

The Oracle

A student publication of the Webb School

Spring 2006

The President's Column

By Margaret Earthman

Congratulations to our new Student Council officers for the 2006-2007 school year! **President Ama Quao, Vice President John Wyatt, Secretary Zola Quao, and Sergeant at Arms Jordan Burchett** will be governing the Student Body next year. By electing them to their respective offices, you have bestowed a great amount of responsibility on them. However, you and I both know that they are all strong leaders and they will keep this school running smoothly. From what I gathered from their speeches, they plan to carry on long standing school traditions and hope to start some new traditions while they are at it. Ama plans to renew the sponsorship of our friend Cesarino Valera from East Timor and keep him in the Webb family for years to come. I want to congratulate our new officers one last time and thank all of you for the support and cooperation you have shown this year's Student Council.

Margaret Earthman
Student Council President

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A Whole Lot of Reviews!!!

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Diversity Day at Webb

By Rachel Follis

Last Friday the Webb community celebrated its diversity with the annual Diversity Day. The day began with a special chapel program, during which many individuals proudly displayed what made them unique. Step-dancing champion Abigail entertained us with some very impressive traditional Irish dances, Mrs. Lanre Omitowoju gave some insight into Nigerian life, and several students shared what diversity meant to them. As Nikhil cleverly reminded us, *Diversity* is also an old wooden warship. Yet, some feel the chapel program dragged on too long. "Yeah, I'm getting sick of those," says David Windham. Yet, few failed to enjoy the rest of the day's activities. Following chapel, students flocked to the gym to check out various booths and



games, and to learn about different cultures, from Korea to the gaming world. Outdoors, others engaged in a cricket match. After a fashion show came everyone's favorite, lunch. For lunch, students sampled various dishes from all over the world, eating everything from sushi to southern ho-cakes. Finally came the much-anticipated talent show. Among the many performances was the very popular Kor-, I mean, *Taiwanese* rap, featuring Tim and Jay Chi and William Hsu. The show ended with a couple songs by the studio band: the Flogging Molly rendition of a traditional sea chanty and "Darts of Pleasure" by Franz Ferdinand. Overall, Diversity Day was a success, as always. Mr. Cauz assuaged fears that this may have been the last Diversity Day, and assured that the tradition will continue.

Dear Dorothy,

Dear Dorothy,
I think my friend lies to me about stuff, but I'm not sure. How can I confront her without hurting our friendship?
Sincerely,
Suspicious

Dear Suspicious,
What exactly do you think your friend is lying to you about? If you think she is lying to you about something important that you should know, then the best thing is just to ask her why she might hide something from you. Do take into account that she might just not feel like talking about whatever it is she is hiding from you, and if that is the case, just respect her feelings and go on with your life.
Sincerely,
Dorothy

Dear Dorothy,
I like this guy, but he's really shy and so am I. How can I get him to come out of his shell?
Sincerely,
The Shy One

Dear Shy One,
This is a situation in which one person must act to try and get a reaction from the

other one. Just like Newton's 3rd Law: For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. This means that if you really like this guy you need to tell him. If you are still not confident enough to do that, then try your best to flirt and let him know that you are interested; unless you show signs then your relationship will go nowhere fast.
Sincerely,

Dorothy

Dear Dorothy,
I am sooooo stressed out by exams! I don't think I will be able to remember all of the stuff I've learned. What if I fail? I don't want to be a failure in life if I fail my finals at Webb!
Yours in Fear,
Stressed

Dear Stressed,
Don't worry about failing; unless you manage to not study at all then it's not very likely that you will fail. And don't even try to relearn everything you have ever heard in your classes, the teachers usually do a pretty good job of reviewing you for your exams, and if you feel uncertain then you can go to extra help. And here are a few

tips for the night before the exam: Cramming is alright, but not for the whole night. Take a break every 45 minutes and have a snack, feed the dog, walk outside, or whatever you choose to do. Cramming nonstop will tire you out more than no sleep at all. And that brings us to another tip: Get

some sleep! You are no good if you can't even stay awake during your exam. My last tip for you is to try and spread out your studying over more than one night. If you are taking a math exam where you have to know some equations, throw some in a few nights ahead so you will at least recognize them. And if you do choose to study all on the night before, make lists or flash cards to help you memorize things. Make lists of all of the equations you have to know and make flash cards for all of those people you could never remember in history. Relax. Breathe. You'll be fine.

