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DECEMBER EDITION

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Get’m, Buck! Young Buck talks with Jamie Joyce

By Jamie Joyce
Staff Writer

On a cold November 15, Nashville rapper, Young Buck, gets off the elevator on the sixth floor of a West End Avenue office building to meet with his lawyer. In the past few months his name has covered the pages of tabloid and music magazines, most commonly next to the word “bankrupt.” Yet as he enters the room, wearing rimless glasses and carrying a file full of papers under his arm, he doesn’t carry himself like a man with legal troubles. It’s not ignorance. It’s confidence. Getting his financial and legal work sorted out, with the number #1 mix-tape in the country and a brand new LP on the way, David Darnell Brown has already made his comeback.

He agreed to sit down with The Bell Ringer for a short interview to talk about his life at the moment:

BR: How do you think growing up in Nashville influenced your music?

YB: Growing up in Nashville influenced my music because there were no other rap artists from here that had a national presence. I always wanted to show that hip hop does live in Nashville. Nashville was a melting pot of different cultures. I always wanted to be a part of that scene.

BR: There seems to be a lot of difference between various artists describing themselves as rappers. How do you describe your music with respect to format? What makes you different?

YB: I describe my music as more of “reality rap.” I make music pertaining to the realities of the world – the good and the bad. It is “conscious rap.” There’s a difference between that and “gangsta rap.” As an artist, I try to reinvent myself every time I come around. That’s what the fans look for from an artist. After every CD, I don’t think they come back just to look for the same thing they got the first time. To sum it up – it’s reality-based.

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By Connor Caldwell
Sports Editor

The new restrictions on tackling in the NFL are familiar to all sports fans, and much discussion has arisen about them. In my opinion, as a player and avid fan, it will drastically change the way the game is played...for the worse.

The new rules officially state “The initial force of a blindside block can’t be applied by the forearm or shoulder to an opponent’s head or neck. An illegal blindside block will bring a 15-yard penalty” and “Initial contact to the head of a defenseless receiver also will draw a 15-yard penalty.”

Yes, these rules may seem good for the players at first glance, but how can you expect players to change the way they play? Football is a sport dominated by players who no longer think to play, but play by instinct. The current players have been physically and mentally conditioned for 20+ years to tackle and block the way they are now.

After talking with our local expert, Mark McIntosh, MBA’s head trainer, he had an interesting point. Someone had asked why concussions were becoming so prevalent in high school football, and his response was to blame our pee-wee league coaches.

These coaches were obviously not teaching us to hit and tackle with the intention of causing us head injuries, but the emphasis on delivering a blow to the other player, reinforced by the type of devastating hits in the professional and collegiate levels, often overshadowed the importance of a safe hit. Now, as our bodies are much bigger and more muscular, hitting in the same manner is much more dangerous.

But as a player, the idea of safety and self-preservation goes out the window during the heat of a game. When a running back is going through the hole, he is not thinking about how to properly angle his head to protect his neck, but rather how he is going to trick the man standing between him and the open field. As a defensive player, when the ball-carrier is anywhere close, I will do whatever it takes to get him on the ground, whether that be a crushing blindside hit, jumping on his back, or taking out his legs. Never once does my, or his, safety enter my mind. My sole intent is to get him down, however that may be. The rules seek to remove a certain type of hit, but what player will be able to avoid the other player’s head when he is tackling him? It is just impractical to ask that.

To ask the players to change the way they play is like asking a dog to not chase a cat. For players at such a high level as the NFL, playing the game is pure instinct. These rules will only be effective if they are implemented at the lower levels first, and follow the upcoming generation of athletes. If taught at a young age, these rules will become more instinctual.

Many are worried that with the advancement of helmets, a false sense of security is felt, and it is being used more as a weapon than as defense. Some suggest removing the facemask of the helmet to prevent this phenomenon. In my opinion, removing the facemask will simply break people’s faces. Rugby has no helmets, and guys have their eyes gouged out. Nobody wants to see that on TV. I don’t care how violent you believe Americans are, there is always a line.

Last, the fan base of the NFL would get used to it, if the big hits were removed. So much about the game is predicated around physicality, and implementing rules to limit the ferocity of hits is changing the very essence of the game itself.

In my opinion, the daily battering of hits that fall short of “concussion” status can have terrible effects as well. Some argue that concussions will become a thing of the past with advances in technology. The Revolution helmet is supposed to massively reduce likelihood of a concussion; the Schutt markets their独有的echnology, which a few people have had serious injuries. They knew the risks going into the game, and we should too.

...but rule changes are too health problems - such as the 31% of ex-players who admit having difficulty with memory – researchers are now saying that the daily battering of hits that fall short of “concussion” status can have terrible effects as well.

Some argue that concussions will become a thing of the past with advances in technology. The Revolution helmet is supposed to massively reduce likelihood of a concussion; the Schutt markets their独有的echnology, which is a total farce. Unfortunately, “better” equipment is only facilitating faster and harder hitting. Players’ muscles are continually getting bigger and stronger while the biology of the brain stays the same.

The necessity of these new rule changes (and possibly more changes), and strict adherence to them by the League, is not only to cut down on the shocking injuries sustained during the game, but to reduce the long-term crippling effects the fierce impacts will have. Removal of the facemask, as Connor said, may seem extreme, but if losing an eye means re-membering how you lost it – not to mention the first 50 years of your life – it may just be worth it.

The problem is much bigger than people want to admit. Whether the rule changes affect the game for the worse is now irrelevant. Change must happen to counter-act this growing problem. People should quit arguing over whether or not to act; the real question is how to act, to reduce the problem while not changing how the game is played too dramatically.

I am confident that if we concentrated efforts on both sides, a medium can be found that maintains what we love about football, and allows the people who play it to remember ten years later what they love about it.
Rep. win not a mandate

By Jesse Suh
Staff Editorialist

By now, most MBA students have heard about the drubbing the Democrats received in the 2010 Congressional midterm elections. To go quickly over the facts, the Democrats lost the House of Representatives while narrowly holding on to the Senate. The sixty-seat filibuster-proof majority in the Senate is also gone.

The knee-jerk reaction to such convincing Republican gains has been to consider the election as a referendum on the Obama agenda. A recent *Washington Post* article went as far as to say that the President has become so ineffective that he should not seek re-election in 2012. Are Obama and the Democrats really in such bad condition that they have made it their main policy agenda to cut taxes for the middle class among many—things will only be harder as a split Congress threatens political gridlock in Washington?

With Republicans pushing forward an extension of the Bush Era tax cuts for the upper class, it will be interesting to see how the Democrats seek either to compromise or fully combat the disastrous economic policies which contributed to the economic collapse in the first place.

Whatever the reason for the slow economic recovery—the slowness of the release of stimulus funds and the inability to cut taxes for the middle class among many—things will only be harder as a split Congress threatens political gridlock in Washington.

All things considered, it is fair to say there is not a real vote of confidence for either party, and political gridlock threatens to further alienate public sentiment toward Washington.

Max’s view of the world

By Max Werthan
Staff Madman

Here are 40 items which drive me crazy:

1. Alarm clocks- They always wake me up.
2. Pop quizzes- I never see them coming.
3. Christian anti-Semites- Jesus was Jewish. Your prejudice is oxymoronic.
4. Murderers- They’re the number one cause of homicide-related deaths.
5. Blackberries- I’m allergic (not racist).
6. Toronto Blue Jays- Get out of the American League.
7. Subjective mood- If only it were necessary... nope. I’d still hate it.
9. Generalizations- They are always bad.
10. Subjectivity- I hate it; others love it. Guess it depends how you look at it.
12. Honest Abe- Too much truth.
13. Censorship- It’s @#$*ing unnecessary.
14. Global warming- The world was a lot cooler before you showed up.
15. Cannibalism- Humans aren’t kosher.
16. Kanye West- He never lets me fin....
17. Ban on guns- Only criminals would have them.
18. Kobe Bryant- He fumbles, ball hog.
20. LenDale White- 2 first names + 0 talent= 1 draft bust.
23. Scooby-doo- I never know where he is when we get some work to do (now).
24. Wonderbread- I wonder what it is.
25. The wrong side of the bed- I never know which side it is until I wake up on it.
26. Karmic retribution- Because payback’s (see number 13).
27. Crackpot theories- (see number 14).
28. Money- Mo’ money = Mo’ Problems, but so does poverty.
29. Catch-22’s- (see number 28).
30. Gravity- #1 barrier to human flight.
31. Antoine Dodson- He made me hide my kids and my wife.
32. Lawrence Taylor-He made me hide my kids.
33. Tiger Woods- He made me hide my wife>
34. Charlie- He stole my golden ticket.
35. Squares
36. Burger King- ba ba ba ba ba I’m hatin’ it.
37. Willis- I don’t know what you talkin’ bout (too soon? Nope).
38. Adrian Peterson- He fumbles footballs.
40. John Madden- he fumbles words
Resident senior news writer ‘Fleeces’ at work

By John Wyse
Staff Gossip

Just the other day, I was making my way through the MBA lunch line, anxious for some breakfast burritos and a Smekida-sized portion of French toast. Getting to the front, I reached my hand out to wash my hands with that weird alcohol foam stuff, but I couldn’t reach it because another senior was in the way. Suddenly, I realized that the guy blocking me was none other than “little” Justin Park; only, he wasn’t little anymore. Believe it or not, JP now stands at 5’10”. (That’s taller than our main man Warren Smith, if you didn’t know.) I was so surprised that I jumped back and accidentally hit my elbow on Brandon Key’s sweet necklace. The moral of the story is that you’re happy it was his and not yours.

