Peak Performers

In the Arts

Simon Borst

Senior Simon Borst has been creating art and drawing cartooons since he was two.

Many people believe that art is just colors on a canvas. " It has to have some meaning," says Borst. Borst follows his own beliefs and likes to draw political cartoons.

Borst is thinking about applying at Kendall College of Arts and majoring in illustration or fine arts.

However, art isn't the only thing that Borst does for fun. Borst is also the captain of the Loy Norrix Men's Varstiy Soccer team, and he enjoys hanging out with friends.

Emma Neill

Senior Emma Neill's art can be seen on display in many art classes. "I've always been interested in art," says Neill. Neill's favorite mediums, or artistic tools, include charcoals and pastels.

Drawing with Mrs. Mollhagen is Neill's favorite art class. But the classes don't end there. Neill takes various art classes at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, and private classes with a local artist. The classes provide Neill with advice in picking out pieces of art for her portfolio, and progress on pieces for Neill's portfolio.

Neill says she wants to attend the University of Michigan's School of Art and Design. Neill hopes to pursue a future career that involves the arts.

Dave Matthews Band

Summer Tour 2006

Natalie Chase
Arts and Entertainment Editor

"Come and relax now, put your troubles down/ no need to bear the weight of your worries here/ let them all fall away." But wait, not so fast. When you think you're settling down for a mellow, hum drum concert, Dave Matthews is something you'll never forget.

They kicked it off with "Rapunzel," and for those of you out there who are DMB fans, you could guess that this song choice would sure get your attention, quick. The crowd begins to go wild, jumping up and down, fanatic fans singing along and dancing like it is 1969. The guys bobb their heads along to the beat while their girlfriends sway to and fro. Then you have the exception of a few hard core fans playing air guitar and jumping insanely.

A Dave Matthews crowd is different from any other. The fans are completely loyal, and know every word and every beat, to every single song the band plays. Not to mention that DMB aren't too bad themselves. You will not be disappointed if you attend a DMB concert. The band gives it their all and selects a set that appeals to everyone. But most of all, the music is spectacular and the atmosphere is fun because everyone is there to have a good time and to enjoy the one band they all love.

Dave Matthews Band was formed in Charlottesville, Virginia in the early 1990's. For the past decade, the band has had enormous success with hits such as "Crash Into Me," "The Space Between" and "Where are you Going," among others. In addition to their top selling albums, DMB has headlined sold out tours since the late nineties. They have also been embarking on summer tours every year for a few years now, so if you missed them, you'll get another chance next summer.

Raised in South Africa, Matthews and his band have incorporated world beats into their music, giving it a distinction from other rock bands. Their mix of rock, folk, jazz and world influences give DMB their edge, and fan base. Putting out fifteen albums over the past decade is quite an achievement, and critics agree. Going to see them live is a whole new experience and gives you a more profound appreciation for the band.

Members of the band are Dave Matthews, Stefan Lessard, Leroi Morre, Boyd Tinsley and Carter Beauford. During the show, each of them had a solo that lasted a minimum of ten minutes.

Songs included in their set were "Everyday," "Too Much," "Dream Girl," "Louisiana Bayou" and "Stay" just to name a few. Each song had its own unique sound when heard live that no recording could ever capture.

A sold out show, the seats were packed and the lawn area was almost completely full. DMB's fan base is huge; Tinley Park was a packed house and it is easy to see why.

Overall, the show was pretty fast paced and the crowd was completely infatuated with Matthews and his music. Every few songs Matthews would do a song by himself, which was a nice break. DMB ended with "Proudest Monkey," then responding to his fans yelling, "We want Dave! We want Dave! We want Dave!" DMB comes out to their fans request and plays "Stay" as the encore. The crowd is ecstatic and everyone is singing and dancing for the rest of the show.

Two New Sounds One Big Voice: Christina Aguilera's New Album

Megan Van Orsdol
Business Manager

In Christina Aguilera's new double disk set "Back to Basics," we hear a new side to this diva. The two disks have two different producers, thus giving the CD it's two distinctive sounds. The first disk produced by Chris E. Martin is the disk that exhibit's the big band sounds of the 1920's and is Aguileraís new self proclaimed style. The second disk is produced by Linda Perry and Aguilera,which brandishes the raunchy lyrics that other artists like Pink have exhibited when working with Perry.

On the first disk we pick up a softer side of Aguilera. In November of 2005, Aguilera married Jordan Bratman and the happiness that came from that could not be more apparent than in this first CD. Songs like "Slow Down Baby" tell stories about being faithful. All the songs on the first album have strong big band roots and commanding trumpets.

Other standout songs on this album are "F.U.S.S." which sums up Aguilera's relationship with music producer Scott Storch. According to Storch's management, the agency dropped Aguilera because she would not pick him up in a private plane. In her song she claims that she does not need him.

"It's like I didn't need you, still got that album out".

"Oh Mother" is a powerful song about Aguilera's mother and the crazy childhood that Aguilera endured. Because of her fathers abusive ways, this song serves as a thank you to her mother. The last song on this album is one of the best- it is a thank you to all her fans. The best part about this track is that Aguilera uses sound clips from real fans, so it feels more genuine.

The second CD is a completely different sound, produced by Linda Perry. Perry's style is one that can be heard on Pink's albums. This style can be found in Aguilera songs, "Save me from Myself" and "The Right Man." In "The Right Man" Aguilera recounts the emotions of her wedding and having no father there to walk her down the isle.

The vocals from Aguilera are the same powerful sounds that we heard from her pop days, but definatley matured. Her first CD was not produced by Aguilara, and therefore, did not contain a specific theme. Her second CD, "Stripped" was marked by her anger regarding her childhood and her personal life. This Cd," Back to Basics" schibits a mature voice, and a happy sound, especially regarding her new husband.

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How to Speak Like an Australian

Zoë Lassig
Assistant Feature Editor

Australia prides itself on it's vast multicultural society in which over 200 languages are spoken everyday. Even though Australia's most prevalent language is English, it is accompanied by a colorful use of vocabulary and slang. Therefore things tend to get a little confusing at times. So, whether you understand the language or not, you may be surprised by some of these flavorsome terms.

Here is a list from Aye to Zed of typical Aussie /oz-ee/ lingo. But hooley dooley one of the Knight Lifers has switched my dictionary around, looks like it's up to you to put it all back in order.

A. Aussie /oz-ee/ - Australian
B. Bludger - someone who is lazy
C. Crikey - an exclamation of surprise
D. Dodgy - something suspicious
E. Ear-Bashing - non stop talking
F. fairy floss - cotton candy
G. G'day - hello
H. Hooley Dooley - Oh My God!
I. Idiot Box - television
J. Jumper - sweater
K. Kangaroos loose in the top paddock - your going a little crazy
L. Lollies - candy
M. Mate - friend
N. Noggin - Head or brains
O. Outback - the interior of Australia
P. Pom - an Englishman
Q. Quick smart - straight away; in a hurry
R. Rack Off - Go Away!; Get Lost!
S. Surfie - someone who goes to the beach, probably more than they go to school
T. Thongs - flip flops; sandals
U. Uni - University
V. Vegemite - a dark brown, salty food paste made from yeast extract, mainly used as a spread on sandwiches and toast
W. Woop Woop - invented name for any small unimportant town
X. XXXX - a popular Australian beer
Y. Yonks - a long period of time
Z. Zonked - exhausted