Basketball season ends in surprise semis run

By Davis Lovvorn
Asst. Features Editor

After a slow start to the season, the Big Red basketball squad, led by head coach Kevin Anglin, elevated their level of play to finish on a strong note.

MBA ended the season with a record of 14-14, something especially impressive considering they started the season with an 0-6 record in conference play. The Big Red won six of their last seven conference regular season games, with the only loss coming against Ensworth, 78-73.

Perhaps what keyed the late-season run was a buzzer-beater by Kamani Hodges against Brentwood Academy. Down big in the second half, the Big Red played with a sense of desperation and fought back from its large deficit. Losing by one point with time expiring, Hodges launched a contested three-pointer that found the bottom of the net, giving the Big Red a 56-54 win.

The game against BA was the Big Red’s first conference win of the season. They never looked back. Said senior center Tom Kaiser, “Once we got that buzzer-beater win against BA, we started playing.

Show Intel
Adam Bowman’s perfect pun

By Matt Miccoli
Staff Writer

Placing third in the Intel Science Talent Search in Washington, DC, Adam Bowman reached a fitting conclusion to his science fair career, in what is widely regarded as the most prestigious academic competition of any kind open to high school students.

Adam developed a simple apparatus for confining and studying plasmas at low costs. Pulsed plasma sources are typically large and complex, making them impractical for portable applications and small-scale research.

His approach uses low-voltage electronics to achieve the same confinement and plasma characteristics as conventional devices. He also developed a fiber-optics system for tracking the plasma’s movement using inexpensive, off-the-shelf components.

The Science Talent Search selects 40 finalists, all of whom are awarded $7,500 for qualifying, from a pool of 300 semi-finalists, based on their project and research. However, the final evaluation of the 40 finalists is an assessment of their potential as future scientists in conjunction with scientific advancements.

This year was the first ever that Tennessee students advanced to the national competition. The competitors were provided >> BOWMAN, 4

Poverty Symposium a resounding success

By Aaron Kaplan
Staff Writer

Over spring break two students, Adam Biesman and Chris Habermann, accompanied by Mr. Sawyer, Mr. Quinn, and Mr. Giota, represented MBA and the United States at the annual International Symposium. This year’s symposium focused on the topic of poverty and was hosted at the African Leadership Academy in Johannesburg, South Africa - a fitting location to experience the contrast between wealth and extreme poverty.

Throughout the week, Adam and Chris explored the issue of poverty through speeches, discussions, essays, and hands-on experiences. Upon their Sunday arrival, the ten participating schools (including the familiar Winchester College and Raffles Institute) were welcomed by the African Leadership Academy with a speech from one of its founders and an opening ceremony presented by the school. The group rested up before the second day’s activities.

Day 2 - Monday - began with a talk from Mr. James Mwangi about his plans for relieving poverty. Another discussion followed - this one about solutions to poverty. In response to the morning’s activities, school groups then worked on refining and writing their essays.

Day 4 - Wednesday - was comprised of two speakers and a hands-on activity exploring distribution of resources.

Day 5 - Thursday - featured a trip to Kliptown and a discussion activity known as “fishbowl talks.” During this visit to Kliptown (a township with 45,000 people and no electricity), students got to viewing of the film “Dear Mandela.”

Day 3 - Tuesday - included leadership activities and a talk from Mr. James Mwangi about his plans for relieving poverty. Another discussion followed - this one about solutions to poverty. In response to the morning’s activities, school groups then worked on refining and writing their essays.

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KICKING AND SCREAMING
Breaking down Big Red soccer’s sweeping attack

The state of creativity at MBA

<< BASKETBALL, 14

SUP, ARNE?: Adam exchanges the secrets to a well-rounded post game with Secretary of Education and basketball junkie Arne Duncan. Just kidding, they talked about how much they hate books.

COURTESY OF ADAM BOWMAN

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Symposium offers poverty perspectives

>> SYMPOSIUM 1 hear from the Executive Director of the Kliptown Youth Program and a former CNN Hero. His program is a youth-support program that works in the impoverished Kliptown community. Student visitors were able to see a dancing performance by KYP youth. MBA junior Adam Biesman told me that although he was nervous about the visit, he was welcomed warmly and left Kliptown with an entirely new perspective. There was an ensuing discussion activity that afternoon.