On that note, Matthew Johnson and Carrie Underwood are engaged to be married on MoJanson’s 18th birthday (January 15, 2011)!!! Brad Paisley is the best man. For the honeymoon Matthew is going to run a 26.2 on a Daily’s and then head to Love Circle. Sounds romantic.

As far as the class of 11’s love lives are concerned, Nick Kohler’s heart still lives in Florida (awww), Mason Foote is still waiting on his first kiss, Collin Brannon loves Skype, and Connor is probably having more luck with his Tiger than I did with mine. Also, Clay Garrett’s obvious flirtations with the college counseling staff are going nowhere with Ms. Raines. (Bottom left).

It’s safe to say we are all sad to see the end of football season. Shout out to everyone who put up an emotional Facebook status. We love you guys. The silver lining is that we are now officially having parties at every possible opportunity.

Cross Country guys put the competition in the dustpan at state and continued their success at regionals in North Carolina. Hockey is doing its thing. Gary’s cheezin’. To summarize the bowling team’s performance, Mason Kirkpatrick lost to Kelly Lassing in a heated battle that ended in yelling and tears… just kidding. The average height of the MBA basketball starting lineup is 8’3”, while Ultimate Frisbee is led by the Swain Train and 14 other seniors (TOOOOT TOOOOT).

Although scientists didn’t think it was possible, Tyler Cabble got even harder when he got a tattoo the size of Africa and… wait for it… enlisted in a country band (I know, right?). He is now the favorite in every possible fighting matchup against Ryan kids trying to hit on his girl.

Lord of the Flies last week starred Ford Altenbern, Chris Gooch, Phillip Danielie and Cedric Smith. Cooper Thomas, Will Lee, Marc “Jiggy” Giguere, and Andrew Wright did their thing behind the scenes. It was a grand success.

Rob McArthur and Mr. Smyth are BFF’s. Jarvis Werkhoven killed a man who insulted his Black Ops strategy of using only tomahawks. Will Norton went to town repin’ his afro. Braxton Fralick enjoys being tickled. Floopingtinationer is tired. Paul Bamond sms crutches, Will Granbery is more excited from the opening of Harry Potter than he is about Chase Owen’s promise to dunk over Corn Elder, and it’s Andrew Powell’s birthday! Happy bday, Coach. Hang in there, class of 2011. Only a few more weeks until it’s second semester. Real Talk. Roll Red.

Random junior class ramblings plus much more

By Scott Dalton
Staff News Gatherer

As the holiday season draws near, the junior class is particularly thankful for all of the many blessings that have been bestowed upon them daily on The Hill. These blessings include but are not limited to… Baker Swain.

Daniel Bellet was last seen 8 miles downstream from the house of Jonathan Reilly’s buddy Eminem. Daniel was spotted in a freezer with a small gorilla in a diaper.

They were mistaken for twins. Speaking of twins, Dan “The Artist Formerly Known as Daniel” Mace was mistaken for a Danwhal off the coast of Nova Scotia. Fortunately, Gray Jones was on the deep sea Arctic fishing expedition that spotted the animal, and Gray was able to put the myths to rest.

In other news, Noah Fardon has yet to find his jaws. If you have any information regarding the whereabouts of Noah’s jaws, please email Mr. Tillman.

Jack Whitson is continuing his world wide beach volleyball tour which is now currently stationed in France. Kevin Murphy is vying for a spot on the Olympic water ski team and will have to beat out only Alex Hagar for a spot. Jamie and John Bradshaw would like everyone to know that they are giving out free hugs today and that they will only respond to the title “The Bash Brothers.” Jake McDonald wanted to be a bash brother, too, but he just got stuck with “Goldberg.”

In recent foreign travel news, Rob Edwards will not be attending the Evan College exchange despite the wishes of the entire MBA faculty and staff. However, Chris Meluch will be going to England this semester, packing only a pair of U.S.A. boxes and a pair of aviator sunglasses. He will not be trading any Pokémon cards while he is gone. Speaking of Pokémon, Henry Richardson was spotted using “rock slide” outside of the Carter building yesterday… sick move, bro.

My cousin, Joe Serrin, is a selfless act of awesomeness, finally built a particle accelerator that shoots tiny air particles at the speed of light. The accelerator will effectively rip a small hole in a piece of paper. When Joe playfully fired it at Bryan Oskin, Bryan was subsequently carried to the hospital on a stretcher and treated for a broken ear lobe. Despite all of the scientific genius floating around our class, Blake Bars has yet to understand how Newton’s 2nd law is actually true.

Auggie Houghton killed a guy with a trident. Daniel Peters has offered him a place to lie low for a while in hopes that everyone will just forget about it. Wills Brooks insists that the deed was for the good of the survival-rate population, according to some guy who wrote a book in 1960 and only did drugs a few times. Wills is still NOT a hipster.

My bro, Logan Standard, now has 6 girlfriends. He says, and I quote, “I wanted one for each day of the week, rest on the Sabbath.” Palmer “Stank-a-Lank” Campbell only goes for the women over 30. In other news, Aaron Simonis is starting a

Will Peffen practices for an Armani shoot.

John Mark Bellet flashes a pretty smile.

Couple of the Month: Matthew J and Carrie U.
Scott’s article was too awesome for just one page...
...continued from previous page.

board…without a helmet. James Kay’s solo debut album, “Pieces of me: songs from my diary,” has now broken Billboard’s Top 10. Robert Hoover has continued to wear a different colored tux to school every day. And finally, Kelly Hasleton has refused to get out of Edward “Folk’s Around Here Call me Ed” Wilson’s belly.

Well that’s pretty much it. Questions? Comments? Call anyone but me at (369)-(CHILL)-(YOU’RE)-(FINE). And remember, when your family relocates from Hawaii to Colorado, get on your surfboard and GO BIG OR GO HOME, bro.

Sophomores think about a few different things

By McLean Hudson
Staff Sophomore

I don’t know about anyone else, but I can already feel Christmas Break. We just have to get through two more weeks… and exams… so these next few weeks will probably seem like a year, and each day will be a little more prolonged. Now is when we just have to celebrate the little things.

Speaking of celebrations, let’s give a shout-out to the 10th-grade football team, which won the city championship a few weeks back, rolling over Maplewood 39-32. The combined score for all the games was something like 300-32, led by Will Gray’s favorite student, but that’s probably because he isn’t capable of learning the “adios song.”

Dallas Gibson apparently plans to viciously main Christian Sargent if he doesn’t quit talking trash. In the Tate Ramden scholarship saga, Tate has decommitted from North Texas due to pecuniary reasons. He now plans to attend Miami on a full-ride scholarship. Unfortunately, the U doesn’t have a men’s team, so he’ll be stuck practicing the back stroke. Hmm, keep it clean, Ramsden.

The sophomore class of MBA has a new favorite element: Barium. It has an atomic mass of about 110 lbs. and is most commonly found in the compound Barry Goldsmith-Ba Au Sm Ll, Th.

Due to popular demand, the following is composed of Mr. Herring type stuff:

Penn Murfee and Hayden Deakins are sailing around the world with Zheng He, and Furman Haynes is all jacked up on Whig Ideology. There seems to be an overwhelming geo-political shift in this general direction that may or may not result in a Puritan Utopia, much like the 60’s. The good news is: due to a slight rise in demography, such a quagmire will likely be avoided. Si, Señor.

Recently, an epidemic of CoD fever swept through the MBA community, tallying up a host of victors, including Dallas Gibson, Andy Seay, William Yang, Marcus Riley, and many more. If you know of anyone that has gone missing, please report it immediately to Mr. Herring. A few good things have come of CoD fever’s arrival, such as Ryan Potter’s 2.97 kill-to-death ratio. Reportedly, Kevin’s dad likes playing more than he does. His gamer tag? Probably something like MajorWang10. But that’s just a guess.