Sincerely,
Dorothy



We all have problems... but Dorothy has answers! Seek her advice - email dorothy@webb-school.com

MUSIC

On An Island

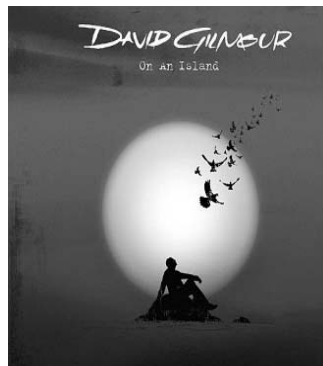
David Gilmour
EMI Recordings

Review by Spencer Musick

In March, David Gilmour (the guitarist and vocalist of the legendary progressive rock band Pink Floyd) released a new album, *On An Island*. Members of successful bands often launch solo careers to varying degrees of success. Surprisingly, this is Gilmour's first solo album since the release of Pink Floyd's final album, *the Division Bell*, in 1994. Gilmour seems to have matured musically in the past 12 years. His music has a more original and inspired quality to it than what he wrote during his two album tenure as Floyd's leader. During his time with Pink Floyd, Gilmour was criticized heavily for his lyrics (which he began writing after bassist Roger Waters left the band in 1982 after a fight with Gilmour). The critics should not find anything wrong with Gilmour's lyrics on this album. His writing has improved greatly. But, be warned: this is **not** another Pink Floyd album. Gilmour is his

own boss now, and did not seek to make a "Floydesque" album by any means. Some songs do bear similarities to those on *the Division Bell* and *A Momentary Lapse of Reason*, however, jazz and blues influences are far more prominent on *On An Island*.

This album is quite



exceptional. Each song is original and makes for a stylistically diverse album. *On An Island* opens with a full-length spaced-out instrumental (slightly reminiscent of Pink Floyd's glory days). The title track is truly wonderful and quite original. Other highlights include "Take A Breath," "This Heaven," and "Where We Start." This album is a must have for *any* fan of progressive rock. Can you say "ear candy?"

5 out of 5 stars

Relient K

by Mr. Kav

Relient K has been on the pop/Christian scene since their self titled debut album, *Relient K* in 2000, and has since had 3 more albums and most recently an EP. Their early work is very (and I mean very) opinionated toward Christianity, and while not necessarily a bad thing, it does detract from the music. They have, however, grown more into the pop scene with the 2004 release of *Mhmm*, a GREAT album for any light-rock/pop fans. Comprised of great songs like "Be My Escape", "My Girls Ex-Boyfriend", and "I So Hate Consequences", this album is my most listened to on my ipod. While it holds its Christian roots, it is less widespread, and its much better placed, context wise

and musical wise, to make for a much better listening experience. Their most recent release, *Apathetic* EP, has only 6 songs, 3 of which are acoustic versions to old favorites, and the change only enhances the music, instead of detracting from it. They also have 3 new songs, vaguely similar to those on their last 2 albums, *Mhmm* and *Two Lefts Don't Make a Right, But Three Do*, but are very cool none the less. I recommend these recent Relient K albums and the EP to anyone who enjoys light-rock and Christian-rock.

Two Lefts Don't Make a Right But Three Do- 8/10
Mhmm- 9/10
Apathetic EP- 9/10

Average score- 8.7



The Editor's Music Page

In the last edition of *the Oracle*, I listed some upcoming concerts in the Nashville concert guide. Now, for your visual pleasure, I am providing photos from those amazing shows!



