

At Last

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Classical music linked to intelligence

Listeners realize that cutting a record deal is a very fast way to fame, and fortune. "I like rock because I want to be a rock star," said Stammler.

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) is not so sure how much popular music artists should be idolized. They say that some pop music advocates and glamorizes the abuse of drugs and alcohol. Their insight is not so far from the truth when Afro Man sings a song called "Because I Got High". In the song he sings about how he never accomplished anything because he got high, while through the whole song he is trying to sing through his laughter.

The AACAP goes on to say that some pop music presents suicide as a solution, and encourages the devaluing of women. A good example of presenting suicide as a solution is Papa Roach's "Last Resort" in which the chorus says "suffocation, no breathing; this is my last resort... Cut my life into pieces, this is my last resort...". With Rap artists using names such as "slut" as a synonym for women, it is no wonder how the AACAP came to their

hypothesis.

On the other end of the spectrum, music can have a good effect on our logical thinking. Researchers for years have been trying to explain what it is in the infinite combinations of notes, chords, pitches and tones that has such a vast effect on the student's mind. It has been proven time and time again that people who are involved with music develop much faster learning skills than people who are not; furthermore, classical music can noticeably improve one's test scores while listening to it during a test.

Dr. Gordon Shaw, a professor at the University of California, researcher, and author of **Keeping Mozart in Mind**, conducted many tests on the effect that music has on learning. Shaw came up with an experiment for college and elementary aged students. He had the students sit down for 20 minutes a day and listen to "Mozart Sonata" played on two pianos in the key of D major (K.448). This experiment was dubbed the "Mozart Effect" by the media and gained worldwide attention. Shaw's experiment was successful showing that students who listened to

the recording had a "substantial enhancement in their reasoning skills," he said.

Shaw teamed up with Mathew Peterson who developed an interactive computer game called STAR (Spatial-Temporal Animated Reasoning). Shaw took notes on students in the second grade, who played a musical instrument for 20 minutes a day. The students who played music and the STAR computer game saw a 27 percent rise in their proportional math and fractions tests.

Music has always been a leading artery to worldwide communication. An artist uses lyrics to express themselves. A deeper look at music shows that music itself tells a story. Many emotions such as sadness, anger, happiness and confusion can be followed in the rhythm, melody, and harmony that combine to make music.

The road map is there to just how much music affects our lives. It can be followed through our moods and our intelligence to our actions. It is our heritage, our wardrobe, the people that we hang out with. And it all comes down to pressing play on the CD player.

News Pause

Nation

Bill increases driving limits

by Madelyn Attolini
editor

There is a bill being passed (Bill 36) that would keep new drivers from having any underage passengers in their car for the first six months they have their license. Exceptions would be made for siblings or when there is a written note from parents.

Studies say that in teens, the part of the brain that thinks before acting and consider possible consequences is very small and will not fully develop for about 20 years.

Colonel Mark Trostel, Chief of the CSP said, "We know that motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for fifteen to twenty year olds in the U.S. We also know that the first year for a newly licensed teenage driver is the most dangerous with one in five youths being involved in crashes. By limiting the number of minor passengers in a vehicle driven by a teen during the critical first year of licensing, we can remove some of the distractions that can cause young drivers to make bad driving choices."

The State House initially rejected the concept, then approved it an hour later.

"It's not burdensome; it's not unusual; it's not crazy; it's not regulatory; it's not intrusive. It doesn't violate parents' rights. It keeps children alive," said Rep. Mike May.

Supporters of tougher restrictions say the numbers speak for themselves. But Rep. Bill Cadman said, "To say six months is the magic pill that's going to solve this issue, I think is a false promise."

Students learn by digging in sandbox

by Michelle Schankin
staff writer

"Dear Travis, Dustin, and Matt, Thank you for the archeological dig. My favorite part was finding out about the Fremont Indians. Another thing I liked was going to the high school. Finally, I really enjoyed looking at all the stuff people found. One suggestion I have to make the dig better is the dig needs to be longer. Thanks again for helping us dig," said fourth grader Kara Petterson in a letter from East Elementary.

The last two weeks before Spring Break students in Katy Gray's Anthropology Class, have been doing a simulated dig with fourth graders from Sunset, East and Ridgeview elementaries.

"It is fun especially when you find things," said fourth grader Hanna Kirk.

"It is one of the most enjoyable experiences you can ever have at the high school," said junior Matt Maneotis. Maneotis is one of the 11 students who participated. "Heck yes, I'd recommend anyone for this."

Students take turns at teaching

The teacher students enjoyed the dig as much as the fourth graders.

"The kids cooperate well, and it was really fun to do," said junior Travis Decker. Decker added that he learned many new things about the Fremont Indians and a lot about the history of Colorado as well in the preparation for the dig.

"I had a blast. Most of the time the kids paid attention," said senior Dustin White. White said he learned how to excavate properly, and how to be a fun teacher for the children.

"Yeah, it was fun. I learned how to work with younger kids, and also, how to work with the kids in my class," said junior Kayloni Grinolds.

"I had fun and I learned the fourth graders know more than you think," said senior Jeff Gustafson.

The simulated dig used to be an extension; but starting this year, it is part of the Anthropology Class. The 11 students participating are seniors: Jeff Gustafson, Sarah Kawcak, Emily Sperl, Kalli Deatherage, Erin Robinson, Dustin White and Brandie Telfer; juniors: Kayloni Grinolds, Jerika Miller, Travis Decker and Matt Maneotis.

The fourth graders come to MCHS as part of their study in Colorado History. The dig began in 1999 when students



photo by Michelle Schankin

Junior Matt Maneotis explains to the fourth graders what they found in their digging grids.

actually went on a dig in the Four Corners area.

The Fremonts were chosen as the culture to study because they occupied Utah and parts of Moffat County for about 2,000 years. The majority of rock art can be found in the Brown's Park area.