

THE SLATE

ALL YOUR BULLDOG NEWS... UNLEASHED!

THEY WENT BIG



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SENDING THANKS TO ALUMNI TROOPS



Our Sincerest Thanks

In honor of Thanksgiving, The Slate sends its gratitude to some NL alumni currently helping to keep America safe. (Clockwise from top-left). **Jeremy Schmick** (far right), class of '17, Corporal U.S. Marine Corps. **SPC Matthew Pender**, U.S. Army, deployment to Kuwait/Iraq in 2017. **Shawn Shupp** (far right), class of '13, Joint Fires Observer (13F) in the active U.S. Army, Specialist (soon to be sergeant). **LTJG Samantha Corcoran**, class of '12, Command Duty Officer at USCG Sector Charleston, U.S. Coast Guard. We are thankful for your service.

NL Theater Troupe hits gold year

BY MADISON HOFFMAN
STAFF WRITER

This year marks a huge milestone for the Northern Lehigh Theater Troupe as we will celebrate our 50th show. That's right, we are gold, baby! It's going to be big, bright, and beautiful and I'm here to share how we got to where we are today.

Let's take it back ...really far back.

It all started with a little musical called

My Fair Lady, directed by Edith Roeder and George Lesh. It only ran for two nights in April of 1971. We've done 40 different shows since then, with a few repeats. All of them are classic musicals which have gathered big crowds. If you want to see what 50 years of history looks like, just visit our auditorium and look at all the posters.

For most of the theatre's history, the program was called the Northern Lehigh Little Theatre. For the past two years, it has

switched to the Northern Lehigh Theatre Troupe because we aren't "little" anymore. We have grown in size and popularity and are bigger and better than your average high school theatre.

This theatre has seen many directors, even more cast and crew members, and plenty of remodels. A few familiar faces that you might know who have directed some

See NLTT, page 2

INSIDE



The Gay Panic Defense is making news... nowhere. Allow us to inform, page 2.

'Gay Panic Defense' the latest barrier for LGBT+

BY CODY GRABARITS
STAFF WRITER

If I just said the words 'LGBT+ panic defense', very few people, if any, would have a clue what this is. This 'defense' isn't being discussed or covered in the news. Awareness about this needs to be spread so people know exactly what this is and why it is absolutely absurd and unfair.

So, it's 2019. America has come a long way in terms of hate crimes, yet we still haven't come far enough. There are still many barriers to overcome. For people that aren't cisgender, straight white men, life is still being cruel. Especially to the LGBT+ community.

This group has been in the news a lot lately, especially with the whole transgender topic becoming more popular, since it is safer to come out now than it was 50 years ago. Even so, hate crimes are still widely popular. Some are just slurs yelled at us from the streets and pushing and shoving, while it can escalate to aggravated assault and murder.

As a senior in a small high school, I'm constantly bullied for my gender and sexuality and many still refuse to respect my new name and masculine

pronouns. Things only get worse outside of school, especially with the LGBT+ panic defense that is still legally allowed to be used in court.

The LGBT+ panic defense, by definition, is a legal defense strategy that asks a jury to find that a victim's sexual orientation and/or gender identity/expression is to blame for a defendant's violent reactions toward said victim. Including mur-

der. *Murder*. This defense is traditionally used as a way to lessen the degree some murder cases, to manslaughter or justified homicide.

The first way is a defense of insanity or diminished capacity. The defendant basically comes out and says that a sexual proposition by the victim -- due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity -- triggered them to go into a nervous

breakdown, causing a panic.

This defense is based on the 'gay panic disorder,' which is an outdated psychological term. It has been proven false by the American Psychiatric Association in 1973 and is no longer considered a real disorder. Unfortunately, the legal field has not yet caught up with this, allowing people to still claim insanity in this sort of plea.

The second way is a defense of provocation. Provocation is speech or actions that deliberately make someone angry or annoyed. This defense allows the defendant to argue that the victim's proposition was provocative, inducing the defendant to kill the victim. This -- without the violent aspect -- is not illegal or really harmful at all because everyone deliberately does things to anger others sometimes. Yet some only consider these things provocative when it comes from an LGBT+ person, making it part of *the panic defense*.

The third way this is used is as a defense of self-defense. The defendant will claim that they believed the victim, due to sexual orientation and/or gender identity/expression, was going to cause some sort of serious bodily harm to the defendant.



Courtesy of vice.com

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The Slate is proud to be the voice of Northern Lehigh High School. It is printed by The Times News of Lehigh. We thank you for reading and please pass it on!



NLTT

From page 1

shows here are Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Andrew Kern and Mr. Nick Sander, and Mr. Stephen Shuey. Mrs. Chamberlain directed *The Wiz* in 2007. Mr. Kern and Mr. Sander were actually acting on our very own stage when they were in high school. They directed *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, and *The Wedding Singer*.

Mr. Shuey was Art Director for 15 years and directed *Legally Blonde*.

Our current director and superstar, Ms. Colette Boudreaux, has directed our musicals for the past three years and was the choreographer for *Legally Blonde*. There have been many more great people behind the scenes as well.

NLTT is a Freddy Award-winning program with six awards and even more nominations. The Freddy Awards started in 2003 and was very small at first. In 2011, we won Best Orchestra and Best Use of Scenery for *Once On This Island*. In 2012, *Little Shop Of Horrors* won Best Use of Scenery. Aiden Burke won Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role for his performance of Freddy Benson in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* in 2014. Tyler Roth won a Full Scholarship to West Virginia University in 2017.

Pierce McGowan is a two-time winner of a Freddy Award with Outstanding Featured Performer for his performance as Lumiere in *Beauty and the Beast* with the best speech ever and Outstanding Performance by a Male Ensemble Member for his portrayal of Adolfo Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd*. We also won Outstanding Overall Produc-

tion by a Smaller School for *Sweeney Todd* in 2018. *Sweeney Todd* also broke the record for most nominations with nine that year.

For our 50th show, we are doing *Urinetown*, a comedic satire with lots of *bathroom* humor. It is about a town living in a drought and people must pay to pee. If you break any laws, you go to Urinetown. What is Urinetown? Come see for yourself.

We are doing something a little different this year as well. Instead of having one weekend to show the musical, we are doing two. This is quite a change from the first musicals we ever produced, but it's a good thing that we have given people more of a chance to see our musicals because the productions have grown over the years. Some years had huge casts and crews while others have only been around 30 people.

There has been significant growth and changes just from the time my brother and I have been here. I've seen all the musicals from *Gypsy* to the ones that I'm in right now. My brother was a lot of side characters in all his musicals and plays. It's been such a crazy experience seeing the musicals as a kid and then making them come to life in the past four years. It has been so incredible to work on all these productions and the troupe can't wait to give the community a spectacular 50th show. 🐾



NLTT will present "Urinetown" this year as part of its 50th anniversary. The show will run over two weekends in March.

Syrian invasion results will question society's future

BY BRITTNEY DIEHL
STAFF WRITER

Just over a month ago, on Oct. 9, Turkey, an American ally, began attacking a group that bore arms with American armed forces.

This physical assault was the result of an 8-year-long course of events consisting of peaceful protests opposed to the Syrian government that shaped into an international clash of ideas. "Much of the world is reeling from the war's sudden turn," stated reporter Patrick Kingsley of the New York Times.

For the past five years, the United States' arrangement with Kurdish-led troops had built a foundation of collaboration on both administrations fighting the Islamic State, as well as inducing a restriction of Iranian and Russian influence.

This, in turn, supported the Syrian government and helped sustain a goal of "maintaining some leverage over any future settlement of the conflict," as written by New York Times reporters Ben Hubbard, Charlie Savage, Eric Schmitt, and Patrick Kingsley.

However, on that Sunday, President Donald Trump unexpectedly disposed of that approach, which destroyed American leverage. This action caused significant gains against the Islamic State to be jeopardized and gave room for the possibility of its return. Once the deal was announced that Sunday evening, it cinched the end to a day chock-full of "whipsaw developments marked by a rapid advances by Turkish-backed forces and the escape of hundreds of women and children linked to the Islamic State from a detention camp," as reported by the New York Times.



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Since the Turkish invasion, which began on that Wednesday, two strikes have been claimed by ISIS: one, a car bomb in Qamishli and the other on an

international military base. Despite these attacks, Trump has repeatedly stated that the United States has removed the worst ISIS detainees from Syria. In reality, however, the United States has only captured two British detainees.