Supergrass
February 15, 2006
City Hall

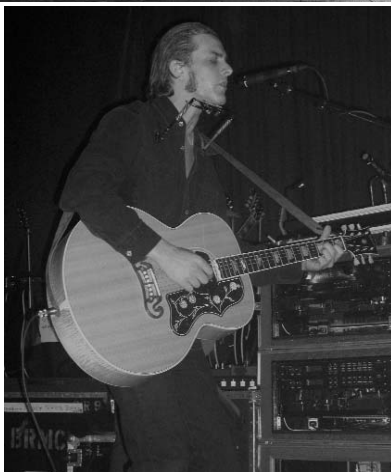
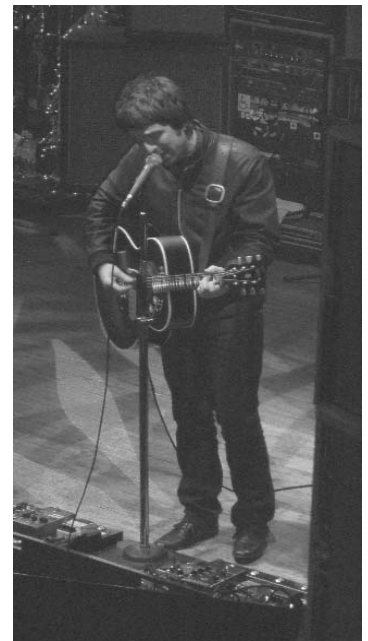
The Strokes
March 6, 2006
Ryman Auditorium



Oasis
March 26, 2006
Ryman Auditorium



Black Rebel Motorcycle Club
February 24, 2006
Exit/In



2006

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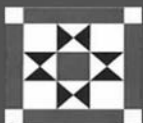
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Books

Jonathan Safran Foer Is My Hero

A Review of *Everything Is Illuminated* and *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer

By Laura Sherrell

Jonathan Safran Foer is thought by some to be one of the most promising rising stars in the world of contemporary fiction, and I must say, though I'm not especially qualified to make such a judgment, that I agree wholeheartedly.

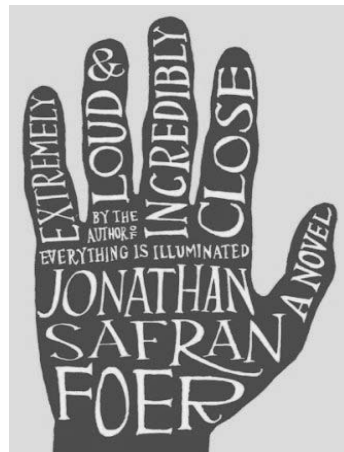


Everything Is Illuminated is Foer's debut novel. It's part pseudo-historical fiction about World War II and a bit of a love story as well. The main character, who has the same name as the novel's author (think Tim O'Brien in *The Things They Carried*), travels to the Ukraine to search for the mysterious woman who saved his grandfather during the war. As Jonathan's whimsical translator/guide recounts their

search, Jonathan writes a bizarre but intriguing fictional history of his family.

Everything Is Illuminated is humorous, tragic, and thought provoking. (By the way: I hear there is a movie adaptation of this novel starring everyone's favorite hobbit, Elijah Wood.)

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close is, I believe, one of the first novels dealing with the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The attack on the World Trade Center in New York plays a vital role in the novel (the main character's father is killed in their collapse), but Foer doesn't beat it to death by echoing the now-clichéd laments about what a tragedy it was. Instead, Foer has created Oscar, a rather odd young boy who searches for the lock to fit a mysterious



key his father left behind and who struggles to come to terms with his father's death.

Foer also tells the story of Oscar's grandparents' unlikely romance, which raises a plaintive question: why does anyone ever make love?

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close offers no definite answers, but by the end, both Oscar and the reader have found some small beginning of closure.

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New On DVD

Firewall

By Jennifer Cooper

I admit that I went into the theater with fairly low expectations for Harrison Ford's performance in *Firewall*, what with some of his more recent films (Hollywood Homicide, Random Hearts...) being not very good films and having half-hearted acting jobs. However, this film surprised me. It was actually rather good. Like any movie, there were some little parts in it that I had problems with, but nothing that I couldn't look over. The opening scene of the film was normal enough. It was simply the typical scene showing the Stanfield family getting ready to go to work, etc. You know, kids fighting, parents not intervening... Sounds like a typical scene at chez Cooper as well, but I digress. A group of computer hackers (complete with their brought-from-home Hungry Man® dinners) show up at chez Stanfield and set up shop within the first little bit. The hackers held Jack Stanfield's (Harrison Ford) family hostage until the money that they request from accounts in Stanfield's bank has been transferred.