This brings us to the newly created portion of the news, Facebook stalking. Brooks Best can’t wait ’til next year, Paul Moore is goin’ hammer, Tarun Mallipeddi (an honorary sophomore) likes iPods, and Wilson Johnson’s second Xbox got the red ring. Bummer. Kevin Wang took the “what kind of Asian are you?” quiz, and got “You’re Chinese!” Uncanny… Ni hao ma?

Jack Benton and Furman Haynes are weighing the pros and cons of Mormonism, which looks better and better every Saturday night. Unfortunately, there’s not a whole lot of MBA stuff on Facebook, because it’s all cluttered up with cliquey girls telling each other how beautiful they look in their profile pictures.

Dallas Gibson just doing his thing… with a popped collar. Courtesy of Facebook.com

With sifting through that riff-raff, Zach Waterman chatted me and began to tell me exactly what he thought of MBA people. Most of the comments weren’t suitable for a publication such as this, so here is the cleanest of the conversation: Falkner is insecure, Dallas Gibson thinks he’s gangsta, Will Campbell is way too cool for school, and he misses Millwe. Robert Papel is still his favorite, but John Mellow is a close second. Oh, Waterbags, how did we manage to get along without you?

Jack Emerson loves Chandler Burgess to the starz, Sam Turner says Patrick Moody is bad at bowling. Robert Papel won the “Best Communicator” award for crew this year. I didn’t even know they had an award less prestigious than “most improved.” Bennet Maxwell likes to sleep, and Kamran Ansari says “hi” and something about the Falcons.

Since I still haven’t started my homework, there’s no conclusion to this column. See ya later, homies.

The Freshmen class is ready for anything y’all

By Wells Hamilton
Staff Writer

It’s already nearing exam time, as the freshman ask themselves what happened to the other half of the year. Also, with the subsequent ending of the football season, many freshmen will be awkwardly displaced on Friday nights.

For the freshman wrestlers, however, this means a spot in the varsity locker room. Blake Patton and Ben Barton celebrated vivaciously, but the change will not be so great for Jashon Robertson. Hopefully, he and Traveonte Esasley, as well as new wrestlers Jordan Whittaker and Bryson Jarret, can add a touch of football spirit to the wrestling team.

The first bonfire mixer was less typical, with ample precipitation on you, it isn’t my problem. Marcus Riley commented, “That’s sweet; I’m going to go lift my weights and Running to get in shape for the upcoming season. Breakaway athletes Chase Matthews and Samuel Bamighoye are expected to represent the freshmen at varsity tryouts, while Russell Carpenter anchors the JV. Supposedly, ‘known attack man’ Sam Harwell will also be in the mix.

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However, Alex Bars remarked “Huh, Huh, I guess it was okay.”

On a lighter note, the freshman-heavy choir has had two performances quite recently at MBA. The main anchor of the group, Marty Poe, has a voice that resembles sweet gold mixed with honey. Charlie Hawkins believes this to be so true that he often records Marty’s voice to make sure he is in tune.

Also, due to Wesley Jenkins’ unceasing efforts, the freshman class has earned 75 dollars as a part of its fundraising at the 42nd avenue fields. Known rower Tarun Mallipeddi commented, “That’s sweet, I’m going to go lift books with my mind.” Fellow rower Tejas Reddy had similar sentiments.

Freshman have also been flocking to Lacrosse Weights and Running to get in shape for the upcoming season. Breakaway athletes Chase Matthews and Samuel Bamighoye are expected to represent the freshmen at varsity tryouts, while Russell Carpenter anchors the JV. Supposedly, “known attack man” Sam Harwell will also be in the mix.
Hispanic Achievers Club promotes service and language

By Sam Weien

Staff Writer

MBA has many clubs across campus. There is the grilling club, the ping-pong club, and even the young Democrats and young Republicans clubs. But only one club, the Hispanic Achievers Club, combines language, culture, and service, making the Hispanic Achievers Club the most unique on campus. The Bell Ringer sat down with St. Gray and president of Hispanic Achievers Club, Ryan Hill, for a quick interview.

Bell Ringer: When and how was the Hispanic Achievers Club started?

Hispanic Achievers Club: Initially it was a YMCA project, and MBA joined that program. The YMCA program was, however, heading in a direction different from where MBA wanted to go, so we joined an existing program of classes at Paragon Mills, in a Habitat for Humanity neighborhood. Hispanic Achievers Club is in its third year in its current format, working with Paragon Mills School.

BR: What is the main purpose(s) of the Hispanic Achievers Club?

HAC: We seek to promote the use of Spanish among the students, promote Hispanic culture, and serve Hispanic people.

BR: What is the Hispanic Achievers Club doing to promote Hispanic culture across campus?

HAC: This year we are planning a sale of paletas (Mexican popsicles) and to have some film nights.

BR: Are there any events that the Hispanic Achievers Club is doing around Nashville?

HAC: On Monday nights at 7:00, we go to Paragon Mills for ESL (English as a Second Language) programs. We try to teach the foreign students English. Also, Edward Wilson is leading a tutoring program on Wednesday afternoons at Cameron Middle School. Edward’s group has joined a fairly sizable program of peer tutoring which takes place at the school.

BR: How does the Hispanic Achievers Club add to the Spanish curriculum at MBA?

HAC: We allow students to engage in Spanish in a more personal way, because one can only speak so much Spanish in class, and it is a great feeder into the Wilson Language Grants. It is a great way to promote and maintain Spanish skills.

BR: Hispanic Achievers Club is one of the many cultural clubs on campus. What makes it different from the other clubs on campus?

HAC: It happens to be more of a service club, rather than a study of Hispanic culture. It involves the students within Nashville’s Hispanic culture.

BR: With the new Wilson Language Grants developing, do you think the number of people in the Hispanic Achievers Club will increase?

HAC: The Wilson Language Grants program has already increased participation in the Hispanic Achievers Club. Many more students have joined the club this year. It allows our Spanish speakers to utilize a true Spanish-speaking outlet with a great benefit for both our own students and for the wider community.

Workshop to hone writing skills

By John Mellow

Staff Writer

MBA has an extracurricular activity for seemingly everything: theater, debate, arts and music electives, Science Olympiad, and a whole range of sports, along with countless other clubs and afterschool organizations and projects.

Upon a complete reflection, however, one group has been slighted amid this plethora of activities – writers.

This year, though, the patchwork of MBA opportunities will be complete. The English Department plans to begin workshops for writing in the spring for anyone interested in honing his proficiency in prose.

These sessions will begin in the spring for two days a week, Tuesday and Thursday. The intent is a schedule flexible enough to work with most sports.

Mr. Kelly, who will help run the program, intends to focus not only on creative writing, but on prose in all shapes and forms, from expository writing to journalism and advertising. The goal is not only to allow students to work on their own stories, but also to introduce them to whole new fields of writing.

Participants will learn the language of sports, politics, religion, and more. Essentially, the workshops will let students delve into the mechanisms that make society tick by examining, understanding, and emulating documents of all varieties, identifying how to inform and manipulate a reader, and writing pieces of their own.

The program offers improvement in writing skills and ideas, not just for one’s own independent writing, but also for themes and essays, and has the potential to greatly enhance the participant’s aptitude for English expression.

So far, the interest, sadly, has been minimal. So, be sure to let Mr. Kelley or Mr. Moxley know if you might join, to maximize participation and justify the time that they put into it. These workshops offer immense growth in English writing and would be a wonderful addition to the abundance of MBA extracurricular activities.

Science Department gets pumped

By Jake Macey

Staff News Writer

Construction on the observatory is moving forward at the Long Mountain property. The Science Department is extremely excited over the new building.

This observatory will open up an incredible window for not only exploring the sky, but also taking part in research of several astronomical questions that face scientists today.

With its large, almost 20-foot telescope, the observatory is offering a whole new astronomical experience. According to Dr. Dickens, this is one of the newest and most technologically advanced telescopes that he has seen in use by high schools. While others may be sufficient, they are quickly outdated.

One of the most interesting features of this telescope is its ability to be controlled via the internet. No longer must the trek to and from Long Mountain be made, as one can control the telescope from any computer at home.

This feature will not, however, make people fret about visiting the observatory. Dr. Dickens stated that installation of the new telescope will be sometime in late January, and opening of the observatory itself will be around early March.

As far as use in the Astronomy course, the observatory will obviously help students to learn about the universe. It will also give insight into the evolution of stars, movements within space, and how photons transfer into photos. There has also been talk within the Science Department of offering summer programs for adults to experience the realm of space. This observatory along with the Long Mountain property is opening several amazing opportunities for MBA and its community.