American officials stated that when the military attempted to claim more detainees, the Kurds reacted with opposition. It is believed that from these emotions, the Kurds might join forces with the American enemy, President Bashar al-Assad. When combining the American withdrawal with that feasibility, the removal of detainees becomes less and less likely.

War, in its entirety, is an occurrence that past, current, and even future generations have dealt with or will have to deal with. The clashing of ideas and cultures is a life-long, never-ending uphill battle. World peace seems as though it is a far-away idea that is barely out of reach. It seems that if society was given an inch of

leverage, the human race could wrap its hands around such an ultimate goal.

Despite what the public may want, the U.S. is managing a war in the Middle East. The emergence of this war leaves room for questioning -- whether that be of short-sided problems or the entire future of the world. From all of the world's ideas, beliefs, and pretense, the overall concept is if the human race's anger will overcome all rightful thinking. Because of this, war will never end.

Many people utilize the saying, "do as I say, not as I do." But, most of the time, teens act out, history repeats itself, and past mistakes become current mistakes. Are we now just following previous generations' examples? Instead of following these examples, maybe there should be a different mindset that should occur.

Regardless, who should have the power to decide the new standard -- churches committees, government organizations, or public petitions?

Yet, in spite of all that has happened over the years, some still have hope, albeit little. There is a chance that the population will come to its senses and face the real problems at hand -- issues that could destroy our world. It just depends on what each country decides to do about it. All we need is a chance to end wars.

For the end goal of all wars is peace, is it not? 🐾

PANIC

From page 2

This defense, however, is probably the most disturbing of them all since it suggests that a person's gender identity or sexual orientation makes them a threat to society simply by existing. This form of the panic defense is used to help the de-

Other states are working toward banning this in their legal systems, but from the research that I have done, Pennsylvania is not one of them, meaning that this defense is still perfectly OK to use in court today.

Your feelings -- if negative -- toward the LGBT+ community are irrelevant in this. The point is that humans are being killed by using this panic defense, and no



fendant when they used a greater amount of force than necessary onto the victim or the victim they attacked was unarmed.

There is a bit of a positive side for the LGBT+ community, though, in this sense. There are states that recognize how unfair a thing like this is and have moved to ban it from their legal system altogether. However, on the negative side, there are only six states that have banned the defense: California, New York, Illinois, Rhode Island, Nevada, and Connecticut.

one is talking about it. Humans are getting away with murder or receiving a lesser sentence in prison. It can be understood to some that finding out someone is LGBT+ is shocking, but that should by no means cause another person to violently attack them.

This defense is letting LGBT+ (phobic) people express their rage and killing members of this community. This must stop. 🐾



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Professional 'new girl' sheds her chameleon skin

BY EMILY HEWITT
STAFF WRITER

Stories and tales of "the new girl" are clichéd, but being one is totally different. It's nothing like *Mean Girls* or *Clueless*. There's no glamour or horror story to each school. I've been a new girl eight times.

Most students just have to adjust to middle school and high school. I had to adjust to three new elementary schools, two middle schools, and three high schools, not counting daycare, preschool, and, one day, college.

I know how to adapt well, sometimes, feel like I'm like a chameleon. You learn to change your ways to fit into a school or a group just to survive. So far, I've been a cool kid, a loner, a weirdo, and an out-cast, but I have never been truly me.

To say I've never been myself might be overdramatic, but to me, it means everything to know who I am. I went through several stages to find myself. I thought through DNA I'd figure it out. I thought not knowing family connections in New York were keeping me from finding a piece of myself. I thought trying every hobby imaginable would tell me about who I am supposed to be, or maybe if I watched enough movies I could find something new about myself, but nothing worked.

Sure, it allowed me to find little things out, but not the big picture. I know every teen goes through that existential crisis. Being new only made it worse. Having to tell my story over and over, and having people think they know me when they only know two things. Having people guess about my character and bully me, just because they could.

My life was not the easiest, but I'm not complaining. I would not trade learning and adapting to new situations because it made me who I am today (whoever that is). It felt like I never belonged. Maybe I will always feel like that. Maybe everyone thinks that.

Being new hasn't always been bad. Every time I moved to a new community

or to a new school, no one really knew me. That may sound bad or scary, and it is at first, but you can also write your own narrative. When I was younger, it was hard to understand why I was moving or why I had to go to a new school. I could make friends easily, because younger kids are nicer. You don't need to be cool or interesting.

The fact that you were new was cool and kids like to talk. It was easier then. Kids could also be mean but in an unintentional way. They tell you things that you definitely didn't want to hear, but it was stupid-mean, which is better than intentional stabs.

Moving into middle school and knowing no one was a lot harder. Kids were nice until they weren't. The amount of backstabbing, dramatic days I had at my middle school were crazy and a little traumatizing, but it was my choice. It would be one thing if it was just the kids, but it was also some adults. They fed into the drama. I've always hated drama and tried to stay away from it, but I somehow always found my way into it. Middle school, it would seem, was the worst stage of my life so far. Many people can agree with that.

In high school, I could change the narrative and use my new-girl status to



See *New Girl*, page 8

Later school times could benefit students

BY OWEN LEVAN-UHLER
STAFF WRITER

Have you ever woken up in the morning feeling groggy, beat, and utterly tired? Have you ever caught yourself falling asleep in class, or been so tired you couldn't focus? Something like this happens to millions of students across the country every day.

For a while now, schools and state governments have been juggling these dilemmas and have been considering later start times for school as a way to solve them.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends secondary school students begin their school day no sooner than 8:30 a.m. Yet, 93 percent of high schools start long before this time. After all, Northern Lehigh High School's school day starts at around 7:15. So why *do* we start so early?

In a school day, students have a lot to do. And after school, there is sometimes even more. This is why many students, teachers, and parents believe in a later start time, so that kids can get the rest they need after having a day filled with school, activities, and homework, and so they have more energy to put toward these things.

There is one big problem: a later start time would leave less time for activities and homework to even occur.

If NLHS's day started at 9 a.m., school would have to go until right

around 4:50 p.m. to compensate for how long our classes are, and for lunch and homeroom. Few people would probably want their school day to go until almost 5 p.m., and a later time to start and end school would leave little to no time for any extra-curricular activities.

The only solution to these problems would be for schools like NL to shorten their day. Our school day lasts for nearly seven hours, but Pennsylvania law states that grades 9-12 need only a 5 ½ hour

school day.

Because NLHS runs on block scheduling to give students the chance to have a more comprehensive learning environment, this would not be practical. If we still had four classes a day with a 5 ½ hour schedule, our classes would only last for about 67 minutes, without shortening homeroom or lunch. Compared to the 86 minutes that the blocks usually last, that is a lot of lost time.

Some might say that 67 minutes is

still a good chunk of time for each class. After all, at NLMS, there are seven classes that last for about 50 minutes. But for others, 67 minutes might not be enough to learn what they need to learn. Especially when there are more complex subjects being taught in high school, with varying degrees of comprehension levels.

With class and activity scheduling, and not having a school day that would

See *Starts*, page 8



Four score and many years ago

Lincoln's famous address turns 156 this month. Does a civil war still rage on in these United States?

BY DYLAN KUNTZ
STAFF WRITER

Most know that the name *Abraham Lincoln* belongs to one of the greatest men to lead our nation. He carried our country through one of its darkest times, the Civil War.

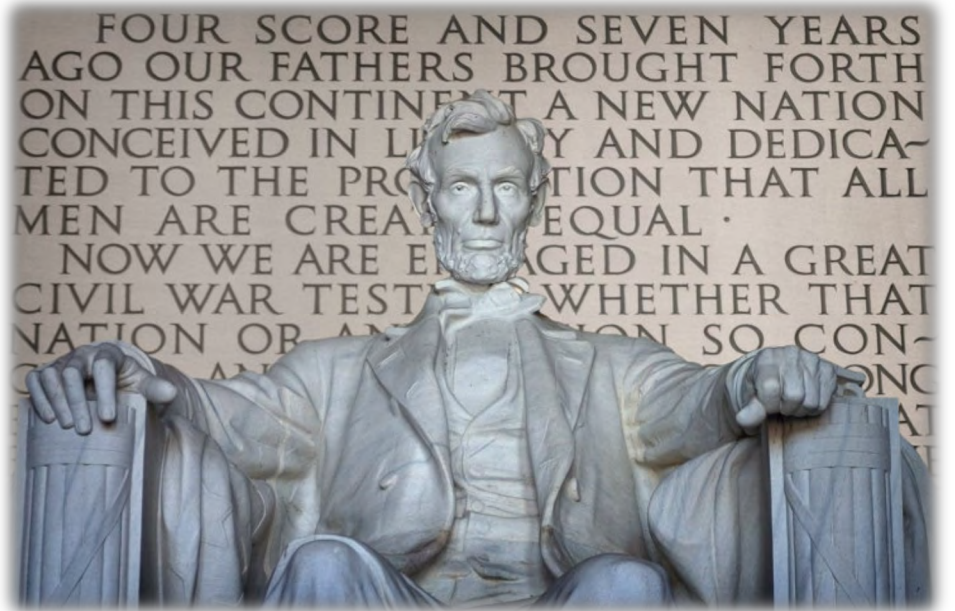
With our entire nation divided and in arms against one another, his role as president was all but easy. However, amidst all the violence, suffering and hardship, Lincoln offered invaluable service as President in these times of great need, especially on Nov. 19, 1863 – the 156th observance occurring this month.