On Day 6 - Friday - the Symposium heard from a former Deputy President of South Africa (the equivalent of an American Vice-President) and teachers then gave presentations. Students were then divided into groups that would create an accord - a propositional solution to poverty at the international level. Adam Biesman was elected the chairperson of the accord writing assembly. Along with these group accords, each school was responsible for its own separate declaration. A final banquet, the contributors, each participating school group works on their own local project to further explore the issue at hand. This year, Adam and Chris will be partnering with The Contributor because of its progress in relieving local poverty. In general, Adam believes that MBA students should "take a step back" before examining their hardships. Because of our status as citizens in a privileged country and community, our hardships might be comparable to the wealthy or middle class of another country.

Adam and Chris both extremely enjoyed the experience and encourage as many people as possible to apply for next year’s Symposium, which will be held in Prague and will focus on culture, arts, and architecture. Not only do participants explore a specific topic very intimately, but they have opportunities to meet people from all around the world and appreciate many different cultures. According to Adam and Chris, "the preparation is challenging but it is worth the experience."
**Worth his Wade in Gold**

Mock Trial team rallies around coach to reach second in State

By Sam Weisen
Business Manager

In late February, the MBA mock trial team led by alumnus Mr. Wade Cowan traveled to the Municipal Courthouse downtown to participate in the Middle Tennessee regional mock trial competition. After a year of preparation and a day full of both law and order, MBA’s top team took first place, while the second team grabbed third.

In a mock trial round, one school acts as the plaintiffs while the other school acts as the defendants. Each team presents an opening statement, interrogates three of its own witnesses, cross-examines the other team’s witnesses, and ends with a closing argument. The jury for each round consists of three local attorneys who rate each presentation on a ten-point scale. The student-lawyers are judged on how well they know the case and how well they are able to use objections to further their arguments. Student-witnesses are judged on their ability to handle cross-examination questions and how believably and interestingly they portray their characters.

The team has been meeting since the beginning of the school year, preparing for the competition. In the beginning, each student receives a role or roles to play in the case. Then the team begins to learn not only the witness testimony and the structure of the case, but also the questions used for both cross and direct examination. Around two weeks before the date of the competition, the team travels to the courthouse in order to rehearse in the legal setting.

MBA’s mock trial teams have consistently done well in the competition since its inception in 1988. This year marks a three-peat for the team in the Davidson County competition, but they have won it six other times before this streak. Additionally, the team won the state competition in 1993 and 1995, as well as finishing second in 1990 and 1992.

Building off of last year’s sixth place finish, the top mock trial team attended the state competition once again in Nashville. Senior leaders John Mellow, McKay Proctor, Benjamin Haynes, Bradley Long and Christian Sargent guided the rest of the team with their many years of mock-trial experience.

Rounding out the squad were Aaron Kaplan, Clay Andreen, Cole Campbell, Armand Jhala, and Chris Burrus. The team was poised for success in the upcoming state competition, and they lived up to the expectations. The team achieved a second place finish to the Kingsport Area Christian Home Education Association, and McKay Proctor won the award for the top defense witness in the state.

According to Mr. Cowan, “This year’s team is the most experienced and talented team from top to bottom that I have ever coached. It is a very motivated and dedicated group.”

Even though the valuable seniors will not be on the team next year, the MBA mock trial team will have the foundation to once again have a great season.

**Department news roundup**

By John Triplett
Staff Writer

The academic departments are becoming increasingly active as they enter the last quarter of the school year. Here is the major news coming from each department.

In the Mathematics Department, many students recently took the AMC, and four of them— seniors Hunter Tidwell and Jake Simons and freshmen Alvin Zhang and Tony Ding— qualified for and took the next test, the AIME, on March 14. Mrs. Qian and her MathCounts team also competed in the State MathCounts competition over Spring Break, winning the competition, with Mrs. Qian advancing to coach and Tony Huang advancing to compete at the national competition. In Interscholastic Math League competitions, MBA finished strong, taking first in Calculus, Geometry and Algebra II and second in Algebra I. MBA will defend its championship in five of six categories at the State Math Contest.

