PEAK PERFORMERS in the ARTS

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Sports Editor

It seems that every year more and more outstanding Loy Norrix art students go unrecognized for their artwork. Loy Norrix has many young, talented artists, but few seem to notice them.

Senior Philip Cragin has been drawing for 14 years. He said his biggest influence is his dad because his dad was the one who introduced him to art. Cragin really enjoys both drawing music, using music to aid his creativity.

"Many of my drawings have been inspired by music," said Cragin.

Cragin mainly does illustrations focusing on graphic novels. He visually expresses the music that he hears. He has a lot of experience in art and has taken many art classes such as basic design, cartooning, independant drawing, fiber arts, and assembledge.

Cragin is currently taking A.P. portfolio with Art teacher Cindy VanLieu and Advanced Studio Art at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. Cragin wants to go to either Kendall University or Western Michigan University and become an animator.

"Many of my drawings have been inspired by music."
- Philip Cragin

Cragin completed this charcoal self-portrait during his sophomore year in art teacher Nancy Mollhagen's drawing class.

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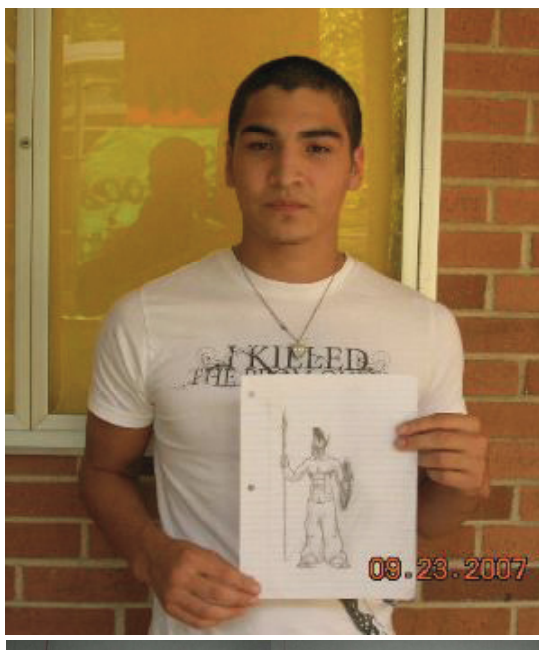

Senior Mateo Hernandez has been drawing since the age of three. Hernandez's father was an artist, and he taught Hernandez to draw at a very young age. He has taken many art classes at LN such as basic design, cartooning, painting, sculpture and drawing. He is currently not taking any art classes, but he continues to work on his own. He mainly focuses on black and white pencil sketches. Drawing is a way of expressing what inspires him.

"Many of my drawings are inspired by movies, books and music," said Hernandez.

He wants to go to college and do character creation and become a video game designer.

"Many of my drawings are inspired by movies, books, and music, "
- Mateo Hernandez

Here are a few of Hernandez's character sketches. Picture 1 was inspired by the movie "300" about 300 spartans. Picture 2 was inspired by "Beowulf" a book about a great warrior who becomes a king. Picture 3 was inspired by the "4 Horse Riders of the Apocalypse" who are mythological creatures.

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Junior Ellen VanderMyde has been drawing since she was four years old.

"My biggest influence is my mom becuase she was an artist," said VanderMyde.

She is currently taking A.P. portfolio with art teacher Cindy VanLieu as well as drawing with Nancy Mollhagen. VanderMyde says she does every type of art except for sculpture. She is not sure if she is going to major in art.

"It is definitely something I will rely back on if nothing else works out," said VanderMyde.

"I used objects in everyday life that go unnoticed, like the batteries, pennies, bottle caps...."
- Ellen VanderMyde

She really enjoys art. "It is a way I can express my thoughts visually," said VanderMyde.

This piece was done by VanderMyde done in her spare time. The main theme of this piece is Communication.

VanderMyde said, "I used objects in everyday life that go unnoticed, like the batteries, pennies, bottle caps...."

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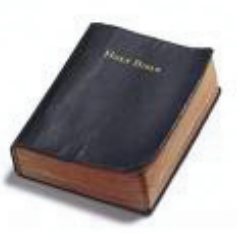
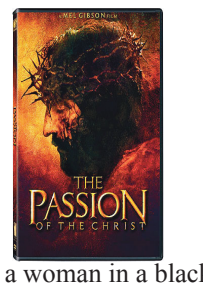
Controversial Movies



Matthew Evans
Asst. Business Manager

The Bible
Vs.
Passion of the Christ the film



Most movies are made to grab your attention and share with the public the producer's thoughts and opinions. In this sense the " The Passion of the Christ" is no exception. Mel Gibson was on a mission to let his audience see Jesus Christ through his eyes. Immediately that will get people upset because it is about religion and it gives the viewer the option to compare the Bible, the word of God, with a motion picture, the word of man.

There are four general ways people will deal with this movie. One person will be perplexed by the question and will discard it. Another person will question what they know, and the movie might change what they think to be the truth. The next person will be offended that someone would even suggest his or her opinion to the public about a church related topic. The last person will look at it, give it thought and respect Gibson's opinion. Many people will also find the movie beautiful and inspirational.

"The Passion of the Christ" depicts the events that took place in the last twelve hours of Christ's life that lead up to his crucifixion. The two-hour movie follows the basic description from the Bible. One of the main differences is Gibson's movie focuses on the physical pain that Christ endured before and during the crucifixion, where the bible focuses on why.