The battle of Gettysburg had just come to an end on July 3rd, 1863, and it was the bloodiest conflict to occur during

this war. During the three days of the conflict, casualties soared on both sides, totaling around 51,112. This was indeed a great loss for our nation.

In response to this immense loss of life, Lincoln gave his famous Gettysburg Address later that year on Nov. 19, 1863. Although it was a short speech, the words still resonate in the lives of many Americans today.

The words provided what has kept our country alive to this day: the American spirit. "Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal . . . that this



See Gettysburg, page 7

2019 Community Bonfire, Pep Rally



Toby Frantz, Gabe Diaz, Brianna Kuhns, Kyra Horack and Stef Steckel had a fun time at Northern Lehigh's annual Community Bonfire to pep up the excitement against Palmerton. It must have worked.



Mr. Jon Prive was ready for battle.



JV cheerleaders stayed warm but yelled loud.



Kendall Snyder, Danielle Dougherty, Delia Quier, Jordyn Hemingway, Maddie Mack, Cadence Peters and Marisa Maehrer.



Ike Barnes was distracted by nachos and a video game created by junior Nolan Moyer.



Kylee Truett, Mackannah Mosser, Audriana Wertman of the elementary school were all smiles.



(Left) Varsity cheerleaders brought school spirit and (above) Hunter Zehner, Ricky Labarre, Ty Moffitt and Brian Chase helped to extinguish the fire but keep the energy hot.

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OPINIONS NL

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Editorial 🐾 🐾 🐾

Thankful barks all around NL

A lot of Bulldogs work together to keep this house operating. Since the calendar has entered the season of expressing thanks, allow us to send some bark-outs to those sometimes-underappreciated cogs.

The obvious gratitude starts with the top administration dawgs – our supportive superintendent, Mr. Matthew Link and assistant superintendent, Dr. Tania Stoker, the school board and leaders right here at the high school, Mr. Robert Vlasaty and Mr. David Hauser. Thank you for supporting a free press at the scholastic level.

And of course, the teachers who prepare you with the present so you are ready for the future. We have a hard-working, dedicated staff – vastly different in personality and class structure, but all with the same goal in mind.

We thank the paraprofessionals and teacher aides who assist where help is needed. They are part of the family just the same and make a difference in a smoothly-run classroom.

We thank the secretaries who keep the office afloat. From monitoring attendance and answering every question that enters the office doors, and a ton of unseen items in between, they carry the load that keep the principals and counselors as sane as possible.

Speaking of... We thank school counselors for pushing students into the right direction and being there when guidance is needed. Being a teen is not easy in 2019, so their presence is appreciated.

We thank the custodians who have a thankless job of cleaning toilets, replenishing tissues, emptying garbage cans, and most other things few of us want to do. They are much more than just broom-pushers and, since many of you are messy – we thank them for cleaning us up.

We thank the fix-it folk who glue, tape, wire and splice what breaks. The lights, the pipes, the windows, etc. It all gets old and when the heat goes out, or the air and power, we are grateful that the people with ladders are there.

We thank the I.T. department, for without the Internet, passwords and proper connection usernames, our worlds cease to exist. Would you believe during the recent Internet hiccup at the I.U., some classes reportedly used paper and pencil like it was 2015? Gasp.

We wholeheartedly thank the bus drivers who have, without question, a thankless job and are the unsung campus UBER's that get many of you safely to school. Do you say 'thank you' each time you exit? We highly recommend it.

From the loyal coaches and parent volunteers to the school nurses and campus police, there is a lot of gratitude to go around this Northern Lehigh campus. We have 180 days of who-knows-what-could-happen occurrences? The agenda is not always clockwork but never lose sight of showing gratitude to the huge number of Dawgs that keep this place alive. 🐾

Losing a parent helps to find one's strength

NL junior had to be strong for his brothers, then for himself

June 11, 2019, wasn't an average day in the Dominican Republic. A school field trip took my class to a nature reserve in the middle of the island. Mountains touching immaculate clouds, creeks of cool clear water, and a great expanse of lush green foliage. Faced by that pristine landscape and being surrounded by friends, I couldn't have been happier.

Karan, my stepdad, was the one to tell me. Not directly, but in something coinciding with the phrase, "You have to be strong for your brothers." That echoed throughout my head, and though my mind was racing in that moment of solemnity, it was enough for me to understand what had happened.

I realized why my brothers had spent the afternoon at a friend's house. Why our friend's dad who drove us home was so reserved. Why so many people were at my home, except for the one we wanted to see the most.

Mylz had just turned 11 and Preston was 9, both sitting on either side of me on the couch where we received what felt like a hurricane to endure. We heard our mom was taken by an undercurrent and lost at sea. She wasn't found until the next day.

Within the time it had taken to find her, family congregated, friends mourned, condolences were sent by all those close but restricted by distance. Funeral plans were made, and by miraculous synchronicity, she was laid to rest across the street from where she was born and raised.

A small part of the town gathered — people who watched my mom grow up and who knew me since I was young. Reconnecting was a somber endeavor, bonding

with family and friends over who we once knew, a piece of all our lives shared and now absent only in the wake of memory.

Lowering her body into the ground was the hardest part. The trip from the service to the cemetery seemed like an eternity. We buried her with some belongings

changed if she was dead or alive, only by them having met her. So no matter what anyone said, no one else would be able to absorb the impact she had on each of them.

Reflecting on this gave me joy and a peace of being able to treasure my relationship to her, and even being lucky enough to have someone like her in my life. Our interactions were as grand and momentous as cosmic events in emotional meaning. Holding that ideology keeps me balanced between the comfort of the past and the sorrow of the future without her.

In any case, the loss of a parent is something that looms for the rest of your life. A vexing thought that pokes and prods like an unkept wound.

So many people have had to face that wall of memories and regret before me and some that have yet to attend it. But that dark cloud of sad and scared feelings isn't without its silver lining. Being able to overcome and live with it will teach you things about yourself. It becomes part of you and, ultimately, make you a stronger person.

As time moves forward, her memory will not be lost. What she meant now lives in me and everyone who received her message. I still play music for her and feel her joy in what I know is her spirit moving in me.

Life is so simple and people like to complicate things, but you can find love in yourself for others that shouldn't be wasted. So, if you can, you should love your parents because they won't be here forever. It isn't easy but it is impactful finding the beauty in death and the life in loss. 🐾



Dylan, with his mom, Surely.

and gave her back to the earth. Driving from that funeral was like the end of a chapter and flying from that island felt like the end of a story.

Although before I left, there was a second memorial held by friends and community members where we lived. During it we sang, and people shared words, which I did not partake in. I thought instead about how I and every person there had a certain vision of my mom, something that wouldn't be

OPINIONS

Can men silence the stigma to slay the depression demon?

BY COLLIN WINTER
STAFF WRITER

Imagine a scenario. A man and a woman fall in love, spend years together forming a bond, but one day the relationship abruptly ends. They part ways, both of their minds plagued with immense sorrow and depression. You see a grown woman crying in public, what goes through your head? Now you see a grown man crying in public... same reaction? Most likely not.

Human life begins at nothing more than a mere embryo, a small cluster of conscienceless DNA waiting to develop into a human being that one day will see our blue skies, walk on our soil, breathe our air, and possibly go on to achieve great things. A human who will experience countless novels' worth of thoughts, and a broad range of emotions from joy, to love to sadness. Male or female, we are all humans, and we all laugh and cry whether we like it or not.



From a young age, boys have this social ideology pounded in their heads that "a real man never shows his pain." At one point in our lives, all guys have heard one of the following phrases at least once: "Suck it up," "Boys don't cry," "Grow a pair," or "Stop being a girl."

