

Life's Greatest Question Answered

Student conducts sociological experiment to answer one of life's greatest questions

By: Daniel Seguin
Staff Writer

Art is everywhere. Art impacts every individual on this planet. But what actually is art? Few people think about what art is, but junior Mikala Evans has embarked on a quest to find an answer.

Evans has started a project on Facebook and Instagram entitled "Project: Art". The concept of it is this: Evans asks people "What is art?" She then takes their picture and posts it to a Facebook account dedicated to the project, along with their name, age, and response.

Evans was inspired to start an online project by a similar project called "Humans of New York" which is created by Brandon Stanton. It is a book and a blog that feature pictures of people from New York and a short story of their life. Evans emailed Stanton when she first started the project, but has yet to hear back.

She originally got the idea for the question "What is art?" by T-shirts that were created for an event at Richmond High School called "EnRichmond", an arts festival that was held last spring.

The two ideas came together in the form of her project.

Evans isn't limited to asking her friends and family. She has asked complete strangers to be featured in her project. She attended the Good Ole Days Festival, held during September 10 through 13, with a camera in tow.

Evans said, "I thought the Good Ole Days Festival would have a good sample size to get a large range of answers. Lots of people go to it, so I figured why not?"

Most people were very welcoming to having their picture taken, but some were more apprehensive. Evans said, "I asked a man and he said he didn't want to, but would ask his wife because she liked stuff like that. Then his wife said no too."

This has not deterred Evans, however, as she is still out getting answers.

Evans isn't limited to asking fellow students. She has also asked teachers what they believe art is.

She asked Dr. Ladd, history teacher, his opinion on the subject. His answer was, "Art is useless crap you try to get people to buy, but I can say that because my daughter is an art major at NYU." She also asked Mrs. Belf, art teacher,

the age-old question. To answer, she used a quote from French painter Edgar Degas: "Art is not what you see, but what you make other people see."

Evans has been in photography class for two years. Mrs. Belf said of her style of photography, "Lighting is very important to her; she does a lot with shadows in order to create a mood."

Evans is deeply passionate about photography. In class, she only turns in work she has perfected. Mrs. Belf said, "Whenever I give her an assignment she doesn't turn in anything subpar. She thinks differently than most people would and really stood out as a sophomore."

There is a lesson that Evans hopes can be gleaned from this project. She said, "People should think about what art is. There are museums dedicated to it. I hope someone can see this project, and then think about it."

This is also a bit of a sociology experiment for Evans. She said, "It's a question that can be interpreted in so many different ways, and it's just neat to see what different people have to say about it."

So far, Evans has around 80 entries posted to the Instagram account, which has garnered over 1000 followers. And that number is growing. Evans said she will end the project "when people stop defining art." Since people have been thinking about art since the dawn of mankind, it is safe to say that Evans will be doing this for a while. She is thankful for the almost unlimited amount of time she has, because "the population is nearing 8 billion, and I want as many people as I can to answer this question."

Sometimes people dwell on what art is for a while after Evans interviews them. Clayton Maksymuk, sophomore, was interviewed and said of the experience, "I had never really thought about what art was. I heard the word said a lot. I said it myself a lot, but never thought to define it. When she asked me, I had to think a little."

Maksymuk has since changed his answer, saying that he now believes art is "a distraction from the inevitability of death."

Evans has been interested in art, specifically photography, her entire life. She said, "Ever since I was young, I had a camera. I was always taking pictures."

Evans has her own response to what art is: "Art is anything that evokes emotion."

As for the future of the Project Art, Evans said that she hopes to keep doing it as long as she can.

ISIS Becoming a More Realistic Threat

By: Nick Thomas
Sports Editor

The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, aka ISIS,

ISIS has been a major topic across the world for the past year now. ISIS, a terrorist group formed out of Syria and Iraq, was brought to life when Syria broke out into a civil war, and they took over Syria and Iraq. Since then ISIS has been seemingly trying to take over the Middle East.

