

FEATURES

Xerri's Creative Streak is on the Move

Christina Farkas
News Co-Editor

Your mind-you can say-is in artist's black

Your pencil taps as your imagination is attempting to discover

You scan the room only hoping for inspiration to hit

Then a hit of adrenaline overwhelms your senses

It seems now-the idea has hit you

Your hands grab the edge of a crisp,

blank sheet of sketch paper

All you can do now- is sketch

Pencil shavings flutter to the floor.

Erasor residue litters your table

But it does not bother you, for a masterpiece is currently in progress.

Every morning, junior Taylor Xerri awakens to a new day as every student does. But Xerri sees the morning as the greatest start to her day, because she has Drawing 2.

"It's one of the classes I can look forward to everyday, because I don't have to stress out for the other classes I really need to concentrate in," said Xerri. When paint or charcoal covers her hands, she can't think of being in any better place.

Ms. Belf, the art teacher, has impacted Xerri as well as many other students through her few years at Richmond High School. "As soon I had my very first drawing class, she was the one who helped me through it all. Step by step," said Xerri.

"Taylor is accepting of criticism, because she truly wants to get better and learn. She attacks each assignment with the drive to be better than anyone else in the class for that particular assignment. She is not afraid to ask for help and wants to learn everything she can about each medium that we use. She's a talented artist, but it is not just a "gift". She has gotten where she is, like most successful people, through hard work and discovery," said Ms. Belf.

As Xerri sits herself down to a piece every day, she not only has her own self-motivation but the motivation of her superiors and friends. It places her in a zone of inspiration which she puts into her art.

A majority of the time Xerri uses a pencil or colored pencil to develop the art she makes. "I have around four sketch books that are lying around," said Xerri. "Whenever an idea comes to my head, I'm lucky enough to be able and draw it out."

In the beginning, it all seemed to have started with a few drawings she drew as a little girl. Her mother collected her art in a little cozy, but whenever Xerri had seen it, she felt inspired to keep on going with an artist's dream.

"I was always just drawing," said Xerri. "When mom showed me the box, I remember everything rocketing from there."

Xerri has many artistic members in her family tree that motivate her to keep on doing what she really loves to do. Her father is a graphic designer, her uncle was an art student who currently continues in the field, her aunt crochets,

and her father's grandfather is a painter. "Art is something that is highly unappreciated, especially in school," said Xerri. "But I am not scared to pursue what I love, and the people in my life motivate me to do so."

On the other side of drawing and painting, Xerri enjoys dabbling in photography. She has a personal camera that she got for Christmas last year that she often uses to capture picture-perfect moments.

"That was the one gift I was really wishing for," said Xerri. "I was so happy when I saw what I had received, and knew then I had another spark to influence me."

Xerri is happy to have the chance to snap a shot, at any moment and any time. She believes people were born in a time where we are lucky enough to see technology evolve, and we should take every chance to use it.

Every year, new models of high-tech modules are created. "You don't need to buy the most expensive camera out there. But we all have the chance to hold on to anything from a Polaroid, just to grasp onto a fond memory," said Xerri.

One of Xerri's friends must have seen her vision, as she hired her to take her senior photos. It came as a surprise, and she was nervous. But, she had the intent of making her friend happy.

When the day came to do the photos, she sat with her client and described the vision they both saw would work best. The rest of the day was full of angles, lighting, and 'modeling.'

Everything was eventually developed, and sent out. "She really loved them, and I'm glad I could make my friend happy with those forever-lasting type of photos," said Xerri.

To Xerri, photos are the type of things that last forever and can be something looked back on. "I have photos all over my room. They leave me thinking of all the good times I've had with my friends and family," said Xerri. "I cherish them very much."

She is in third hour photography class, and learns all the techniques there are to increasing her skills, including developing pictures, posing different angles, shutter speeds, and so on. She is driven, and can't stop going.