Men are conditioned to live up to this expectation to be "the hero" -- this strong, independent, person lacking any weakness or vulnerabilities that may expose any inner-frailties, making them "less of a man." This is what we call "Normative Male Alexithymia."

According to a survey given to 1,000 men by Priory, a large provider of behavioral care in the UK, of those 1,000 men, 77 percent suffered from anxiety, stress, or depression, and 40 percent said that they won't discuss their mental health. Sadly, but not surprisingly, the most common reasons were, "I'm too embarrassed," "I don't want to admit that I need support," and "I don't want to appear weak."

Mental illnesses are not an outfit or a nametag. You cannot look at a person and quickly identify what is going on inside of his or her head. Although you cannot explicitly understand a person's thoughts and feelings on the surface, there is a magnitude of indicators to help assist you in being able to read someone.

Here-in lies the problem with many guys, specifically — myself

See Stigma, page 13

Winter Cabaret to share songs of hope

NLTT will get the season started on Dec. 7 in the high school auditorium

BY GIANA ROSARIO
STAFF WRITER

Hope – it's an optimism that we have all experienced and enjoyed. It is also the theme of this year's Winter Cabaret by the Northern Lehigh Theater Troupe, Dec. 7, in the high school auditorium. This year's cabaret is different from the fact that we actually have a theme and the decora-

wanted to base it around how high school and life in general is hard, but there is always hope on the other side of things.

"There's a lot of stuff in the world that can get you down and cause you to lose faith in oneself and I know that students have a hard time to see a lot of people struggling and so I thought what better than to do a cabaret that was devoted to bringing hope and positivity," she said.



tions also have a theme.

While last year's cabaret was comedic, this year's cabaret is more up-lifting and happy. If you attend this event, I guarantee, you will dance in your seat, laugh out loud, and have songs stuck in your head for weeks to come!

This year's cabaret will include various amazing songs and dances choreographed by director Colette Boudreaux. There were many solos, duets, and trios given out to the singers of our troupe.

The inspiration behind the theme of hope is the students involved in theatre. Ms. Boudreaux

All proceeds are going toward the troupe.

"We just always try to do our best because all of it goes towards the theatre and toward putting on better productions next time." She enjoys creating these events and keeping the Northern Lehigh Theatre Troupe alive. Our director and the troupe is extremely proud of the show we have so far and recommend you spend the evening with us. I am sure you will all enjoy this year's display of singing, dancing, and acting. Make sure to come support the Northern Lehigh Theatre Troupe on Saturday, Dec. 7, in the 2019 Winter Cabaret. 🐾

GETTYSBURG

From page 5

nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." The reason the speech became as famous as it did was, in part, the stunning leadership demonstrated by Lincoln.

Many Americans would argue today that Lincoln's service to our country was greater than any other president to have served. However, the fact that Lincoln gave the people afflicted by war hope for the future is what makes his words so memorable.

He gave the people hope for the security of their legacy, that the sacrifices made by the brave men that day were not in vain. All of the hard work from countless people through many generations established a free world, and it would continue to exist to protect all those who seek to live a peaceful and successful life.

In 1863, the U.S. was at a point where our differences divided the nation so greatly that we

sought to destroy one another. Today, we are united as a nation, yet still heavily divided as a people. Whether it is for politics, race, or one of many other reasons, there are undeniable conflicts among many Americans. However, through thick and thin, these United States have persevered. The American spirit is what binds us all together, and it keeps the foundation of our country stronger than any other. In times of struggle, the American people put aside their differences and work to preserve freedom. It is during these times that we truly recognize that every man is created equal, just as our founding fathers wrote in the Declaration of Independence, and as Lincoln stated that day. Today, the Gettysburg Address is just as relevant as it was in 1863.

It is crucial that we the people continue to live out the American spirit and preserve everything that has been "put forth" by past generations. For the last 156 years, many men and women sacrificed their lives to protect our way of life. In a way, the famous speech is not only dedicated to the soldiers that died during the battle, but to all that have sacrificed everything for us. 🐾

Scholastic Scrimmaging



Northern Lehigh's Scholastic Scrimmage team recently attended a competition at Southern Lehigh's Quiz Bowl (below). The JV finished 11 out of 12 teams, and the varsity teams were 10th and 12th out of 18. (Above) The varsity team recently faced Emmaus at PBS studios at Steel Stacks in Bethlehem. Michael Adams, Elijah Jackovitz, Cole Cheesbrough and Ben Lehman.



Dylan Kuntz, Nate Green, Nick Miller, and Elijah Jackovitz.

NEW GIRL

From page 4

my advantage. People could see the person I wanted them to see, but when your mom is the vice principal in one of your schools, it makes it harder to reinvent yourself. Some change was the best for me, since it was normal. So returning to Northern Lehigh after seven years wasn't a difficult choice.

In my life there will always be a search for something new. I will always have a

craving or a curiosity that will never be satisfied. Maybe it's because I'm a professional new girl or maybe it's who I am. I don't hate the people who bullied me. I don't hate my parents for moving, and I have forgiven myself for some choices.

Being a new girl isn't so bad. I had opportunities that most will never have and I don't regret it. If you see a new person, be nice and introduce yourself, because you'll learn something new and expand your view. New opportunities and change aren't bad, so open yourself up to different experiences in life. 🐾

STARTS

From page 4

seem more endless than it already can seem, a later start time would essentially create more problems than it is trying to solve.

So what is the solution to all of these conflicts? While they might seem more far-fetched, they would work better than one might think.

One solution would be having more days off of school. Instead of only having the weekends off, which can be filled up with employment, extra-schoolwork, and other activities. For example, school could be closed on Tuesday and Thursday, as well as Saturday and Sunday to give students more opportunity to rest, complete schoolwork, and attend activities without having to worry about other factors.

Another solution would be an almost

college-like approach. Instead of having four classes a day, students could have two to three classes a day. In this scenario, students could have slightly longer, or slightly shorter classes than the current schedule, while still having a shorter school day. This would leave more time for things like sports and jobs, as well as rest.

Keeping schedules the same except for the start time would leave less time for everything else in a student's life, and it would be ultimately counterproductive to what a later start time is trying to accomplish. Leaving everything as it is until a better solution is reached would give students less stress, and it would prevent distraction from their academic careers and other aspects of their schooling.

Change needs to occur not just in start times, but in the actual schedule a student has to juggle throughout their education. 🐾



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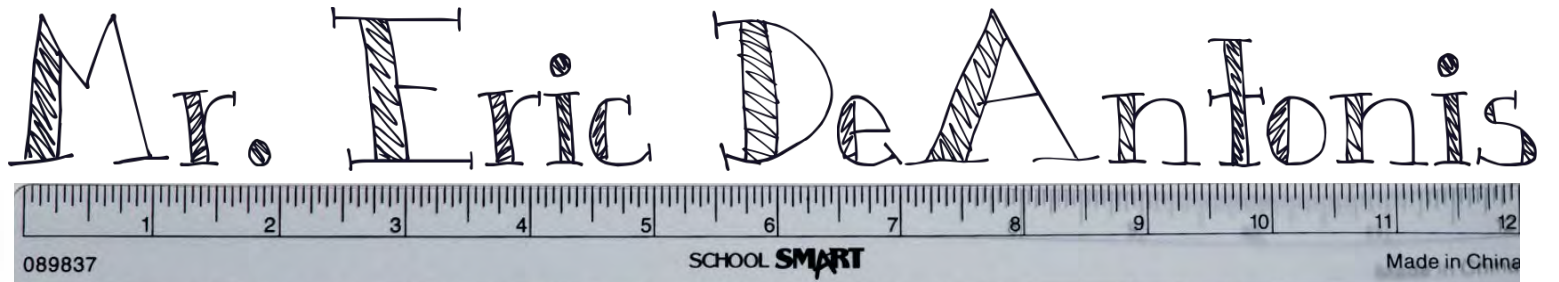
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INTERVIEW BY AVA ROSARIO
& CHRISTOPHER BARNES

The math classroom is tough to liven up. A lot of black and white, right and wrong, with little in between remaining for creativity. What lies behind the numbers of this NL math teacher, however, is an algorithm that is made up of quirks few people have known until The Slate went digging (or calculating). Now in his 33rd year of crunching the numbers, we discuss the order of U.S. Presidents, the alphabet (in reverse) and counting a cat's personal habits. Make sure to show your work and load up with plenty of chalk – Together, we will solve the equation of Mr. Eric DeAntonis.

