

## New Things...(continued from page 1)

communication between students and the administration. Stating the truth plainly and simply will also prevent the spread of rumors.

New at Webb this year is also a modified class schedule containing a fixed Z Period. Many upper schoolers ignorant of Z Period's true purposes took it as a sign that Webb had indeed gone barking mad. Yet Z Period is actually a result of the middle school's new activities during lunch and Z Period. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the middle school is divided into four groups and rotated through PE, Outerlimits activities, music, and life skills. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays are used for extra help and study hall, and will later be used for declamations. Since many middle school teachers also teach upper school classes, Z Period has to be fixed so they will be free to offer these programs and extra help the same time every day. Another benefit of Z Period is that various upper school AP courses may meet everyday.

## The Red Oak Society

By Rachel Follis and Kayley Kravitz

One of Webb's newest organizations, the Red Oak Society, lives by the motto "Be Good. Work Hard. Make It Better." The Society has remained a mystery to many on campus, though its purpose is no mystery at all.

Founded by Jeanne Humphrey, Bobby Newman, Elizabeth McClary, Justin Brady, Kelsey Lewis, Laura Sherrell, Mike Humphrey, Mythili Chunduru, Sam Bartlett, Samantha Myers, and Stefanie Bomar, and Mr. Quinn, the Society was formed to save the memory of the fallen trees. The members of the Society hope to turn large stumps of once great trees into things such as benches. This will allow students to enjoy what is now left of beloved trees.

Other outstanding members in the Red Oak Society are as follows: Mr. Fee, Mr. Wofford, Emmett Miller, John Newman, Katherine Brown, Margaret Earthman, Michael Bedford, Mythili Sanikommu, Sawyer Bodle, and Ty Travis.

Look for great work by the Red Oak Society to appear on campus as the school year progresses.

## Two-Minute Tidbit

By Elissa Jennings

*I pledge my word of honor as a Webb lady/gentleman that I have neither given nor received any aid on this assignment*



The pledge, a part of Webb's Honor Code, is familiar to both the students and teachers of the Webb School. However, Webb is not the only school with such a policy. Today, schools such as MLK Magnet School in Nashville, MBA, and Princeton University also have honor codes . . . but do you ever wonder where the idea of honor codes came from?

The first Honor Code was instituted at William and Mary College in 1779. Almost a century later, Webb was founded, Honor Code and all. Interestingly enough, Princeton University's honor code was actually inspired by ours – Sawney and Princeton's president, Woodrow Wilson, were good friends. Recognizing a good idea, Wilson emulated Webb's honor council and pledge, slightly changing each one's structure.



Members of the Red Oak Society stand on a stump near the Big Room.

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## Diary of a Webb Actress

By Stefanie Bomar



August 26, 1:00 PM: The first audition meeting is held where Mrs. Tripp finds out how many people she will have auditioning. This is done so that Mrs. Tripp can decide on which play to choose. There are a surprisingly large number of guys this year. The NCAA sports have helped for our fall plays since not many guys play sports in the fall.

September 12 & 13: Auditions are held in the chapel after school. The first day is mainly for people who have a game the next day, but most of the people who plan to audition still show up. For auditions, everyone must fill out a form saying what characters you would like to try out for and if you will take any part even if you haven't specified it. To audition, you must also sign a contract saying that you will keep your grades up and that if you choose to quit this play you can not join one for another year.

After all of the forms are turned in, Mrs. Tripp and Mr. Jones randomly select people to audition for different parts. For example, in the upcoming play, *It's A Wonderful Life*, some of the main characters are George, Clarence, and Mary. Mrs. Tripp will call your name, along with several other people, and you may read for one of these main characters, or you may read for a smaller part. When your name is called, you will go downstairs and practice the scene you are given with your group. Don't worry; you don't have to memorize the words that are on your paper, just read them off. After you and your group are comfortable with the piece you've been given, you go upstairs where you wait until Mrs. Tripp calls your group to go on stage and perform your scene. This is done in front of many other people, but it is a fairly painless process. The performing of scenes goes on until about 6:00 PM. You may read for one person, or you may read for five. Either way, it is all just fun.