In the Language Department, the Wilson Grants have been distributed to students and will allow many recipients to go all over the world, from China to Colombia to Rome, to study language and immerse themselves in cultures. Others will attend immersion camps around the US as well. Over spring break, some of the Latin scholars of the Classics Club competed in the Junior Classical League Competition in Murfreesboro.

Of course, the Arts Department has a very busy spring with the event of the semester, Endada, coming up on April 27th. One Act plays directed by Dr. Fuller’s theater class are in preparation and a student art show will open in late April. The singers of the Chamber Choir will be performing in the State Choral Competition in late April. The department kicked off this busy time with the huge successes that were the competition one-act, The Elephant Man, at SETC in Louisville and the Full Moon Film Festival. Additionally, the department has met with architects about the transformation of the old dining hall area into new music space.

**Fitness tests in second semester prove controversial**

By Wesley Jenkins
Staff Writer

With the start of the spring season, once again each grade collectively has to get up early on a Friday morning to test fitness. As many wonder, why is it required to do this twice? Why do in-season athletes need to be tested? Or just why do general do they have to perform this monotonous and unproductive burden? The test is not as inane as it seems. According to Mr. O’Neal it has a much higher purpose.

The Presidential Physical Fitness test is a nationwide test of fitness that requires a student to complete tests in push ups, sit ups, shuttle run, v-sit, and a mile run. These five tests are geared towards testing upper body strength, core strength, agility, flexibility, and endurance respectively. Even though many wonder if the test is actually a true measurement of fitness, Mr. O’Neal believes that it is better suited as a comparison because “fitness can be broadly defined due to factors such as physiology.”

By requiring the fitness test, MBA is able to track students’ progress through the year. As Mr. O’Neal says, “the test itself may not be a great judge of fitness, but the repetition of the test allows for the student to see if his fitness is progressing over time.”

Since the Presidential Physical Fitness test is widely used, the athletic department sees it most fitting to use it for the school’s purposes of repetitive evaluation. As for the increased testing in recent years, the spring repetition has always been in the plans; the time just wasn’t there. Because the school’s motto is “Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete,” MBA feels compelled to apply each part to the entire student body, even with the athletic requirement. As a whole, Mr. O’Neal says, “The fitness tests have gotten better since the introduction of the second test.”

This increasing trend toward success on the fitness test also shows the increasing health of MBA as a whole. With required sports and awareness of healthy eating, the school as a whole is much healthier than before these policies were mandated.

As Coach O’Neal said, “Different sports require different tests of fitness, so a general test is also needed as a baseline.”

Yet many students still wonder why they must take a second fitness test even if they have been in a sport all year and possibly have already taken a test specific to the sport. Here Mr. O’Neal believes that taking the test of a class is important; the “competition” of the test allows for camaraderie that building up a strong class. With this justification, the school will continue fitness testing students in the second semester.

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**Lawyer up**

Lawyers John Mellow, Benjamin Haynes and Aaron Kaplan prepare for a round (left), the team accepts its award (top right), star witness McKay Proctor in action (bottom right)

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**Courtesy of the Tennessee Bar Association**
Seniors delight in the return of Intramurals

By Michael Piana
Staff Writer

The spring season at MBA has for some teams featured two athletics options for students to relax and enjoy the last quarter of school. Many people have participated in the senior season off and intramurals, but recently the availability of these options has shrunk. The school decided to alter the system this spring to keep seniors occupied and contributing to the school.

The senior season off is not, as Coach O’Neal says, actually a season off. To be able to avoid athletics in the spring, seniors must be working on another project, whether at school or in private. Having a job, working on the theater productions, or playing on a travel team are some of the activities seniors can do in lieu of an athletic credit, but they must be approved by Coach O’Neal and the school.

Despite the loss of the season off, seniors can still enjoy intramurals, which is now an option only for seniors. Underclassmen now have to spend the spring in weights and running if they do not play a sport. The change will prevent the overcrowding that intramurals sometimes faces and will allow the seniors to enjoy the last weeks of their time at MBA playing basketball together.

