**FASHION STATEMENT**
The Bell Ringer examines the state of style on MBA’s campus 12-13

**YEAR IN REVIEW**
Your guide to the best music, movies, and games of 2012 19-20

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**R.A. DICKEY-LOUS**
Alum takes the Cy Young

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**KNUCKLE UP:** Class of 1993 graduate R.A. Dickey’s knuckleball renaissance vaulted him to the Cy Young Award.

**By Davis Lovvorn**
Asst. Features Editor

On Wednesday, November 14, MBA alumus and celebrated knuckleballer R.A. Dickey (’93) was awarded the National League Cy Young Award.

The award is considered the most prestigious in baseball. Named after old-time pitcher Cy Young, who won a record 511 wins during his career in the majors, the award is given to the best pitcher in each of the two leagues: the American League and the National League, to which Dickey’s Mets belong.

“It just feels good all over,” Dickey said on MLB network after winning this prestigious prize.

Perhaps most impressive about this award is the margin by which he earned it. Dickey garnered 27 out of 32 first-place votes, gaining a dominating 209 points. He easily fended off last year’s winner Clayton Kershaw of the LA Dodgers, who received two first-place votes, and Johnny Cueto of the Cincinnati Reds and Gio Gonzalez of the Washington Nationals, who each received one first-place vote.

The class of 1993 knuckleballer finished the season with a record of 20-6.

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**MBA vandalized, declared “preppy”**

**By Wells Hamilton**
Features Editor

Shock and Awe dominated the campus on the morning of November 1, when unwitting students arrived school expecting a normal Thursday, only to see the most cherished landmark on campus, the press box, had been assaulted viciously by an unknown assailant with poor handwriting and even poorer grammar. The message the assailant had for the MBA community was as clear as cheap spray paint: MBA students are “preppy.”

Now what does that even mean? The bluntness of the method the assailant used to deliver his message implies that it was meant to be an insult, yet most students reacted with downturned lips and slight nods.

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**Seeds of Success:** Mr. Chenery (far right) and students display the NTA arboretum plaque

**Campus declared arboretum by NTA**

**By Daniel Bishop**
Staff Writer

The Nashville Tree Association recently declared MBA’s campus an arboretum, reflecting a high concentration of biodiversity in an urban setting. The distinction was a recognition of the work of environmental science teacher Mr. Gordon Chenery, who has spent the last several years recording the specifications of many trees on campus.

Between forty and fifty different species of trees grow on the property, including willow oaks, hackberries, cherry trees, dogwoods and ginkgo trees. Headmaster Gioia reflected on the recognition that MBA has received from the NTA, stating “The recognition shows that...”

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**IN THIS ISSUE**

**THE ELEPHANT CHAMP**
MBA players bring home State 22

**DEAR RACK CITY**
Two football players pen letters to the student section 15
November brings increased emphasis on veterans

In second year, Wounded Warrior Project expands

Service project continues to exceed goals

By Tarun Mallipeddi
and Sam Weien
Opinions Editor and Business Manager

At MBA, the Wounded Warrior Project has developed into one of the most prolific charity fundraisers in just two years. Last year, the project, spearheaded by the efforts of Miles Curry, managed to raise $12,000. This year, the project continues to experience immense growth, surpassing last year’s amount raised for an organization which has aided over 15,000 veterans.

This year’s fundraiser was a collaboration with Harpeth Hall. The Harpeth Hall leaders of the service project, Abby Biessman, Olivia Caldwell, and Asha Collins coordinated with the MBA leaders this year, Curry, Adam Biessman, Collin Caldwell, John Mellow, and Gregory Quesinberry.

The parts of the project that were retained from last year include the highest individual donor competition and the advisory challenge for the Wounded Warrior Kevlar helmet. The advisory with the highest overall total gets to keep the helmet in their room for the year until next year’s fundraiser.

The new additions to the project this year included the art sale, the bake sale, Moe’s Day, and the Harpeth Hall partnership. The bake sale and art sale took place at MBA and each was a significant addition to the total. The Moe’s day allotted 15% of earnings on October 25 to the project if they buyer presented a certain coupon.

Finally, a second advisory competition was added this year for the advisory with the highest per capita donations. The winner of this competition this year was Mrs. O’Connell’s advisory with over $1,000, while Mr. Boyes’s advisory won the entire advisory competition with over $2,000. The winners of the individual challenge were Monty Turner and Manny Rogers, both with over $1,000 contributions.

The final total for this year is about $13,300, more than a $1,000 higher than last year’s final total. Thus, over just two years, MBA has raised about $25,000 for this worthy charity. The project leaders expect such growth in future years, and are excited about the project’s potential next year.

Miles Curry, the architect of the project here at MBA and currently a junior, hopes the project continues to take place once he has graduated because “the support of the MBA community was tremendous and I am really grateful that it also sees the importance of this cause.”

Miles said that this project is very close to his heart because his father is a combat veteran, his grandfather served, and he has other family that served in our nation’s military forces. Thus, MBA’s dedication to this cause shows its gratitude to the countless men and women who have put their lives in harm’s way for the rest of us to live safe and peaceful lives.

Student Opinion: Donut Sales

By Nolan Spear
Staff Writer

When a student begins his first year at MBA, one thing that captures his attention is the number of donut sales that take place on the Sloan Quadrangle.

The donut sales are usually put on by a student group to raise money for an organization or as a fundraiser for a service project. Students traditionally order their donuts about a month in advance to ensure they will have plenty of donuts to sell, as a good portion of all club profits come from these sales. It seems every week this semester there has been another group selling donuts to sponsor any number of service projects or class initiatives, and The Bell Ringer has begun to wonder: “What do people really think about the donut sales?”

Having examined the data, it is clear that most students enjoy the donut sales and believe that they should occur more often than not, and, despite the general acknowledgement that the sales do not promote a healthy lifestyle, the overwhelming majority of students believe that the general sale of donuts should continue with some frequency.

Obviously, donut sales are extremely popular. The clear consensus among students is that they should continue. Naturally, though, there are those on campus, students and faculty, who weigh more heavily the negative consequences of frequent donut sales. One faculty member, Ms. Killebrew, voiced such an opinion: “Teenage boys will eat donuts and cookies and that, on average, a student buys about 600 calories from donuts alone that flood the average student’s body once a week. The argument can be made, however, that because students participate in after-school sports and activities that require a solid calorie intake, the donuts supply an additional boost of energy. Donuts, though, are the not the best option for additional calories. These glazed, fried pieces of dough have copious amounts of sugar that often lead to a ‘crash’ after consumption. There are much better foods available that do not result in a crash. The Health and Nutrition Club, which Ms. Killebrew sponsors, frequently serves healthy alternatives at club meetings. There are several arguments to limit or promote donut sales with implications on club funding, service fund raisers, student health, and even campus morale. In any case, it seems healthy alternatives to donuts may be a viable option. As Ms. Killebrew said, “We can sell better snacks, and any time is a good time to start.” Support them or not, it would appear that donut sales are here to stay.

Award is testament to conservation

>> ARBORETUM, 1

the school has done a good job of caring for and preserving the campus’s trees.”

Mr. Chenery recorded the latitude, longitude, circumference, height, crown, genus and species of 112 trees scattered across MBA. He also created a website that highlights several trees. The website has spreadsheets of the trees’ data, a film of the trees and pictures. Visitors can even view the trees using Google Earth.

Charles Brindley, a Nashville artist who has painted several trees on campus, has some of his works displayed on the website. He cites the wooded life around campus as a constant source of inspiration.

The new construction around campus has buttressed the local ecosystem by supporting trees, which have been planted around the parking garage, tennis courts and Lowry. They will eventually grow into large trees, rivaling those in front of the Ball and Carter Buildings. As Mr. Gioia acknowledged, the recent recognition of MBA as an arboretum is “an affirmation of MBA’s commitment to the conservation of trees.”
Gardening Club recovers from construction, plans new projects

By Will Singer and German Martinez
Staff Writers

With the recent construction of the Lowry building and the parking garage, much of the school’s garden space was leveled. However, the MBA garden club, led by Mr. Spiegl, Dr. Carro and seniors J. Carlton Smith and Sam Turner, has decided to rebuild and resume developing green spaces.

This year the club will be growing a wide variety of plants, such as tomatillos, tomatoes, herbs and many different types of flowers. Much of the produce goes to the cafeteria to be used in salsas made by Dr. Carro and Mr. Spiegl.

The club has plans to improve the garden this year by building several composters to have a sustainable mulch supply. The wooden structures will provide a repository for plant waste to be used positively rather being thrown out. The system is composed of at least three stages of compost. One bin holds new waste, another the more decomposed material and a third bin compost that can be used when new mulch is needed.

In the spring, the club plans for bird feeders and benches to be built in the garden space. With improvements to the garden, the club wants to provide a natural area that students can enjoy to escape the more developed feel of the campus and the neighborhood.

Historical panels to decorate new dining hall
Local history to color new Wallace

By Aaron Kaplan
Staff Writer

The new Wallace building will feature historical panels similar to the descriptive glass panels that can be found in Lowry Hall and the Ingram Science Building. These new panels will be focused on local and state history.

As the history department will occupy the new classrooms in the Wallace building, it is only appropriate that there be a historical presence outside the individual classrooms. The historical panels will reside on the side of the building closest to the football field on the main floor outside the dining area.

The new historical panels will focus on events from the pre-Columbian period to the 2010 flood in Nashville. There will be significant emphasis on education, transportation, government and the arts. Among the subject matter featured will be the University of Nashville, the Western Military Institute, Fisk University, Vanderbilt University and the trolley system which once ran along West End Avenue.

Dr. Bailey has been working alongside Mr. Ridley Wills II, author of Gentleman. Scholar. Athlete., in preparing the timeline of events to be displayed. Visual aids to the descriptions will include pictures from postcards of Mr. Will's historical postcard collection. While the picture/text combination will be similar to that of the panels in Lowry, the new dining hall panels will be more textually elaborate.

Many interesting and significant events will be featured. For example, the introduction of baseball to Nashville by Union soldiers during the Union occupation of Nashville in the Civil War will be depicted. Notably, Attorney Charles Dickinson, who was killed by Andrew Jackson in a duel in 1806 in Kentucky and whose body was found in Nashville in 2009, will be mentioned. These unique but significant local anecdotes will provide for a captivating historical experience.

Dr. Bailey, explaining the purpose of the panels, says, “These panels will continue to enhance the campus as a museum and a place that heightens our awareness of history all around us.” Among the many other attractions to be found in the new dining hall building, the student body can all look forward to these historical panels as a means of becoming more familiar with local and state history and culture.

This spring Adam Biesman (’14) and Chris Habermann (’13) will travel to the African Leadership Academy in Johannesburg, South Africa for a week with current MBA English teacher and alum Robert Sawyer (’98) to attend the fourth annual Raffles-Winchester International Symposium.

