



Artwork Lends a Hand to Ghana The Meaning Behind Art

By: Kaitlyn Milliken
Staff Writer

"Happiness is not something ready made. It comes from your own actions." - Dalai Lama

On the day of the announcement of the Memory Project in Art class, I was immediately thrown into the web of my imagination.

I was excited about the idea of giving a piece of my artwork to my assigned kid, Nana Yaa, who lives in Ghana, a small country in Western Africa.

I felt as if this project as a whole, was a way to inspire happiness in our everyday lives, including the lives of the children on the other side of the planet.

The week's previous to the project, we trained ourselves in the art of drawing portraits. Drawing simple body parts eventually led us to drawing each other and then ultimately ourselves.

With these skills at hand, Mrs. Belf believed it was time for her students to use their abilities for something good, which led to her discovery of the 'Memory project' that she introduced to us.

According to memoryproject.org, "The Memory Project is a unique initiative in which art students create portraits for children and teens around the world who have been neglected, orphaned, or disadvantaged."

Drawing these portraits for these kids is

important because we are able to provide them with a picture of themselves that they can own, as they may not have the means to have physical memories of their youth.

And knowing as kids develop, they begin to question who they are. So having these portraits will hopefully give them a better sense of self-identification later on.

During the time I was drawing my portrait of Nana Yaa, I thought of the happiness of her, and the rest of the children to be a priority.

To put all that we have learned and our effort into these portraits should represent how much we truly do care. Unfortunately for me, I had to start the project over three times because I messed up. It wasn't proportionate.

It became increasingly frustrating as the deadline of my assignment was creeping up and my drawing of Nana Yaa looked like the Joker from 'The Dark Knight'.

I felt guilty, as my drawing, at the time, did not represent how much I cared. My final attempt at my drawing was successful -- Other than the fact that my paper experienced the defacing of a lifetime from an accident caused by an electric eraser. This drawing is sadly the drawing I will be sending.

Though, with the innovative mind of my art teacher, we came up with ways to improve the image with the damage, such as using a blending stump to smooth out the rough edges while giving more of a realistic

look, and adjusting the line of the face over the deeper cuts to hide them.

In the end, I believe that my mistakes have improved me as an artist by teaching me to persevere through tough situations, create creative solutions to my problems, and allow emotional influence to carry me through.

The reason I feel this way is because I believe that it is not only important to give to these children, but to have an experience that would hopefully teach my peers a valuable life lesson. To provide happiness, a source in life that is so important, and so strived for in our days, to others feels wonderful.

To bring light to their lives, is what can teach us to bring light to the lives of those that surround us. And, it is what evokes emotion, what makes us feel in situations that teach, and move us, to continue our efforts to feel those emotional consequences again.

I want my classmates to learn while they are young that they should try to do good for others, without worrying what they might gain from it. 'Give and gain, Gain and give' is a process that pushes out processed, materialistic-felt joy.

It's not the potential reward, nor the product that should motivate what you do for others.

First, you should worry about what you can do for others, and the good will follow.

How 'Bout Harbaugh?

Nick Thomas evaluates U of M's spring game

By: Nick Thomas
News Editor

The spring game:

Roughly 60,000 people poured into Michigan stadium, The Big House, to watch Jim Harbaugh and the Michigan Wolverines compete in their annual spring game.

Over 100 days ago, the University of Michigan introduced Jim Harbaugh as their head football coach, on December 30, 2015.

Now we fast forward to April 4, 2015. Michigan's annual spring game. Many people at the game, and those who watched the game on Big Ten Network, were eager to see what has come of the team since Harbaugh has been hired.

I myself, having attended the spring game, was very interested to see how the team has developed since Harbaugh arrived on campus.

First, I was very happy to see the team playing a full contact game, instead of practicing and running a few plays at the end with little to no contact at all.

The defense for both the blue team and the maize team was very impressive. With the final score being 7-0 in favor of the blue team, defense ruled the day at The Big House on April 4th.

Joe Bolden, senior linebacker, led the way with 12 tackles, three of which were for a loss, after three quarters of play. Ben Gedeon, a junior linebacker, had six tackles on the day. Gedeon will have to help compensate for the loss of linebacker Jake Ryan, who graduated last year. Shane Morris, junior quarterback, had the only

touchdown pass of the day, a 14-yard pass to redshirt sophomore Jaron Dukes.

Although the game ended in a 7-0 win for the blue team, both sides of the ball have clearly improved since Harbaugh's return to Michigan.