Who would be on the Mount Rushmore of mathematicians?

Oh, jeez, I'd say Isaac Newton, Fibonacci, Leonard Euler, and L'hospital.

Wow. We have heard of Newton – he was the apple guy. He later created those cookies. Not the others.

Not many people have heard of those guys.

Do you think calculators are overused when teaching math?

With the basics, you shouldn't need a calculator to find 10 percent of anything. You know, like 10 percent of 200 is 20. That kind of stuff.

Barnes: I didn't know that.

A lot of students know that but they're so used to getting the calculators out that they just become accustomed to it. Calculators, in general, are good but certain things are easy to do in your head if you just think about it.

How tough is it to make math exciting?

If you ask my students, I don't know. It depends on how interested you are. To people who are interested, it's not that tough. For those not interested, it can be tough to get a spark going.

What's up with that Pythagoras guy and his theorem?:

As I like to say, a leg squared plus a leg squared equals a hypotenuse squared.

Barnes: Tell me you used that line on a date.

I did not use that on a first date.... But I'll tell you.. There's trigonometry involved in a Ferris wheel and Ice Cream World is right across from Dorney Park, so when you're looking at the Ferris wheel, there's trigonometry in that. If you can define the function, which represents the height of a rider over time – that was explained on a first date. Many years ago.

Did that get you a second date?

I think it did.

An interesting non-math quirk we learned is you supposedly know every U.S. President in order. Why?

When I was a kid, I had a little book on the Presidents and each one had a little number right by them, so I knew 3 was Thomas Jefferson and 4 was Madison, so in my mind, every President has a number right by him. So I'm really just counting to 45.

Quick. James K. Polk?

11.

Chester A. Arthur.

21.

Barnes: You sly dog.

What are some of your favorite specific maths to teach?

I like algebra – honors algebra 2. Trigonometry is a little tough. It's just harder to teach. Algebra 1s easier to teach. I like calculus, I just haven't taught it in a long time.

You know the alphabet backwards. Why?

I just felt like learning it once. I also counted to 1,000 once when I was 8. I just wanted to see how long it would take.

How long did it take?

At my pace, about 10 or 15 mins. And I enunciated every number. I also counted how many times my cat licked himself once. He's dead now.

Barnes: From licking himself?

No, I don't think so.

This is a question we didn't anticipate on asking but how many times did he lick himself?

768 licks. I still remember.

Please settle this rumor. It has been said that you collect lint rollers. Please say this is true.

I do not collect them [laughs]. One time in my life, I may have had more than I needed, but not as a collection. I used to collect bottle caps as a kid, coins... but no lint rollers.

You're an Eagles fan. Mathematically, are they still in it?

Mathematically, yes, they're in it.

Barnes: Could Federicchi help with that answer?

Fibonacci.

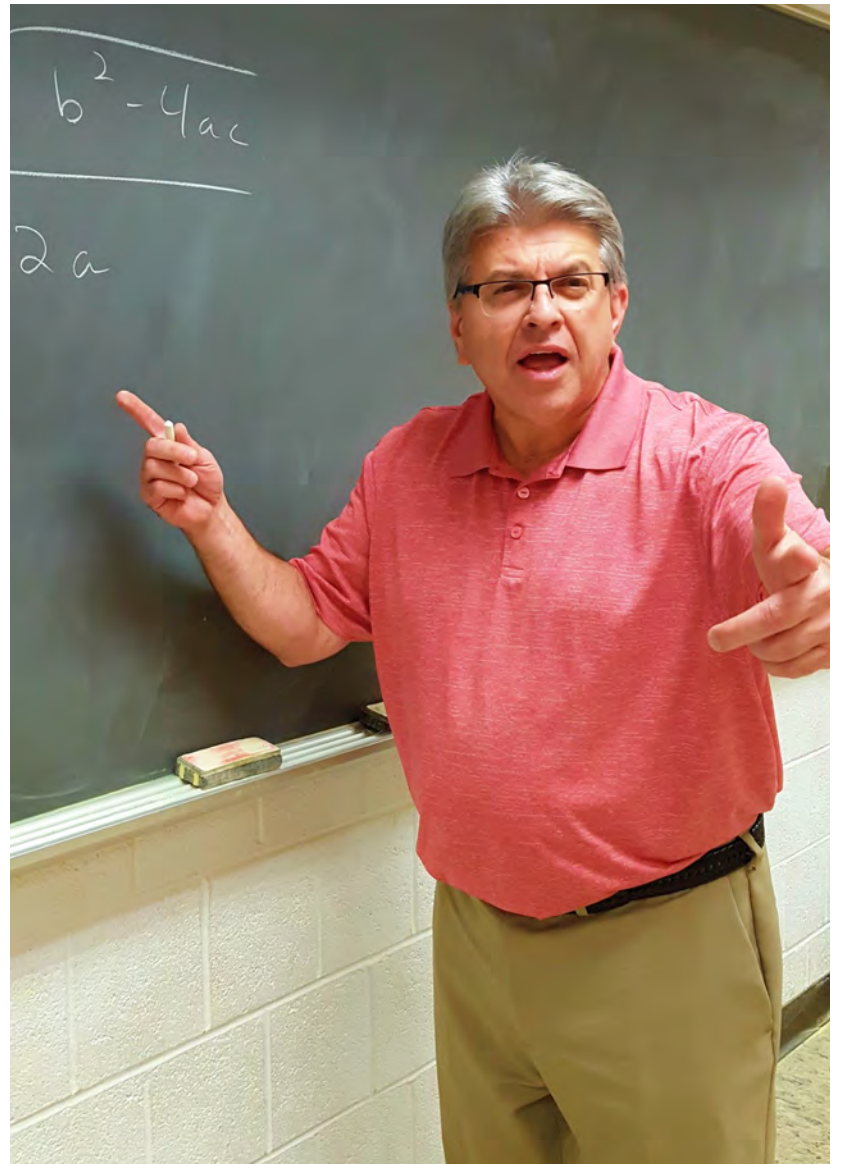
What is something you want to leave the students with?

I would hope they learned math from me and that I was a good teacher. That's all.

Can we get you on the Mathematician Mount Rushmore?

I doubt it.

The Slate thanks Mr. DeAntonis for his time and calculated (get it?) responses. Do you know a teacher or student with interesting quirks we can make public and discuss? Feel free to suggest someone for us to spend "10 Minutes With...." Email theslatenews@nlsd.org.



SPORTS



Page 10

The play that dropped the Bombers

Final game for Bulldogs' football season came down to a risky call that paid off

BY BRIANNA SCHUCK
SPORTS EDITOR

As the football season quickly came to an end, the Northern Lehigh Bulldogs wanted to finish in style. By style, they chose *insanely dramatic* and *anxiety-raising*, of course. Going into the week, Coach Joseph Tout recalls the different emotions in the locker room.

"Not too many teams can say they play both of their rivals back to back. But, of course, that is just how the cookie crumbles for us," he said. "After losing to Northwestern the week before, I was kind of worried about how the guys were going to bring themselves back together. That game truly crushed them, and I wasn't exactly sure if they were going to be able to rise to the occasion [barely] a week later and come back and do it again."

With that in mind, Coach Tout wanted them to know that they could not take this game lightly. Had they defeated Northwestern the week before, they would have been in the playoffs following a victory over Palmerton in week 10. They needed to work hard, and even if winning did not provide them with a playoff berth, it certainly would feel good to beat Palmerton and knock them out of the playoffs while doing so.

To compare the reality of teams not playing both of their rivals back to back, Coach Tout used the University of Alabama's football team as a prime example.

"Look at Alabama, first they played a team they knew they could put up 50-plus points against and then they play a team like LSU, one that they have a whole week to prepare mentally, physically, and emotionally for," Mr. Tout said.

Playing Northwestern in week nine takes a lot of preparing for, yet having to bounce back and play Palmerton in week 10 is even harder: especially when both teams not only need to win, but they also *want* to win. Winning not only provides them with a playoff berth, but also bragging rights for an entire year.

As the week progressed and the reality began to sink in, it was suddenly game time.

"For much of the first quarter, I think I can speak for all of us when I say that we had all of the momentum. We scored,



"During the season, there were a couple games when we were down by a touchdown with one minute left. I made it known that if this situation occurred, we were going for two."

— Coach Joseph Tout

they scored, then we scored. But during that time, our fans were rallying behind us which helped us carry the momentum. It wasn't until the middle of the second quarter when I truly believed we lost momentum. At that point, Palmerton carried the lead. But I wasn't worried," Tout said.