Some people might think that the new rules for intramurals and the season off may be too strict, but they are designed to help the school and the students. These rules could be tweaked more in the future, but they have already shown a positive impact and increased participation in the spring season.
SCOTT PORTIS, MBA CLASS OF 1984 AND OWNER OF MOE’S, SAYS:

ROLL, RED, ROLL!

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(HILL CENTER)
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VANDERBILT:
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615-320-0001

WE CATER!
BIG AND SMALL EVENTS CALL THE MOE’S CATERING HOTLINE
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FEED THE MOEMENT™
The BLUE Corner: Expanded Gun Control Stems Deaths

By Bradley Long
Staff Writer

4400. A huge number when talking about deaths. It represents the number of U.S. troops killed in seven years of war in Iraq. 5000, an even bigger number, however, is the number of people killed on average in two months by guns in the United States.

Whether we want to admit it or not, we have a gun violence problem in our country. The problem is complex, far reaching, and difficult to quantify. The most visible manifestation of this violence occurs in the mass shootings that plague the nation sporadically.

For weeks we see the names and faces plastered on news until they fail to register at all. However terrible they may be, the real issue lies not in this types of event. These instances constitute a small piece of the 30,000 Americans killed each year with guns, with far more killed on a day-to-day basis.

Today, gun violence is on pace to overtake car accidents as the leading cause of injury-related death in the U.S. by 2015. Think about that. You will be more likely to be shot and killed than to die in a car wreck. This problem can no longer be ignored.

The relationship between gun ownership and gun deaths cannot be denied. Violence exists everywhere in the world with rates of violence differing little among our peer nations, Australia, Canada, the UK, etc. However, where we fail to live up to these standards is in the rate of gun deaths.

Every developed nation in the world has a gun death rate less than half that of America’s. Why do we stand out so much from our peers?

A study from the Harvard School of Public Health has shown that it may be connected to the extremely high level of gun ownership - over 85 guns per 100 people in the U.S. Even excluding the outlier data of the United States, there is a clear relationship between gun ownership and gun homicides.

Still, the majority of gun deaths in the U.S. come not from homicide but from suicide and accident. So the problem is just carelessness and suicide, right? Wrong. Surprise, surprise…Guns actually make accidents much more likely to happen.

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The data supports the claim that guns lead to gun deaths, the proposals are there for sensible gun control, and public opinion supports these measures. So why is this still an issue?

In our politics today, we have one side proposing a possible solution, and one side refusing to listen to the people they serve.

These measures won’t pass without bipartisan support, but at the moment the GOP refuses to even join the discussion, choosing instead to cover its ears and ignore the problem.

I won’t say that these gun control efforts will stop gun violence entirely. However, if we don’t even make an attempt to solve this problem, we will have failed mightily.

Regardless of political affiliation, the evidence leads to one overwhelming conclusion: it’s time to admit we have a problem. A gun problem.

The RED Corner: Don’t Blame Firearms for Violence

By Michael Milam
Staff Writer

Firearms are not the reason we have mass killings. They are not the reason we have crime in our cities, nor are they the reason for murder. They prevent crime and killing.

If a man had the intent to commit a mass-murder, where would he go? He would go to a place, such as a school or mall, in which guns are not permitted. These “no-gun zones” do nothing except invite crime. Guns help the populace protect itself from killers and other criminals.

A gun is nothing more than a weapon. Weapons can kill, sure, but all weapons can kill. Scissors are effective weapons. Bombs make just as good a weapon. As we learned from the game Clue, even ropes, candlesticks, and wrenches can be used as weapons.

Should we take measures to make schools “no scissors zones?” They don’t really foster a good learning environment, do they? Cars kill people too, so shouldn’t we ban cars, as it would save so many lives?

As Vice President Joe Biden told us, “If your actions result in only saving one life, they’re worth taking.” However, just as cars are critical to our lifestyle, guns are critical to our self-defense. America already has a high gun owning population.

The point: all liberties need protection. So, how do we protect the rights of the people to keep and bear arms, so they the reason for murder. They prevent crime and killing.

The answer: it is not the government’s job to dictate to the people what the people need.

The people have certain unalienable rights. If the government took away all things the populace did not “need,” it would have, a fool’s life indeed. How would reducing the bullets per magazine count help in any way? Mass-killers would just have to reload more often, a task that takes less than three seconds.