The defense, which played great, had good pressure on the quarterbacks, kept the receivers in check, and recognized and put an end to run plays quickly. A surprising change on defense, Dennis Norfleet will now be playing both sides of the ball as he is now a

cornerback. This will be an interesting move as he is at a height disadvantage standing at 5'7".

The offense still has a lot of improving to do until the start of the season. The offensive line needs to hold blocks longer for the quarterbacks and open bigger holes for the running backs.

As for the running backs, both Derrick Green and De'Veon Smith look good. Both looked stronger and faster. However, the return of Drake Johnson will be a big concern for the Wolverines.

Johnson who tore his ACL last year scoring a touchdown against Ohio State, will be a junior this upcoming year. He ran for 361 yard and 4 touchdowns in 60 attempts last year and will be the key to Michigan's running game this year if he can get back to full strength.

Johnson ran for 74 yards and two touchdowns against Ohio State last year and caught the eyes

of many Wolverine fans across the nation. He especially stood out to me in the Ohio State game and I look to him to be the number one back for the Wolverines this year if he can get healthy again.

With wide receivers, well, Michigan does not have any standout receivers this year. I believe Michigan will be looking to Amara Darboh, a red-shirt junior, to lead the team at the wide receiver position this year. Darboh played in many

games last year and made some good plays, and I look to him to have good upcoming year for the Wolverines.

As for the quarterback situation for Michigan, both Shane Morris and Alex Malzone, who have been reportedly both doing great in practice, performed on two different levels at the spring game.

Malzone, who has had some hype since arriving on campus at Michigan, did not live up to his expectation. As for Morris, he has seemingly improved since Harbaugh's arrival.

Although he looked better at the spring game, he still has to work on his accuracy when throwing the ball. I expect to see Morris as the number one quarterback come the first game of the season. In conclusion, I expect the team to grow and improve until the start of the season. With that said, I expect the Wolverines to go 9-3 with a win over rival Michigan State in Harbaugh's first season as Michigan's head coach.

Through the Shades: Golf on the Greens

By Beau Brockett, Jr.
Co-Features Editor

The track team barrels down fresh rubber. The soccer team dribbles on home turf. The softball and baseball teams hustle from diamonds to dugouts. Tennis is loving it on the courts.

And the golf team... well, a long drive away.

In the depths of Richmond Forest Golf Course, the Blue Devils are pitching, putting and sinking match wins without stadium lights or fan hype.

At any time, junior Damon Garan could be at Hole Five, a par three swamped with sand bunkers, vying against three rivals. It could be a BWAC match, where the league's six-man varsity teams play for the lowest collective score for either nine or 18 holes.

A Capae opponent could plop his seven iron shot ten feet from the pin. Garan, though – up next – would not be phased by such pressure. "It helps," he said. "You're experiencing how other people play."

While competition certainly exists, it's not as ruthless as other sports. In fact, the schools often talk to one another in their foursomes.

Instead, it is more of a mental bout for the junior. "Don't mess up" goes through my head a lot," he said.

A small mishap on this hypothetical hole could mean a trip to the sand dunes, not ideal for Garan, who believes his chipping needs the most work. Yet being a risk-taker, he would deadlock his sights on the pin.

Plunk.



Noah Kosal finishes his follow through after a well struck drive. (Photo courtesy of RHS Yearbook)

The Rising Star

By: Brendon Jacques
Staff Writer

"Winning a state title is the only thing that runs through my mind," said senior starting pitcher Dillon McInerney.

Heading into his senior year,

Meanwhile, senior Christian Failla perhaps just shot his revered rocket drive down the fairway of the first hole.

Over his span of three years, Failla has grown rapidly. "I play smarter than I used to. My mind game is better. I take less risks and make safer shots," the future CMU Chip-pewa said.

His personal goal: to shoot under 40. For the team: make it to States. Despite their successes (including a second place finish in a BWAC match), it will be a fight. Having five shoot under 90 is ideal, and although Richmond currently has only three, the next two aren't too far behind.

Although his approach shots may be the toughest to conquer and sometimes leave bogeys on his scorecard, they will never leave divots on his mind. Focusing on "leaving the bad holes behind you – just moving on," is critical to the senior.

Back at the driving range, James Powers may be loosening up before his big debut.

Despite being the lone freshman, Powers has not become team's cad-dy. "We all work as one," he said. "They don't look at me as a low-dog."