The symposium this year will address the issue of poverty. MBA’s envys will represent the United States in the congregation of schools from nine other countries: Pakistan, India, the Czech Republic, Singapore, China, South Africa, Columbia, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

The program started in 2010, with the first symposium held in Winchester, England, where the students discussed the worldwide financial crisis. The year after, MBA hosted students in Nashville to address global healthcare. Last year, Scott Dalton (’12) and John Mellow (’13) traveled to the Raffles School in Singapore to discuss leadership in the modern era.

The 2013 symposium will focus on the acronym BUILD: Believe, Understand, Invent, Listen, and Deliver. Leading up to the symposium, the students will be writing an essay each month to discuss different subtopics in the broad issue of poverty. In March, the students will assemble at the African Leadership Academy to discuss local poverty, domestic poverty, international poverty, and the many roots of poverty.

Chris Habermann and Adam Biesman are very excited to interact with cultures from all over the world. Whether it is talking to students from South Africa, Japan, India, or any of the other nations represented, they look forward to experiencing international cultures.

Adam Biesman said, “I look forward to meeting teens from all over the world and completely varying cultures, all trying to solve the same problem.” Both he and Chris are prepared to see the different ways that societies deal with similar problems.

The two representatives also want to apply their knowledge to Nashville. They have already begun to develop ideas to deal with local poverty. They want to “discover the largest causality of poverty that can be addressed here in Nashville” and then to “develop a project that may benefit the poor here.”

When Adam and Chris return from the African Leadership Academy, they will have learned much about the issue of poverty. These two, equipped with new perspectives on poverty, will continue to work to try to fight poverty wherever it may be. The lessons learned in South Africa will be applied throughout the community.

Students gear up for int’l poverty symposium in South Africa

By Sam Weien
Business Manager

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Loaves and Fishes a favorite of MBA students

By McLean Hudson
News Editor

Once a month, a group of poorly trained and highly enthusiastic students comes together to create a meal and serve the hungry. For decades, MBA’s service club has provided this great service to the city of Nashville. “We’re here for them,” says Mr. Paolicchi, one of the faculty sponsors. “We don’t necessarily need a reward or even acknowledgement. Our reward is witnessing the happiness that we bring them.”

Most MBA students are familiar with what is simply called “Soup Kitchen.” From the slideshow recaps in assembly to donation requests throughout the year, Soup Kitchen is a visible example of the school’s emphasis on service. But despite its publicity and popularity, most MBA students have never attended MBA’s longest running service project.

In the new service office in Lowry there hang framed cut outs from Bell Ringer write ups of the service club dating back to 1989. One article summarizes the Soup Kitchen project. According to this article, eight to twelve students would meet at nine in the morning on the first Saturday of every month and drive to the Holy Name Catholic Church, where they might cook a meal of sweet potatoes, corn, meatloaf, and rolls.

Not much has changed in twenty years. Though more students are required to prepare food for the nearly one-hundred and forty attendees that come each month, and the menu has trended towards more elaborate foods, the routine is much the same.

On the first Saturday of every month, volunteers bus over to the same church as twenty years ago. Volunteers prepare food for nearly two hours and then serve the hungry crowd that files in. Many of the regular attendees happily greet the students working the serving line and tell them how they always look forward to the food they prepare.

“We when you’re part of a process that feeds over one-hundred and fifty people, you feel useful, productive, and, at the end, accomplished.”

The project has always been popular among students. Last year, Mr. Paolicchi and Dr. Fuller decided to limit the number of people that could sign up, because so many people would volunteer that many would just stand idly by without a task to perform.

Said regular volunteer William Yang, “The limit on people was a great idea. Before, you’d have lots of people standing around with nothing to do. Now everyone has a job and feels useful.” For example, at the first soup kitchen of the school year, one group chopped vegetables and prepared a crème sauce to top the chicken that was thawed, cut and cooked by another group. A third group kneaded dough for biscuits while two other groups prepared the salad and Mr. Tate’s iconic dessert: Pineapple Surprise.

Most students who begin early in their high school careers continue to come back each month for the next several years. “All I can say is that it’s fun,” said Bradley Long, student leader for Soup Kitchen this year. “When you’re part of a process that feeds over one-hundred and fifty people, you feel useful, productive, and, at the end, accomplished. And if you stick with it through high school, you inevitably graduate into a leadership position.”

As every student who has attended MBA has experienced, the Soup Kitchen provides an outlet for students interested in pursuing their interest in creative writing. Mr. Moxley, the faculty sponsor, commented, “I enjoy seeing students find passion for writing. [The RPS] serves as a place for the boys to be among a community of like-minded people, feel comfortable sharing their work and receiving feedback for editing, like a safe house for writing.”

With about ten active participants per year for the last fifteen years, the continuing goal of the group is to help drive and guide those most devoted and serious about developing their creative writing talents. Filling the gap left by the rather analytical focus of MBA English classes, generally all members produce a work, whether it is a personal essay, poem, or story, over the course of the year to be proud of. Moreover, by polishing and refining each member’s works, the group paves the way for individuals interested in writing competitions like the Bennington Young Writers Competition, the Scholastic Art Awards and MBA’s very own Archives.

The RPS is not limited to students, with Messrs. Davidson, Lester, and Kimball frequently in attendance. The group convenes from 6:00-7:30 pm on Tuesdays in Mr. Moxley’s room on a roughly biweekly basis. Extending his invitation, Mr. Moxley commented, “If you love creative writing and would even like to share your work, come down for a like-minded group….There is pizza.”
“I love Dr. Gluck!”
-Spanky the Ewok, *The Bell Ringer*’s mascot

Daniel Gluck 2003
Jonathan Gluck 2004

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615-269-5903

www.drgluck.com
Hanging in the rafters

RAISING THE ROOF: Mr. Gioia gets up close and personal with the vaulting in the new dining hall ... thirty feet off the ground

Zia
Art - Antiques - Flowers
4115 Hillsboro Rd.
Modernization should not always mean forgetting the real thing

In the past few issues, many of the opinions articles have been about how MBA is moving forward technologically. However, we cannot forget the traditions that this school has been founded upon.

The technological advancements that the school is currently making are great for modernizing. The iPads in the library and the Bell Ringer moving to the web are some of the more positive moves. Some of these changes, such as the rumored keycards needed to enter the new dining hall, have practical security purposes also or help the school save energy, like the geothermal wells heating Lowry and the new dining hall.

Even though all these changes are great for the school, they also put less emphasis on actual hard copies of any type of literature. Ever since the rise of the Internet in the mid-1990s, books have become increasingly obsolete. While people used to read nothing but tangible books, the rise of E-readers and their smartphone kin have made the book and the newspaper a dying animal.

Publishing companies and local newspapers are disappearing and selling out at an alarming rate, citing the rise of the Internet as a main cause. While this modernization is undeniably a net benefit to our society, some things about the analog world should remain. No E-reader can bring the sense of detachment a book can bring. Walden could never have been written on an iPad to be read on a Kindle. Some books need to be in hardcopy form to have their full effect.

Additionally, now that there are multiple summaries of books on the Internet, we have lost the sense of accomplishment and enjoyment that comes with reading a book from physical cover to cover. Many students have now replaced the reading of a book with just a hurried skimming of the summaries of certain books that they are assigned to read simply because they feel it takes too long to read a book.

The true challenge of the twenty-first century on the Hill will not be modernization – that will be pushed by a social tide – but maintaining the traditions that are seemingly obsolete but beneficial. No matter how digital our reality becomes, no computer will ever match the creative friction of putting a pen to paper or the satisfaction of feeling the parchment paper between fingers while flipping to the last page of a dense volume.

Letters to the Editor

Finding a voice in the English curriculum

I want to recognize first and foremost that I appreciate everything that the English department does to prepare us for the world. English has been my favorite class at MBA and I think the English department accomplishes its task again and again. Lord knows every poorly trimmed head in this place practically thinks in terms of thesis statements and MLA-formatted bibliographies. I - like most upperclassmen - have spent my fair share of time pounding away trying to find the right topic sentences, but at the end of the day, I come away from theme after theme feeling empty. I can write far better than I could before I came here, but if I am being honest, I don’t know that we are going about it the right way. I think that critical writing is an important part of any liberal arts education, but like a great man once sang, “After you’ve been having steak a long time, it takes too long to read a book.

The true challenge of the twenty-first century on the Hill will not be modernization – that will be pushed by a social tide – but maintaining the traditions that are seemingly obsolete but beneficial. No matter how digital our reality becomes, no computer will ever match the creative friction of putting a pen to paper or the satisfaction of feeling the parched paper between fingers while flipping to the last page of a dense volume.

I don’t want to ask the English department - or even the school as a whole - to change what it is undeniably good at. The awe people express at our analytical talents is both real and positive. Writing, however, is a complicated beast. Algebra can be taught as a process. Balancing chemical equations can be taught as a process. Writing is more of a journey to find a voice than anything. Everything else falls in line as long as the words flow in a confident, natural voice. The English department should understand that not every boy will find his voice in relaying the significance of Lady Macbeth’s soliloquy in Act V Scene I. Some boys will find their voice as sportswriters and some will be natural storytellers. In the end, the critical writing process is not always the best means to its end. The best writers have voices that make their writing as simple as talking - an innate extension of the self. I would like to see MBA students get the opportunity to speak for themselves a little more often. -Samuel Clemens

Do you like to write, take photos or work on graphic design?

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Contact McKay Proctor, John Mellow or George Swenson if you are interested
Juniors should probably take care of that whole “SAT” thing

By Wells Hamilton
and Ben Barton
College Bound?

This year, juniors really seem to be taking a great interest in their studies, both inside and outside of the classroom. Wesley Jenkins, using his superior understanding of both calculus and physics, was successfully able to get his “torque” on for a solid hour during the Homecoming dance. Unfortunately, Houston Morris’s calculations just couldn’t keep up. After learning about economics and global industry in History, Steve Johnson decided to open a fledgling business selling business and SpudgedHub.com. (But seriously, if you want to use that name you have to pay us.) Steve has made it a point that his operation will exist outside of the MBA Business Club, run by future fascist capitalist fat-cat Ben Barton. After learning about the English Enlightenment and the Age of Reason in modern European history, many students decided to apply reason to things that they don’t quite understand. For example, using deductive reasoning, students reasoned that, because Luke Cochran misses a lot of school, he must be pregnant (I mean, there is just no other explanation). In the area of Life Sciences, Coleman Sorenson has learned by trial and error the pros and cons of self-diagnosing ailments. However, some students seem not to be commiting themselves to their studies as much as they should. Nick Trogden seems to be having a horrible time calculating percent differences, as well as a mediocre performance in the field of computer science.

Junior civil servant cows took to Murfreesboro to revolutionize imaginary diplomacy by participating in model UN. Ambassador Chip Evans avidly voiced his discontent with the lack of diversity amongst resolutions, saying, “Typical Tennessee, all the resolutions sound the same.” On the other hand, political mastermind and coffee aficionado Pat Sanders engineered one of the only resolutions to get past the first round. His secret? Coffee.

