable info with understanding issues like plagiarism and such.

Media literacy can also help students and children differentiate reality vs.

fantasy with media role models and real-life role models, media heroes and real-life heroes, and real-life violence vs. media violence.

There doesn't seem to be a downside to teaching students media literacy. In a study done by Media Literacy Now, they found that 84 percent of respondents supported media literacy education in schools. With media literacy education having mostly pros on its side, why isn't it yet taught in schools? Well, the answer is quite simple. Media literacy is not included in any of the K-12 teaching standards of most U.S. states, and since it is not in the standards, it is not going to be taught.

Ways of properly teaching media literacy and the effectiveness of the teaching have not been tested either. To add to that, few colleges of education have it in their curriculum, so many teachers are not properly prepared when it comes to teaching media literacy.

The lack of media literacy in American education can be seen with the adoption of the Common Core Standards, which pretty much ignores media as a whole. But these reasons that media literacy is not taught are completely reversible, and society, as a whole, should work towards making media literacy education a standard to help future generations navigate a media-saturated world responsibly.

Bulldogs caught workin' at the Marketplace

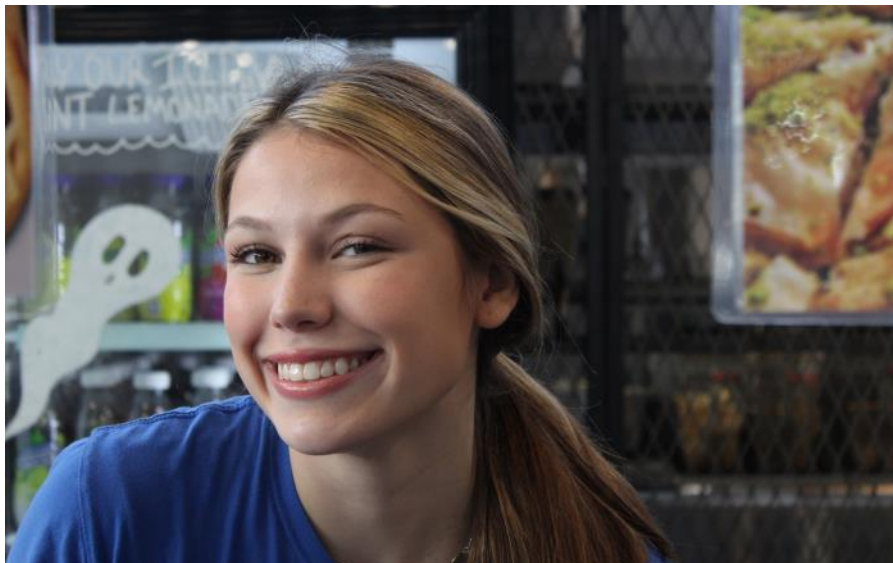


Auggie Unangst at the (former) Waffle Spot.

Photos by the Reflections Staff



Emma Smith cashes out customers at the Marketplace.



Cadence Whalen at True Blue Mediterranean.



Lizzy Youst keeps coffee drinkers lit at Bulb.



By Jameelah Gonzalez and Chloe Benner

Sloppy Tots, a new item on the lunch menu everyone is talking about. Imagine tater tots with the filling of a sloppy joe on top. Sounds interesting right?

Have you heard of the new club in the high school, the Crochet Club? Mrs. Martinez and Mrs. Trantham are there to teach you crochet skills, no matter if you're a beginner or experienced. They meet every Tuesday in the high school in room 220. Middle schoolers are also welcome to join.

Have you reserved your seats for the

musical yet? We are only a week away from opening night, meaning seats are going fast. The Northern Lehigh Little Theatre has been working their butts off trying to make this one of the best shows they've put on. With the crazy choreography and the wonderful acting from the students, you are sure to enjoy the show.

The winter sports season has almost come to an end. Congrats to all of the teams on their wins. You guys have worked your butts off to get to where you are now. A big congratulations goes to Aubrey Pollard for getting her 1000th point at Palmerton. For all the

seniors that are leaving; we will miss you and the impacts you have made to all the sports teams this winter.

The track and field season has started and we have many new faces. If you're a highschooler interested in joining, talk to the head coach Mr. Lehtonen. If you're a middle schooler who's interested, talk to Mr. Gupta. Whether you are interested in running or throwing, it's always fun to come out and try something. We could always use more people interested in track and field.

Have you ordered a yearbook? It's almost the end of the year, meaning you don't have a lot of time left to get one.

The "Hear the Year" theme is fun and an exciting theme that they have picked for it. The Yearbook club has put posters around the school promoting the yearbook by putting a fun Northern Leigh twist to popular album covers.

Spring is almost here. Flowers will start to bloom, and the air will start to smell sweet. For the people who get bad allergies you might want to start taking some medicine before you leave the house. You do not want your face puffing up in the middle of the day. Also make sure to bring tissues with you for those snort rockets.