Of course, like any good hostage situation movie, the hostages never sit still and

wait. Stanfield's wife and kids tried to escape (in a rather elaborate way, I might add), but of course failed. One part of the film in particular that I found interesting was the



scene when Stanfield came home to find his family had been moved. The remaining hacker wouldn't reveal their new location. Of course, there had to be a fight scene here. Stanfield grabbed the glass jug from the blender and whacked the guy across the head. Why is this interesting, you may ask? Well, it was a comment from a friend that I

was seeing the film with that made this part. She leaned over and whispered, "I would never think to use the blender as a weapon" into my ear. Leave it to Harrison Ford to

kill people with parts to kitchen appliances. I couldn't help but correctly guess the rest of the plot and the ending of the movie long before it was over. The plot of the movie reminded me a lot of Air Force One, one of Ford's fairly recent films that was actually good, but on the ground. The ending of the film was rather abrupt. The ends

were wrapped up, of course. The criminals were brought to a roughish justice and everything, but still, it felt as if it happened too fast.

Time to nitpick the discrepancies, flaws, etc in the plot. My favorite part. For one, I don't really think it is possible to use an iPod Mini to store bank information and then upload it to a bank com-

puter (yes, this was done in the movie). Another thing that bothered me was when Stanfield whipped out a laptop under a bridge next to a rather dilapidated truck stop and proceeded to use the wireless internet to locate the tracking device on his dog's collar, thus locating his family. Then, he drove off with his assistant from the bank, still connected to some wireless network and still tracking the moving dog collar.

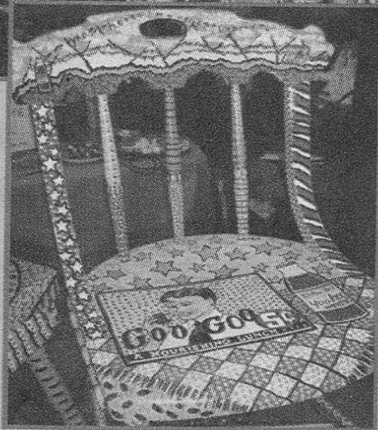
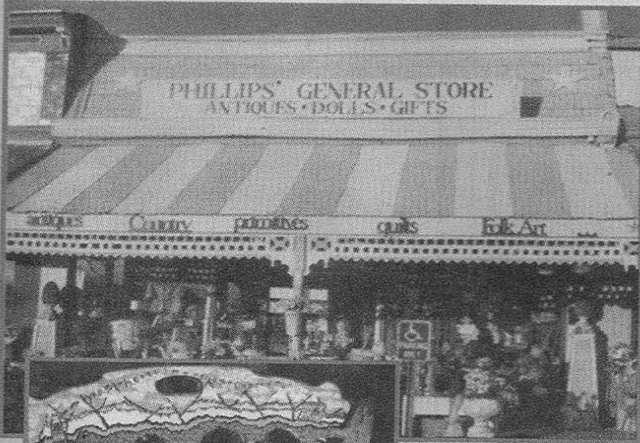
The acting in the movie was very believable. Paul Bettany (playing the chief hacker Bill Cox) showed a wonderful screen presence. His chemistry as the bad guy was flawless. Harrison Ford showed the usual gusto that audiences have come to expect from him over the years. I couldn't help but notice that he needs to work out a little more before attempting Indiana Jones 4.

Overall, this movie gets an eight out of ten from me.

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Gaming Today

With Mr. Kav

Hello, webbies! For this 4th quarter issue of Gaming Today, I've decided to focus in on a few games for your consideration. The main reason for this, is the continued game dry spell, the hush before the storm that is E3 (Electronic Entertainment Expo), the largest and most known video game showcase in the world, comparable to the Detroit International Auto Show. At this conference, the big stuff, like the Play Station 3 and Nintendo Revolution, are unveiled, as well as the newest games. All of this will be covered in the first quarter issue of next year. But, for this issue, I'm going to focus on only 1 or 2 games that have recently been released, to help you decide if you want to buy them or not.