Mathematical Sweetness

By Davis Lovorn

Staff Writer

Wanting an interview, but fearing I would be hit with another boomerang, I leaned my head into Mr. Golenor’s room. When I saw the coast was clear, I went in, only to have Ferriss (ed.: another freshman) hit me in the head with a boomerang. Recovering, I asked Mr. Golenor for some news about the math department.

DL: What happened in the last Interscholastic Math Competition?

MG: The Interscholastic Math League was last week at JPII. We had a strong showing. Our team was #1 in Algebra I, led by Tony Ding and Alvin Zhang, and Algebra II, led by Sam Hurd and Tarun Mallippeddi. We also won in Statistics, and there were two perfect scores: Adam Bowman and Hunter Tisdwell. The team was also second in Calculus, where Carter Callaway and Joe Scherrer led the team.

In Mathcore news, Commander Qian is taking them on a strategic battle plan for a magnumibus math massacre.

DL: Is there any other news?

MG: Well, if you see Coach Lanier talking to his foot, do not be alarmed - he is following in the footsteps of Ben Franklin. And Mr. Eppstein throws things away, but I throw things that return.

DL: Do you have a sheriff update?

MG: Well, the position has changed many times. Sweetness abounds.

Early notice: Arts Festival

By John Mellow

Staff Writer

The visual arts department has shows all the time. Music classes have plenty of concerts. Theater produces plays throughout the year.

Never before, though, have all the performance arts components of MBA coordinated as they plan to do this spring. From Thursday, April 28 to Saturday, April 30, MBA will host its first multidimensional arts festival.

Kicking it off will be One-Acts on Thursday, followed by the opening of a visual arts show on Friday, featuring professional artists. Then, in the early afternoon on Saturday, art, music, and theater will combine to put on a show to remember.

On the quad will be two stages, where 30-minute acts will alternate throughout the day. These acts will include one-act plays, speech and debate exhibitions, and plenty of music from classes and independent student bands.

The entertainment will provide a wonderful atmosphere to experience from local and visiting artists, as well as student pieces.

Throughout it all, wonderful food will be provided. Students are in the preliminary stages of coordinating with the various cultural clubs on campus to provide a variety of food options, contributing to a diverse experience.

Students are the driving force behind the whole operation and intend to use some of the profits to support charities of the students’ choosing.

The entire event is still in the developmental stages and can only become more ideas as more ideas are welcomed. The festival’s mission, however, is already clear: to expose to Nashville the wide spectrum of proud and unique art traditions at MBA and in the community.
**Do the monsters reveal the man behind them?**

By Jack Hallemann

Senior Writer

From symbolic torsos to a massive harp, MBA's campus has been embelished by many installations in recent years. None, however, has been as well received by the community as the monsters currently displayed. On the assumption that a man who makes monster art for a living would be very interesting, I interviewed the artist, Kevin Webster. I was not disappointed.

**Bell Ringer:** What inspired you to create art?

**Kevin Webster:** This was something I started doing every year in about 1990 in Memphis, Tennessee. It was a kick, and the neighborhoods I lived in really enjoyed them. I always had one Big Daddy Roth monster-hot-rod theme display when I lived on the Gulf Coast. Starting the first week of October was a Cruising The Coast antique and custom car event - the third largest in the nation, at the time. And the route went rolling by right in front of our house. So, I'd make sure to put my Monsterland yard up the day the event started, so the rods would slow down to gawk, and I would reciprocate...an endless stream of cool cars.

**BR:** For how long have you been interested in monster art, and how did you become interested?

**KW:** I always enjoyed fantastic stories, starting with childhood fairy tales. My first horridious serial library absorptions were the Greco-Roman mythologies. I learned to read before schooling, because I was trying to decipher what exactly was in the minds of people who published a magazine full of strange pictures that my father gave me, called Famous Monsters of Filmland.

The first "adult" book I read was Bram Stoker's Dracula, which employed the unique epistolary style of telling the tale as a collection of diary entries, newspaper clippings, letters, and memoranda written by the various characters. Then, there was a daytime soap opera on TV after grade school called Dark Shadows, which featured protagonist vampires and werewolves. So mine was a well-developed warp. Many of these characters are somewhat tragic heroes, struggling with the hand dealt them. Dracula has always had an interesting class struggle angle, with the aristocracy living off the serfs and bourgeoisie...but he had a way with women. Smarmy charm.

**BR:** Now that you've lived in Nashville for a few years, what do you think of it?

**KW:** Nashville is great. A very erudite and well-mannered, cultured city. Very comfortable, with a moderate climate. I often judge a city by their art galleries, and there are some really great things going on here.

**BR:** Did you lose many pieces of art to Hurricane Katrina? How did that impact your work?

**KW:** Katrina took my 15-year backlog of Halloween yard art monsters along with 40 years of various creations (including comic books I drew at 5). Now, Neptune and his minions can celebrate the holiday in style. I miss my babies, but I figure I'm just now getting good. My as yet unrealized life ambition is to populate a goofy golf, where golfing is optional. A lot of those surreal 50's era tableaus were destroyed along the Gulf Coast--weird lands of dinosaurs, spinning giant ant heads and haunted pirate ships through which to chase a little ball with a stick. Amazing.

**BR:** What would you say to a young artist contemplating art as a profession?

**KW:** Different schools of thought on that one. A wise sage would say, keep your day job. This may not have the bohemian romance of it all, but it beats eating oatmeal three times a day, which is what I did while living in San Francisco...with a vitamin chaser, though, so I wouldn’t die. But, I always refused to tailor my paintings and sculpting to a market. I did it for the visions I enjoyed, and where else could I see it? I made my living doing advertising art, in the dark ages of pre-digital, where clients were savages and art directors were raging beasts. T-squares, X-acto blades, and a lung-choking spray mount was the ply of my trade. It paid well, but waiting tables was more fun. Then, the desktop revolution came along just as I was beginning to toy with the realization that no one was really doing animation. The art was truly a muse. It's a voice, and an outlet that enriches you as you feed it. It is a Zen all its own, that encompasses all forms of creativity.

For weeks now, Mr. Webster's monsters have been lurking behind students' backs. Courtesy of Mr. Jamie Tillman. 

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**This one's for Mr. Kelly**

The illustrious Paul Van Pernis tells us a story

By Paul Van Pernis

Staff Writer

Have I ever told you the story about the grilled cheese sandwich? Wait, I have, Oh well, I'll tell it anyway - it's a good one.

There I am at about 2 pm on a Sunday afternoon, not having eaten anything all day. I'm getting somewhat hungry but don't really feel in the mood for making one of the 4 foods (cinnamon rolls, cereal, anything in the microwave like the delicious bagel bites or personal pizzas). Gaah, I live for those things, as well as break and bake cookies. I don't know how to cook, so I tell my dad who's building a fence outside that I'm hungry. He says, "Okay, go make something."

"I don't know how to cook." I replied.

"Go ask your mother for a sandwich then." I guess it's his "quiet time." Well, anyway, I walk out to our porch, and yell to my dad, who's about 60 yards away.

"Dad, DAD!"

"What?"

"Where's Mom?"

"I don't know. Why? What do you want, you brat," he yells back to me from a distance.

"Well, I was going to ask for grilled cheese..."

"GOSH DANGIT, PAUL!! Are you kidding me," he yells, as he hurls his hammer at a fence post on the ground and begins to stomp from the yard to the house. I begin to chuckle to myself, which in hindsight didn't make my request any more appealing to my father.

From behind the grime I managed to say, "No, dad, forget it. You're busy." He ignores my statement and continues to walk towards me, not wanting to try to calm him down, quickly scampers to my room and shut the door. About 20 minutes later, I hear the door shut as my dad goes back outside. I wait about 5-7 minutes and timidly leave my room, not really expecting the grilled cheese, but what do you know. I walk down the steps, and sitting there on the counter, is one grilled cheese sitting on a plate. So, in typical Paul fashion, I ate it, put my plate away, and, umm, there you go.

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**Archives predict future**

The Library’s archives show us that nothing really changes on Hill

By McKay Proctor

Staff Writer

In all the buzz concerning video game releases since the last issue, I couldn’t help but think about a passage from the MBA archives.

In 1919 an ecstatic news editor wrote, quite prophetically, “Everything in the future is going to be done electrically.” He called for “An electric railway which will fly these monster spee[ds] of 900 miles per hour,” He was not far off from the 357 miles per hour an experimental rail in France clocked recently.

He further predicted “A subter- ranee electrically propelled land torpedo,” which never happened, mainly because the military realized that flying is a lot easier than burrowing.

In passing, the young man referred to “the almost magical wireless telegraph and telephone,” as though they were some sort of legend.

The most interesting part of the passage is when he refers to a dance “given recently in New York by music transmitted thirty-one miles,” describing one of the first radio-like devices.