In other academic news, many juniors seemed to have found discussing the PSAT every day for three weeks before the actual test. Clark Hooks had an interesting strategy approaching the test, which was to get every other junior to freak about the PSAT as much as he was, thus lowering the curve. To do this, he planted “Fear Gas” in all of the vents on the day of the test (wait, we already did this last issue?) never mind. Adam Biesman strategically calculated every possible math question that could appear on the PSAT over a period of three months, only to find out on the day of the test that there is also a Critical Reading and a Writing Skills section of the test. On the other hand, Taran Mallepeddi was seen stumbling into the testing room five minutes into the test with only an abacus and a packet of 0.7 pencil lead, a slight improvement from the equipment he used last year: a crayon and a half-solved rubik cube. In other news, Tristan Chari appeared in the City Paper because of something he did in math class, thereby letting Coach Deutsch read about him in the paper.

On the hill, fall sports are coming to a close. (Now it’s your turn! Write in your own Grey Reames joke in the space provided! Now with hashtags!)

# #

Send your jokes via email to #BenBarton and #WellsHamilton

SKYFALLEN: The Juniors like it shaken, not stirred.

Sophomores working away on their reasearch papers

By Owen Powell
Staff Ed, Andrew and John’s Brother

Thanksgiving: the opportunity to appreciate that we have almost a week off to frantically ‘read’ our first book of that massive book report. Most people’s plans of reading have slowly given way to TV and dophles. Never fear, cramming will be done Sunday so that none of us fall behind. It seems like there has been a long period of time between the last two newspapers but the stories of our class stayed the same. We, as a class, are probably no longer the least impressive class at the school. Guess who is? Seems pretty obvious, freshmen.

NEWS THAT WE ALL KNOW
ALREADY: Austin Rolfe successfully had 3 interceptions on the last play of 3 consecutive games. He also managed to get about 70 “likes” on photos of such accomplishments. Tobi Kehinde got into it with a frosh during Bowling Practice. Punches were thrown. Tobii has gone through a couple strands. Luke Bullock is still nursing a pepperoni pizza, but at least he’s got jokes (Austin Rolfe). Parks Ball, Wren McFadden, and I are all embarking on furniture building. Steve Wood is in my 6th period math class, which is awesome. I asked Lake Kinman if he had done anything stupid, and he responded, “It’s only 2nd period.” Guess he hadn’t gone to math yet. Chad Mitchell has been working really hard both athletically and academically. Nate Smith is gone from the school; the school has been greatly wounded by this. Jay Thomas is only level 55 on the new COD so he hasn’t been grinding that hard. He’s spending most of his break on the XBox to make sure he doesn’t lose his star status as a gamer. Big Hen For the Win, AKA, Harry, aka Henry Rogers, is NOT TAKING GOOD NEWWTS. Clay Andrene, aka Adrian, is fearing the wrath of Mags. William Richardson is STILL dating that girl. Obviously his friends have failed him. Bad Joe is still doing his own thing, much love and respect.

As many of us in the class of 2015 got to know the recent exchange students such as Gianluca Truda, Campbell Green, and Richard Freund, let’s reflect on the blessings they brought to MBA. William Richardson has been struttin’ like his daddy. Shoutout to Juicy J.

STUDS: Sophomores work hard too, bros.

WILL “GET ‘EM WILL.” Pearson thoroughly enjoyed the play. Andrew Porter is probably the only person that gets that joke. THE DIRTY DOZEN! Surely more than a dirty dozen by now. Congratulations to George Hunt for getting 160 favorites on twitter in only 2 tweets. He is quite appealing. He also got a shout from the real Juicy J.

Some sophomores played some football. Harrison Lien was probably the star of all of them. He was by far the 4th best Scout team LB on the team. Probably 2nd best Scout team FB also. He’s got some speed. Tusie, scored more touchdowns than Michael Lacey showing yet again that whoever has the more TD’s is the better player. Austin Rolfe is probably just gonna quit trying to play. I’m embarrassed for him. Cole Evauerd has been struttin’ like his daddy. Shoutout to Churchill.

BREAKING NEWS: Porter just informed me that he loves Biggie. “Dude Biggie, I wanna go see biggie man.” The late great Biggie Smalls has really influenced Andrew Porter in his musical career. Porter is actually a baller and probably will be an eight sport athlete his senior year. Football, Basketball, Wrestling, Crew, Track, Soccer, Rifflery, and Cross Country. He will probably win 8 state championships.

ROLL Red, and always, chew Big Red gum.

STUDS: Sophomores work hard too, bros.
Seniors voted, did Mr. Hamrick proud. You didn’t.

By MacDaddy H
Staff Church ball enthusiast

It’s almost December here on the Hill (and other places too, I guess). That means the quarter’s coming to a close, that exams are upon us, and that it’s time to start not studying. Most importantly, though, that means church ball.

The season will kick off in a couple of weeks, with the FPC senior team, despite the traioruous deflection of Clint “Commander” Smith, predicted to bring home the title. Led by Conner Griffin (a.k.a. the honey badger), First Pres. will have to make some changes to meet all the lofty expectations Joe Biddle has expressed, starting with breaking .500. Lots of other teams featuring MBA studs look to get in the mix, though. Wesley Nealy just hopes his team doesn’t forfeit every game.

As you know, the football team’s season came to an unfortunate close with a loss to the #1 team in Tennessee, Corn Elder. I say that it was a pleasure watching you all season long. #Blessed.

By sheer volume of responses, all season long. #Blessed.

Barry Goldsmith managed to stay on his grind throughout the first semester, and Sal Neglia doesn’t do anything significant. Robert Pepel and Mattison Asher disagree on the age, but apparently some bumps resulted from the visit. Mathew McCall made it to school for a surprising number of days following the many releases of major video games this fall.

Nathan Fouts, who I’m told kicks butt, is neighbors with Mr. Webb. Ryan Potter has been caught meat gazing on several occasions, and Clint Smith is sensitive to any talk about church ball or his multiple sports teams. Will McFadden ran the Boulevard Bolt on Thanksgiving, but he was just beaten out by Wilson Johnson at the finish line.

Nick Green applied to some places for college, and I’m told Alan Liang tried really hard on his essays. Jack Bond met up with the Harry Potter girl (as described by Mr. Papel) and Patrick Moody has decided to take his talents to the rowing team. Speaking of crew, Sam Turner’s brother is rowing. Apparently that’s significant.

Lucas Fortune’s years of not participating in any class whatsoever has paid off with his acceptance into UT and UGA. Be sure to pat him on the back when you see him. He’s not the only one getting paid off with his acceptance into UT and college.

By MacDaddy H
Staff Church ball enthusiast

Sam Edwards has apparently decided to start coming to FPC for Sunday school. Andrew Einstman got edged out by Jake Macay in 36. Ryan Flack totally sneaked a pop tart in government. Mitch Flautt sneaks pop tarts whenever he wants.

By MacDaddy H
Staff Church ball enthusiast

John Garrett and John Tully are getting after it in wrestling. Andrew Graham finally paid up the original sum, but still owes me a dollar. Conner Griffin took one/lost two for the team at the Ensworth game. Nick Green stayed awake through a full government class one day. I witnessed it.

Cade Hooper still smokes people in football when he wears Sperrys, and Andrew Karpos still refuses to show people his grades. Lucas Littlejohn and I, at first a little confused, have grown to love our new coach. Bradley Long is looking to break the record for least practices attended.

Henry Lynch is getting all that metal taken out soon, marking the end of his guilty trip over Jake Simmons. Snake’s older brother, along with Sam Turner and Patrick Moody, built something. John Mellow runs the ship, and Robby Mills is thoroughly enjoying this unit in anatomy.

Jack Emerson was brutally assaulted in the world’s first pepperment-patty-centric hit-and-run. It gave his name-mates Whit Emerson and Jack Benton the hooey-jeebies.

I saw Nick Peterson the other day, which only goes to show that he may be losing his ninja powers. Bevan Petrikin thinks the administration should learn how to spell his name, and Michael Plata saw him driving. Parish Preston’s plot to have the play moved up so he could go to the game succeeded.

“Pig” Rieke and Tate “Nate” Ramsden jam to 101.1 the beat, but Sam does not approve. Marcus Riley keeps wearing that thing that can’t decide if it’s a sweater or a jacket or a vest. George “I don’t do shirts” Swenson out-benched Furman Haynes, but more importantly Jonathan Sikberg might swim for Harvard. Hunter Tidwell’s truck is bumpin.

Kevin Wang is one of the most wonderful people in the world and I love him. He’s extraordinary and there’s no stereotype I can apply to him. David White is too hype. Sometimes I think he’s almost too hype. You know what I mean?

We’re almost half way done, boys. Can you believe it? There’s so much stuff I haven’t gotten to do… I haven’t even caught a squirrel yet. Here’s to the next six months, gentlemen. Time keeps flying, and next thing you know, we’ll be lighting up on the lawn. Go seniors. Boo that ref.
SCOTT PORTIS, MBA CLASS OF 1984
AND OWNER OF MOE’S, SAYS:

ROLL, RED, ROLL!

BELLE MEADE:
4326 HARDING PIKE
(HILL CENTER)
615-383-7871

VANDERBILT:
2525 WEST END AVENUE
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FEED THE MOMENT™
Parents and teachers always encourage kids to invest in their future. While students at MBA invest in education, some find other ways to develop their futures. Three of these students, seniors Tate Ramsden, Mattison Asher, and Jake Macey, all invest part of their time in the ever-fluctuating stock market. The three investors, no matter the field, can agree that the stock market “adds an element of risk” and provides a game of “gambling” in many ways. Although these students understand that the world of investing is an uncertain business, they know how and when to invest their time and money.

Jake mainly invests in the silver market due to a passion for coin collecting that he developed at an early age. He enjoyed silver and precious metals “since he had fingers” and decided to pursue investments in this field. Although Jake sometimes invests in gold, he stated, “I mainly deal with silver because it is much cheaper” so that if an investment fails, the loss of money will not be detrimental. He explained the process of investing in silver by starting with hours of research throughout the week on a website called kitco.com. This source provides up-to-the-minute values of one ounce of silver. Jake explained that following trends and patterns in the fluctuating price of silver determines when he invests and when he backs out. When the price of silver is low, while he knows that it might go up in the near future, Jake will buy silver at a low cost and then resell it at a higher exchange rate. He says, “The price will increase by three or four times the amount that I bought it at, and sometimes even higher.” Because of his passion for this type of investing and his success in it, Jake thinks that he will continue to invest beyond high school and college even if he decides to pursue another job.