In the Scholastics Art Competition, Xerri entered pieces of photography that seemed worthy in Xerri's eyes, and Ms. Belf's. So when January rolled in, she was waiting patiently for the names of winners.

Eventually, everything came through and she saw her name come through at the bottom of the list. "I received a Silver Key and an Honorable Mention," said Xerri. "My heart raced as I scrolled to the X's, and I was so happy to see what I received."

Xerri is proud of a lot of things she has created. "There was an abstract painting I had made that was really gorgeous, and was so happy with the way it had turned out."

But with art, practice makes perfect. Xerri remembers the moments when she tried to draw the lips and a nose on a portrait she was drawing and just



**KATIE FURTAW
ARTIST**

What is your favorite thing about art?

Being able to sit and be in my own world.

Who inspires you?

Mrs. Belf.

What is your favorite type of art?

Either painting or photography.

What was it like to win the EnRichmond t-shirt contest?

It was awesome. I almost passed out I was so excited.

could not get it right.

"It was frustrating because I really thought I wouldn't be able to do it," said Xerri. "But as I sat there, I decided to listen to music and concentrate. With a clear mind, I eventually got it. You just can't quit; you need to move on and work."

With Xerri being a junior, she has many decisions on her plate. Art school is a definite plan for her, but none have really come to her attention yet.

"I'm still learning, and growing in finding an art form that I really love," said Xerri. "I haven't even sorted out a portfolio but it is definitely on my agenda for the near future."

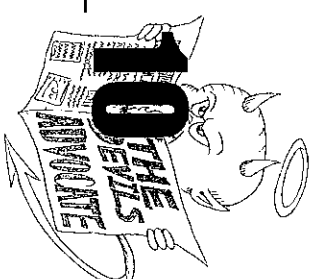
She believes that after a couple years of art school, and having a start to a career she'd become a teacher. Xerri thinks she would like to open kids to the art world, to show them they can have a career in art.

"I want to leave the kids finding their creativity," said Xerri. "I want them wanting more, and inspire them, even if they don't want to pursue a life in art."

Xerri shares the American Dream as many of us do. But she is confident in herself and does not care about the fact if she becomes successful or not.

"I just want to do art as long as I can hold up a pencil," said Xerri. "I see the art I create in my own image, but when other people see my art, I want them to see it the way they perceive it. Art is an escape from the reality we live in, and we need a little escape sometimes."

Features



VanGorp and White to be Warriors

Brandon Jacques
Sports Editor

Wayne State University will be welcoming two new students from RHS in the upcoming fall who look to strive for success.

These students will be seniors Brandon VanGorp and Bailey White who both look to take a path towards the medical field.

"They have a lot of majors that I am interested in going into, specifically nursing or a physician assistant," said VanGorp.

Wayne State University is specifically known for their nursing program and both of them will receive a great education.

For that reason, VanGorp decided to take that path and knows all the benefits going into it.

VanGorp said, "The medical field really interests me and also enjoy the challenge. It's also a very rewarding job by being able to help others with decent pay."

Brandon's inspiration to help others all started right here at RHS when joining Key Club three years ago.

This is an organization that gives students the opportunity to donate their time to help others in need.

VanGorp said, "It gives me experience with helping other people and bettering the community. It's really one of the

main reason I decided to go into the medical program in the first place."

Since Key Club has had such a huge impact on VanGorp he hopes to find a similar club or organization to go into during his time at Wayne State.

"It has made me realize how little actions can make such a big difference and I hope to just keep giving back to the community," said VanGorp.

Along with VanGorp's drive to help others, White wants to do the same exact thing.

"Key Club has been a huge influence on me going into the medical field. I love helping others in need and want to do it for the rest of my life," said White.

Not only has the idea of helping others influence these two to go to Wayne but the beautiful campus they have as well. VanGorp said, "I was really surprised on how new and nice everything was there."

The surroundings of campus might be even better with Motown, Greetkown, and all the other sporting events going on all year around.

"It will be awesome to be in the big city and walk around all the beautiful places they have there," said White.