Sounds a lot like the hype around “Fallout: New Vegas” and “Black Ops,” just further proof that nothing really changes here on the Hill.
The results are in: Breakfast at lunch is the best

By Daniel Mace
Staff Writer

On most days lunch is a rushed endeavor for students. After waiting in the line for what seems like days, I often find myself staring at something as interesting as a street sign. While most days are decent, our fine staff tend to serve too much of the same thing.

The week after the Spaghetti Supper, for instance, is pleasant on Monday, bland on Wednesday, and downright demoralizing by Friday.

For this article, however, I will overlook any flaws of our cafeteria. I won’t be talking about our over-capacity that is most likely violating fire code. I won’t mention the injustices of the senior line or fried chicken bias. You won’t even hear a whisper about the miniscule portion sizes.

No, this article is devoted to the extraordinary, momentous days when our cafeteria pulls through in the clutch. Today, I will be discussing the best days of lunch.

5. Wings
Finally, fried chicken has come to the whole student body. This day provides a smorgasbord of wings including barbeque, fried wings, and hot wings. To take this lunch a step further, consider pulling the meat of aforementioned wings and placing them on a bun with ranch from the salad bar.

4. Loaded Potato Soup
One of the most underated aspects of our lunch service is the daily soup offering. In particular, watch out for loaded potato soup, a creamy soup with chunky potatoes, bacon and cheese. Crab bisque is also unbelievable.

3. Chicken Patty
Simple, yet sophisticated, bold, and refined. There’s not much to say about this meal except that the patty is incomplete without an unhealthy amount of honey mustard piled on top. Chicken nuggets require the same action.

2. Italian Pineapple Upside-down Cake
A gooey swamp cake of unknown ingredients. The wise student spends little time wondering about its actual composition and more time eating and, of course, going back for seconds. This cake is technically a dessert, but there is nothing wrong with making this an entire meal.

1. Breakfast for Lunch
This lunch consists of breakfast foods served in epic proportions. In addition, a breakfast burrito bar compliments the main offerings. Get one of everything, cover in syrup, eat, and then repeat several times.

Sure, lunch at MBA is normally a dis- mal affair. However, there are some lunches which fulfill our food fantasies, meals actually worth waiting in the line to put on our tray and onto our palate.

In all seriousness, SAGE has quite an arduous task of feeding 700 boys everyday. While things might get a little monotonous over the years, we all can be thankful for the meals that surprise us.

In parting, I urge all of you to be on the lookout for the annual Christmas feast that should be upon us soon.

New teachers give their impressions of MBA

By Jake Macey
Staff Writer

The Bell Ringer returned to some of the new teachers to see what they have discovered about MBA after almost a full semester on The Hill. Here are their responses:

Matt Villemain, science teacher and track coach.

BR: What is different about MBA from what you expected?
MV: I never expected the students to be so supportive of each other in their extra-curricular activities. I would never have imagined such a diverse group of students showing up to the state cross country meet. That kind of support is really special.

MV: I expected to have more kids in help session, but that is not the case.
BR: If you could change one thing about MBA, what would it be?
MV: All of my school experience had been in large public schools. MBA has a much more intimate setting where everyone contributes to the school, and there is a bond between students that I have not seen before.

BR: What has been your favorite lunch day?
MV: My favorite lunch so far has been any lunch with the apple cobbler for dessert.

BR: What did you expect to find, and not find?
MV: I expected the students, faculty, and staff to be welcoming and supportive, but I did not anticipate to what degree every one would be so welcoming and supportive. All my colleagues are so willing to help whenever needed, and I’m very glad that I’ve been able to return the favor several times already.

BR: What did you expect to find, and not find?
NB: I expected the students would be very similar to me and my peers when we were students. To some degree, this similarity is true. There were many social groups at MBA when I was a student, and naturally there were always students who would be a part of multiple groups. However, when I look around now, there seems to be even more overlap between the groups. I see a lot more students involved in arts, sports, academics, and service, all at the same time, than I remember seeing when I was a student.

BR: If you could change one thing about MBA, what would it be?
NB: I would like to put either a pinball machine or a foosball table in the faculty room.

BR: How is MBA different from your previous school?
NB: MBA and Sewanee both combine rigorous academic pursuits and strong extra-curricular passions. The primary difference between them, however, is that Sewanee has dormitories and girls.

BR: What has been your favorite lunch day?
NB: I remember one particular day when pizza, barbeque wings, hot wings, French fries, and cookies were served. I almost could not handle all the food.

MBA has NBA Club

By Jimmie Anderson
Staff Writer

The inaugural year of MBA’s underground NBA Club is underway. Devised by Jimmie Anderson and Partha Reddy, with intellectual guidance from Dr. Kinch, the NBA club’s objective is to increase interest and appreciation of professional basketball—an association many NCAA basketball fans suggest isimpure, has a season that is too long, and is full of over-paid thugs.

Yet, the NBA undoubtedly contains the best athletes in the world, some of the most exciting displays of talent in sports, and, contrary to what many believe, the most pure basketball one can watch, due to the unparalleled skills of the players. Thirteen seniors and Dr. Kinch compose the NBA club, which includes a fantasy basketball league.

Some may have heard of our NBA Club’s fantasy league by overhearing one of Harrison Luna’s many recurring complaints of a poor trade involving irrelevant benchwarmer, yet the league is much more than that.

While the regular NBA season has just begun and has numerous games yet to be played, its hype is greater than it has been in many years. The trio of LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, and Chris Bosh on the Miami Heat will make this season and the next few some of the most exciting to watch since the Jordan days of the mid nineteen-nineties.

If one enjoys the sport of basketball but is not too fond of the NBA, he should give the League another chance this year and watch some games, as the quality of basketball will be the best it has been in a while.

Nonetheless, here are the early power-rankings for the NBA Club:

1. Rawdogging Randoms – Chris Sandwith
2. ForTheLoveoftheGame – Will McCaskill
3. We Do Work – Jimmie Anderson
4. Loaded Potato Soup
5. My wardrobe is entirely Carolina Blue.
6. I am trying to get used to the red color that I used to associate only with North Carolina State.
7. How is MBA different from your previous school?
8. My school experience had been in large public schools. MBA has a much more intimate setting where everyone contributes to the school, and there is a bond between students that I have not seen before.
9. What has been your favorite lunch day?
10. My favorite lunch so far has been any lunch with the apple cobbler for dessert.

Inaugural Annihilation

MBA chess team victorious in initial outing

By Max Werthan
Staff Writer

As any lax bro will tell you, there is a big difference between club and team. On October 30, 2010 that distinction was abolished—for MBA chess, anyway.

On that fateful Saturday, four fearless MBA Chess Club members sauntered over to the campus of USN to compete as MBA’s first interscholastic chess team in its 144-year history. To the surprise of the four, the chessers found themselves swimming with the big seadogs, who had their own clocks and pads of paper to take notes on the matches.

Unimpressed and certainly undaunted senior Stephen Bedar proclaimed, “Clocks, we don’t need no stinkin’ clocks!” while. “Yeah, the time limit was, like (sic), 30 minutes per person, and Max and I usually play three-minute, blitz games in the library. No big deal. Roll Red,” said Bedard in his normal, nonchalant manner.

And “Roll Red” the Big Red did. Led by team captain Max Werthan, the high school team of Werthan, Bedard, and Sal “The Chosen One” Neglia won the chess tournament over Hume Fogg and White House High School. In the middle school division, Alvin “Tang Clan” Wu was the runner-up.

Both Neglia and Wu qualified for the City Chess Championship. The only undefeated team in MBA history will defend its title city several times this school year, including Saturday, December 4.
Painter Paul Harmon discusses Crossing Borders

By Ryan Hill
Features Editor

I was blessed last week with the opportunity to visit Paul Harmon in his Brentwood studio and learn about his life, work, and passion. Mr. Harmon is a very successful and prolific painter from Nashville, TN, and he was recognized as MBA’s Distinguished Alumnus in 2005. However, he neither graduated from this school nor embraced fine arts as his first profession.

Harmon joked that his classmates always thought his mother worked at MBA because she was on campus so often to talk with the headmaster about her son. Because he left the school after his junior year, he was surprised to receive a call from Mr. Gioia in 2005 regarding his honorary recognition. In a conversation with our headmaster shortly afterwards, he was asked about MBA’s art department during his time as a student.

“Well Brad, you see that green bench over there?” said Harmon from the quadrangle. “That was the MBA art department.” Though he regularly generated artwork for The Bell and The Bell Ringer from the aforementioned piece of outdoor furniture, Harmon’s artistic outlets on campus were limited.

Despite his lack of aesthetic possibilities at school, Harmon was steeped in creativity throughout his childhood and teenage years at home. His grandmother, who lived just down the street from him, was the founder of the Nashville Artists’ Guild and, consequently, took young Paul to many art shows. He noticed, though, that all the artists in his grandmother’s circle had separate professional careers.