His grandfather was largely the inspiration behind joining – he had played golf before, but never competitively.

Being on the JV team, actual match play is sparse, but the practices can essentially be the same. If weather permits, the entire group will step away from the range and putting green and onto nine holes of golf.

Throughout the weeks, the newcomer has found his fluid swing to be his forte while self-confidence his hazard. "When you hit the ball bad, it brings you down," he said. "And then you're focusing on that bad shot."

However, much like Failla and Garan, head games are just as important as the actual game. "When you hit bad, you don't get mad; you just want to play through," he said. A few yards away, practicing his puts, sophomore Brandon Saikowski, like Powers, has also found the upperclassmen to be extremely helpful. "They're really kind," he said. "They're always quick to tell you what you need to work on."

First competing with the other JV members on April 24, Saikowski discovered golf's competitive atmosphere. He said, "I had a lot of pressure on me at first, but as we got into it, it got easier."

His shot of the day was a 240-yard zinger drive at Heather Hills in Almont with highs and lows scrambled throughout.

And amidst it all, Coach Ken Parlard is carting throughout the course, guiding his players shot by shot.

From a young age to college, Parlard has always had golf "in his blood," he said. After playing for St. Clair County Community College, he assisted their team until he saw an opening at Richmond.

"We have a solid group of returning players," he said. Indeed, his top five have all had at least three years varsity experience.

As a whole, the team is always improving. "I like to say that our team is very consistent at being inconsistent. There are some days we play very well and other days not so much," he said.

Nevertheless, he is proud to have a group, especially of seniors, competing for a common goal: the success of the team.

But do not take the team for what it is based on hypotheticals. Come out and support the Blue Devils as they take aim at the BWAC title on May 18 at Fore Lakes or drive for state qualification two days later at Rattle Run.

Why? Take it from Saikowski: "It's really a nice experience. It's really an eye-opener."

Thank you to Travis Doan for providing background information.

ing up short, it could be very difficult to overcome. McInerney said, "After coming so close and working so hard, it feels like everything has just been taken away from you all at once. We just have to stay mentally tough and we can accomplish anything we put our minds to."

With McInerney's dominance on the mound, anything is possible.

"When I'm most dominated on the mound it is when I'm commanding the strike zone, mixing my said
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Spring Fest 2015: School Rallies to Save Freshman Sports

By: Hailey Dziegelewski
News Co-editor

Have you ever wanted to play bingo but not on a game board?

If the answer is yes, then buy a square and hop on the board!

On May 17, from 12-3 p.m. there will be a festival called Spring Fest 2015 that will raise money for freshman sports. The main event for the festival is cow chip bingo. For those that don't know exactly what the game is, then read along.

The game will take place on the football field outside the high school. Each player will buy a 6-by-6 foot bingo square for \$20. The player will, however, not be allowed to choose which square they want. Names of raffle buyers will be entered into a raffle and a name will be selected for each square. There will be 360 squares raffled off.

Carlie Thume, senior, was generous in her donation of her three cows for the game. Jake, Daniel and Timber are their names. The way to the prize is to have a cow do his business on players' squares.

"If time runs out and cows haven't done their business then the winner will be chosen by wherever the cow is standing," said the Athletic Director Mr. Benoit.

There will be a first, second and third place winner. The first place winner will receive \$2,500, second place \$1,000 and third place \$500. The judges will be Mr. Parlard, Mr. Bartels, and Ms. Borwick all from RMS. The game will start at 2. For a better understanding of the game, there are YouTube clips of it online.

Along with the cow poop fun, there will be other activities to enjoy for both kids and adults. There will be obstacle courses, a cake walk, a chalk contest that will be judged and hosted by the cheerleaders and also by Miss Richmond's Lauren Riggs and her Court Haley Nicolopoulos and Stephanie Graham, a 50/50 raffle, dunk tank, bike raffle, Chinese raffle, bounce house, fire truck rides and more!

The Richmond historical fire truck will also be making an appearance. Cotton candy machines, ice cream carts and the concession stand will be offered to the public as well. The concession stand is kindly donating all the money they earn that day to the fundraiser.

Dunk tank victims as of now are Coach Bishop, Mr. Bourdeau, Mr. Wamsley, Mrs. Jahr, Mr. Schleder and possibly more!

Activity wristbands will be sold for \$5 and will include the obstacle course, bounce house and firetruck rides.

All the fun and creative events wouldn't be taking place if it wasn't
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The Blue Devil's Advocate

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