Banning assault rifles is also a foolish measure. Many people cite Sandy Hook as a reason for banning assault weapons, but Connecticut already had an assault weapons ban in place since 1993. Though the ban was present, the shooter’s mother’s guns were legal.

The point: all liberties need regulation, but guns are already well regulated. The real issue in the gun debate shouldn’t be guns at all. It should be a debate about our culture of violence, and how the media glorifies these killings. All one can watch on Fox News or CNN for weeks afterward is coverage of a mass murder.

We should be looking for ways in which we can reform our psychological health policies and how to deal with unstable people from doing these awful deeds. Guns are not the problem. People who wield the guns, however, are.
--- Editorial ---

Department reshuffling presents opportunity for an overhaul

As the campus settles into a new normal and the pizza oven becomes old news (that day is coming, believe it or not), the spirit of improvement on this campus could easily wane. In terms of heavy lifting, this campus is going to be quiet for the first time in a while. The reshuffling of space following the exodus of the history department to the new building and the inauguration of the new dining facilities (and the new Panini press, the early MVP of the move) has seen opportunities to expand from within. The arts and language departments have finally found some space to stretch out. That much is an improvement, but even that may not be enough. For two “non-SAT” subjects it might be justifiable to open the new space and classrooms and just move on, but this is an opportunity to cement the legacy of this space of expansion as a boon for the entire community and prepare us for the global experience of the MBA of the future.

Two things that transcend parochial ignorance are art and language. A student that can create (be that musically or physically) can meet anyone in the world on equal footing. A bilingual person can be an even better ambassador, communicating fluently without respect to nationality. A push for an overhaul of these facilities would obviously help make the campus well rounded, but more importantly it would cement the international reputation of the school.

Our collective quality as an institution can be potent, but if we fail to communicate that on the world stage, what’s it worth?

Clearly in the past, both of these departments have been blessed with resources, most notably the omnipresent Wilson Grants. The precedent for an investment on this scale in these departments is therefore well established. It’s debatable that the largest ripples of the Wilson programs have really been felt yet. These positive international experiences made possible by the school and the Wilson family are bound to both breed successful men in the student body and invite donation of the spoils of that success. All of this is to say, the money the school puts into these programs now, especially at this critical juncture in its (and the world’s) history will likely come back tenfold. Financing the overhaul would obviously be the critical question, but when the school can better prepare possible donors for a global economy with foreign cultural literacy, who could doubt the intelligence of the decision?

The crux of this new push may be moving this student body further and further away from the stereotype of the ugly American. Not that a second language and an understanding of art can fix our facial features or remove our accents – that much is here to stay. The best possible version of the school and the version that would be best presented on an international stage would be that which invests in the arts and languages now as a cornerstone for the future.

--- Letters to the Editor ---

As we become one of the premier private schools in the nation, we have begun to focus on how we represent ourselves. We have tried to distance our image from Southern traditions, even erasing some of the most basic symbols of Southern heritage, and instead present ourselves as an insulated academic institution. As a school, we have realized how these symbols can tarnish our reputation, but we haven’t overlooked one of the most basic pieces of our image: our name.

Montgomery Bell, the namesake of the school, was a steel magnate who built his business on the back of slave labor. He was an extraordinarily vicious slave-owner, and was known for the ferocity with which he would hunt down runaways. Bell was also known for frequenting brothels, and often forced himself upon his own slaves. Bell was rumored to have over eighty children, even though he never married. His actions were so atrocious that other slave owners ostracized him because they thought he was too barbarous.

This information is unknown by both students and faculty alike, and while information about Ms. Lowry and Mr. Massey is prominently displayed on campus, information about Bell has been completely erased from the campus. I figured that maybe this information had been forgotten, but when I talked to administrators all of them knew about Bell’s past.

The administrators told me that the only reason we keep Bell’s name is because we don’t want to violate the terms of Bell’s endowment; an endowment we’ve already violated multiple times. Bell’s original charter dictated that MBA would be a school for underprivileged boys who can’t afford to go to school, a stipulation we’ve clearly broken.

Even if we did violate Bell’s charter it would only cost us three hundred thousand dollars, a sum that pales in comparison to the thirty million plus we spent on the new dining hall.