Early on, the Dawgs proved they could hold their own in the tough situations. They were well prepared to battle for four long quarters and even an overtime if needed.

Toward the end of the game, things began to fall into place. As each team took its turn marching down the field and finding the endzone, things began to get hectic. With Palmerton up by a touchdown in the fourth quarter, the Dawgs

had no choice but to go for an onside kick. Within seconds the ball was up, down, and back in the arms of... the kicker. Sophomore Brett Misera came up big and recovered his own onside kick. Eventually Northern Lehigh was able to march down the field one more time to score and end the regulation period... in a tie.

A tie means overtime and overtime means a continuous battle. Palmerton started with the ball. They ended up scoring on 4th and goal, giving NL the ball at the 10. Very similar to Palmerton, NL also scored on 4th down, yet it took some penalties and yellow flags, ultimately setting us back a couple yards. With the score even yet again, it was time to make a game-ending decision. When recalling

the situation, Coach Tout shares, "I told the coaching staff through our headsets from the beginning that if it came down to this, we were going for two."

Was this a timely decision, and he strongly said otherwise.

"During the season, there were a couple games when we were down by a touchdown with one minute left. I made it known that if this situation occurred, we were going for two," Tout said.

A few of those games would be Saucon Valley, Bangor, and Northwestern. All of them prompted the idea, but they finally got to put it to the test during the final seconds of the Palmerton game.

The overtime rules in high school are

See Going Big, page 14

OPINIONS

Right shade of blue who?

BY BREANNA HOPPE
STAFF WRITER

The crowd is screaming, fans are thrilled and hoping for the best. The stadium lights are bright and the air is cold. What more can you ask for when it comes to Friday night lights? The score is close, the Bulldogs are pushing their way to the endzone. It's overtime. The tension has risen. After Northern Lehigh's Joey Abidelli scored a touchdown to bring the Dawgs within one point, following a Palmerton TD, the big question loomed -- will we go for a kick (tying the game and furthering OT) or a risk it all with two-point conversion?

NL head football coach Joseph Tout made the bold decision to attempt a two-point conversion and our student section grew nervous and hoped for the best outcome for this play. This was the most incredible call of the game. Once again, Joey Abidelli pushed into the endzone to score the winning two-point conversion.



Photo by Ali Lora

This play had ended the game. Everyone surrounding me was ecstatic and celebrating our victory against our biggest rival. Not only was this the most intense game of the season for both schools, it was also Palmerton's senior night. (Oops!)

The emotions at this game had been overwhelming as there were people thrilled about the victory, dejected about this being their last Friday night game and a sense of pride in the team. This game was the best of my high school career by far. Watching and photographing the Bulldogs throughout their 6-4 season had been a blast. There is no feeling that can be compared to the joy of cheering for *your* team.

Although the last game of the season had been nerve wracking, the victory was bittersweet. After this game, a few of my friends would no longer be players on our football team. This season has truly been an unforgettable one and those who have left the team will forever remain on the team at heart.

Being a part of our school's student section has always been a great feeling. Many students come together to support our team and cheer them on to victory. Memories are made each and every year and I am beyond excited to see what my senior year will have in store.

Our small school had truly come together on the night of our rivalry game. I made lifelong memories with friends and watched some of my closest friends win the game that means the most to them every year.

Our team is growing each and every year and building its way up to the top. There is no better feeling than watching your best friends tearing it up on the field on Friday nights. Regardless of the frigid weather, this victory will always be a heartwarming one for the Northern Lehigh Bulldogs. 🐾

Running (faster) circles around the competition

BY BREANNA HOPPE
STAFF WRITER

How can a simple task be so successfully fulfilled? Throughout the past four years, Northern Lehigh's senior, Reagan Pender, has proved that hard work and determination pays off.

When you truly set your mind to something, there is nothing you are incapable of accomplishing. Over the course of Reagan's high school career, she has broken records, advanced to states for cross country and track and field, and became a Colonial League and district champion.

Running is something most are capable of, yet somehow others are just more advanced.

What does it take to become a successful runner? "I became the runner I am today from lots of dedication and time. God's strength and power was at the roots of it," Reagan said.

During Reagan's career at Northern Lehigh, she has never failed to excel. Determination and hard work never lacked when it came to this young athlete. Although there are days where running the best seems to be a challenge, she persisted. While running in strong winds, rough weather and some exceptionally warm days, Reagan's mentality and strength never failed to successfully carry her to the finish line.

There are almost always instances that occur in life where people wish they were able to redo something that has taken place. When talking to Reagan, she stated that she firmly believes that everything in life happens for a reason. Over the course of her career, everything that occurred has shaped her into the magnificent runner she is today. Although running is no easy task, the work that Reagan has put into this sport has provided her with outstanding results. Just a few weeks ago, Reagan became the fifth-place medalist at states for cross country. Although this ride was tiring, the result was sweet... quite literally.

States for cross country take place in Hershey, the sweetest place on earth, especially for Reagan. For being a state medalist and a district and Colonial League champion and a school record-holder, she has always remained humble. A true runner's work will always pay off in the long run. As Reagan's teammate on the track and field team, I can proudly say watching Reagan's races has always been incredible. Seeing the hard work and determination one young woman can have is astonishing.

"It's such an awesome feeling when you see the banner go down as you are crossing. It's a dream," she said. After a long, strenuous race, crossing the line must be the best part of it all. After these past four years, Reagan has accumulated an incredible number of wins, medals, plaques, and records. The process of becoming an incredible runner is no simple ride. On days where you seem to be off, you must persevere and strive to be the best you can be, regardless of the condition you are in. Reagan's perseverance and hard work had never been absent and no matter what the conditions were, she came ready to run her heart out.

"I would not be the runner I am today without the help of my coaches, my friends and, of



course, my family," she said. Reagan's support system has always been incredible as she has had her family and friends always cheering her on at the finish line. Support has played a large role in guiding Reagan to her accomplishments. Family, friends, and her coach, Mr. David Oertner, have always been willing to go the extra mile to see Reagan succeed more and more in every race she runs. For years, family and friends were waiting at the finish line with signs and cheers to celebrate her fifth-place success.

With her strong work ethic, strong support system and determination to reach new goals, she will truly change the world. Reagan has always gone the extra mile... in all seriousness. No matter where life takes her, we will always find her succeeding and striving to become a better runner each and everyday. 🐾

Shyamalan started with gold; other gems overlooked

BY AVA ROSARIO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

M. Night Shyamalan's career has been one of debate for well over a decade. His career took off after the renowned thriller, *The Sixth Sense* (1996), a movie with a twist that is still acclaimed today. Unfortunately,

Shyamalan's out-of-the-park hit led to his critical demise. All other projects could only be compared to what was considered the start of a promising director. It set the bar too high, and his other works naturally paled in comparison.

While I agree that none of his following movies live up to *The Sixth Sense*, his career deserves more praise than it has received. During the next six years after his big-screen debut, Shyamalan established his directive voice of plot-twists and suspense through *Unbreakable*, *Signs*, and *The Village*. Rotten Tomatoes says that his creative stump hit with *The Village*, but *it* held more merit than critics wanted to give it. It's misunderstood, critiqued under the lens of comparison.]

A review from film critic Debbie Lynne Elias reads, "When compared to Shyamalan's more meticulous works...disappointment is the guaranteed outcome." If critics are always going to compare his films, it's no wonder that they seem terrible.



The main argument that I've heard during my debates on *The Village* is that the plot twist ruins the re-watching experience, not that it's a *bad* twist. Isn't that how every movie works? You're supposed to see the twist coming—that's what a lot of people don't get about good stories. If the director foreshadows effectively, viewers should have a good idea of what is

going to happen.

That doesn't mean that directors can throw predictable clichés into an already typical story. Shyamalan uses his skills as a storyteller to actually utilize his characters as a pivotal part of his tales. At least in his better movies, the action doesn't simply happen *to* them. They are moving toward a thrilling plot.

The true stump hit in 2006 with *Lady in the Water*, a tale full of bland characters and plot points that made me ashamed to defend Shyamalan for years to come.

The releases that followed were his worst, the most notable being *The Last Airbender*, one of the biggest disgraces in adaptation history with a well-deserved 5 percent on Rotten Tomatoes. Almost a decade passed before his fans saw a

sign of hope.

Shyamalan's career picked up again with *The Visit*. Released in 2015, it is a simple thriller that revived his acclaim among critics. It even scored higher by critics than general audiences. Nevertheless, fans felt like they were getting the Shyamalan they needed back. *The Visit* is

not considered notable, but I consider it the comeback that brought back the twist-filled stories that we crave.