September 14: Cast list is posted after school. As soon as school gets out, there is an immediate flock of actors to the chapel to see who is who in the play. Some people are disappointed and don't get a part, but can still be involved by working on tech crew to help build the set and find props, costumes, and many other things. One person may even be the stage manager, who makes sure everyone knows their lines.

September 19: Read through. During the read through, the whole cast gets their scripts and literally reads through the play to at least get a feel of what the whole thing is going to be like. At this point, you get to meet your "family" for the next few months, as Mrs. Tripp puts it. These are the people you will see almost every school day during and after school, so you better at least try and get along.

September 26: Blocking begins. Blocking is the first part of the rehearsal process. During blocking, all of the actors get a general feel of what the set is going to be like, and then they are told where they are to stand and how they are to move during the scenes. The stage manager will write all of this down so she knows when someone isn't where they are supposed to be. After everyone is given their stage directions we run through the scene, getting up and acting it out.

## News In the Buckle

By Hannah Kay Hunt



A playground is now being built at the Bell Buckle Park in memory of two and a half year-old Ward Anderson (pictured below), who died this summer in a tragic accident at Tims Ford Lake. His parents, James '90 and Julie '91 Anderson, live in Bell Buckle with Ward's two brothers. The playground will be named after him and will celebrate his life. A mosaic by Sherri Warren Hunter in the shape of a lobster, Ward's favorite animal, is in the works. Russ Faxon, a local bronze artist, is working on a life size bronze sculpture of Ward. A large engraved stone very similar to the one by Lagler Field will also be set up near the entrance to the playground that indicates the memorial. When the plan for a memorial playground was announced, the Bell Buckle community jumped right in by giving enough donations in three weeks to build the entire playground.



Though the Bell Buckle Park has been in the planning stages for the past five years, this is its first physical step into becoming a real park. The playground will feature, according to the Bell Buckle Park newsletter, "a very large kids' playset, a toddler playstation, and a swingset with 8 swings..." The playground was installed on October 21st and 22nd at the Park, with a dedication ceremony on October 28th, Ward's birthday, at 5:00 at the playground. The entire community, including people in the Webb community, was invited to come show support and help out for both events. It was a very touching ceremony, which ended with the release of balloons with Ward's picture attached.

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## Gaming Today

By Mr. Kav

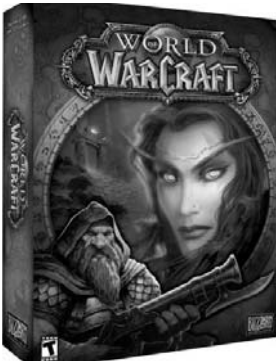
It's the end of the summer season, which means that most recent games are now stale. However, there is a good load of gaming news. Recently at the Tokyo Gaming Show, Nintendo's president, Satoru Iwata, unveiled the highly anticipated controller for its upcoming next-generation system, the Nintendo Revolution. The new controller looks like a television remote at first glance, but upon closer inspection one sees its genius. The controller has ports that may connect to it through a cable, like an analog stick, and a pointer. The controller is wirelessly connected to the system and can also be used to play old-fashioned Nintendo games.



In other news, the Christmas gaming season is about to arrive, which means top quality games and hardware. This season looks dull in comparison to last year when Halo 2, GTA:SA and the Nintendo DS arrived, but we will have to wait and see. The Microsoft X-Box 360 is due before Christmas this year and will be the first of the next generation console systems. It sports some nice graphics, rivaling that of HD TV's. It will however, be very expensive, around \$300-\$400, so be a good kid and ask Santa. The Nintendo Revolution and the Sony PS3 will be arriving on shelves next spring. The PS3 is said to support visuals at HD quality and above, in real time. Games

for all these systems include Halo 3, Killzone 2, and Resident Evil 5.