Bulldogs take on LCTI training in all fields



Jackson Van Norman.



Alexis Keiser.



Austin Snyder.



Bayley Kuhn.



Brody Dye,
Billy Slattery,
Sasha Singh.

Photos by Kiley Kennedy
and Kyndra Dougherty



Sam Maldonado.



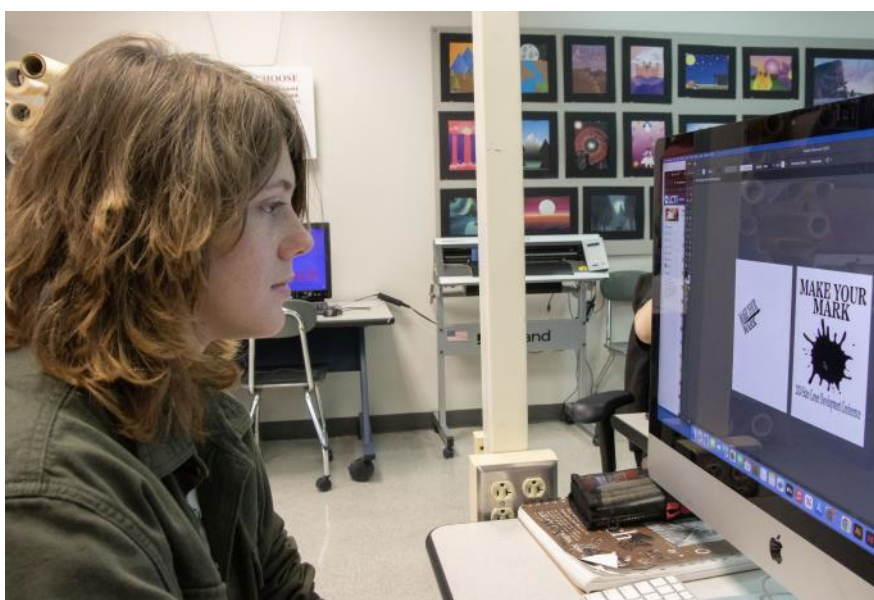
Damien Beard.



Conner Martinez.



Zania Braewell.



Mckenna Kirk, Xavier Rosado.



What's your sign? The future might depend on it

By Nicole Singh
Contributing Writer

Astrology has had a fascinating and multifaceted impact on teenagers, and it has a long and rich history that dates back to ancient Babylonian times. The Babylonians first introduced the concept of zodiacs around 450 BC.

They were based on the idea that celestial objects could predict a person's personality and major life events. Since then, astrology has evolved and transformed over the years, and has risen in popularity among teenagers in our modern world.

One of the reasons for astrology's popularity among teenagers may be its accessibility and relatability. Astrology provides a highly personalized experience, with horoscopes that are specific to an individual's time and place of birth. It can be highly specialized, entertaining, and informative, which makes it an appealing source of insight enjoyable for many curious minds.

Astrology has also influenced teenagers in many ways, both positive and negative. On the one hand, astrology has inspired fashion trends, websites, and social media content worldwide. Astrological signs have become a popular theme for clothing, jewelry, and accessories.

Teenagers have also created content related to astrology on social media platforms such as TikTok and Instagram. This content is produced typically for young people to bring information on this ancient science to light in the media world, as well as learn from similar creators (and in some cases real astrologers) alike on these captivating subjects.

On the other hand, astrology is a very intricate science. Because of how highly personalized and specific astrology is, many tend to inaccurately read or identify charts. Inexperienced or new learners commonly over-generalize and create harmful stereotypes according to each of the signs. Because of this, modern day astrology has created a false perception that each zodiac sign is matched with a specific personality format. This can lead to teens feeling limited in their choices and actions, believing that they can only act in a particular way because of their zodiac sign. This can potentially lead to division and conflict, as individuals may stereotype and make assumptions about others based on this information.

Astrology can also influence teenagers' career choices and aspirations. Many astrological readings provide insights into future career paths, and some teens may feel compelled to pursue these paths, even if they are not passionate about them. This can potentially lead to dissatisfaction and unfulfilled in their professional lives.

Despite these potential drawbacks, astrology has also been a source of inspiration, comfort, and guidance for many teenagers. It can provide clarity and assistance for those who are feeling lost or confused about their future and

can inspire individuals to pursue new hobbies and interests. Furthermore, astrology can kind of foster a sense of community and belonging, as individuals with the same zodiac sign or charts that compliment each other may feel a sense of kinship and connection.

Astrology is a complex and intriguing subject that continues to have a significant impact on teenagers in our modern world. While astrology has its pros and cons, when studied and interpreted correctly, and free of modern negative influences, it is clear that it remains a relevant and fascinating topic among the youth.