In recent years, his reviews are taking the same drop I saw with *The Village*. *Glass*, the last segment of the *Unbreakable/Eastrail 177* trilogy, is Shyamalan's latest release of 2019. I finished that movie ready to read all the praising reviews, but found (to my chagrin) that critics were not happy.

Again, they were comparing. I do notice a few points where interactions and relationships between characters may seem rushed or forced, but the ending is just not as disappointing as everyone makes it out to be.

The character of Mr. Glass truly comes into play in a satisfying way. The twist was right under viewers' noses, and it is so satisfying to see a character's qualities come together in the finale.

Twist after twist, Shyamalan delivered. It seems to me like critics don't want to accept the complex.

Now Shyamalan's fans have a new release to look forward to: *Servant*. The trailer is chilling, teetering closer to the horror genre than he typically experiments in. Though there are worries about the inevitable clichés that accompany horror films, fans know that this new era has so much to come. 🐾



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After the *White* went black, Pinkman roared on

'*El Camino*' picks up where '*Breaking Bad*' ended; Netflix movie ties up loose ends

BY GAVIN TISCHLER
STAFF WRITER

What happened after Walter White collapsed, the credits rolled, and one of the greatest TV shows in history came to a close? Finally, we were told the story.

El Camino is the epilogue of the AMC series '*Breaking Bad*'. Spoilers for the show and movie will be in this review, so if you plan on watching the show or movie, you've been warned. *Breaking Bad* was a blockbuster hit and my personal favorite of all time.

It tells the story of Walter White, a good father and chemistry teacher who gets lung cancer and starts making and selling hardcore drugs with a former student, Jesse Pinkman. The series ends with Walter rescuing Jesse from a group of Neo-Nazis who have kidnapped and tortured him. Walter ends up passing away and the show ends with Jesse driving an *El Camino* through the gate of their compound to get away from it all.

The movie picks up immediately after the show ends with Jesse going to his friends' house where we get to see how his mind is messed up from being tortured for months and how he deals with that emotion.

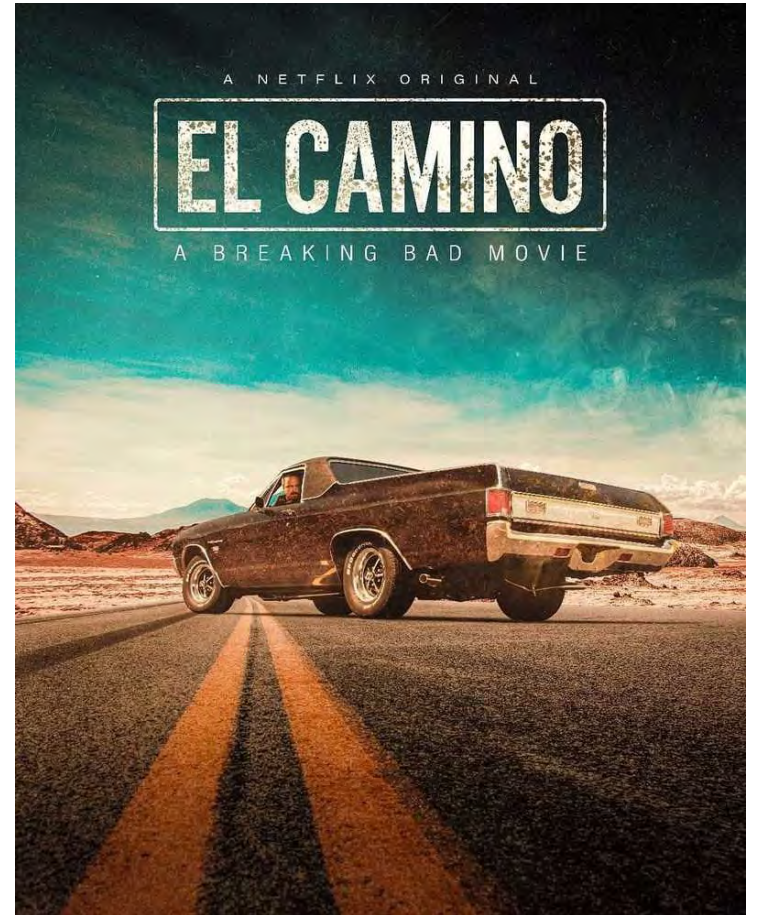
Genius show writer/creator Vince Gilligan did a

great job of showing this and how Jesse attempts to move on. The rest of the movie involves Jesse trying to find money for a fresh start at life and to get away from his troubled past.

The twist with the FBI agents being the white supremacists that kidnapped him is something I loved in the movie and it added lots of tension toward the end.

The only issue I had with *El Camino* is the number of flashbacks it had. They had too many of them during scenes where I would rather watch real-time events. Most of these scenes involve Todd, a psychopathic character from the show that many fans hated. Most of the flashbacks were unnecessary and they could've improved upon them.

The big question is, was *El Camino* worth the years of waiting? I believe it definitely paid off well. The acting was phenomenal, and Aaron Paul delivers one of his best performances of all time. It is slow at first but it really picks up during the second half of the film, and that standoff scene is one of the best movie scenes of this year. Jesse's journey from criminal and addict to a changed man who has moved away from it all was great to watch and added closure to the characters. The movie did the show justice and I enjoyed it a lot. It isn't a perfect movie, but it has its place and it is great as an epilogue to *Breaking Bad*. 🐾



Preppin' for a Palmerton Punishing



(Left) Ema Gnas made sure her face-paint was sparkly enough. (It was). (Above) Aiden Blencowe and family chilled prior to the fire.

STIGMA

From page 7

included: Being raised to bottle up and hide feelings is only effective to a certain extent before emotions have to be expressed in one way or another, and a lot of *guys* have trouble even identifying what they are feeling in the first place.

How are you supposed to understand something you've hidden from your whole life? This leads to what I like to refer to as "mix-matched feelings." As

stated, very normal human emotions such as sadness or vulnerability are seen as "feminine and weak," so they may be misinterpreted or wrongly expressed as, say, anger or pride.

So when it comes to this unwillingness or inability to discuss mental health, what does this mean for men? Data provided by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention shows that the highest number of suicides committed in 2017 was among the demographic of middle-aged, white men.

To coincide with that is the more shocking piece of data, which states that

in 2017, men were 3.54-times more likely to commit suicide than women. I see this as no coincidence.

People do not commit suicide simply because they are sad; people commit suicide when entangled in the chains of mental illness or a deep situational depression and feel as if they have nowhere else to turn for relief. When men feel as if they cannot come forth about negative feelings that may affect them on a daily basis, suicide may seem like the only solution to "silence the demons."

Will society ever have a widespread acceptance of men who speak out about

their emotions? The true answer to that is simple: I don't know. My purpose in writing this article is not to change society, but rather to bring even a sliver of awareness on this issue, to help one fellow male gain the courage to speak up, or to even just make one person feel comfortable in his own head knowing he is not alone.

So please, pay attention to the males in your life. Everybody needs a shoulder to cry on sometimes, even the manliest man. 🐾

GOING BIG

From page 10

quite different than college and the NFL. However, when push came to shove (literally, sophomore Matt Frame pushed his way into the endzone not once, but twice), they got it done. Frame has produced huge gains in the back field all season long, and Coach Tout knew that was his guy in this situation. After he put the ball in Frame's arms to score a touchdown in OT, he also chose to run the same exact play when they went for the two-point conversion.

"I knew Frame was getting the ball and running the same exact play from the start," he said. "We talked about running to the other side at first, but I knew they weren't expecting us to run the same play twice."

To the surprise of many, it worked. Tout's play call shocked many of the fans, but it certainly did not surprise the boys and even NL football alumni. They all said they were fully expecting the gut-wrenching call, as they say Tout is a "go big or go home" type of coach.

The 2019 Dawgs just defeated Palmerton 43-42 in

OT. At that point, emotions were high and the boys got their bragging rights for the next year. They brought that Battle of Blue Mountain trophy home and can proudly say they were wearing the right shade of blue. Although they missed the playoffs, Coach Tout is still extremely proud of their work ethic, and he truly could not have been happier to see it all fall into place in OT.