Now to game reviews! If you own a DS, and like touchy-feely cute games, or puppies, then I suggest Nintendogs for the Nintendo DS. In this game, one uses the touch screen of the DS to pet, feed, play with, and clean up after a puppy. An interesting feature of this game is that you can wirelessly connect to other Nintendogs owners and your puppies can play together. How fun. I give this game a 3 out of 5.



If you enjoy IMing your friends, and like MMORPG's, then I have three words: World of Warcraft, or WoW. This is a huge game, enjoyed by over a million players. If you are a fan of previous Warcraft games, I recommend this. If you like RPG's, I recommend this. If you like games at all, I recommend this. Gamespot.com gave WoW the title of Game of the Year of 2004. The game allows you to play as either the Alliance, which includes Humans, Dwarfs, etc. or the Horde, including Orcs, Trolls, Undead, and others. This is a GREAT game. If you do not already own this game, you should. Although the \$15 per month playing fee might seem unreasonable (an alternative is the cheaper Guild Wars), you should try this game out. I give it a 5 out of 5.

## Elton John: Live In Concert!

By Jennifer Cooper

The day of the Elton John concert, I was asked, "Why would you want to see Elton John?" My reply was short, simple, and the truth, "Because I wasn't around to see him thirty years ago." Of course, seeing him live on September 30th was the next best thing to seeing him live circa 1975. His performance was passionate and full of life. Amazing is the only word I can use to describe the concert. His outfit was toned down from his flamboyant outfits of yesteryear (eg: the sequined baseball suit, the gigantic sunglasses...), but still reflected him very well (a pink and black silk tunic with flowers and pink silk pants).

I went to the concert with my mother and Joanna Arquitt. We found our seats in the "nosebleed section" after I shelled out some money for a tee shirt. I didn't think we would be able to see anything, but thanks to the wonderful inventions called binoculars and the camera phone, we were able to see a good deal.

When the show finally started (almost ten minutes late), there was no opening band. John himself walked out onto the stage first. The first songs he played were eight out of the twelve songs from his latest studio album, Peachtree Road, recorded chiefly in Atlanta (with some extra sessions in Los Angeles). Peachtree Road is more country sounding (befitting the place where it was recorded), but still has typical Bernie Taupin lyrics and typical Elton John piano and vocals.

After the rather lengthy Peachtree part of the concert, he began to play the classic songs that everyone in the audience knew: "Bennie and the Jets" and "Daniel", just to name the first few. A lot of the classics were extended by more than a few minutes. "Rocket Man (I Think It's Going to Be a Long Long Time)", for example, turned into a virtual Led Zeppelin style jam session. I was personally hoping that he would play "Pinball Wizard" (his cover of the song that he sang in his film role in Tommy), but alas, he didn't. After "Tiny Dancer" (three-fourths of the way through the set), John introduced the band. All the chorus members were from Atlanta and worked on Peachtree Road. Much to my surprise, Nigel Olsson, the drummer, has not only been with Elton since his first American tour in 1970, but he is also a former Nashville resident.

Like I said before, the only word to describe the concert is amazing. This article did not do the concert justice, but I did try. Even though this is not 1975, Sir Elton John is still capable of wowing the audience with his excellent piano playing, his somewhat toned down outfits, and his creativity.

# Music

## Gorillaz *Demon Days* Virgin Records By Kayley Kravitz

In 2001, a new breed of pop star appeared on the scene: the animated pop star. Blur front man Damon Albarn and artist Jamie Hewlett (responsible for the comic *Tank Girl*) created the Gorillaz, a band of four two-dimensional musicians putting a new spin on pop music. Somehow, the idea worked.

*Demon Days*, the follow-up to the Gorillaz' self-titled debut album, was much anticipated by fans and critics alike. Unfortunately, *Demon Days* is a bit of a disappointment when compared to its predecessor.

The album's fun-house-esque "Intro" fades into "Last Living Souls," a song that could easily pass as a Blur single circa 1995. "Kids With Guns" seems to dabble in the realm of triphop, which was also popular during the Britpop era.