Tate invests in long term stocks, which he said have “low risks” compared to some types of investments. He developed a curiosity in the stock market because “stocks provide an opportunity to apply some math to real-life situations.” Once Tate decided to invest in the stock market, he took a wise approach for starting out the first time. Tate said, “Rather than blindly investing right off the bat, I did some research and created a fake portfolio.” After watching the success and failures of this fake account, he began to invest in small amounts of money. Tate decided to pursue stocks in the hectic New York Stock Exchange, where a specialist broker holds auctions to bring in buyers and sellers of a particular stock. He stated that this type of investing becomes satisfying when the hours of research pay off with successful results. However, Tate mentioned, “With the election of Obama, I knew that I had to get in on it…. Lithium’s value kept rising exponentially.” Mattison found the greatest success with investing in lithium. He explained, “I saw incredible commercial hype for lithium, and I knew that I had to get in on it….”

Above, Wills-noticed by the book

Isaac Ball in Ridley Wills’ Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete.

By Aaron Kaplan

Staff Writer

In 1911, MBA appointed its first “headmaster.” While other heads of school had been called “principals,” Isaac Ball’s appointment as headmaster marked the beginning of a long and successful line of headmasters to follow. In Ridley Wills II’s Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete, Wills describes the beginning of Ball’s career at MBA and the information from the following column is credited to Wills’ book.

Professor Samuel M.D. Clark announced that he would retire from the position of principal at the end of the 1910-1911 school year. Professor Clark was a “bearded Confederate veteran [who] ran the school with military discipline.” Clark served as principal of MBA from 1886-1911, and experienced troubling health problems during his last year teaching at MBA (1911).

Isaac Ball had a prominent southern background. He was born to “one of South Carolina’s most prominent families.” He attended Sewanee Military Academy and the University of the South. He earned an M.A. degree in 1881.

Ball was an educator in Columbia, Tennessee at the Athenaeum, an all-girls school, where he met his wife. After moving with his wife to Dallas, he and a colleague founded St. Matthew’s Grammar School. Ball’s teaching career continued in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Isaac Ball was 40 years old and a Greek and Latin professor at Sewanee Military Academy, his alma mater, when he was sought after by the Headmaster Search Committee looking to replace Clark. Ball was well-liked at SMA, and those from SMA who recommended him for the headmaster job at MBA were saddened at his potential departure.

Ball was offered the job at MBA and moved to Nashville in July of 1911. Dedicated to his new job and the potential for success, Ball visited prominent boys’ schools outside of Nashville to get ideas for his future work at MBA. One such idea was a student leadership group which consisted of representatives from each high school class.

Early hirings in Ball’s tenure as headmaster included Willis Stewart and Bob Blake as athletics coaches and teachers. At this time in the school’s history, one person managed/coached all the sports teams. Ball also hired Herbert Jones and Edmund Ewing to teach French and classics and English, respectively. It is evident that the faculty remained small, with each faculty member responsible for a fairly broad area of the curriculum.

In the beginning of Ball’s tenure at MBA, the “downtown” location of MBA’s campus was becoming increasingly inconvenient. West End Avenue and Harding Road had become popular locations for prominent families due to the presence of Vanderbilt, Centennial Park, and the Nashville Gold and Country Club. A relocation committee was appointed in December of 1912. In 1911 marked the beginning of Isaac Ball’s career at MBA, which would last until 1942. Throughout his many years at MBA, Ball distinguished himself as a successful leader of the school, as evident by the naming of the Isaac Ball Memorial Hall at the heart of MBA’s current campus.
to signify that yes, yes indeed we are. But to what extent? What even is preppy? Are you preppy?
The Bell Ringer investigated at the only source of preppitude that we can trust: vineyardvines.com. There
we were greeted by endless pages of merchandise models that genuinely resembled MBA’s senior photos. That’s
strike one against the Big Red. Secondly, we crunched some numbers. If an MBA student outfits himself in all
brands of established preppitude (i.e. Polo, Vineyard Vines, Sperrys), he has a good shot at walking around
with five hundred dollars’ worth of clothing on his back. This price tag is truly a benchmark for any young
gentleman with preppy ambitions. By this deduction, we can deduce that the criminal was obviously a resentful
hipster, and perhaps someone who frequents the finer eateries of “East Nasty.”

When speaking about preppy and MBA, it’s impossible not to mention esteemed alum Scott Dalton, the man who
many believe sparked the Colored Pants Revolution for the Rebellious Bourgeois Proletariat. Scott’s style was
the epitome of a culture forged from the ideal of a modern Southern gentleman; so much so, in fact, that he joined
in a company called “The Southern Gentleman,” in a move to shift away from Northern preppyness into
a more sweet-tea-flavored brand of preppitude. Could the vandalism be a backlash to the success of this company
and its CC(BR)O? We don’t negate the possibility, but who could hate Scott?

Let’s get back to the facts. The events transpired after Hallows Eve on the day before the Father Ryan vs.
MBA football game. Immediately the Irish fell under suspicion. However, rumors circulated that Father
Ryan’s campus was also vandalized. Some say this fact negates their involvement, while others are not so convinced.
Could vandalizing their own campus be a clever ploy to throw us off their trail? The Bell Ringer checked into this
so-called “Father Ryan High School,” and discovered through the trustworthy resources of urbandictionary.com
that Father Ryan does not have the capacity to orchestrate such a dastardly plot.

Then who? Who sparked the madness? The Bell Ringer is afraid that the whodunit caper will never be solved.
This is what we do know. The assailant’s weaknesses are locked gates, grammar, and political correctness. If you
think you see him, do not panic. Wish him a “Happy Holidays” and use the word “whom” in its correct context as you slowly
back towards the nearest lockable gate.

The damage will be repaired and hopefully we can all move on with our lives, drowning our lamentations in the
soft silk of Brooks Brothers brand handkerchiefs.

WHALE OF A PRICE: These bros know the price of being a frat star:

Do the math: Vineyard Vines

Every issue, our resident Coach Pythagoras Will McFadden will break down the statistics of the Hill. This month,
he takes on the Frat staple Vineyard Vines

By Will McFadden Staff Math Wiz

We all know that guy who wears just about all Vineyard Vines all the time. Even though “his girlfriend gave it to him”
or “his mom likes to shop for him,” it is intriguing just how much Vineyard Vines gear one man can wear at a time. How much,
though, is feasibly possible?

I once heard, “You pay about $10 for the shirt and another $100 for the whale logo.” At the time, I thought this statement
was an exaggeration, but careful research has led me to believe otherwise. Is Vineyard Vines really that expensive? How much
Vineyard Vines can a single MBA frat star don, and how much would it cost? Let’s do the math.

From head to toe:
Whale Visor: $20.00
Croakies: $8.00
“Angler Whale” Shirt: $98.50
“Albacore” Bowtie: $45.00
“Mountain Weekend” Vest: $125.00
“Embroidered Club” Shorts: $98.50
“Canvas Patchwork” Belt: $49.50
Lobster Boxers: $24.50
Leather Flip Flops: $49.50

(Seeing this guy: priceless)

All prices come directly from www.vineyardvines.com and are not exaggerated.

I’m counting a total of 9 different Vineyard Vines accessories that can be worn reasonably at one time. If we add up the prices of these 9, we get:
20+8+98.5+45+125+98.5+49.5+24.5+49.5 = $518.50 of Vineyard Vines on a single human being.

Let’s say that this young frat star is approximately 6 feet tall. He would be wearing $518.50/6ft = $86.42 / ft
which comes out to $7.20 / in.

$7.20 per linear inch.

Equal to about 2,074 cookies
or about $518.50 / $99.99 = about 5 iPhone 4S’s

Equal to about 5 iPhone 4S’s

It’s your money... Stay classy and frat on.
****A personal perspective on MBA style:****

Times are changing on the Hill. New buildings are rising and leaves are falling, but along with that change a new wave of fashion has come ashore. Well, I guess it is less of a wave and more of a division. The student body has divided into two fashion factions, one consisting of guys who couldn’t care less about what they wear and the other consisting of men who put a little more effort into their daily dress. Actually, if one were to juxtapose this separation next to the Romney/Obama divide, it’d be difficult to discern which is which. But anyhow, I am a member of this latter faction, and I am proud of it. The days of wearing clothing just to keep warm have been over since the Neanderthals, and now clothing represents who you are as a person.

We on the Hill are lucky enough to be given very liberal dress codes that allow for freedom. Why not utilize that freedom? Honestly, the reason girls won’t talk to you is probably because you’ve worn that same polo everyday this year, so trade in that polo for a crisp new button-down and burn that UT sweatshirt you haven’t taken off since birth. I remember when my brother was at MBA from 2004-2007. Looking at his yearbooks, students pretty much wore a polo and khakis every single day, but now a new day has risen. More and more button-downs are being worn. Sweatshirts are being exchanged for sweaters (I take credit for that), and those Wallabies are being replaced by Sperry’s. It’s a good thing. MBA has stopped looking like a preppy version of Jango Fett’s clone factory from Star Wars Episode II. There are still those who remain faithful to the traditional MBA look and that’s fine. Boring, but fine. Those traditionalists will always remain; I mean, we’re talking about MBA here.

One fashion trend that has pleasantly surprised me is the colored khaki, specifically red. I assume the majority of these pants are the J. Crew Urban Chinos - fine choice. Let’s see how crazy we can get with these colors though. I recently purchased a pair of bright shiny blue ones. Top me. I would love to see some bright lime green ones or even some striped ones.

One fashion trend that has disappointed me is the traditional Big Red day sweat pants. I was walking across campus during spirit week, and a man visiting the school approached me and asked me why everyone was out of dress code, referring to a mass of boys walking by, all wearing sweatpants. I replied that it was a spirit week and he said, “A bunch of lazy spirits.” Whoa. Low blow, dude. I awkwardly chuckled and then even more awkwardly shuffled off. I understand it’s spirit week and that it’s our chance to do what we want and not be in dress code, but I’m pretty sure the day’s theme was not lazy. You have freedom to be creative, so be creative.

Overall the fashion of the campus is changing and changing rapidly. More and more people are putting effort into their dress selection and in doing so are adding class to our student body. For those of you in sweat pants, and those of you haven’t changed out of a polo and khakis in six years, step your game up.

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**By Alex Floyd  
Staff Writer**

The state of MBA style*

*According to Nick Green*

to rebel against MBA’s “traditional” form of the clean shaven gentleman.

Whether intentional or not, a student’s decisions in attire are a portal into his personality. If he consciously chooses to rebel against MBA by finding loopholes, or if he finds clothing that is personally appealing, the student acts upon his own inner self and literally “wears his heart on his sleeve.” So, students, be yourselves and wear what you want. Style may be one of the only ways to outwardly express yourself within the confines of MBA.
Mets team that struggled badly this season, ending the year at a 74-88 record. Dickey was the first knuckleballer ever to win the Cy Young award and the Mets’ first 20-game winner since Frank Viola in 1990. In addition, Dickey had a 2.73 ERA and led the National League in strikeouts (230), innings pitched (233 2/3) and complete games (5).