On November 13, 2015, ISIS out into motion a terrorist attack against Paris. The terrorist attack took place during a soccer game between France and Germany.

During the soccer game, there was an explosion heard outside of the stadium in which people then evacuated the stadium.

During the evacuation process, as people scrambled through the streets to find safety, another explosion occurred. After these explosions, there were shootings in other areas of Paris, then concluded with another explosion of a bomb.

After the conclusion of the attacks, 129 people lay dead, 352 injured in hospitals, 99 of which were in critical condition.

This terrorist attack has brought the world's attention back to ISIS. Especially here in the United States, and now more than ever now that ISIS has reportedly said to have members of ISIS here, in the U.S.

"The U.S. government can't do anything besides monitor possible threats. ISIS is a very well organized extremist group, and anyone in America can be a part of them because we have that freedom," said history teacher Dr. Ladd.

"We've been attacked here in the United States before.

The most widely known terrorist attacks in the U.S. are 9/11 and the Boston Marathon bombing, however both of those terrorist attacks were unannounced. ISIS has deliberately said they are here.

When does ISIS plan its attack in the U.S. and where? This is a question many of us U.S. citizens are asking ourselves, where and when? And how?

"We have 71 trained soldiers in 15 different states ready at our word to attack any target we desire. Out of the 71 trained soldiers 23 have signed up for missions like Sunday. We are increasing in number bithallah [if God wills]. Of the 15 states, 5 we will name... Virginia, Maryland, Illinois, California, and Michigan..." The next six months will be interesting," said ISIS according to an Article by Western Journalism.

Of these 15 states ISIS says they have members in, Michigan happens to be one of these states.

All of us live here in Michigan, this is where we call home. Now we sit here knowing that there are members of a terrorist group in our homeland.

"I don't think about it, I don't really care that they [ISIS] is here in Michigan. There's nothing we can do, and if we live in fear, that means we're letting them win," said senior Ashley Reece.

The question we all ponder now, is why didn't the U.S. government do anything about ISIS when they first emerged in the Middle East?

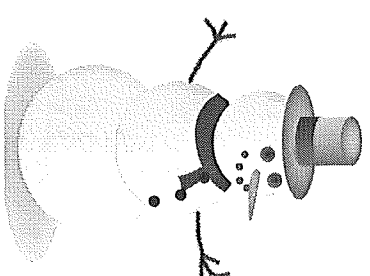
"We should've went in earlier and taken care of it when they were smaller, now we have a problem to take care of," said Dr. Ladd.

A few years ago when ISIS emerged in the middle east, President Obama was faced with the decision to do something about ISIS or ignore, he referred to ISIS as a "JV team" and our military as a "Varsity team" and asked why'd we send in the varsity team to fight the JV team.

That "JV team" looks pretty good now...

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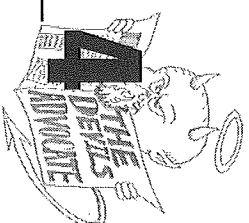


- Martin Luther King Jr. awarded the Noble Peace Prize in 1964
- The 14th Dalai Lama awarded the Noble Peace Prize in 1989
- Treaty of Paris signed, ending Spanish-American war in 1898
- Theodore Roosevelt awarded a Noble Pace Prize in 1906
- Mississippi admitted as 20th state of the union in 1817

On This Day

School News

December 10, 2015



All Business: Ladd takes Reins of Varsity

By: Christina Thomas
Advertising Editor

He was once the freshmen boys' basketball coach and now he has worked his way up in the program to being the girls' basketball coach at the varsity level.

Dr. Mark Ladd, teacher and coach at RHS, is taking this coaching position head on.

"I have wanted to be the Varsity Girls Coach for several years. Many do not know I first applied when the district hired Coach Pearson," said Coach Ladd. Coach Pearson coached at RHS for three years along with 10 years of teaching.