"Feel Good Inc." is *Demon Days'* "Clint Eastwood." The song flawlessly combines pop rock with hip-hop. While I much prefer the parts of the song featuring only 2-D's vocals, I can somewhat tolerate the rap provided by the ghost supposedly living in drummer Russel's head. That is what is so wonderful about Gorillaz: they have impeccable showmanship and imagination.

For those of us raised on the classic music of the Verve, it is amusing to hear the work of ex-Verve guitarist Simon Tong on songs such as the wah-wah laden "Every Planet We Reach Is Dead." 2-D's (or should I say Damon?) vocals are lazy and boring, making Tong's guitar the song's saving grace.

Rap reappears on *Demon Days* in the form of "November Has Come." While "Feel Good Inc." is tolerable, "November Has Come" is definitely not! Another song to be avoided is "All Alone," which features the band having way too much fun messing with

pitch in their mixing software.

"DARE," the album's current single, is a dancehall masterpiece. Featuring the vocals of guitarist Noodle and former Happy Mondays front man Shaun Ryder, this song is guaranteed to make even the most jaded wallflowers dance.

*Demon Days* is not a complete failure in any sense of the word, it just does not have the musical diversity that the Gorillaz' debut showcased.

2 ½ out of 4 stars

## Black Rebel Motorcycle Club *Howl* RCA Records By Kayley Kravitz

Having already been hailed as the best album of 2005, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club's third LP, *Howl*, is definitely living up to the hype. *Howl* shows the band's departure from fuzzy, screaming guitars and dark, distorted vocals to their own blend of backwoods Americana.

Kicking off with the incredibly bluesy "Shuffle Your Feet," *Howl* reflects a band that has done some growing up. Replacing effects pedals with harmonicas, BRMC have taken the next step in their career and the result is amazing.

"Devil's Waitin'" will strike a chord for those of us familiar with bluegrass

nights in the Bell Buckle area. This song would not sound out of place at all at the Bell Buckle Café. Using nothing but an acoustic guitar and heart wrenching vocals, Peter Hayes and Robert Been convey emotions of both despair and hope, as evidenced in lyrics such as "I'm born in and weary but life's just begun."

*Howl's* first single, "Ain't No Easy Way," has a similar feel to that of "Shuffle Your Feet." Both songs are toe-tappers. "Ain't No Easy Way" even includes some incredible slide guitar work, showing that BRMC are willing to try different musical directions, even if they do not fit the band's dark, brooding image.

"Promise" sounds as if it could easily fit on Coldplay's first record, *Parachutes*. It is a beautiful piano ballad featuring trumpets – yes, trumpets. Get the lighters out for this one, kids.

"Weight of the World" sounds the most like a song that would be found on one of BRMC's earlier albums. It is a melodic mas-

terpiece which always sends shivers up my spine. In my opinion, it is *Howl's* crowning glory.

Like "Shuffle Your Feet," "Complicated Situation" has been a live favorite of BRMC fans for the past couple of years. The album version of "Complicated Situation" sounds just as spectacular (though a bit more polished) as it did when I saw Peter Hayes stand on stage all alone at the Roxy Theatre in Atlanta with his acoustic guitar and harmonica.

*Howl* comes down perfectly with the dark, haunting "The Line." Don't turn the record off just yet: a "hidden track" will soon follow. "Open Invitation," which makes use of an accordion, is the ideal closer to such a magnificent piece of music.

Many bands have a lot of difficulty when switching musical styles. *Howl* proves that BRMC did not have this problem. Look for more tremendous releases in the future from this group.

4 out of 4 stars



# Movies

## Flightplan

By Jennifer Cooper

Unlike *The Brothers Grimm*, this film was well worth the time and money (\$16 for tickets and \$14 for food) that my dad and I spent on it. I admit that I was first attracted to this film because I saw Sean Bean in the previews (I admit it. I am a closet Sean Bean fan. What can I say?). This film exceeded my expectations for it. The plot, even with its twists, works very well. The characters are believable and such that I could relate to them. There were a few minor problems with the portrayal of the airplane itself, but it is all right.