To be fair, Bell did renounce slavery later in life, but it hardly rectifies his previous actions. It’s like a murderer repenting after he kills: while it may be a kind gesture, it doesn’t exonerate him.

Bell also freed his slaves for all the wrong reasons. His family had been distant, and only started to show up when they realized they could increase their inheritance. Bell decided to give them the middle finger and send off a big part of their inheritance to Liberia.

Knowing this, we should change the name of the school to reflect the school’s new image. The new name should oppose what Bell stood for, and, instead of setting up a competitive bidding process, we should name the school after someone who changed history for the better. We should represent the positive side of Southern heritage and name the school after a Southern agitator for human rights. A re-naming would help bring publicity to our school and bring us one step closer to becoming one of the premier private schools in the nation.

-Rahul Ramanna
By Wells Hamilton
Live from China

Denney Lackey unfortunately failed to rally a two-time victory for the Great Gatz, and he is looking forward to riding in the front seat of the limo. In preparations for the big dance, many juniors brainstormed creative ways of asking their dates. Adam Biesman prepared a brief, rhetorical speech outlining in five key areas the potential benefits of going to prom with him. RQ has given the speech a 9.8/10.

Luke Cochran on the other hand plans on spelling out “PROM?” with dead geese on his date’s front lawn. For those old fashioned–romantics, Ridley Wills still embraces the classic approach of galloping into his date’s front lawn–rooe in his mouth–hurdling over various obstacles in his path.

Nowadays, it seems you can’t go a day (much less an entire class period) without hearing at least twice about the potential benefits of going to prom with someone. RQ will find himself asking “who’s comin’” to which he will respond “My bad, dawg. My bad.”

Braden “Braydo” Welborn and Nick Trudgen will ask “what’s comin’” with them (man) to college, and the answer may surprise you. Brandon Carpenter will find himself unable to take off his bow tie and thus gain automatic admission into the University of Virginia.

During his freshman year, Tejas Reddy may eventually merge his soul with the spirit of Television, conversing with his classmates only in quotes from The Wire. Breaking Bad, and The Walking Dead. “If you come at the king, ya best not miss.”

But above all college activities the class of 2014 will do, one in particular stands out: business.

Ben Chen, a businessinesser of business, swept the business competition with his impeccable knowledge of private jet interiors and silk ties. You know, business things.

Tarun Mallipedi, on the other hand, was tripped up by the “checking into five star hotels,” part of the business competition.

The Bell Ringer wishes all of its entrepreneurs luck in whatever business they business into.

Sophomores begin their Slide, a lot of Proust
By Owen Powell
Staff-a-half

Spring Break 2013 seems to have been a good relaxing time to rage face. Similar to most years a large portion of the class made their way down to Florida while, following suit, Adam Porten stayed in Nashville with pretty much no one except David Bright. Apparently Chatham Dobbs didn’t feel like going fishing this break. (Moment of silence. Thanks.)

One student spent his spring break crediting that faculty member at MBA who played wide receiver in the NFL for his numerous accomplishments. No, not Coach Sanders, silly! Check the MBA Wikipedia page under the “Debate and forensics” section for a shocker.

Jay Thomas has become an Instagram phenom over the break taking some truly spectacular pictures as he went serving in the Dominican Republic.

Zach Roberts and Harrison Lien enjoyed some horns - whatever that is. They were some of the sophomores that went to London. Dirty Davis Luster can’t figure out his lady situation... too many options... so little time. Mac Mackey is there to help you along that way.

Joseph Downey has been awarded Man of the Month by the Sophomore Class Committee for Excellence which is comprised of myself, Owen Powell, and imagined himself saying, “Let’s change the subject from Duke basketball to something else.”

Clark Hooks will serve as a short-tempered coach of a club lacrosse team that will go on to do club lacrosse things.

Tristan Chari will be fined numerous dollars for tracking rice all over his dorm building, to which he will respond “My bad, dawg. My bad.”

As we approach the fourth quarter, many freshmen are ready to throw in the towel. Some, on the other hand, are still doing great things.

First off, congrats to William Hall for winning the freshman speech competition, and to everyone else who participated, especially Andy Zhu and his two guns.