Coach Ladd has brought dedication and desire to his team with the practices they have had so far in the season.

"He pushes us to do our best while inspiring us to do our hardest to become a better player," said junior Amanda Gorr, a guard on the varsity team.

Coach Ladd has one goal and he has wanted to pursue this goal for a while now.

"The team goal is to command and demand respect for themselves and the team as a girls basketball program," said Coach Ladd.

Coach Ladd is all about the team and only the team. His main focus is to improve the team as a whole rather than individuals.

Coach Ladd has coached a variety of girls' sports at multiple levels since the 1980s.

He has taken on the role of coaching at 12 different schools, three of which were out of state.

He coached softball at St. Franchise Cabrini High School, boys' football, track, and baseball at multiple schools, and at RHS he has coached boys and girls track at multiple levels.

Both seniors got invited to play football in Australia for 9 days at a football camp that only a selected few players from each state got the pleasure of being invited to.

Each kid gets the pleasure of representing their own state.

"It's probably the most accomplishing thing that has ever happened to me football wise, and just in general," Hamel said. "But I think what makes me the happiest about it is the fact that it just came in the mail randomly."

All the young athletes who were invited, were invited by surprise.

"I was the first one invited to it out of everyone I know which made me a little nervous," Hamel said. "But then when I was sitting in second hour and

boys' basketball, and girls' basketball at the freshmen and JV level.

All of the coaching positions he has had has taught him the most important concept of a team: desire and work ethic.

He played basketball a little in his early high school years; however, he states his skill level directed him into the intramural program.

"I have been fortunate to have had worked for many very good coaches and I like to think I have learned from both other coaches and my players," said Coach Ladd. He says he has learned a lot from RHS's former boys' varsity basketball coach, Coach Barnes.

"The most important thing Coach Barnes taught me was how to organize a program," said Coach Ladd.

Being a coach, he does not hold hopes but rather has expectations.

"My expectations are for the team to realize they are good basketball players and to maximize their strengths to optimize their successes this season," said Coach Ladd.

With this being said, it gives reasoning as to why Coach Ladd picked the teams motto: All Business.

Coach Ladd talks about building the program so girls have more respect in sports.

But how does he plan to do this? Coach Ladd said, "I will not do this but rather the girls will by the way they conduct themselves as professionals both on the floor and in the hallways of RHS."

At Richmond education is always before athletics. The way the girls carry themselves in the halls of RHS is where it needs to start in order to start gaining respect on the court as an athlete, according to Coach Ladd.

In sports, and especially basketball, some don't take girls seriously because the male gender dominates in this particular program, but Coach

Ladd plans to change that starting this year.

"Ever since I began working at RHS it was clear to me that the women in this district were exemplary students and athletes. I have always been perplexed as to why they have been treated as second class citizens when it came to athletics. This will no longer be the case as I have the best students and athletes in our building and we will be a program that others will wish to emulate," said Coach Ladd.

Not only does he conduct the varsity practices but also the junior varsity.

"Practicing with the varsity players is a lot more serious and we work a lot harder," said sophomore Jessica Weaver, a post for the junior varsity team.

"The older girls set an example for us to look at and learn from which will only benefit us as a whole."

Every coach brings different strategies and a different mindset to the game.

"Coach Ladd is very different from our former coach, Coach Shrod," senior Grace Daniel says. "His fundamentals are different and his defense aspects are something we seniors are not used to; we all have high hopes for the season and I'm excited to see what we will accomplish as a team."

Coach Ladd isn't worried about other teams or any obstacles the team might run into during the season.

"The only obstacle we have is the limitations we place on ourselves," said Coach Ladd. "I have no worries for this team, the high quality of character of the girls as well as the exceptional work ethic of the players will guide us through our season."

found out that Matt got invited too I wasn't so nervous anymore."

For anyone, going into another country, somewhere where you have no idea what to expect, or who to expect it can be an uncomfortable feeling.