This film is one of those films where some restraint has to be shown when talking about the plot. If I say just a little too much, I'll spoil the movie for those who haven't seen it. For the first fifteen minutes or so during the necessary setting-up-the-scene part, *Flightplan* is a little slow. Kyle Pratt (Jodie Foster) and her small daughter, Julia (Marlene Lawston) are preparing to bring Kyle's husband's body back to the United States from Germany for burial.

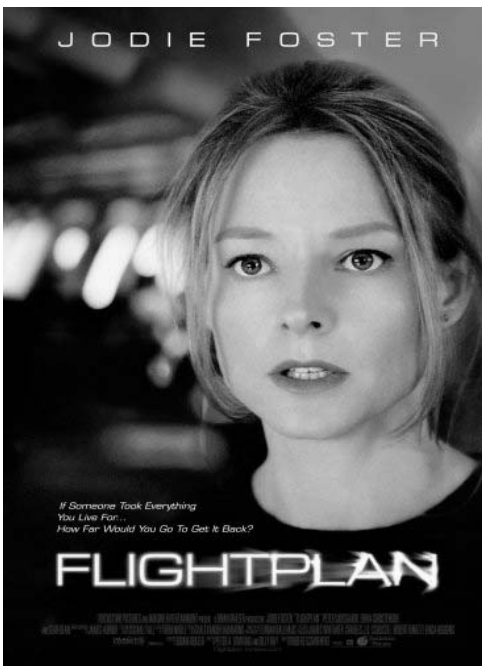
The plot twists sev-

eral times, but each twist is explained in due time. When Pratt's daughter first disappears, everyone assumes that she just found another child on the plane to play with. Soon, everyone (including Pratt) begins to waver as to whether the child is in trouble. When the flight crew determines that Julia Pratt never boarded the airplane and is dead, they also determine that her mother is delusional. Then, the crew and the conveniently located air marshal and therapist waver between whether or not Kyle Pratt is delusional. Of course, while they cannot make up their minds about the daughter or her mother, Kyle Pratt is determined to find her daughter. She continually crawls through the passageways of the airplane, yells at some passengers she thinks she saw the night before, etc.

"Wow, Jodie Foster is *old*," was my dad's first comment upon seeing her on the screen. Whether or not Foster is old is irrelevant. She carries the character of Kyle Pratt very well. She makes the character seem real, so real in fact, that everyone can find

a little bit of their own mother in her. Everyone, whether or not they have children, can identify with her urgency and desperate need to find her daughter.

According to my dad, in the post 9/11 world,



the captain would never have come out of the cockpit to talk to a passenger, especially when the aforementioned passenger had just been banging on the cockpit door. With someone with a name and reputation like Sean Bean's, even if it did violate FAA rules, he had to come out of the cockpit. What kind of role would it be for him otherwise? Fairly early on in the movie, I began to wonder if Mr. Bean had ever been on a flight which my dad had captained. Bean seemed to be my

dad, only with a British accent. He kept a straight face for the entire movie (except for one line where he yelled at Foster's character) no matter what was going on. He showed just enough emotion to pull off the airline-captain-in-his-late-forties role. Of course, this apparent lack of emotion is something that I personally would want in a captain. Wouldn't want them getting excited over nothing and scaring me. Sean Bean seemed to be missing the large, pink Sweet-N-Low packets, pocket protector with pens, and thick, brown "everything you need to know about everyone and everything you have flown with or on" log book that

my dad carries around in his uniform shirt pockets. To the normal person that only knows enough about airplanes to say, "They fly," the technical discrepancies that my dad found in and on the airplane in the film would not be noticeable. I will point them out for two reasons: one being that my dad took the time to see this with me and point out these errors. The second reason being that I enjoy finding and telling others about movie flaws. My dad told me that the pic-

tures of the outside of the plane showed two different airplanes. One shot of the exterior of the plane showed a plane with a partial upper deck, making it a Boeing 747. The other shot showed a full upper deck making it the new Airbus A380 that hasn't come out yet. The one clear shot of the cockpit instrument panel appeared to be that of a two-engine plane when both shots of the exterior showed the plane to have four engines. The avionics panel (the button thing with all the lights) when they crawl into the space under the floor of the airplane) "doesn't really look like something out of *Star Wars*", to quote my dad.