“I think any of those artists would have starred to death if that was their only means of support,” Harmon recalled. “I didn’t think of art as a career. I thought it was something that you were, but not something that you did as a vocation.”

After finishing his education, Harmon started an award-winning advertising agency here in Nashville that would sustain him financially and creatively for twenty years. During his time with the company, he painted frequently, taking care to keep his passion for the fine arts out of the commercial sphere. Eventually, however, as a middle-aged man well into his career, Harmon began to lose interest in his job.

Change finally came after a trip with a friend to Monteagle Mountain. While there, the two visited an old village called Sherwood, which was situated around an abandoned limestone mine. They learned from a local priest that all the town’s inhabitants, despite having opportunities to work on the other side of the mountain, remained on their home soil out of loyalty to their familial roots.

“That struck a note with me,” said Harmon. “I though, ‘If I’m not really enjoying this, maybe I need to go on the other side of the mountain.’” With the support of his two children and a burning desire to fully commit himself to his art, Harmon sold his extremely successful business to pursue painting full-time.

“My work is really a painted diary of myself,” Harmon explained. Because his art is heavily influenced by his environment, he decided to seek a foreign studio after spending many years in Brentwood. “I literally spun the globe,” he said, and his search led him to France.

For the next eleven years, Paul Harmon divided his time between his Paris and Brentwood studios. Being completely dedicated to painting after many years of pursuing it as a pastime, Harmon began to develop his unique style centered around the stencil.

The majority of Harmon’s canvases feature this tool, characterized by the heavy lines it leaves around the subject material of each painting. In addition to appealing to him aesthetically, the stencil has provided Harmon with significant artistic power.

“It allows my work to be interpreted more as a group of symbols than as a pretty picture,” he explained. Thus a particular woman becomes a universal image of femininity rather than another beautiful face, and reflections of his personal life can apply to millions of people.

Though he originally planned to use this device for only a short period of time, the stencil began to define his canvases for several years. “You can spot Paul Harmon’s work at a thousand yards from a speeding car,” remarked one French critic, “and it’s the same work whether he’s painting a 1982 Citroen automobile or an odalisque (a reclining nude).”

Not wanting to become trapped in predictability, Harmon terminated his use of the stencil about five years ago. However, he still often imitates the thick, dark lines it created, so well, in fact, that several gallery owners have failed to notice the tool’s absence in his newer pieces.

Most recently, Paul Harmon has begun a series of paintings whose contents change color, texture, or style as they cross lines that divide the canvas. Besides being the inspiration for the title of his new book, Crossing Borders, this motif is also a statement on life.

Though we are transformed physically, intellectually, and emotionally by our years of experience, we still have a core that continues, an unchanging central identity. For Paul Harmon, that definition has been one of passion. Never have I been so moved by a person’s obvious commitment to and sacrifice for the thing he loves most.

The success rate these days for fine arts painters is frighteningly low, around one twentieth of one percent. Mr. Harmon, however, has defied the statistics and broadened his local and foreign communities with the color and wisdom of his fabulous paintings.
By Palmer Campbell
Staff Writer

“Skill is myelin insulation that wraps neural circuits and that grows according to certain signals.”

I frequently contemplate what the path to “success” is and how to become world-class at something. MBA students are so often told that they are “the future” of our Nashville community and the world. The students, though, including myself, typically prefer to live on a day-to-day basis where school, athletics, homework, XBOX, Facebook, and sleep are all crammed into a short 24-hour period.

Though we students typically rebel by living on this day-to-day basis, we are constantly deep practicing and, thus, wrapping myelin around our neurons to help us grow and become more skillful.

On a neurological level, why is MBA great? Because the people who are the school constantly build a multitude of different skills through master coaching, ignition, and mistake-driven deep practice.

Daniel Coyle’s The Talent Code: Greatness Isn’t Born. It’s Grown. Here’s How. is a remarkable and inspiring book about Mr. Coyle’s amazing journey to the talent hotbeds of the world in order to explore the manner by which ordinary people become extraordinarily accomplished, so called “talented” people.

Coyle travels to Brazil to uncover why Brazilian soccer players are so great, to the Dominican Republic to discover their secret for turning out so many major league baseball players, to the Adirondacks to research the astounding number of world-class cello players and violinists, to a small one-court tennis academy in Russia that has turned out more top 20 players than the entire United States, and to many others.

Coyle also studied “master coaches” like John Wooden and the founders of the Kipp Academy to uncover what made their students to successful and subsequently “talented.” In this fast read, Coyle is able to explain why every person has a chance to achieve anything if he/she follows the principles of The Talent Code.

This book is a must read for anyone looking for a practical explanation about success because the concept of more homework for success simply is not making the cut. Coyle is also a prospect for MBA’s annual father-son dinner, so do yourself a favor by reading this remarkable, conceptual tapestry of tremendous importance.

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By Sam Weien
Staff TV Critic

As many people know, Steve Carrell, who plays Michael Scott in The Office, is leaving The Office at the end of the year. NBC needs a way to gradually replace Michael Scott without many people noticing, but so far it has not been an easy or smooth transition.

NBC has made episodes that could be viewed completely even if Michael Scott was not in it, such as “Andy’s Play”. NBC is also bringing in new characters to offset the upcoming loss of Michael Scott. In “The Sting”, they introduced a traveling salesman named Steve Nash into the Dunder, Mifflin workforce, and Gabe Lewis’ role, Sabre’s envoy to Scranton in the show, has increased, too.

Rumors have been thrown around that NBC might bring Ricky Gervais from the British version of The Office or Danny McBride from Eastbound and Down. However, it will be hard to introduce these people into the show so late.

I have also heard the show might focus around either Dwight Schrute or Jim Halpert. However, a show focusing only these two would not be that interesting. Jim and Dwight complement each other during both of their efforts to become manager. Also, Michael’s foolish antics can never be replaced by Jim and Dwight’s rivalry.

In conclusion, the loss of Steve Carrell, aka Michael Scott, from The Office is the loss of the show’s distinctiveness, and the show will not go on much longer without Michael Scott.

Ricky Gervais would provide some laughs but he cannot replace Carrell.
Upcoming U2 concert momentous for Nashville

By Tom Markham
Entertainment Editor

Fact: Nashville, Tennessee is known around the world as Music City, USA. I would, at this point in my article, like to point out that the title is Music City, USA, not just Country Music city, USA. Sure, the country music industry is dominant and has a very important place in Nashville’s economy and culture, but let us not lose sight of the true title this shining city holds.

Thinking of this fact to your attention because of a trend I have noticed over the past few years, and this trend startles me and brings a very serious question to mind: WHERE ARE ALL THE ROCK AND ROLL SHOWS?!?!?

In past years, country artists have dominated the market for concerts in Nashville. Again, I’m not bashing on the country music industry for capitalizing on a favorable location and luring massive crowds with relatively cheap prices, for in doing so, the concerts we have of any kind, the better off we are. In fact, I think the past of the music industry could learn something from the country industry’s ingenuous marketing schemes. So, let me offer the rock and roll industry a tip from country music: COME TO NASHVILLE!

It saddens me that more big-name, mainstream acts are passing up on coming to Nashville. Even hometown heroes Kings of Leon left Nashville off the initial tour dates promoting their new album, How sad.

If you look at the past few years, Dave Matthews Band and, perhaps, Coldplay are really the only shows that the city has truly become excited about on a grand scale. Sure, Paul McCartney came to the Bridgestone Area this past summer, but come on, Paul, $200 tickets? Seriously?

Thank goodness the Ryman is still going strong, but it gets left in the dust.

Feeling completely despondent for the future of our city? Fear not, my friends, for I bring you good tidings of great joy straight from the rock and roll gods themselves. U2, the hottest rockers on the planet, have announced that they will bring their U2 360° tour to Nashv-ille’s Vanderbilt Stadium on July 2, 2011. This is the legendary band’s first stop in Music City in nearly thirty years. This tour of which I speak has shattered records in its size and revenue. Taking about 4 days to build, the 360-degre arching stage reaches 90 feet tall, with a 150-foot 3D video screen included. This design can support the weight of 180 metric tons.

The total cost of the tour reaches almost a billion dollars. This tour is arguably the grandest in scale in history. And U2 has made a smart business decision. Ticket prices range everywhere from $30 to $250, so there’s room for every kind of concertgoer.

Nashville owes a great debt to U2 for coming next summer. With this announcement, Nashville will no longer be cast under the heavy shadow of country music. No longer will mainstream acts, viewing the Nashville music scene as “dead,” avoid this city like the plague. Many thanks to Bono and Co. for putting us back on the map as a keystone in the tour stops of the world’s biggest rock bands.