Another huge advantage is that the campus is only forty five minutes away from home.

White said, "I've always like to be home. So by being so close it will be a lot easier on me to see my family and be

more comfortable," said White.

They are lucky enough to be able to have a vehicle with them to make it very convenient to come home whenever they need to.

"It will be nice to have a car so that I can drive home on the weekends if I have to. I'll be able to see my family frequently and that will be really nice," said VanGorp.

This was only possible because White was lucky enough to have an uncle who is letting them stay in his apartment five minutes away from campus.

White said, "This will be a huge benefit to both of us as it will save us about 10,000 dollars each year."

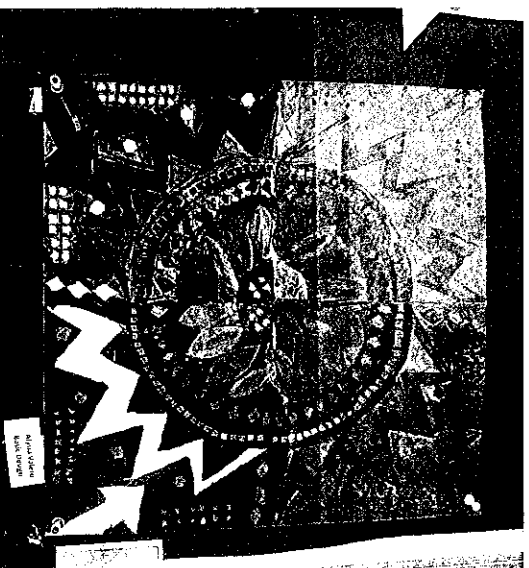
Being able to graduate college with 40,000 thousand dollars less in debt will be a huge advantage to both of them.

"I couldn't be lucky enough to have this opportunity. I'm trying to come out of college with the least amount of debt as possible. It also allows be to focus more on my studies," said VanGorp.

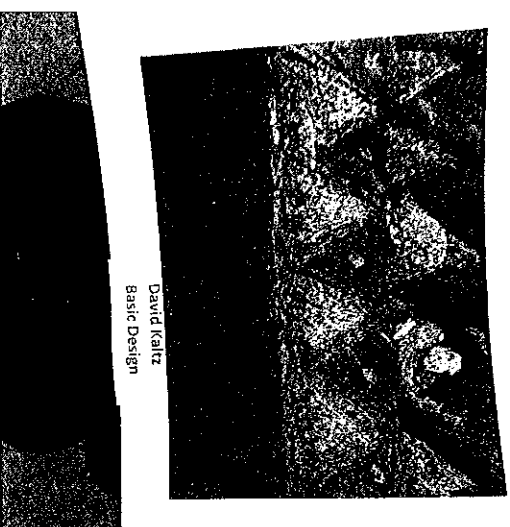
With that in mind, education is definitely the most important part of both of their college experiences. Both have made that a huge focus and continue to moving forward.

White said, "I have always taken my studies very seriously throughout high school. I know college will be a lot more difficult but I know that I will be able to stay on track."

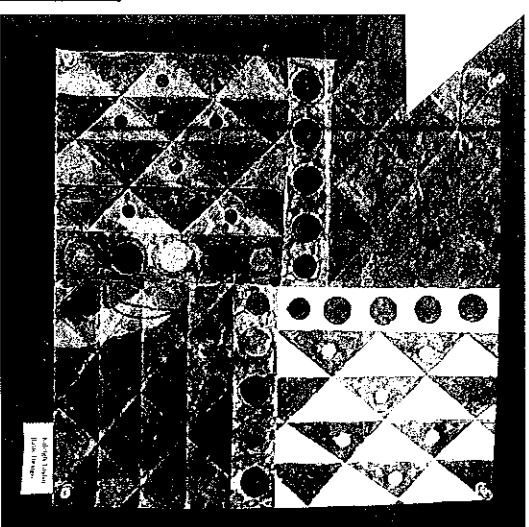
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