I pass this film on to everyone with a very high commendation. Not only did I enjoy it, but my dad enjoyed it. Just the fact that he enjoyed it is a very high honor that any film should aspire to. Two of the most recent films that he has enjoyed are: *Gods and Generals*, and before that *Gettysburg* in 1993. But don't just take my words for it. Let the film speak for itself. This *Flightplan* is a thrill ride at cruising altitude.

What did YOU think about this movie? Email theoracle@webb.school.com

# What Did You Do This Summer?

## Culture and Credit By Elissa Jennings

As international businesses expand and an increasing number of professions require contact with non-English speakers, it becomes important for students to become familiar with at least one foreign language. In order to accommodate most high schools offer at least three years of a foreign language during the school year. However, some students, such as senior Kat Brown, take advantage of summer programs that immerse students in both the language and culture of a specific nation.

For each of the past three years, Kat has spent four weeks of summer in Dent, Minnesota, earning high school credit for Japanese in the Concordia Language Villages program. Kat, who founded the Japanese Club at Webb during her junior year, was motivated to take part in the course by her future career in Japanese graphic animation. She recalls that when she first arrived in the "Japanese Village," she was "scared to death" by the

prospect of living in an almost completely Japanese-speaking environment. "Teachers would point at you, telling you to do something," she remembers, "and you would have no idea what they were saying."



*Katherine Brown enjoyed her summer at Mori No Ike Japanese Camp.*

In fulfilling the requirements of the program, Kat took a placement test and attended Japanese class three times each day. Although she was generally allowed to speak English to friends during her spare time, the Concordia Language Village demanded that she only speak Japanese for two days. However, in addition to learning the Japanese language, Kat also engaged in daily cultural activities which taught shodo (ink painting/calligraphy) and karate. During the last week of her stay in Dent, Kat completed a project about Japanese fortune telling.

Kat believes that her favorite part of the program was her spare time, but the hard work involved in the program will not prevent her from studying in a Concordia Language Village next summer. In fact, she hopes that next year she will qualify to con-

tinue her studies with the program in Japan.

The Concordia Language Villages program also offers opportunities to study Arabic, Chinese, French, Italian, Norwegian, and Russian. If you are interested in learning more about the program, visit [www.concordialanguagevillages.org](http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org), where you will find all necessary information.

## Summer in Japan By Tyler Travis

Over the summer Emily Dyer, a sophomore at The Webb School, traveled to Japan as a program set up by the Chamber of Commerce of McMinnville, Tennessee and Mikawa, Japan. Emily and fourteen other eighth to tenth graders went to Japan to broaden



*Emily Dyer had a blast in Japan!*

their horizons. Emily was able to get much insight into Japanese culture. While there, she visited several Buddhist temples and the largest statue of Buddha in Yokohama that is one hundred and fifty to one

hundred and sixty feet tall. She was also able to see a traditional Japanese wedding and go to a Japanese tea ceremony where she and her friends wore kimonos. Emily learned a lot of Japanese and described the experience as being "hard-core Japanese." Emily stayed in Tokyo, Mikawa village and Mikawa town; she says that the people there "treated us like royalty; they love America and Americans." Although the weather was a little hot, Emily, overall, enjoyed the trip to Japan.

## The PAVE Program By Kayley Kravitz

Senior Carolyn Goodman had the opportunity to get a real college experience over the summer. For six weeks, she lived in the dorms of Vanderbilt University taking part in the PAVE Program which focuses on engineering, technology, science, and mathematics.