Kingdom Hearts II

(Rated E-10+, for PS2)
By: BVG, Square Enix, Disney
Genre: Action-RPG
Gamespot Score: 8.7 (great)

My review: Kingdom Hearts II, the much anticipated sequel to Kingdom Hearts

(PS2, rated E) released 3 and a half years ago. This is where the first turn-off to the game begins. I have played (and enjoyed) both of these games, but I believe to fully appreciate the second game, you must have played the first game, or at least read a detailed plot summary. The reason for this, is because the biggest asset of KH2 is the storyline. Continuing where the first game (and semi-sequel Gameboy Advance game, Kingdom Hearts: Chain of Memories) left off, KH2 follows a great, but complicated at times, story of a teenage boy bestowed with the weapon upon which he will be savior to the worlds, the Key Blade. He travels with Donald and Goofy (yes, the duck and dog) to various Disney locals, each with their own story and objective, while continuing the plot from the first game. Because 80% of the characters in the game are Disney trademarked, many more mature players may find it much less entertaining than younger



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A wireframe model of a video game controller, showing the buttons and joysticks in a grid-like pattern. It is positioned on the right side of the advertisement.

players. However, my experience with this added an effect to the story that was very meaningful, seeing all of the characters from your favorite Disney movie, like Aladdin or The Lion King brought back to life, with the original voice talents as the movies, was a real treat. Most of the central story, however, was not Disney related, but cast with many characters that are good, evil and in between that make the story one to be delighted with.

Now, on to the gameplay. This game is classified as an Action-RPG. That means that while it is an action game, in real time, it has many Role Playing Game aspects, such as basic statistics, Strength, Magic, and Defense, and armor and weapons that improve on these three elements that effect the gameplay. You control the main character, Sora, who fights against his opponents, whether they be the regular Heartless, or the many

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and varied Boss encounters, with a Key-Blade, which is basically a sword shaped like a key. The fighting is fast and furious, fun and satisfying to watch, but the constant button-bashing, pressing X over and over, can make it feel like you are developing carpal-tunnel. As you get into the game, new options of combat become available. These include magic, of different kinds (range, area, etc.) and special attacks, called Limits, that is a combination of one or both of your party members combining their attacks, reaction commands that have you press Triangle at the right moment, summons, which summon a new, special party member to do special attacks, and my favorite, Drives, where your party members fade out as Sora goes berserk

and basically owns everything in sight. Your party members, usually Donald and Goofy, also aid in your attack, attacking enemies and using support magic to heal you when needed, and they are almost as customizable as you are. The AI has no problems most of the time, rarely getting in the way, and is customizable for the most part.

Overall, I think Kingdom Hearts II is a great game, but would only appeal to a less than huge audience due to its plot dependencies, younger demographic (about 10- 15), and hack n' slash gameplay. I recommend to buy for anyone who enjoys action games, RPG's, Disney movies, or a good story, and I give this game an **8/10 (great)**.

Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion

(Rated T, for the PC and Xbox 360)

By: 2K Games, Bethesda Softworks

Genre: RPG

Gamespot Score: 9.3 (superb)

My review: Although I have not personally played Elder Scrolls, I do find Gamespot.com to be the most credible and easily accessed internet gaming source. They have a lot of praise for the game, stating "The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion is simply one of the best role-playing games ever made". Wow, it seems they were impressed. The Elder Scroll Series has a large, and devout, fan base,

and despite the single hit from Morrowind, the last game in the series, Oblivion comes back with the RBI. Oblivion is truly amazing, with lush, large environments, a detailed and interesting story, great gameplay, and everything else



you want. I am just sorry to say that my knowledge of the game is second hand, unlike Kingdom Hearts II, I have not had the pleasure to play this game. I recommend you find the review at a credible internet source (as mentioned above) or a large magazine, like Computer Gaming World.