As I am writing this, I can see that Jack King, Brodie Poe, and Connor Downey are all putting up pictures of themselves on Instagram. It is pretty unfortunate if you ask me. Because I’m writing this article before spring break, I don’t know what this crew got themselves into, but I am very sure that Connor will have some awesome stories for all to hear, and all of them will be complete lies, as usual.

Speaking of Connor, the hockey team had great success this year, partly due to the play of freshmen Jack Malone, Will Beasley, and Sam Smith.

Also speaking of Jack Malone, his new car is pretty sweet- it has a duck sticker on the back and mud on the tires. The only problem is that it is not “lifted.”

Now that spring sports are underway, the freshman class is ready to showcase their talent on the field.

Winston Hewitt, Parker Bryan, Hunter Hamilton, Sam Rhodes, Joe Scowden, and others look to dominate on the baseball field this spring for the JV baseball team while Jack Silbers, John Kelly, Phelps Gambill, Brinton Hoover, Alec Vest, Charlie Bailey, George Lazenthal, and many more look to have a great season on the JV lacrosse team.

Several members of our class are showing out on varsity teams this season. Shout out to Cole Cross for baseball, Will Emerson and Chase Meluch for soccer, David Wise, Taylor Asher, and Ben Graves for lacrosse, and Richard Baker for tennis.

Again, because I’m writing pre-Spring Break, I can’t say exactly what went down over the break. I would, however, like to offer a few base predictions:

Taylor Asher went skiing and it was so cold in his room because the heat broke that he had to spend the night in the utility closet. Daniel Bishop used his independent study break to the fullest. Sam Smith studied abroad, and Winston Hewitt stopped by to see Sam and said howdy.

Yavin Alwis put the team on his back. I’m pretty confident in that last one. I’ll go ahead and lock it in as a fact.

Don’t throw in the towel quite yet, gents, not when we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. I mean, we only have, like, thirty-five more exams before we graduate… never mind. Let’s pack it in.
Seniors study hard, slide harder

By Mac Daddy H
Senior Purveyor of Fine Playground Equipment

What is it now? Like fifty days till we graduate? It’s got to be fewer than thirty days of class, or some number close to that. I’m not sure what you want me to take from that, but it still amazes me that after the years we’ve spent here on the Hill, the end is just a hop-skip away.

Anyways, the seniors have been doing some awesome stuff lately. Alex Floyd was named to the All-Star Cast at the SETC one act competition a few weeks back, and several other seniors thespians turned in some great performances as well. Milton Hamwee and John Mellow keep rolling in the debate world and nonchalantly present giant plates and trophies and plaques like it’s nothing, and Galen Bullington had his first major art show. Oh and our resident poster boy, Adam Bowman, is doing some awesome stuff lately.

Just about everyone has some success to boast these days, i.e. Mattison Asher, with his newly refurbished head of hair, got the girl at Smoothie King’s number like it was nothing.

With the winter season in the books, I want to congratulate every senior for all the hard work they put in and the results, but a special shout out goes to the athlete for the state championship hockey game right before spring break, notching four goals and doubling the opposition’s goal tally by himself.

On the good stuff. Nick Green turned 18 weeks back elatedly and declared via social media how pumped he was to have the legal right to destroy his mind, body, and soul with various practices prohibited to minors. Reed Cothron is psyched, and a little less sarcastically so, about writing, directing, and editing the thirty minute movie he’s doing for the one acts. In news that’s really not news to anyone, Jack Wagster, by his own report, pulls.

Presumably because he can’t convince anyone to buy those sick “Roll Red” shades, Christian Sargent has been charged with treason and threatened with impeachment as class treasurer by Mr. Webb. In a preemptive strike, Sargent is calling any and all willing troops to join him in a coup d’etat of the administration. Violent-rebellion style.

J. Carlton Smith fell in love while down in Oxford, MS, on a college visit. Trip Adams, after a long stint on crutches that was a result of a particularly nasty trampoline accident, is back on the track in lighting-fast form.

Will McFadden is having a terrible time in Diplomacy. In slightly related news, Mattison Asher is a dirty, lying, cheating, filthy piece of scum. Will exhots, “Does honor mean nothing anymore?”