Carolyn took courses in both math and science, though she especially enjoyed her lab classes. In a chemistry lab, the students made soap. In a physics lab, they constructed catapults. Other labs available included bio-medical engineering, ecology, ecological technology, medical engineering, and electronics.

The PAVE Program

was attended by students from all over the United States. International students also had the opportunity to attend PAVE. Carolyn met students from as far away as South America and Asia.

Though the course work was rigorous, students were able to unwind on the weekend with activities



*Carolyn Goodman studied science at PAVE.*

such as canoeing, paintball, white water rafting, and laser tag. Students were also allowed to go out during the week and explore Nashville on their own. This freedom gave Carolyn a real taste of college life.

Carolyn spoke very highly of her counselors at PAVE. All of them were Vanderbilt students, many of them PAVE alumni. During study hours, counselors were always willing to give the students help on the difficult homework assigned to them by professors.

Originally, Carolyn had not looked forward to attending PAVE. By the end of her six weeks at the program, she had made lifelong friends and had gained valuable college experience.

# Governor's School for the Humanities

By Devon MacDougall



*Our final assignment in Composition 111 was to review our work from over the 5 weeks as a portfolio and pretend we were a biographer in the future making conclusions about the pieces. I've edited it a bit to make it more Oracle-friendly (taking out/rewriting bits that were added just to remain within the description of the assignment, i.e. noting the common themes in the works, etc). It IS meant to be humorous and hyperbolic, not necessarily arrogant, so it should be read that way.*

## Chapter 5: How Was He Not Famous Already?

As Devon MacDougall was coming off his junior year at Webb School in Bell Buckle, Tennessee, he was on fire. He had just won twenty dollars at an oration contest and numerous book awards for his studies, and was ready for his next challenge: another month of school. Earlier in the

year, Devon had grudgingly applied to the Tennessee Governor's School for the Humanities at his parent's insistence. Naturally, he was accepted to attend. But would Devon choose to go? He had just rejected his nomination as delegate to Boys' State and had never been too keen on going to Governor's School anyway. But on hearing that his good (and equally prodigious) friend Chris Corlew was accepted as well, he decided that the school didn't sound half bad.

With a more positive outlook towards his upcoming adventure, and ignoring the fact that it was for college credit, Devon began to feel excited about the new people he'd meet and the recently discovered prospect of Chris being his roommate. Luckily for us all, it seems, both were enrolled in Composition 111 and were thus not just allowed but encouraged to be the King Midas(es) of writing. Amazingly, many of the essays Devon composed were highly prognostic of his

adult life. Just as amazingly, they have gone unnoticed until now.

His first essay for the course, "An Audience of One", focused on Devon's love and appreciation for comedy and its artistic aspects. In the essay he referenced his oration on how politicians "just aren't cool anymore" that was previously mentioned (the oration went on to change the ways of American politics to this day, helping the nation become respected around the world once again). The section of his essay on impressions is what makes it such a gem historically, as it wonderfully foreshadowed how, through a series of mind-numbing impersonations, he incapacitated every political tyrant in the world.

Devon's next essay focused on a topic a little more unfamiliar to him: art. Somehow, though not an artist himself, and with interviews with only three such people, he managed to perfectly capture the essence of artistic creativity. This essay demonstrates Devon's superior intellect, capable of understanding without experiencing, which came in handy when he ended world hunger, while never having starved himself. He later went on to revise this essay,

adding a paragraph and some specifics, which somehow perfectly perfected the essay beyond its previous perfection.

Essay number three for the red-hot prodigy was an imitation of the triadic form of N. Scott Momaday's *The Way to Rainy Mountain*. Other than the fact that it moved this biographer to tears, there isn't much about this essay. However, it did stay true to Devon's nature and prophetically mentioned his childhood hero, Mr. Rogers, who, as we all know, Devon brought back from the dead for a month in 2012 so he could see the Olympic Games in London.