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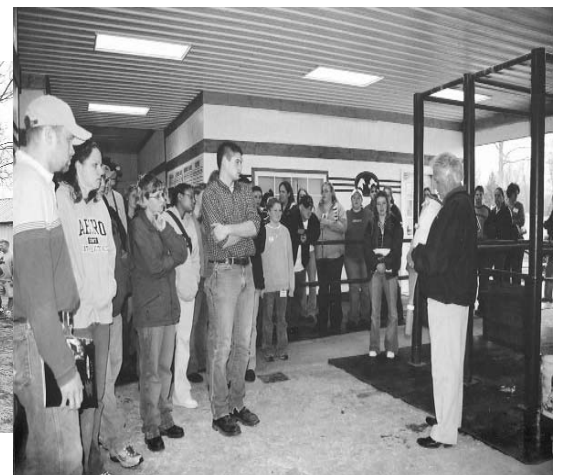
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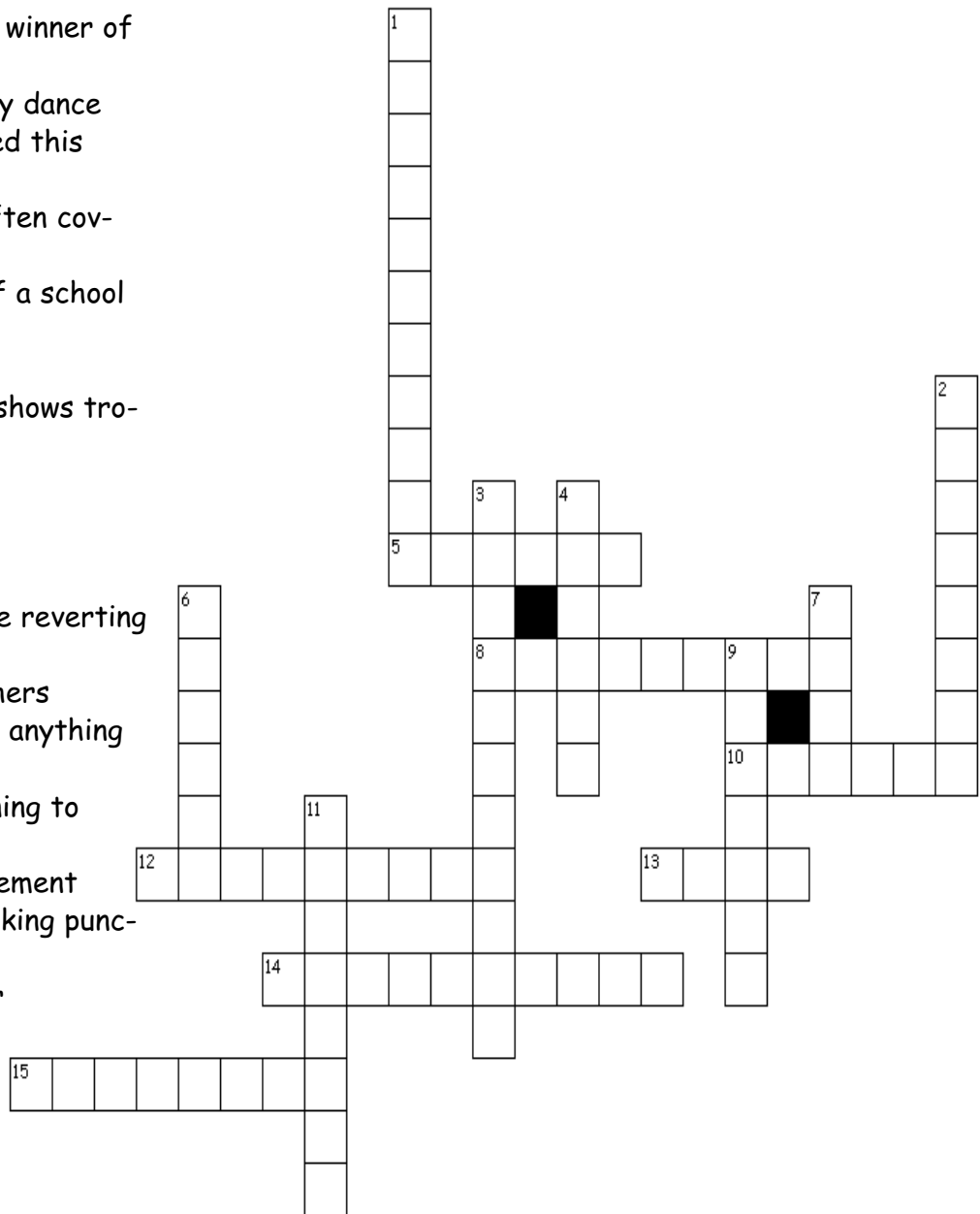
CROSSWORD