Rapper explains how he got the name “Young Buck”

I bring this fact to your attention because I always respected because of its country music… that’s what it built. But to have a whole other genre of music coming out in an environment like this, it was a challenge – and that excited me.

BR: There’s been a lot of press lately about your financial situation. What happened?

YB: It was more of what I didn’t do. I honestly wasn’t aware of a lot of the business parts to my situation as an artist. From the beginning, it was “in house”. When I say “in house”, I mean that my manager, Sha Money, was also the president of my label and the CEO of the (50 Cent) best friend. My accountant was also 50’s accountant, as well as Sha Money’s accountant, as well as Lloyd Banks’ accountant (the other artists on the label). My attorney at that time was recommended through 50 Cent’s attorney...understand? From the beginning it was all done for me. I had no control over the situation. I never filed my own taxes or was made aware of what was being filed or ever read my own royalty statements.

BR: Speaking of 50 Cent and Lloyd Banks, your name often comes up in the media along with theirs. What is your relationship to them – business and otherwise?

YB: I have no personal problems with 50 Cent, Lloyd Banks, Tony Yayo, or anyone associated with G-Unit. There’s no communication there at all. There hasn’t been for the past three or four years. So personally, there’s no relationship there now. But, there’s no beef or anything there either.

BR: I would do business with them again – if it could be done now that I’m more aware of my personal affairs. But they’d have to be willing to meet me halfway. So, it would have to be different.

“Working with Phil Collins would be good. Maybe that Brad Paisley cat.” - Young Buck

BR: What’s your favorite tune from this last mix-tape and why?

YB: If I had to pick, I’d say “AM/FM” featuring Lupe Fiasco. Lupe is definitely one of the rappers that speaks more to the conscious crowd, meaning the more MC-driven group. To come out with the record we did together – it’s probably the most powerful record I’ve ever recorded. It’s getting radio play right now here and overseas.

BR: I definitely feel that education is the basis of success. It’s the foundation. Your chances of being successful are so much greater with an education. I definitely wouldn’t suggest that anyone drop out. If I could do it over, I would have walked an entirely different path when it comes to school. Despite my tough situation, there’s no excuse…even for me. It’s something we all need and should seek to get. One of the things I would change would be busying inner-city kids out of the environment in which they live. Their parents can’t make it back and forth to school to deal with certain problems that may occur with their child or be there to support their child in sports. I know from my own experience, being a resident of North Nashville and then being bused way out to Bellevue Middle School. Improve the schools in their areas, instead of busing these kids to different parts of the city. I want to see my community be a part of a bigger part of society. It was one of the only things that I truly, really enjoyed in school. It was never a class on its own… but it was almost like an escape for me, as a child. Poetry pertains to so many things like music, theater, spoken word. I think it should be considered a subject on its own.

BR: Last, but not least, where did the name “Young Buck” come from?

YB: Young Buck came from these guys in the streets. I was one of the youngest individuals in my neighborhood out doing things I wasn’t supposed to do. I used to hustle. To be honest with you, I used to sell drugs at a young, young age. I was around a lot of older kids. I’ve never had a relation-ship or any other bond with people my age. I’ve always been amongst older individuals. I was really defiant at a young age. With no man in my home and my mother struggling to take care of me, my sister, and her sister’s kids (of whom she has custody), I wanted to get out and better my life. I jumped off the porch at a really young age. I used to find myself in spots, trying to make money where all the older guys would be. They would make statements like “get your little buck- ass out of here,” and “you’ll never get satisfied unless you get locked up and I’m a little young buck.” The day I knew it was my name was when I walked into my house this one time and my mother said, “Young Buck, take this trash out!” Once my mother called me that, it’s never left me since.

Leonio Irish rockers U2 will play Vanderbilt Stadium in summer 2011.
A good comedy to see

The unlikely team of Robert Downey Jr. and Zach Galifianakis perform well in the recent comedy *Due Date.*

By Walton Macey
Staff Movie Maven

If you have seen the commercials for this fall’s newest comedy, *Due Date,* you know this movie has tons of potential for laughs. It features the very talented Robert Downey, Jr. from those *Iron Man* movies and from *Sherlock Holmes.*

Downey, Jr. plays an architect trying to make it across the nation in time for his daughter’s birth. Zach Galifianakis plays Ethan Tremblay, the crazy, weird, washed-up actor who seems to thwart Downey, Jr.’s every chance at making it home. You probably remember Galifianakis as being the whacky Allan in last year’s *The Hangover.* His character in *Due Date* is just as funny as Allan and may be a little more bizarre, so you will not be disappointed.

While watching *Due Date,* I guarantee you will laugh… a lot. It’s rated R for profanity and sexual humor, so don’t see it with your parents, and definitely don’t see it with a girl. Just go with some bros and get ready to laugh.

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Wally’s Top Ten…

**Great Comedy Duos**

1. Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly- *Step Brothers, Talladega Nights*
2. David Spade, Chris Farley- *Tommy Boy, Black Sheep*
3. Jeff Daniels, Jim Carrey- *Dumb and Dumber*
4. James Franco, Seth Rogen- *Pineapple Express*
5. Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker- *Rush Hour, Rush Hour 2*
6. Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson- *Zoolander*
7. Will Ferrell, Mark Wahlberg- *The Other Guys*
8. Sean William Scott, Paul Rudd- *Role Models*
9. Jason Segel, Paul Rudd- *I Love You, Man*
10. Will Ferrell, Chris Katan- *Night at the Roxbury*

ABC’s comedy “Modern Family” entertains

By Palmer Campbell
Staff Writer

Need a break from your Wednesday night studying? Tune into ABC at 8 o’clock for the hit, new comedy show “Modern Family”.

Even though we all thought that the 30-minute comedy sitcom genre was dead ever since “Full house”, David and Christopher Lloyd manage to keep people rolling around on the floor laughing week in and week out.

This mockumentary-style family comedy show, going into its second season, has kept everyone laughing through the first six episodes, while averaging a mere 9.8 million viewers per show.

Whether it be Mitchell’s and Cam’s hysterical banter in their new quest to survive parenthood, Claire’s and Phil’s constant attempts to raise their children “the right way”, or Jay’s and Gloria’s eccentric methods for helping Manny come of age, “Modern Family” really does have something to make everyone crack a smile and forget about worries, even if it is only for a mere thirty minutes.

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Ryan said, “Michael’s rock-hard calves are what pulled me to 3rd place. If I could marry his legs, I would.”

As Ryan was saying this, Daniel ran by throwing acorns and yelled, “No, we DON’T like men.” Thanks for that clarification, Daniel.

Andrew Powell, in between trying to edit this article, which was only written four days late, replied, “After coming so close with a score of 16 points at Metro, I’m glad we pulled off the 15 at state.” Once again, that’s my bad, guys.

Alex Smith, who finished 9th, said, “I’m a little bit disappointed we couldn’t go 1-7, but I guess I’ll take a perfect score.”

Finally, 11th place finisher Hayes McCord was unable to answer because he was too busy hunting and enjoying his three weeks off from athletics.

With this dominating victory, the cross-country team repeated as state champions, winning only the 4th state title in team history. All the varsity runners were All-State, and Michael Peters became only the second individual champion in school history, as his calves carried him to an extremely fast time of 16:05 (a firm handshake will be given for anyone who knows who the first state champion was). Additionally, the team recorded the fastest ever average on the Steeplechase course, averaging a blistering 16:25 over 5000 meters, beating Oak Ridge’s old record by a solid five seconds per runner.

Because of their utter domination, the team received coverage from the “real” media, being featured in The Tennessean twice, having an article on SportsNashville.net, being the first-page article on ESPN Rise Track and Cross-Country, and even having a video on Youtube.com, which may or may not have been edited by runner DeCoursey Beach.

What’s next for the MBA cross-country team? Nothing this year, as the team will re-form next fall, seeking a three-peat.

The MBA cross-country team would like to thank the many people who contributed to our victory. We would like to thank our incredible coaches Mr. Russ, Mr. Pruitt, Mr. Kamm, Mr. Gillespie, and Mr. Villemain (even though Villemain’s allegiances were split as he had a brother running for another team at Regionals). We would also like to recognize our awesome JV team, especially state alternates Myles Anderson, Eric Anderson, and David Arteaga, who often trained with us. Finally, but certainly not least, we would like to give a Big Red Shout-out to Connor Caldwell and the grilling club for putting the meat in the meet, and all of the fans who came out and supported at state.

The “Fab Five” (as dubbed by the press) immediately after finishing the race (aka immediately before consuming fried Honey-Buns).

The Big Red quickly received national attention and was featured on the front page of ESPN Rise within 24-hours. Photo courtesy of ESPN Inc and Maria Caldwell.