After watching the movie a question might surface in the viewer's mind, why did Gibson focus on the physical pain that Christ went through?

Emma Karsten a senior of Christian-reform from Kalamazoo Christian High School did not find the movie controversial, but sheds light on the connection between The Bible, the movie and why Gibson focused on the pain. Karsten speaks about Christ and the reason why he suffered.

"It brings to reality the fact that Christ suffered for us and carried the sin of man on his back," said Karsten.

Love and kindness are soaked in every word of Karsten's, an exemplum of the beauty that Christ had for people.

"The movie shows us as Christians how one man can suffer for all humans and gleam with the love for everyone around him, even those who cause him pain and finally death," said Karsten. (*Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do" Luke 23: 34)* Christ says this as he is hanging from the cross; he asks god to forgive them and not to punish them for what they have done to him.

Awed by her love and commitment to religion, a true knowledgeable follower; eagerness precedes the dialogue. It would seem that throughout the movie Gibson tries to make the public feel guilty about the sufferings of Christ.

"Well…..yes, I think the movie should make us feel guilty because Christ suffered for our sins, but it also makes us love him more; and we become impelled to a mirror his life, the perfect human," said Karsten.

During the movie the Devil in human form appears as a woman in a black cloak taunting Christ.

"I have never heard of the Devil described in a feminine way, but the devil does enter humans souls and makes us do bad things," Karsten said mid-thought. The devil as a women seems to be very peculiar; a sure candidate for controversy.

"The devil taunts Christ with sin as he suffers, as the Devil does to all of us, but Christ being perfect denies the devil of success for intimidation," said Karsten with conviction.

In the last part of the move the temple splits in two, proving Christ was indeed the Son of God this part of the movie begs Christianity to argue this occurrence: *"And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split," Matthew 27: 51*. After this act it seems Christ proved himself the Son of God *"when the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, "truly this man was the Son of God," Mark 15: 39*. In two of many accounts of the crucifixion, two of Christ's disciples describe the temple differently.

"Sure, that is certainly possible. The gospel account on the crucifixion that each disciple experienced was different. Their accounts were recorded due to their perception," said Karsten. No one really knows for sure what happened to the temple or when it split. In the film, right as Christ dies a raindrop (a tear from God) hits the ground, creates an earthquake and the actual building of the temple splits in two.

In the Bible and the movie, Christ was mocked mercilessly by spectators and the two criminals that were crucified next to him. *Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying "you who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, [and] come down from the cross!" Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said, "he saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. The revolutionaries who were crucified with him also kept abusing him" Matthew 27:41-42,44*. When Christ died he was resurrected from the dead in three days, Christ himself represented the temple.

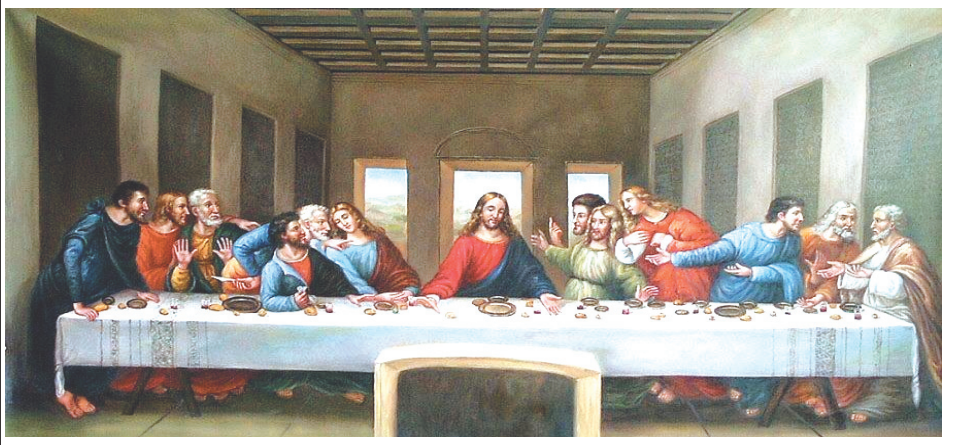
Another perception on "The Passion of The Christ". Krystal Nola an avid believer states why the "Passion of The Christ" is controversial. This movie offended the likes beyond that of the Christian faith.

"The Jewish community was upset because they felt that the movie was anti-Semitic and portrayed them as having killed Jesus," said Nola without hesitation. The movie tells of the Jew's role in the last twelve hours of Christ's life in a very negative manner. The Jews did not believe that Christ was the Son of God but it was the governor of Rome, Pilate, that granted the Jews permission to condemn him to death.

This movie's controversy also defies one of the Ten Commandments.

"The second Commandment says 'though shall make no graven images', inasmuch as a film portrayal can be taken to be a graven image of the Lord," Nola said.

"*John 14:6 says 'I am the way, the Truth and the life. No one comes to the father but by me"*. This phrase from the bible insinuates that believing that Christ is the Son of God is the only way into Heaven; therefore people of many other faiths find that controversial," said Nola.



Leonardo Davinci's painting of "The Last Supper", painted in the 15th Century.

Karsten's words could have stolen the attention of a million minds. The stories grip tight on the imagination. Focusing through the last phrase as a child would absorb a bedtime story; the silence broke the concentration. The words of another churchgoer meanders through the mind illustrating that of a blank canvas, painted by an ardent brush; delicate yet firm across its surface.