It can be a source of comfort and guidance, however, it is always important to remain skeptical, and to, approach with caution, recognizing that free will comes into play. Amid this science coming of age, people's relationship with the cosmos can be valued for its aspects of self-discovery and personal growth when proceeding with one's best judgement.

Prepping for the next generation of Reflectioners



Photo by Jalyn Leshner

Yearbook Queens Daisy Richards and Emma Wensing, along with other editors, visited the middle school's yearbook club to showcase what is available at the high school Reflections level.

Success on your terms

Create Community.

LCCC has been the first choice for higher education for decades. College on your terms.

Affordable. Flexible.

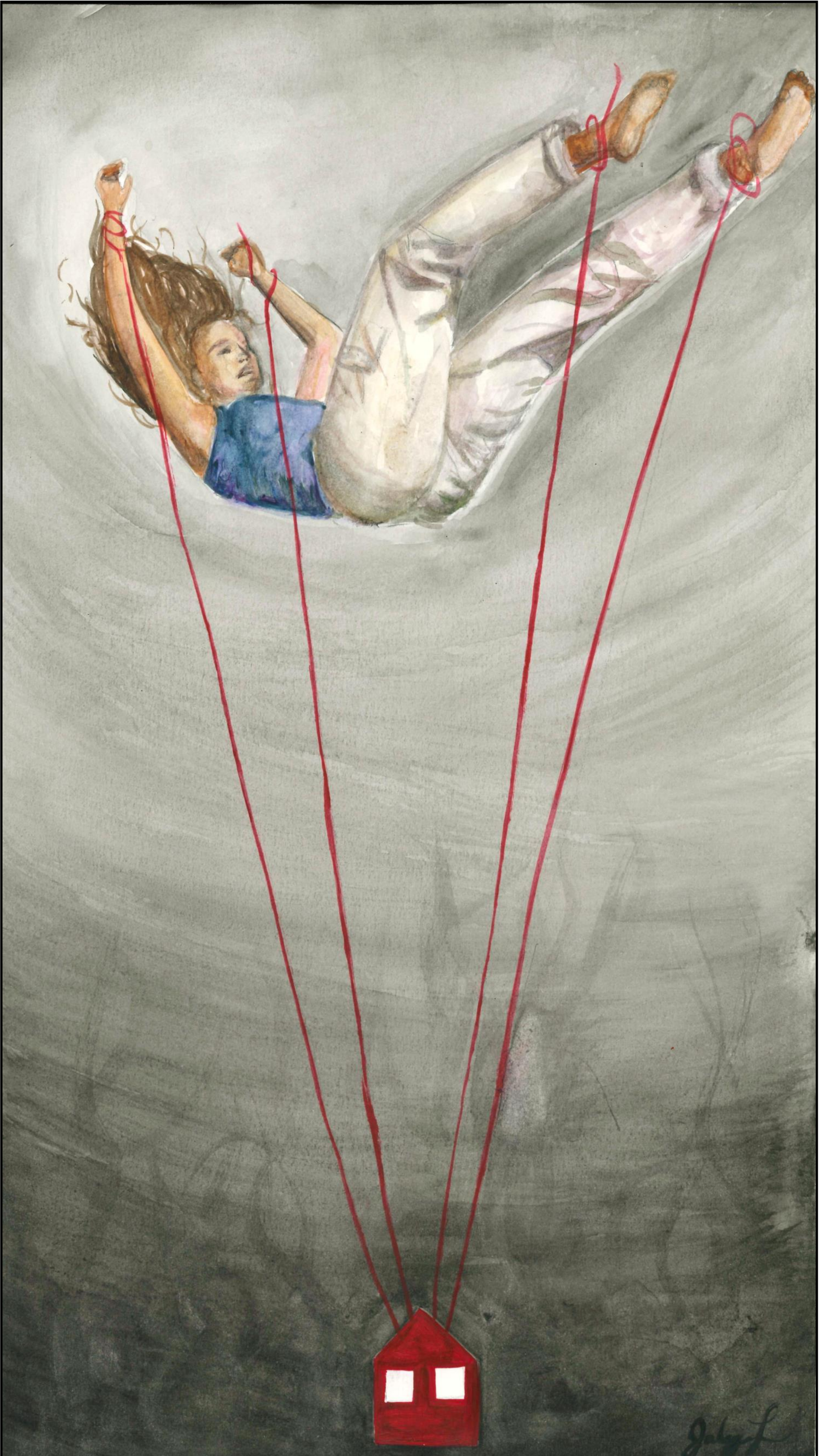
Plus it's right in your backyard.



Lehigh Carbon COMMUNITY COLLEGE

LCCC.edu
Admissions@LCCC.edu

Home Sweet Homebound



High school seniors have aspirations to move away for college, but feel "tied down" or obligated to stay in their hometowns. Many have dreams of running away and chasing our goals, but it can be a tough battle when you bring family, finances, and opportunities into the playing field.

By Jalyn Leshner '24