Across

5. Teacher-knowledgeable winner of library competition
8. Location of recent fancy dance
10. Middle schoolers visited this place
12. Witty CAT teacher, often covered in chalk
13. Honorable President of a school council
14. Old school
15. Team that frequently shows trophies in chapel

Down

1. Middle School Ruler
2. What the seniors will be reverting to next year
3. Band of humorous teachers
4. What you should not do anything on
6. Hungary teacher returning to admissions
7. Recent chapel rearrangement
9. Location of new sign lacking punctuation
11. Tallest faculty member



The Opinion Page

Whatever Happened to Academiks? I mean, Academics.

By the Ivory Tower

This space was meant to be filled with political commentary concerning the state of the nation, problems in the world, etcetera. However, it will instead be utilized to present a social commentary of a general attitude on the Webb campus. After all, it is important not only to analyze global questions but also to address issues relevant to smaller communities. It all goes back to that saying: "Kindness begins at home."

And I will be kind.

Students on the Webb campus, like other teens, seem to have an interesting set of priorities. For some, sports are the most important things in their lives. For others, hanging out with friends tops the list. There is absolutely nothing wrong with this; physical activity and social activities are integral parts of human nature and society. But problems do arise when students' social lives and commitments to sports begin to eclipse their relationships with their families and, dare I say it, their abilities to fulfill aca-

demic responsibilities.

The failure of a Webb student to give due attention to academics is both a financial and mental sacrifice. Most students' families are paying several thousands of dollars each year to fund Webb students' educations. The money wasted on students that fail to put forth effort in their classes is better invested in charity work. Additionally, by making academics a low priority in their lives, some students waste valuable learning potential. Although this might seem inconsequential now, the fact remains that, in order to succeed in any field, one must have a strong foundation in several subjects. Frankly, few people will be willing to walk you through every case of addition in college. Or your family's bakery, whichever you choose. Honestly.

I realize that there is a range of learning paces. Some things come easily to a person and other things are challenges. After all, I myself was constructed from a large

Have an opinion of your own? Send it to theoracle@webbschool.com. We would love to publish your thoughts on everything from school issues to world issues. The first step towards change is letting others know about the problem!

slab of rock—it takes a while for some things to make it through my walls. However, this is a poor excuse for not trying. It is a dismal reason to not care.

Balancing one's life with sports, friends, and extracurricular activities is a healthy thing to do. On the other hand, becoming so preoccupied with these things that one cannot take the time

to benefit from a Webb education is—forgive me for saying so—stupid. So, as we begin to see the horizon of this school year, bear in mind that it might be wise to crack a book soon. Oh, and instead of worshipping just the feats of Webb athletes (haha, do you see the pun?), also give credit to those who care about school.

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| 8 | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | | | | | | | 4 | 7 |
| | | | | | 4 | | | 5 |
| 7 | | | | | | 9 | 1 | |
| | 1 | | | 6 | 8 | 7 | | 3 |

Hard

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 7 | | | | 2 | | |
| | | 9 | 4 | | 2 | | | |
| 5 | | | | 6 | | | 3 | |
| | | | | 2 | 9 | | 7 | 8 |
| | 3 | | | | | | 1 | |
| 2 | 7 | | 5 | 4 | | | | |
| | 4 | | | 8 | | | | 3 |
| | | | 1 | | 3 | 7 | | |
| | | 3 | | | | 1 | | |

Evil

We hope
you have a
terrific
summer!