Dickey has had to fight through mountains of adversity during his lifetime. Sexually abused as a child and without responsible parents, he led a sad and confused life until being taken in by the Bartholomew family, whose two sons went on to play football at the University of Tennessee and whose daughter ended up marrying Dickey. After a successful pitching career at the University of Tennessee, Dickey was drafted by the Texas Rangers in 2001 and offered a massive signing bonus which was rescinded and drastically cut at the discovery of an elbow problem. Still, carrying the burden of his personal problems, Dickey even had thoughts of suicide during his adult life.

However, later during his life, Dickey became a born-again Christian and began to turn his life around. After being shipped around to various teams and developing his signature pitch, the knuckleball, Dickey signed with the New York Mets in 2010 and instantly succeeded, throwing a one-hitter in a minor-league game, a feat which he would repeat in the majors -- twice in a row -- during the 2012 season with the Mets.

Literature, no doubt stemming from an MBA education, has had a profound impact on Dickey’s life. He majored in English at UTK, and would have become an English professor had he not gone professional in baseball. He has even named his bats after literary swords: Orcrist from The Hobbit and Hrunting from Beowulf. Hemingway’s writings inspired him to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro to raise awareness for human trafficking in India. In addition to this noble cause, Dickey operates Honoring the Father Ministries, which provides supplies to the impoverished in Latin America.

Always humble, Dickey said, “The height of this story...it’s mind-blowing to me. It really is.”
Football closes a season of hard fought wins

By Aaron Kaplan
Staff Writer

The MBA Varsity Football team was very successful this year. The Big Red squad had a win-loss record of 9-4. MBA opened the season at home against Kingsbury High School from Memphis. The Big Red demolished the Falcons, winning 51-0. In the second half, the defense only allowed 13 yards from Kingsbury.

Following the victory over Kingsbury, the Big Red played a home game against nationally ranked Trinity High School from Kentucky. The game was incredibly close, with MBA students on their feet throughout. With time winding down and the Big Red behind, the team was forced to punt. That punt was blocked and the Big Red had better-than-expected field position to make a last attempt at the end zone. That heave fell short, yet the Big Red had an excellent performance against a challenging opponent. Despite the loss, this game built confidence in the Big Red’s ability going forward.

Coming off the disappointing loss to Trinity, MBA traveled to Brentwood Academy and lost 24-6. The following game was in Chattanooga against Baylor. Despite being down 20-10 in the game, the Big Red caught up with two touchdown passes. The Big Red did pull off a victory.

Playing against BGA on their homecoming, MBA pulled off a 41-0 victory, putting a damper on whatever gala affairs were planned. With 370 rushing yards, MBA trounced BGA’s defense. The team then returned to home to then play Pearl-Cohn and won 50-14. The next week, MBA played Father Ryan, later to be a playoff opponent, at home and won 28-3 with 437 rushing yards.

The MBA and Brothers, the 27 seniors who played football this year lead well on and off the field.

Dear Rack City,

Over the course of OVER 100 years of MBA football, not once has a student section had the presence of the rowdy yet very much gentlemanly atmosphere of “Rack City.”

“Do I know my dogs? I know, that’s how I know. But to the point, Rack City really made this past football season one to remember. No other year could even come close to the support that this fan base gave nearly the entire year. I say nearly because, well, the McCallie home game was truly empty by the second half. Where everyone was is still up for debate to this day. Hopefully, in the spirit of Big Red Brotherhood, they were with their friends somewhere else, but we may never know.

During every other game, the support was simply overwhelming, and the team as a whole could never thank everyone enough. Seeing as I was someone who “didn’t see the field much” (aka the backup Quarterback, yes that was actually me) I really got to take in the Rack City effect. I felt like Rack City really enjoyed being at the game, and being a part of the unusually diverse crowd. It’s obligatory for me to start thanking lots and lots of people to sound professional and respectful. Thank you to Conner Griffin for being “that guy” up there leading Rack City into battle every week. Also, thank you for the sacrifices you made, especially during the Ensworth (boo-hiss) game where you lost your two front teeth in a fight with either former Ensworth “Student” Antonio Richardson or the Corn “Men” before the game. My reports were mixed, so I can’t be sure who fought whom, but I know that Conner won easily. You really set the tone, and the football team would like to apologize for not winning in your honor, but we all hope you find your two front teeth.

Thank you to Jack Wagster for allegedly buying paint, and thanks for leading Pep Rallies as well. Also thank you to the store that manufactured all the paint, I suppose. It got the job done. Really, we are all excited about the upcoming basketball season and the upcoming track season. Big Red had an excellent performance against a challenging opponent. Despite the loss, this game built confidence in the Big Red’s ability going forward.

Coming off the disappointing loss to Trinity, MBA traveled to Brentwood Academy and lost 24-6. The following game was in Chattanooga against Baylor. Despite being down 20-10 in the game, the Big Red caught up with two touchdown passes. The Big Red did pull off a victory.

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Coming off a 4-game winning streak, MBA ran into a roadblock at Ensworth High School. Ensworth handed the Big Red a 35-7 loss. Returning home, MBA played McCallie and won 52-7 before playing JPJ at home the next week. The Big Red defeated JPJ 31-17. The Big Red came back from a 14-point deficit and did not allow one first down in the second half.

The Big Red then moved on to the TSSAA playoffs, defeating Father Ryan again. This time, the score was 17-7. Father Ryan gave the Big Red a little scare with a late touchdown and ensuing onside kick, but MBA pulled off a victorious regardless. Advancing in the bracket, MBA took on Christian Brothers in Memphis. MBA won 36-21.

MBA traveled down Highway 100 to face their most dreaded rival, Ensworth, in the playoff semifinals. The Tigers took the victory with a score of 35-7. It was an emotional loss for Big Red players, but they took it in good stride.

This season, MBA saw great improvement in the fall football program. The Big Red played very well throughout the season, beating most teams by a very large margin, and only losing to three different teams: Trinity, BA, and Ensworth, two of which were nationally ranked.

MBA is sad to see the senior players graduate, but have an impressive amount of talent coming from this year’s junior, sophomore, and freshman classes. The Big Red, according to Coach Evuerme, came out of this year with one near-unanimous goal - to play in the state championship. Big Red players and fans alike are all excited about this season’s successes and are looking forward to another great season next school year.

Thank you for all your support.

Andrew Einstman (@giddyupSTEIN)
Titan Linebacker Gerald McGrath sits down with The Bell Ringer

By Ian Sholer Staff Writer

The 2009 fourth round draft pick from Southern Mississippi, currently on injured reserve with a ruptured patella tendon in his left knee, speaks on the offseason, concussions and the toughest tackles in the NFL.

Bell Ringer: How concerned are you about concussions?

Gerald McGrath: I would say not as much as everyone on the outside. When I say outside, I mean people who don’t play football. I don’t think I’m as concerned as they are because I’ve been playing since I was five. When you’re playing, you always know that you could get a concussion, but I think the proper thing to do is knowledge and education on how to prevent them because there are a lot of ways to prevent concussions as far as how to tackle right. It’s so crazy because you kinda lose that once you get to this level. It’s always “however you can get the guy down just do it,” but if you use those fundamentals that you were taught back in the peewees, head outside, I mean people who don’t play football. I don’t think I’m as concerned as they are because there are gonna be incidents where you just can’t avoid it; it just happens.

BR: How was draft day for you?

GM: I think anybody would tell you that draft day is the longest, worst day that you’ll ever have. You just sit in a room and you just wait. You have not a clue what’s gonna happen, you just sit by the phone waiting on the call. The anxiety of seeing where you’ll go is tough. For me coming out, I didn’t really have team that I wanted to go to. I just wanted to play for somebody who wanted me. I just wanted someone to like me enough to draft me, and I just wanted to give my all to that team. Things worked out that I got to come to Tennessee. It’s a great place. I love being here, there’s nothing like being a Titan. I didn’t really have a team in mind, I just wanted to keep playing ball.

BR: Which running-backs are the hardest to tackle?

GM: Honestly all of them. Everybody’s good in The League. One back that stood out was Ricky Williams. I played him my rookie year and it was really tough to get him down. LaDainian Tomlinson was pretty tough because he was so small. But Ricky Williams was a real load to take down when he still was if it. I had to if I had to pick one I guess I’d have to say Ricky Williams.

BR: What about tight-ends? Which are the hardest to guard?

GM: I would say Tony Gonzalez. He’s so manipulating with the way he moves his body. He moves so slow so it makes you anxious to jump the route, but he does a great job of just making moves to get separation. He does a great job with body positioning, almost like in basketball when you’re down in the post and you’re trying to get a good shot.

BR: How do you compare Mike Munchak and Jeff Fischer?

GM: They’re both very different coaches. Fish being a guy that’s established, that’s been in The League for a long time as a head coach. Fish is a legend in Nashville. Then at the same time you got Munchak, who was a player for the Oilers and a Hall-of-Famer, and his coaching style is a bit different. They are both great coaches. Fish was more laid back, Munchak is more of a blue-collar type guy. Both styles worked great for their personalities. They’re different but both great at the same time. I really enjoyed playing under both coaches because at the end of the day they’re both passionate about what they do and it shows in their coaching.

BR: What do you do during the offseason?

GM: I train. Being in The League, you really can’t get days off in my eyes if you want to continue to succeed. Because every year there are people that are training who were good in and play. You need to keep your edge and continue to work. You always have to be able to continue to work. You don’t want to stay the same, you have to grow as a player. I typically take about two weeks off and then I head to Arizona to train and I train there until it’s time to report back.

BR: Why Arizona?

GM: For me, Arizona is far away from what I know. When I trained for the combine, I trained out in Arizona because it eliminates distractions. When you’re at home and your friends and buddies, they might want to do things that you really can’t do. But going out to Arizona offers a sense of peace to focus on the task at hand. Plus the weather is great. It doesn’t rain.

Bowling Team strives for greatness, cheese fries

By Nick Green Staff Writer

As the MBA Bowling season approaches playoffs, the 9-4 Big Red have kept their eye on a championship with a chance to earn a bye and skip district playoffs, automatically placing them in the state tournament. With notable wins against Ensworth and Father Ryan, as well as rivals Battle Ground Academy, seniors Jack “Cap’n Crunch” Bond, Captain Nick Green, Lucas Fortune, and junior Nikolai Patel have led the bowlers to a great season after a rough start.

Junior Chase Duffy and freshmen Brinton Hoover and Jackson Wooten also have made significant contributions to the team, securing important victories in their matches.

Sophomore George Hunt, a new addition to the bowling team, proudly stated that “joining contributed to making it into the 90th percentile weight class.” New bowlers Tobi Kehinde, Zach Roberts, Jackson Wooten, Brinton Hoover, and George Hunt have all greatly improved their scores since the beginning of the season, allowing them to participate in important matches to group big wins for the Big Red.

The Big Red bowlers have shown extraordinary ability to fight back from behind and tenacity to hold a lead. Both of these traits permeate the squad.