However, for these two seniors, being friends all through middle school and high school, are holding their heads high knowing there are not going alone, but with each other.

"They gave it to me while I was 2nd hour Anatomy," Poppe said. "I didn't even know what it was, I thought I was in trouble."

It is an innovative program covers all facets of football, and is designed to improve your skills and maximize enjoyment.

However, in order to play, each individual who was invited must go onto the website and sign in and complete a form in which gives information on if they were invited or not, and they are to pay \$300.

The only upset about this, is they don't know if they are able to go.

After sending the \$300, they will get an email back from the program informing them on if they

have been 100% accepted into the camp.

"After reading further into the program I'm a little more worried," Poppe said. "I have faith in both Hamel and I but it makes me think of all the things I should have done during this season."

Not to mention, the whole town has faith in these two seniors considering they have proved what they are capable of within the past couple years of their football careers.

"If I don't get accepted into it I hope that Matt will," Hamel said.

"As accomplishing as it would be for both of us, I know we have a whole district and city that is proud of us no matter what."

Rather or not the both boys go, just one, or neither the fact of being acknowledged for the sport they both love is just as good.

"As fun as it would be to go out of the country and play football with kids from all over, I think I would be fine sticking to a local camp over summer and helping younger kids improve on their skills," Hamel said.

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Fantasy Football: Struggles and Prosperities

By: Brendan Hart
Sports Co-Editor

Fantasy football has taken over NFL fan bases everywhere for several years now and it is all thanks to Wilfred "Bill the Gill" Winkenbach who started the first fantasy football league way back in 1968.

Times have definitely changed as teams back in '68 had both offensive and defensive linemen. Fantasy football didn't take off until 1997 when CBS launched the first publicly available free fantasy football website which immediately took off. Within the next few years all sports media released their own fantasy football sites. Finally in 2010 the NFL released their own version which is now, five years later, the most popular site for fantasy football.

Fantasy has now become a household word that starts popping up as soon as OTAs start in the summer. It is when owners, as they are called, start watching rookies, players on new teams along with the seasoned veterans who are always susceptible to injuries.

"I always tend to lean toward the vets like Tom Brady and Ben Roethlisberger over the unproven like Jameis and Mariota," said senior Stefan Fenwick who has taken part in fantasy football since sixth grade.

Quarterbacks are obviously very important, which makes the fact that there are plenty to choose from, like lock-in starters Aaron Rodgers and Cam Newton, or sleepers like Blake Bortles or Carson Palmer even better.

"Dual-threat quarterbacks are awesome, like Russell Wilson for example, because they will get you the traditional 250 passing yards and a few touchdowns plus 50 yards rushing and sometimes even a score," said Fenwick, who is in first place in his league at 7-3, ahead of fellow Richmond students Andrew Hamel, Brandon Meyers and Matt Poppe.

One thing that has made this season one to remember – or one to forget – has been injuries to top running backs. Chiefs All-Pro back Jamaal Charles tore his ACL in Week 5 versus the Chicago Bears.

Another All-Pro running back to suffer a season ending injury was Steeler Le'Veon Bell who tore his MCL in Week 8. For fantasy owners who selected these two picks with most likely their first round picks, their season is most likely down the drain.

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From Small Town To Big Continent: Poppe and Hamel's Journey

By: Emma Gillem
Co-News Editor

For most high school athletes getting recognition for the sport they love is a great feeling.

However, some students like senior Andrew Hamel and senior Matt Poppe got recognition from not only Macomb County, but also out of the country.

Both seniors got invited to play football in Australia for 9 days at a football camp that only a selected few players from each state got the pleasure of being invited to.

Each kid gets the pleasure of representing their own state.

"It's probably the most accomplishing thing that has ever happened to me football wise, and just in general," Hamel said. "But I think what makes me the happiest about it is the fact that it just came in the mail randomly."

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