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MBA Hockey looks to continue strong start

By George Swenson
Staff Writer

With almost a half a season under his belt as coach of the MBA Hockey Team, Coach David Deutsch is doing an inspired job leading the team.

Impressive wins over Independence, Centennial, and Father Ryan show that the hockey team is making great strides in the beginning and is hoping to continue this winning pattern as the season progresses.

Much of this early success is due to the outstanding leadership of the captains: Max Coyle, Christian Alford, and Scott Dalton.

Coach Deutsch has also implemented new ideals to guide the team on and off the ice. The team motto—“Learn, Lead, and Serve”—proves a basic code for the players to follow. According to Coach Deutsch, “Learn” means working hard to understand both the physical and mental nature of the game while at the same time maintaining balance in one’s life among school, sports, and social activities. “Lead” means acting with integrity and being a positive example for others. Communication both on and off the ice is vital to the success of this program. “Serve” means looking out for one another. Every action should reflect positively on oneself, MBA, and the community.

In recent news, the NFL has been handing out severe punishments for helmet-to-helmet hits, which frequently lead to concussions. These punishments have led to much speculation that many other sports including hockey may begin to issue punishments or alter the rules.

Coach Deutsch feels that concussions are and should be a major concern. Although tremendous equipment improvements have been made, the players are simply bigger, stronger, and faster. He would like to see an increase in severe penalties called for any checking that results in contact with the head. To halt these dangerous actions, Coach Deutsch feels that issuing multiple game misconducts, assessing fines on schools and parents, and calling match penalties (defined as penalties with intent to injure) may be the only solutions.

The future for this season’s Big Red varsity hockey team includes many top-notch opponents, including JPII and Brentwood High School, whose games are scheduled before the playoff run begins in February. From here on out, every game will be a “big” game, and the Big Red Nation should expect to see some very exciting games typifying the up-tempo and physical Big Red brand of hockey. In the last words of Coach Deutsch, “We eat meat.”

MBA Crew going full steam ahead, rollin’ Red

By Rob Edwards
Staff Writer

It is not only one of the fastest growing sports at MBA, nor is it just a team that is quickly gaining a strong reputation all around the southeast. No, the MBA crew team is much, much more.

As the first high school rowing team in Nashville, and one of the few select high school teams in Tennessee, the MBA crew team has a persona of uniqueness and dedication that is rare to find in a team with less than two years under its belt.

Most of you have heard of the 5:00 a.m. start time for practice, and no doubt many of you think that rowing is something that would be impossible to do because of how early it is. But, clearly there is something worthwhile about it, as the roster has expanded from 17 people throughout all of last year to 24 people for just this first fall season, and others will be joining this winter and spring.

Not only is the team bigger and better than last year, but we now own all of our own equipment: two 8-man boats, one 4-man boat, 24 oars, 2 metal boats with motors, and a shed out at the lake with a bunch of other equipment stored inside.

The team is making huge progress and firmly establishing itself as a force on campus. There is even already talk of the team becoming an official varsity sport within the next couple of seasons. This would be an incredibly fast transition compared to past club teams.

The MBA crew team has just completed its 2nd fall season, where the team competed in 5000-meter head races all across Tennessee. One such head race was the Head of the Hooch, the biggest regatta in the south, where there were 16,000 spectators and over 5,000 competitors.

However, spring season is even more exciting, because we race intense, sprint races all across the eastern United States, where there were 16,000 spectators and over 5,000 competitors.

In recent news, the NFL has been handing out severe punishments for helmet-to-helmet hits, which frequently lead to concussions.
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-Spanky the Ewok, The Bell Ringer’s mascot

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Professor Dalton illuminates “Awkwardness”

Awkwardness. It’s that strange sensation you feel when you see that guy/girl you know from that place, you know, that time when you played Scrabble with some friends and he/she was there. Dude, iGBIck, I can guarantee no one remembers who that is.

Awkwardness is a situation that is rarely addressed because it is so awkward even to talk about. But, fortunately for you, I guarantee no one remembers who that is.

Let’s start with common situations.

1.) Pretend to be sick. When you feel the other person is going to bite the bullet here and divulge even to talk about. But, fortunately for you, I guarantee no one remembers who that is.

2.) Look down the entire time. This way you care about your general appearance. Many questions are probably rushing through your head right now: “Should I say something about the curriculums and sometimes make cutting remarks toward everyone in the room. The best thing to do here is cough. Yes, cough. By coughing, the teacher knows two things about you. 1.) You were not in any way, shape, or form, involved in the previous conversation or comment. 2.) The teacher thinks thus, “you have a cold, you barely have enough energy to get out of bed in the morning, you are such a champ for coming to school today.”

3.) Both parties silently continue on as if it never happened. Number 3 is generally the most agreed upon choice because, let’s be honest, this situation is totes awk.

I wanted to devote a quick section to the “awkward turtle.” Saying “awkward turtle” accompanied by a hand motion that looks more like a Jet Blue airplane makes you not only look stupid, but makes people want to punch you in the face. Whoever came up with the idea that saying “that’s awkward” or “awkward turtle” probably still lives with his parents in South Dakota.

Follow these tips, my brethren, and you will find yourself more of a Ferris Bueller and less of a Neville Longbottom, totes awk. Rhino Hill awkwardly awaits to be inducted into Totomoi, MBA’s honorary society which embraces awkwardness (as denoted by the picture).

Let’s move to the next subject, handshakes. Handshakes have been increas-ingly more awkward as adults have tried to make their way into the rap and pop scene. You know exactly what I’m talking about, you know, that awkward situation when you go in for the hand shake and the adult goes in for the moto grip, as to say “what’s up, bro-self?” Adults, in no way, shape, or form is it ever going to be cool for you to do this. You are wearing a suit, ergo you shake with your hand parallel to the floor (exception: when you are on a hill).

When performing a handshake among your friends, it is ok to do any of the following:

1.) Say something along the lines of "wow, man, keep your hands to yourself", or
2.) “oh, sorry about that, I was just trying to do stick shift,” and finally, and most popular, 3.) both parties silently continue on as if it never happened.

In correlation with the handshake is that awkward “hand rub.” It’s that situation where you are walking next to someone and your hands touch briefly, then continue back toward the intended range of motion. You should probably understand, first of all, that despite your pride, the other person indeed feels the other party recognizes that you hate him and probably don’t want to interact with him, again a sign of respect. 3.) My personal favorite, pretend to engage in an endurance hunt with a squirrel. By engaging in an endurance hunt, you are not only displaying your innate ability to stalk prey, but you are given a chance to show off your personal agility and passion for woodland creatures.

Here’s a situation that undoubtedly happens once a week: that awkward question in class. You know, that one kid who thinks that he and the teacher have this “special bond” of humor and mutual respect so he can make these mostly erroneous comments about the curriculum and sometimes make cutting remarks toward everyone in the room. The best thing to do here is cough. Yes, cough. By coughing, the teacher knows two things about you. 1.) You were not in any way, shape, or form, involved in the previous conversation or comment. 2.) The teacher thinks thus, “you have a cold, you barely have enough energy to get out of bed in the morning, you are such a champ for coming to school today.”

By Scott Dalton

Awkwardness is a situation that is to happen once a week: that awkward situation when you know from that place, you know, that time when you played Scrabble with some friends and he/she was there. Dude, iGBIck, I can guarantee no one remembers who that is.

Awkwardness is a situation that is rarely addressed because it is so awkward even to talk about. But, fortunately for you, I guarantee no one remembers who that is.

Let’s start with common situations.

Walking an awkward distance from someone you know and to whom you almost never speak is a common, uncomfortable situation. Many questions are probably rushing through your head right now: “Should I yell, due to the current displacement of the other person being roughly 25 meters?” or “Do I make direct eye contact and stare at him for the remaining time of 10 seconds until we cross paths?” The answer to both is NO. When walking at a distance of an uninterrupted (no other people or animals in the way) 30+ meters from someone, you have many fairly simple options. 1.) Pretend to tie your shoe. This way the person knows that you care about your general appearance which is a Norwegian sign of respect. 2.) Look down the entire time. This way the other party recognizes that you hate him and probably don’t want to interact with him, again a sign of respect. 3.) My personal favorite, pretend to engage in an endurance hunt with a squirrel. By engaging in an endurance hunt, you are not only displaying your innate ability to stalk prey, but you are given a chance to show off your personal agility and passion for woodland creatures.

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Follow these tips, my brethren, and you will find yourself more of a Ferris Bueller and less of a Neville Longbottom, more of an Elvis and less of a Steve Young. And remember, now that you know these things, everyone will be watching you. Alea iacta est, broseidon.

What do I do with my hands? Sophomore Robert Papel struggles to find a comfortable place for his hands.