The next golden nugget to come out of the young man's teeming brain was "Home is Where the Weird Is", a subtly introspective essay on Devon's appreciation of eccentric people. Again, the essay investigated an aspect of creativity, a recurring theme in his work at the Governor's School. The essay also helps us better understand his habit of attending ceremonies of all kinds with cap guns holstered at his waist and a plastic sword Arabian saber at the ready, which tragically resulted in a horrible misunderstanding in Portugal in 2040. As a clinically insane cit-

izen saw Devon draw his cap guns, the man shouted in Portuguese for MacDougall to drop the weapons. After remarking that he could not speak Spanish, our beloved one was shot to death.

Devon's final essay for the course was a mock proposal to a producer to film a version of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to fit the ambitious young man's vision. With perhaps the most innovative idea ever in all of idea-dom, Devon decided to cast Puck as a computer-generated mass of pixels with a computer-spoken voice to match. Naturally, a copy of the essay was sent to Hollywood immediately upon discovery, and is widely anticipated and already dubbed "Greatest Film of All Time" by critics, with months remaining before its release.

These GSH '05 papers, as I have entitled them, are considered the greatest discovery since the sun, and give great insight to Devon's comprehensive understanding of human creativity. We only wish we could understand his creativity now, to better appreciate the eighth wonder of the world.





# Fiction

## Mr. Rice's Adventure

By Slappy

McWinchester, III

In a recent interview with Webb School's very own Bill Rice, he mentioned the fact that he had just gone kayaking over the weekend. Further information could not be ascertained, however, as an emergency called him away from my questioning. I believe, though, that I know Mr. Rice well enough to postulate as to what happened on his trip.

While Rice was kayaking it up, a meteorite most likely crashed into him and his kayak, utterly destroying his vessel and slightly cutting his thigh. As the rapids began to carry him away, he kept his wits and hawked a loogie towards the bank, felling a giant tree. The arborous deity toppled into the river and gave Rice a raft upon which he could float to safety.

After he reached the riverbank, he set up

a small camp and was ready to eat. Following a hearty meal of inch-thick beef jerky and rocks, he whistled thrice. Immediately, all the mammals in the surrounding forest came to his camp and struck up conversation with him. Ten minutes into their discussion, Rice noticed an alligator swimming in the river. "Finally!" Rice exclaimed, and dove in towards the beast. As he resurfaced, he quickly headbutted the reptile unto unconsciousness and pried open its mouth. After a minute of scratching the alligator's teeth against his own, he paused and spat out a large chunk of beef jerky. Rice left the Triassic toothpick, ordered the mammals to arrange themselves into a mattress, and slept on them for the night. Rice woke up around awesome o'clock the next morning and realized that the full beard he had grown overnight would have to go. Without his shaving kit, he had to resort to his knife to do the job. After a blanket of hair fell from his face, Rice decided he

wanted food. Grabbing a squirrel from his mattress (the animals had not yet been dismissed), he opened his mouth and ate it whole. He then snapped his fingers and the mammalian mattress returned to the forest.

Rice spent the next two hours walking twenty miles until he arrived at a run-down barn. As he passed the building he thought he heard the barking of his dog Rocky. Looking inside, he saw that he was right and made sense of the situation:

bandits had kidnapped Rocky and chained him to a post. Without a doubt, Rocky destroyed at least ten faces before he was tranquilized. Before Rice could reach Rocky, however, an alarm sounded and twelve bandits appeared. After laser beams from his eyes made quick work of these foes, Rice ripped his dog's chain from the post and asked Rocky where his other dog, Sierra, was. Rocky informed him that she had been out chasing

cars for breakfast.

Mr. Rice then sat on top of his mighty canine and rode back to Webb. As he crawled into bed that night, Rice noted that his bedpost was jagged and splintered in one spot. He scrunched up his eyes for a moment, grew some stubble on his face, and used it to sand the bedpost until it was perfectly smooth.

Remember, while this is all speculation, it's most likely what really happened.



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