Photo by Ali Lora

Dale Wanamaker

After all, he said, "There's no sense in going into another OT, the guys were getting tired. Plus, I knew that was the play I wanted to use from the start. We were going for it all. At no point did it dawn on me that this play could make or break the game or even the season. We were ready." 🐾

Poetry over prose for self-empowerment

BY SABRINA MARSH
STAFF WRITER

The power of poetry can't be argued with. Poetry affects all people of all generations and they write about everything from love to loss, life and death. Have you ever seen a quote on Snapchat, Instagram, or Facebook and related to it? That's poetry.

When a poet writes, he or she is speaking to the reader personally, letting them in on their thoughts, ideas, hates, loves. Poetry allows you to talk about some of the more difficult things a person can experience. Writing, in general, helps you get to your inner thoughts or feelings. Reading poetry alone can help you think of new ideas and change your old ones.

Poetry is extremely needed because it helps everyone in different ways.

"Poetry helps me to stay calm and keeps me happy. It helps me by letting me write my feelings down instead of getting stressed," Brooke Delaney, sophomore. Poetry is a form of release -- release from frustration, anger, sadness. Or it can just be the product of something happy or exciting.

There are some poems that can change your life. They change the way you view the world. Sometimes if you repeatedly read one, it can reveal areas of your life and experience something that you've forgotten and lost sight of.

If we would break it down, poetry is important

because it makes us think. Both writing and reading poetry, through the expression of feelings and words, have power.

The structure of a poem favors brevity yet the best poems also capture great detail, making them incredibly powerful in getting a message across to the reader. I'm sure the power of poetry is to help the writer and make the reader feel something, feel what the writer was going through.

Good poetry offers wisdom and insight. Like music, poetry is not only therapeutic to the poets themselves but to the person who perceives the words as they do. Poetry's strength lies in its ability to shine a light on the world and the truth. It teaches us how to live.

Poetry is like cleaning your room after a month, you can finally see the floor. If we let poetry in and embrace it, it helps us

find a way to emphasize each other. Poetry is typically short but deeply emotional.

Writers get in touch with sentiments they might not have known they had until it was down on paper. Depression and anxiety are among the top two mental illnesses being treated with and through poetry, a person can start to understand the internal blocks being formed around their mind.

Expressing how you feel is difficult for some. I've found that poetry is one of the best outlets. It helps to know that I have an outlet that won't get me or others in trouble with anything. 🐾



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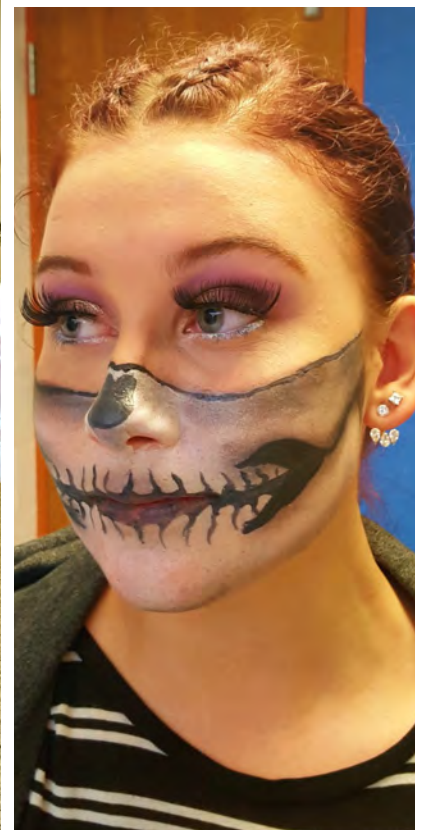
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The Halls Were Alive on Halloween



THE TOMB RAIDER

Meanwhile, as the events of Ms. A's death unfold, Bourbon and Triplica are helping some fellow heroes track a tomb raider in the Amazon.

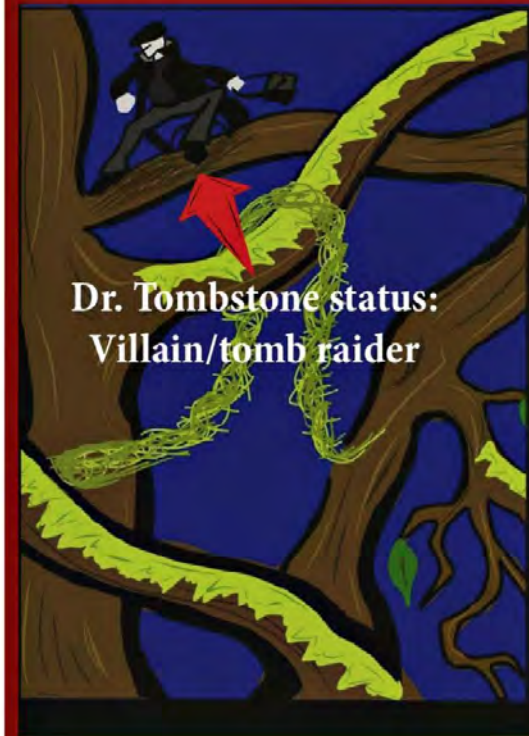


R.E.D, UP THERE!

CAGER

Status: Hero/Vigilante

BY CHASE JONES



Dr. Tombstone status: Villain/tomb raider

R . RAGE
E . ENHANCED
D . DYNAMO



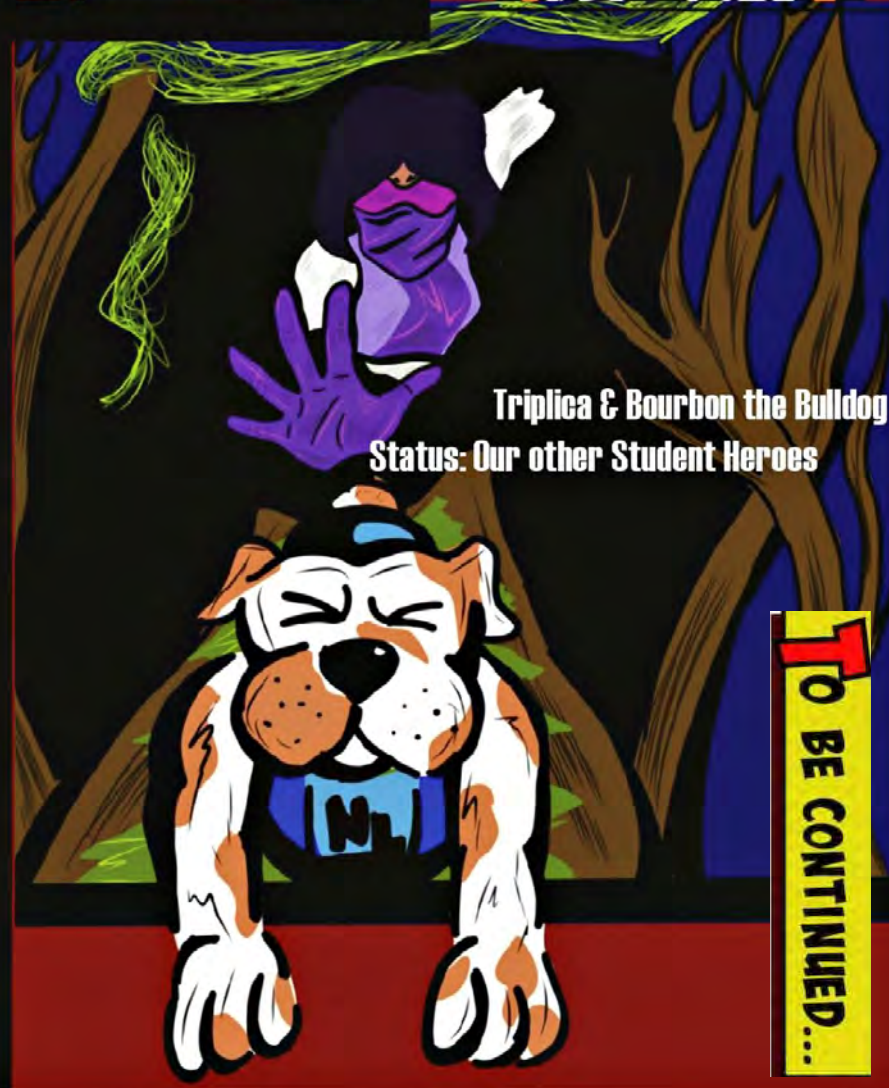
STATUS: HERO/ARCHEOLOGIST

Bourbon and Triplica, cut him off. Tex, lay down some fire. Cager, follow my lead.



Gunslinger/ 'Tex'

status: Hero/Vigilante



Triplica & Bourbon the Bulldog
Status: Our other Student Heroes

TO BE CONTINUED...