

The Class of 1500

Think of the remarkable group of people living during that exciting time when Italy's Renaissance was sweeping the Continent—the Renaissance Generation.

In 1500, Michelangelo was 25 years old, just a few years older than the young monk in Germany named Martin Luther who would go on to start the Protestant Reformation. In England, you had Henry VIII, in Holland the humanist writer Erasmus. Christopher Columbus was discovering a distant world, which was named after a man from Florence—Amerigo Vespucci.

Many of these famous people hung out together. Michelangelo battled

fellow Florentine Leonardo da Vinci in a painting contest. Leonardo spent time with the writer Niccolò Machiavelli, whose name has become synonymous with political maneuvering. Machiavelli was an advisor to Lorenzo the Magnificent. Lorenzo's son became Pope Leo X, who hired the painter Raphael. Raphael exchanged masterpieces with Albrecht Dürer in Germany. Dürer was personally converted to Protestantism by Martin Luther...who was excommunicated by Leo X...who had gone to school with Michelangelo. There were 100 million people in Europe back then, but it was a small world.



Marty Luther: Voted Most Likely to Secede.



Chris Columbus: Post-graduation plans—to travel the world without falling off the edge.



Nicky Machiavelli: Served two terms as Student Body Tyrant.



Al Dürer: German exchange student who refused to cut his hair.



Lorenzo the Magnificent: To his girlfriends, just Larry the So-So.



Pope Leo X: tried to get Marty Luther expelled.



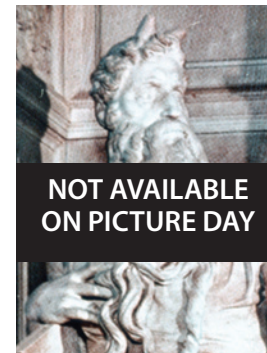
Lenny da Vinci: Activities include Debate Team, Choir, Art Club, Math Club, Poetry Club, Honors Society...a true "Renaissance Man."



Henry VIII: Hank was elected King of the Prom, along with six Prom Queens.



Michelangelo Buonarroti: Mikey was expelled for sneaking a chisel on campus.



Erasmus: Was the subject of the first knock-knock joke.



Amerigo Vespucci: Biggest ego—graffitied his name everywhere.



Savonarola: The school killjoy, ultimately hung and burned by his classmates.