Captain Jack Bond expressed his excitement and expectations for the team: “I see a great future for the team, especially in the near future. We will hopefully get a good spot in the state tournament seeding and make it far in the tournament.”

The MBA Bowling Team’s regular season ends with matches against Ezell-Harding and powerhouse Donelson Christian Academy with the home-advantage of Hillwood Strike and Spare. Backed by the great coaching of Commander Carr and Coach Komando, the Big Red Bowlers have high hopes for this season.
**STONE COLD KILLERS: Winter sports preview**

**SWIMMING:**
By McLean Hudson and Wesley Jenkins  
News Editor and Staff Writer

Asen living in New York. Overall, Loveless seems like a perfect fit for the Big Red with all of his qualities, and he seems prepared to meet the team’s future challenges.

Coach Loveless brings a more laidback style to the team that it hadn’t seen under Coach Dobbs. The former coach, who still helps out with practice when his schedule permits, was markedly more energetic at practice and during meets. Of the one team captains, Alan Liang, notes that there is more stress-specific work and emphasis on technique under Loveless, as opposed to an emphasis on general fitness under Dobbs.

Difference in approach aside, the head coach’s passion for the sport is unchanged. One of Alan’s fellow captains, Jonathan Siktberg, says, “Both have a love for swimming that spreads throughout the team.”

Two of the biggest hindrances facing the swim team are the graduation of Adam Cornell, Nathan Stinson, and Maclin Davis, all three of whom helped the Big Red set records on the way to a state championship, and the loss of practice time at the C. Said the assistant coach, Dr. Boyd, “Even with the outstanding leadership we have, it’s hard to replace Olympic quality swimmers.”

The changed practice schedule is the result of the expansion of the JCC’s schedule, which now occupies the full pool during the usual practice time. The coaches hoped to have lanes at the Centennial Sportsplex available this season, but the failure of Ensworth’s natatorium to pass code has forced Ensworth’s team to rely on the Sportsplex and to occupy a lane or two. Unfortuntate situation has resulted in a schedule that can only be called inconvenient.

The swim team now practices from 7:30PM to 9:00 at the JCC on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, has dry land practice after school on Thursdays, and swims again at the JCC from 4:30PM to 6:00 on Saturdays and Sundays. This schedule has bred discontent among the swimmers. When it was first presented, the team members were provided with a time full of long time team members quit on the spot. Still more swimmers are forced to miss weekend practices for family events. Even so, Dr. Boyd is optimistic: “With our large team of 45 swimmers, we should take regionals.”

MBA got off to a solid 3-0 start in the region, taking down Oakland, the Tennessee Home School Makos, and a very talented Ravenwood team in consecutive meets. The Big Red was edged out by reigning Kentucky state champions St. Xavier a few weeks ago, but the final tally was actually closer than in the same matchup last year.

After finishing the regular season on Tuesday with a win over Brentwood High, the team looks to be in prime position to fulfill Dr. Boyd’s prediction of bringing home the regional title once again. Led by seniors Tate Ramonen, a Dartmouth commit, and Andrew Dobbs, who also plans to swim in college, along with sophomore Chatham Dobbs, the team has the leadership and talent it needs to compete well and possibly overachieve against a very tough field at state.

**WRESTLING:**
By Sam Weien  
Asst. News Editor

The Big Red wrestling team is ready to travel to Germantown, Tennessee on November 30 for the Black Horse Invitational, its first tournament of the season.

Although the team has lost many of its strong seniors from last year, it looks to continue their previous success. This year, captains John Tully, Franklin Garston, and Morris Eguakun look to lead the team. Coach Frank Simpson says that “These experienced leaders will be able to guide the team to success.”

The path to the state championship will not be a cakewalk; the Big Red wrestlers will have stiff competition. Local rivals Father Ryan has not lost a match and continues to compete at a high level. Coach Simpson says that, “This year, like always, Ryan is one of the toughest in the district, and we look forward to facing them.”

Looking West, Christian Brothers High School in Memphis will also be proficient this year. They are consistently bringing in great wrestlers through a strong feeder system and are looking to build off of their victory in the State Duals last year.

Following the Black Horse Invitational, the team’s next major tournament is Middle Tennessee Grand Championships at Brentwood Academy. This tournament, beginning on December 14, consists of mainly local competition and is a good way to compare the team to nearby competition.

The Southeastern Prep Slam in Atlanta is a very competitive tournament, and the Big Red wrestlers look to build off of their top-ten finish last year. On January 18th, the team will face forty-five teams from across the nation in one of the most prestigious wrestling tournaments in the nation.

Throughout the season, there are several dual-matches, including ones against Brentwood High, Independence High, Clarksville High, and Brentwood Academy. Furthermore, there are a couple of local tournaments in which the Big Red will participate, including the MBA duals on December 14.

The season essentially culminates on January 26, with the final dual-match at Father Ryan. Coach Simpson calls this an “old school fight where every point matters.” Although the match is at Ryan this year, Coach Simpson expects many citizens of the Big Red Nation to show up and support their team.

Following this, the team has the Tennessee State Duals and the Individual Championships at the Williamson County Agriculture Center on February 2 and 15, respectively.

One of the most evident changes on the wrestling team this year is the arrival of Coach Patrick Simpson, son of Coach Frank Simpson. He was a four-year letter winner at the West Point and spent a half at the Olympic Training Center. Further, he won the US Military Championships and even competed in the World Military Championships. Coach Frank Simpson thinks that his son will help the team by bringing “youthful spirit, stimulated energy and tremendous experience to the team.”

Moreover, Simpson’s laidback style to the team that it hadn’t seen in the past two state championships, the loss of practice time tempered aspirations of a three-peat. With a situation has resulted in a schedule that can only be called inconvenient.

By Cole Campbell  
Staff Writer

Approaching the upcoming basketball season, the MBA team will face a whole new look.

After losing key players such as David Howard and Austin Blackwell, the team will need every one of its members to achieve success. According to Coach Anglin, “It will be more of a group effort, relying less on one or two guys to carry us.”

Team captains Tom “Free” Kaiser (13), Kamani Hodges (13), and Andrew “Pony” Einstein (13) will play an especially important role in helping MBA chase a state title.

Kaiser brings a polished skill set to the floor. He protects the rim and controls the paint. Einstman has a silky perimeter game to go with considerable athletic gifts. Expect his inside-outside play to be a critical cog in the Big Red’s offensive machinery. He also is a dogged rebounder where Kaiser relies on his length. Hodges provides the team with a toughness and swagger that define the team’s energy. He gets to the basket and the free-throw line with ease. Einstman has a silky perimeter game to go with considerable athletic gifts.

Experience will be an important factor for this year’s squad. While the team does not have many experienced players returning, Coach Anglin expects them to overcome this difficulty quickly. If the seniors can step up as the leaders of the team and younger players like Alex Bars (14), Vinny Gagnone (14), and Duncan Smith (14) can rise to the occasion, then this team could make some noise in the league. Bars especially can make an impact clearing space with his powerful shoulders where Howard’s length would have sufficed last year. Smith will continue to be a strong option at guard with time team members quit on the spot. Still more swimmers are forced to miss weekend practices for family events. Even so, Dr. Boyd is optimistic: “With our large team of 45 swimmers, we should take regionals.”

MBA got off to a solid 3-0 start in the region, taking down Oakland, the Tennessee Home School Makos, and a very talented Ravenwood team in consecutive meets. The Big Red was edged out by reigning Kentucky state champions St. Xavier a few weeks ago, but the final tally was actually closer than in the same matchup last year.

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Shields your eyes. It’s that good.

New heights for Indie rock’s milk-and-honey Bear

By Lucas Littlejohn
Entertainment Editor

Create a sound with a debut album. Work that sound for at least one more album as people buy the first. Shy away from the organic freedom of guitar, minimalist rhythms and the synthesizer; it is found in the organic freedom of guitar, minimalist rhythms and the synthesizer; Shields, out of 5. However, with Shields, GB states that their real sound doesn’t lie within minimalistic rhythms and the synthesizer, it is found in the organic freedom of guitar, drums, and piano posed by Yellow House. That being said, Shields for the most part sticks to these three instruments (and Ed Droste’s elegant, swaying vocals) and achieves a more pressing on the-mountain-side-with-a-bonfire-y kind of sound. The shift from Veckatimest’s subtle electronic idiosyncrasies to the earthy tone of Shields was unexpected, but pulled off expertly and beautifully. It still celebrates Grizzly Bear’s signature flair. Still you will find quirky funk rhythms, two or three minute periods of vocal-free jamming, remarkable auditory depth of each track, and the gritty instruments that create that depth.

The bottom line is that if your music taste even remotely resembles mine, this album won’t leave your speakers. Grizzly Bear has capitalized on the success of Veckatimest by ignoring it almost entirely. There is so much meat to this album that its grandeur will last until their next album, which, based on the timespan of their last three albums, will come out in 2015. Grizzly Bear can do no wrong.

Flying Lotus does it again

By Lucas Littlejohn
Entertainment Editor

Upon first analysis of the album cover of Los Angeles experimental electronic music producer Flying Lotus’ new album When the Quiet Comes, I see the whirling motion and billowing drapery of some exotic dancer represented in the half-conscious state of a dream world. The ambiguous array of reds, yellows, greens, and browns seems to draw inspiration from the dreaminess of the sound that Flying Lotus has created and the direction he has taken with this album.

First of all, let me say that this album, like FlyLo’s previous efforts, is truly a work of art. Like a conceptual contemporary painting or a modernist poem, he uses electronic music as a medium for expressing his ideas, as an experiment in music’s influence on the mind of the listener, and as a vehicle for bringing these ideas and experiments to us. Even apart from the artsy nature of FlyLo’s music, his musical work is a detailed exploration of the constructed dream world. What is the soundtrack to our dreams? Flying Lotus seems to answer such a question with this album.

When the Quiet Comes is remarkably cohesive (it’s often difficult to discern the transition between individual tracks), but there are a few standout songs. “All In,” the album’s opener, a bubbly, rhythmic, and melodic gem, is my favorite track. “The Secrets,” a sophisticated, jazz-inspired head-bopper of a song is a favorite, as well as “Until the Quiet Comes,” an exotic journey into a chaotic land. Lastly, “Electric Candyman,” featuring Thom Yorke (yes, you read that right) adds a hazy and bizarre melody to the album.

Flying Lotus’ latest work is polished and moving. To listen to When the Quiet Comes effectively, one must play it in the background of whatever he’s doing. The next time you’re on a road trip, turn on this album, ignore it, put it out of your thoughts, and let it work your emotions, let your mind wander wherever it takes you. It is a work of art that deserves to be treated as such.
By Alex Floyd
Staff Writer

Someone needs to arrest Kendrick for murder because he kills this album. He absolutely and completely kills it. good kid m.A.A.d. city is the best hip hop album since Kanye’s MYDTP; and possibly the best lyrical California hip hop album since… well… forever.

The album follows the story of seventeen-year-old Kendrick borrowing his mother’s car to visit a girl he met at a party. The narrative begins with “Sherane: AKA Master Splinter’s Daughter” and introduces us to a 17 year-old Kendrick Lamar who is immature and impressionable but overall a good kid who has been influenced by the violence and poverty of Compton. The story is Kendrick’s, but the main character is Compton.

Kendrick has written songs that are competent if not brilliant on their own but when put into the context of the album become truly great. “Back Seat Freestyle” is a hilariously and intentionally immature bass thumping anthem that expresses Kendrick’s ability to seamlessly transition to different flows. The album features verses from guest artists - Drake’s is especially good on “Poetic Justice” - but Kendrick never lets the listener forget that this is his album and that he is the next best thing. After “Poetic Justice,” the narrative takes a dark turn and the violence of Compton takes the stage. “Sing About Me, I’m Dying of Thirst” might be lyrically one of the best rap songs ever, rivaling Outkast’s “The Way You Move”. The album features verses from guest artists - Drake’s is especially good on “Poetic Justice” - but Kendrick never lets the listener forget that this is his album and that he is the next best thing.

“Poetic Justice” is the album’s first single. Lamar’s debut single, “Swingshift” was released in 2004 and was not a success. Although “Real” feels like it should be the natural conclusion of the GKMCD, Kendrick breaks the melancholy with a seemingly out of place “Compton.” The song feels wrong at first listen. It doesn’t seem exactly to fit, but it represents a change from the routine of welfare, drugs, and guns to the high rolling lifestyle of the new king of L.A.

By Wesley Jenkins
Staff Writer

As 2012 is coming to a close, hundreds of lists are going to be coming out reviewing the “Best of 2012,” so I’m taking the initiative to tell you what you should’ve been listening to. Here are the Best Albums of 2012, along with some others worth mentioning.

Channel Orange – Frank Ocean
Frank Ocean had a big year: bag of Grammy nominations, a bombshell of a tumbler post and to top it off, the best R&B album since D’Angelo’s Voodoo (Yeah, I said it). A considerable portion of the student body spent the year with this on repeat and with good reason. The list of distinguishing traits on this album would eclipse the length of this article. The most salient points are Frank’s effortless lyricism, undeniable vocal talent and the best André 3600 verse of the year (Yeah, I said it). If you have not picked up this album already, put this paper down and pay someone to give it to you. Please.

Night Visions – Imagine Dragons
The follow up to their widely popular EP “Continued Silence,” Imagine Dragons’ Night Visions has become a hit within the alternative sound with this memorable album. It puts a smile on your face.

Strange Clouds – B.O.B.
The ATL-based rapper debuted his sophomore album in late May and has since well surpassed the success of his first. While tracks such as “So Good” and “Both of Us” got significant radio play for their upbeat melodies and lyrics, the true genius of the album lies in its darker songs, “So Hard to Breathe,” “Circles,” and “Out of my Mind” all depict the paranoia and transformation that comes with fame. Overall, B.O.B. breaks from the common mold of most prominent rappers who only rap about partying, drugs, and girls.

Uncaged – Zac Brown Band
Releasing his third studio album in mid-July, Zac Brown has continued his dominance over the country scene. While staying true to their country roots in “The Wind,” “Day that I Die,” and “Sweet Annie,” the Band does experiment with rock in “Uncaged” and reggae in “Island Song.” Even though the album does lack the one solid single their previous two albums have had, overall Uncaged is the most complete album released by the band to date.

The album that topped them all was Tenacious D’s Rize of the Fenix. No doubt the album to look forward to in 2012.

MDT Employee Picks: 10 Best Albums of the Year

4. Until the Quiet Comes - Flying Lotus. Art in motion.
5. An Awesome Wave - Alt-J. It puts a smile on your face.
6. Bloom - Beach House. An excellent point of departure from their somewhat repetitive first album.
7. Happy To You - Mike Snow. Mike Snow shifts to a more alternative sound with this memorable album.
8. Coexist - The xx. This seemingly one-dimensional group begins to explore their sound.
9. The Idler Wheel… Fiona Apple. Refreshingly, startledly original. Songwriting without precedent or boundaries.
10. Master of my Make-Believe - Santigold. A solid album from a
**MOVIES OF THE YEAR**

Will Glover spent a year at the cinema

By Will Glover  
Staff Writer

**American Horror Story**: I know... AHS is a television series. But the terror that this show conveys is truly worthy for cinema. Set in 1964 at the Briarcliff Mental Institution, the story follows an insane nun, a mad scientist and a serial killer who wears the skin of his victims. This show creates a hallucinatory fascination that is beyond electrifying. The show’s paranoid, quasi-documentary style creates a hyperreality, blurring the line between what’s real and what isn’t.

**Argo**: From actor-turned-director Ben Affleck (The Town), Argo tells the true story of Tony Mendez, the CIA operative who devises a plan to rescue the six U.S. diplomats hiding in the Canadian Embassy in Tehran during the Iran hostage crisis. Tony creates a fake movie (called “Argo”) and in order to escape, the American diplomats pose as Canadian filmmakers. This film, often humorous and always inspired, has a worthy story to tell as it brilliantly portrays one of the most infamous rescues in history.

**Cloud Atlas**: From the creators of The Matrix comes the epic of the year. Cloud Atlas is the telling of six different stories between the years 1849 and 2346. Each story is connected, with actors Tom Hanks and Halle Berry playing different characters in each of the different sequences. The movie is about eternal recurrence, how we are all bound to others, past and present. It’s about human interaction has the potential to forever alter the course of our lives and that the consequences of one’s life will unfold throughout eternity. Cloud Atlas is a haunting film that will linger with you for days, as it draws the audience in, never letting go.

**The Dark Knight Rises**: The latest installment in Christopher Nolan’s Batman trilogy is easily one of the best superhero movies ever made. Batman (Christian Bale) is pulled out of retirement as the very existence of Gotham City is threatened by Bane (Tom Hardy), a terrorist with a biochemical weapon. The characters are gargantuan. The story is enthralling. The movie is a spectacle that hogs for your attention, and if you trust enough to let go of your seat, this film will blow you away.

**Lincoln**: A must-see for any history buff! The movie shows the last four months of Abraham Lincoln’s life as he battles Washington to emancipate the slaves. The film has little physical action, as most of the story shows people talking, arguing, debating. It’s undoubtedly a serious movie for serious moviegoers, but don’t let appearances fool you. Lincoln is like a kettle over a fire: give it some time, and it will sing to the highest order. This is a film with all the winning ingredients: Steven Spielberg, Daniel Day-Lewis, The greatness of America. What’s not to like?

**The Master**: This is the story of Freddie Quell (JoaquinPhoenix), a recent WWII vet who is struggling to assimilate back into society (he’s also a nymphomaniac and addicted to paint thinner). Freddie’s troubles are answered when he meets Lancaster Dodd (Philip Seymour Hoffman), the leader of the philosophical movement called “The Cause,” which is rumored to be based on Scientology. With a pulsating soundtrack scored by Radiohead’s Johnny Greenwood, this movie is dark, brooding, and simply unexplainable. A masterstroke from director Paul Thomas Anderson, and a must for fans of The Master.

**Prometheus**: From famed director Ridley Scott (Alien) comes one of the most-anticipated Sci-Fi movies in years. The story follows a crew on the spaceship Prometheus as they search for the origins of human life on a distant planet. They discover an ancient civilization that threatens to obliterate the very existence of humanity. Prometheus is a frightening, sweeping story that asks big questions, but the movie doesn’t pretend to have any answers. Instead, the film allows the freedom for interpretation, giving the audience an active movie-going experience.

**Skyfall**: In the latest addition to the James Bond series, Bond (Daniel Craig) investigates a deadly attack on MI6, and discovers that a former MI6 operative, Raoul Silva (Javier Bardem), is trying to destroy the spy agency. Director Sam Mendes (American Beauty) brings back much of the humor found in the early Bond movies, and with this latest edition, the series feels reinvigorated. This is a big year for James Bond: Skyfall is the highest grossing film of the series, and it’s also the fiftieth anniversary of the classic secret agent.

**Savages**: This is the story of Ben and Chon, two successful businessmen who run their own multi-million dollar marijuana-growing empire. But their success doesn’t last long when a Mexican drug cartel kidnaps Ben and Chon’s shared lover, Ophelia. Director Oliver Stone (Born on the Fourth of July) is known for his brutality and highly stylized action sequences, and Savages is the perfect outlet for Stone’s expertise. It’s rare to watch a movie and be genuinely surprised, but Savages accomplishes the almost impossible.

**Silver Linings Playbook**: After a stint in a mental institution, Pat SIltono returns home to his parents and meets Tiffany, an edgy, mysterious woman with deep problems of her own. The biggest draw to this movie is its stars: Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence. They are so good at what they do, and both are already in the lead for Oscar gold. Writer and director David O. Russell (The Fighter) gives us a movie like so few others and so charming that it’s already being called the best film of the year. SLP is a gem and a film to be treasured, as it beautifully portrays two people in a desperate search for a silver lining.

**GAMES OF THE YEAR: JOHN AND THOMAS PICK THE BEST**

By Thomas Marosz and John Triplett  
Staff Writers

**Halo 4**: As the revered story of Cortana and Master Chief returns to the scene with 343 at the helm instead of Bungie, 343 starts off with a bang. Some of the most anticipated shooters of all time don’t disappoint. The graphics and visuals and the reworked sounds are интерьер and truly awesome, and don’t worry - the music is just as epic as ever (Cue opening guitar riff!). The gameplay is also outstanding as a plethora of unique new weapons serve a purpose in the amazing, heart-wrenching, and sensational campaign and its story as Chief and Cortana venture onto a mysterious Forerunner planet. There they, as an army, encounter new enemies and the new fast-paced and class-oriented multiplayer. The multiplayer is also revamped, with classes and new game types. Additionally, the new Spartan Ops mode replacing Firefight is great as it gives you the ability to maneuver like missions and lead your battle campaign enemies by yourself or with friends. Overall this game is simply amazing and the best FPS if not the best game overall of 2012.

**Call of Duty Black Ops 2**: Although Call of Duty skeptics, we believe that this game was a major improvement from the last despite the little-to-no improvement to the graphics and the silly, non-stop action movie storyline. The easy, simple game mechanics remain the same, but the futuristic approach, some new weapons, and the slightly divergent storylines change it up and break up the oh-so-similar go here, shoot this, move up, shoot them.

**Assassin’s Creed 3**: This game is very different from AC: Revelations in the added settings such as revolutionary war-time Boston, New York, and the vast wilderness surrounding those places. The story of this game is based on a young and vengeful Native American boy trying to eliminate the templars. In addition to the normal Assassin’s Creed game aspects, hunting and exploring in the wilderness, exploring underground tunnels, a lot of new weapons, and other different side missions are present, but the campaign can seem frustrating and busy at times as some missions seem to have no purpose. The multiplayer is not anything amazing, but it’s still solid with the many different game types and assassinations on AIs and other people. This game nonetheless brings a very new and fresh element to the series and is a delight to play - definitely worth buying.

**Borderlands 2**: After a while since the original Borderlands, this RPG with comic-book-like graphics finally comes out as the much-anticipated sequel. This exploring, host-finders, and comedic game is set in the fantasy world of Pandora where you essentially play the game to find good loot. Despite this main objective, the story is also great as the writing is top-notch and has something to do with the story and all the missions make sense. Additionally, the world of Pandora is huge and beautiful and a joy to explore and look at. This “ loot game” is great, but it has flaws in the occasional use of fun vehicle missions, and the sharing of loot when you play coop with friends. Despite these flaws, the game comes together to be a very successful, unique, and fun to play venture.

**NEW COVENANT**: Spartan 117 returns in Halo 4

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After a highly successful performance on campus, the cast of *The Elephant Man* went into intensive rehearsals for the show’s performance at the Tennessee Theater Association’s One-Act State Competition. On the morning of October 26th, we loaded our set, props, and costumes into an MBA bus and set off for Maryville (Murr-eh-vull), Tennessee.

The competition, hosted by MBA’s own Mr. Nelson Berry, was held at Maryville College’s Clayton Center for the Arts, and consisted of about six performances from Cordova High School, White Station High School, and Donelson Christian Academy, among others. Each school is allotted a ‘load-in’ time to set up backstage and a 15-minute ‘tech time,’ to spike set pieces, sort out lighting cues, and adjust to the size of the new stage. The Clayton Center’s stage is approximately the same size of the stage at TPAC’s Jackson Hall. Theater-etically (Ha!), the bigger the stage is, the more room there is for movement and expression, however in reality, it’s a pain for us actors because we have to work harder to fill the space and to be louder.

*The Elephant Man* was the first of the afternoon shows and went swimmingly. Performing for a panel of four judges, each school is given a 45-minute time limit, going from bare stage to bare stage. Contestants must yell ‘clear’ after removing the entire set from the stage in order to stop timing. After our show, we watched an average performance of *The Yellow Boat* by White Station High School (by ‘average’ I mean that we were all moved to tears by a story of a seven-year-old who is diagnosed with AIDS. Personally, I was a mess – it was embarrassing.). We then went out to eat and returned later that evening for what would be one of the most tense moments in the show’s history: the award ceremony.

The award for Best Actor overall went to a student at Cordova. Our wonderful cellist, Kang Huh (’15), was disappointed he didn’t win Best Actress, but we love him just the same. In addition to these two awards, the All-Star Cast List is a list recognizing the best actors from each school. Medals were given out among the six schools. While the other schools only rendered one or two mealy medals, MBA received four All-Star awards recognizing Alex Floyd (’13), Mattison Asher (’13), Alexandra Thornton (’13) and Jess Darnell (’15).

*The Yellow Boat* was selected as Runner-Up, while *The Elephant Man* won the entire state competition. Many thanks to Dr. Rick Seay for directing such a successful show! The cast of *The Elephant Man* will have an encore performance of the 45-minute show next semester before moving onto the Southeastern Theater Conference (SETC) regional competition in March of 2013.
ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: **ALEX FLOYD**  
MASTER OF THE STAGE

By Lucas Littlejohn  
Entertainment Editor

Every month, I interview a different MBA artist (or musician, performing artist, etc.) to celebrate the incredible talent of our artists on the hill. The subject of this issue’s Artist Spotlight is senior Alex Floyd. One of the most, if not the most, decorated thespians in the school, Alex’s immense acting skill brings the heat on stage with every persona he assumes.

His name has been on the head of every MBA play flyer for the past few years, and that of many Harpeth Hall plays as well. Having been inducted into Totomoi recently (I was honored to have tapped him), he is an exceptionally multidimensional student and an all-around swell guy.

**Bell Ringer:** How long have you been acting / how many plays have you been at MBA?

**Alex Floyd:** I started doing plays in 5th grade with Peter Pan at Harding, and I’ve done 23 plays at MBA and Harpeth Hall.

**BR:** What has been your favorite and least favorite play? (and why)

**AF:** My favorite play was last year’s You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown. It was just the best of all worlds, great cast, great show, and some great performances, our best being at the Southeastern Theater Conference last March. My favorite role has been John Merrick in Elephant Man. The character was such a physical and intellectual challenge. I loved it. Least favorite show would have to be Love’s Labours Lost. It was at HH and. I hated my role. It being my first time acting in high school, I was so intimidated by the other actors and terrified by the audience.

**BR:** How have you managed to juggle play practice, auditions, line memorization, rehearsals, school-night productions, etc. with an MBA curriculum?

**AF:** It’s been tough, but the key has been just utilizing study halls and free periods. It got really bad last year when I had Mock Trial too. I’d got to Twelfth Night rehearsal and then You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown, and then drive down town for Mock. I’d get home around 9:30 having done absolutely no school work. I assume it’s gonna be tough again next semester as I juggle Elephant Man, Amadeus, mock trial, and college auditions. Line memorization is something that mainly gets accomplished during rehearsals. If I’m not on stage, I’m usually running through my lines.

**BR:** What’s your favorite thing about being an actor in general? About being an MBA thespian?

**AF:** My favorite part of being an actor is spending time with the script and creating my character before I take to the stage. That’s where the art is. It’s in the process that goes unseen. The best part about being an MBA thespian is the camaraderie and collaboration. At MBA, we’re lucky to have directors who want as much student input and interaction as possible. When you see an MBA show, you see a show that is 90% student produced. We build the sets, design the sound and lights, act - obviously it’s fantastic.

**BR:** What advice would you give MBA students interested in theater?

**AF:** Just go for it. I’ve found that the key to success in MBA theater is just confidence. If you just believe in what you are doing on stage then chances are you’re going to do well. So if you want to do theater, honestly just jump right in. It’s the most welcoming group of guys on campus.

Turn to the Entertainment Section of the next issue for the first Artist Spotlight of 2013!

The Bell Ringer congratulates Dr. Seay and the MBA Theater Department for another strong showing at the TTA One-Act Competition!

JOIN The Bell Ringer to pursue GLORY with us!  
email John Mellow, George Swenson or McKay Proctor if interested
Dikembe Mutombo’s four and a half weeks to save the world!
Your Bell Ringer guide to the apocalypse

By Alex Floyd and
McKay Proctor
Staff Nostradamuses

This is, at least according to the Mayans, the last Bell Ringer ever. The end of the world is coming on December 23,2012 (Side note: great excuse for not doing your Christmas shopping; “I thought the world was going to end.”). We took it upon ourselves to prepare you for the things that Dikembe Mutombo can only hope to defend against. Just kidding. Dikembe Mutombo is going to save us all, but this is just in case he goes all ambivalent on us.

Zombies
MBA has committed the second biggest of the classic blunders. The most famous is, of course, “Never get involved in a land war in Asia.” Slightly less well-known is: “Don’t be whiting a half mile of a hospital when there is a zombie outbreak.” The logic is thus: the onset of zombie-ism appears to the untrained eye as a disease. People treat diseases in hospitals. Lots of people bitten by zombies in a hospital eventually become zombies in the hospital, then radiate to all other areas, Hills included.

Assuming the Mayans are not totally accurate, (they were doing math with calculators made out of iguanas and human heads, after all) the scenario may arise where you are at MBA during the outbreak of the coming zombie apocalypse. We will be long gone because we know the signs and have our exit procedure all planned (Suckers!). You, poor soul, are likely ill-equipped to handle the undead Armageddon, but your plan should be simple: get out of town. More specifically, get out of town going North. As far as getting off the campus goes while gathering supplies, I would steal a bicycle (not from Mr. Gillespie), raid the riflery range and the library (yes, the library: pick (not from Mr. Gillespie), raid the riflery range and the library (yes, the library: pick a machete, you should live long enough to figure out what to do with the Bible.

Something something Higgs-boson
Though we don’t fully understand the God Particle or what it means, there is probably at least one scenario where they all catch the Boson blight and die off like chestnuts. If this Wikipedia summary is not misleading, a bunch of bad stuff will happen. The only real recommendation we have is that you get your bosons vaccinated and treat them well or else your body will be disintegrated into a trillion pieces of micro particles in space-time.

Big Red Dawn
Probably not a doomsday scenario, but still a possibility. If we are attacked by Commies (although the name Big Red would make us great double agents, no?), walk around shouting “wolverines” and wait on the guy from Thor to show up. Until then, just fend them off with our superior sporting programs, high standard of living and the power of freedom.

Stankonian Alien Colonization
Our Friends the Mayans were taken down by a foreign power with superior technology, so the people of Earth might be in for the same, but from intergalactic conqueradors instead. Let’s call out new alien overlords the Stankonians. When they get here, the Stankonians will seem like any group of green men from the Eastern Atlantis galaxy. Their first album (Intergalacticinvasionderesticalofjunkymzaik) will bring humanity into their fold willingly. Their second album (4TLiens) will see them coming into their own. They will then peak with their third program, named for the constellations from which they came (Aquemini) and follow a wonderful program of oppression named after their home planet that will be a favorite at bachelorette parties and take over our radioswaves (Stankonia).

and finish it all off with their most ambitious broadcast yet and their most commercially successful (Speakerboxx/The Love Below). In case you haven’t picked up on this yet, I just made an Outkast joke.

Kanye and Kim get married
The maelstrom of paparazzi that would result would probably overreact us all to death. There is just way too much mental instability going on here; not to mention their personalities don’t really match up. He’s ambitious and artistic, and she’s famous for being O.J.’s lawyer’s daughter and appearing on America’s Funniest Home Videos. All we’re saying is, the sheer potential for an explosion of media surrounding this couple could possibly derail the Earth. That’s how it works, right?

Mr. Gaither leaves Wallace Hall.
Oh wait...oh no... We’re doomed.

MBA Robotics Club world domination.
Yes, everyone, it’s over. MBA has given itself over to robots. We’ve all seen I-Robot. We know the struggle that Will Smith endured in order to save Chicago from robotic take over. Is that really what we want here at our home? I-Robot 2: Gentleman Scholar Artificial. The way I see it, it’s only a matter of time until the brand spanking new robotics lab by the library turns into home base for an army of destructive automata determined to exterminate our race.

Mr. Pruitt creates medicince resistant diseases that circulate the world.
This might be the most likely of any end of the world scenarios. 1. Mr. Pruitt is a mad scientist genius. 2. With the amount of students we send abroad each year we can easily spread this disease to the rest of the world. 3. I believe in biology freshman year we actually did this. Just imagine Mr. Pruitt screaming “YOWZA!” atop your throne of world domination. So much puddle stomping. So much puddle stomping.

Well, gentlemen, that’s all we got. Now it’s your turn to stock up on subpar nonperisible food and crossbow ammunition! Godspeed.

I SAID NO!: Dikembe saves us from the A-Kimye-clypse

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