Hamwizzle Millwee just comes and goes as he pleases in Anatomy, but Penn Murfee has yet to notice. Guys, come on. Oohohohoo.

I SAID RAAAAAAA-BERT: Robert Papel and Robert Kelly: Separated at birth? The Bell Ringer will leave it to the people to decide.
“I love Dr. Gluck!”
-Spanky the Ewok, *The Bell Ringer*’s mascot

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History by the book

The Bell Ringer in Ridley Wills’ Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete.

By Aaron Kaplan
Staff Writer

Every issue, the Bell Ringer staff strives to bring you, the students, faculty and friends of MBA, the most accurate form of news from the Hill. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Bell Ringer, and it is at this time that we’ll take a look back at “the Bell Ringer through the years” as depicted in Ridley Wills II’s Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete.

The Bell Ringer is the first and practically only student newspaper in MBA’s history. In October of 1943, the first issue of the M.B.A. News was released. That school year, the M.B.A. News was edited by a son of an MBA trustee, but did not survive with that title for long.

In October of 1944, the Bell Ringer was first put into circulation. It followed the M.B.A. News as MBA’s student-run publication and released nine issues total throughout the 1944-45 school year. The first editor-in-chief of the official Bell Ringer was a student by the name of Nelson Andrews. The naming of the yearbook The Bell in its second year helped to establish the advent of long-lasting student publications.

As it does now, the Bell Ringer served as a voice for student opinion. Gus Kuhn III, an active participant in student publications, discussed the presence of the arts at MBA in the March 1968 issue of the Bell Ringer. Although MBA had an art course and a chorus, “Kuhn argued that it was ironic that a school as academically superior as MBA should remain so culturally inferior.” Advocating art education, Kuhn expressed that no one “can truly claim a full education without some knowledge of the history of art, such as the French Impressionist Movement; nor can he be adequately cultured without at least some appreciation for classical music, for instance Bach or Tchaikovsky.”

On the Hill today, cultural life is much more significant than at the time of Kuhn’s article in 1968, with Jazz Band, Chorus, Studio Art, Orchestra and a multitude of other artistic opportunities.

Another example of unrestrained opinion appears in the March 1972 issue of the Bell Ringer, which posed the question: “Can You Beat the Draft?” The “draft” referred to the Vietnam War draft. The article discussed the conscientious objector status, medical excuses, jail time, and Canada as options for avoiding the draft. A writer discussed the option of

By the Numbers: Titles of Teachers

By Ian Scholer
Staff Writer

Here on the Hill, we have the privilege of learning from some of the most unique teachers, and now more than ever this motley squad take on different titles. The number of teachers addressed as the traditional “Mr.” is dwindling, almost down to 50% of all male teachers. When you put that into perspective, it means that almost half of the male teachers have taken on new titles to suit their foreign language, position at the school, PhD, and other categories. For many of the teachers here, the title has become part of their identity and part of what makes them so unique. If you mention “Mr. Carr” in a conversation, people will most likely look at you confused, then ask if you mean “Commander Carr,” his Navy title. While not in active service, Cdr. Carr fittingly retains his military title as a teacher today. It just seems right that one of the most disciplinary teachers in the school is addressed as a military commander. Cdr. Carr explains that in his second year teaching, his students decided to call him by his military title, because that is what fits him. Of course, there are some teachers who have chosen to drop their military title. Mr. Gaither, for example, was a bomber pilot in Vietnam. He could very easily be called Capt. Gaither, or Coach Gaither for all his years of coaching wrestling and track. He has decided to drop his titles when he stopped performing his military and coaching duties and move on to his next phase of life. In Coach Lanier’s case, however, it would be very difficult to call the man who gave many years of his life to and still proudly wears the jacket of MBA Soccer every day anything other than “Coach.” Below is a pie chart of the various titles of male faculty and staff at MBA.

WHAT A SWELL PAPER: The humble origins of the Bell Ringer in Mr. Wills’ book

ROTC. Mr. Wills makes the interesting observation that “MBA alumni have a long, proud tradition of service in the United States armed forces, but the school was not immune to concerns over America’s involvement in Vietnam.” It is apparent that the Bell Ringer, as it is now, was a vent for student opinions of all sorts - both formally acceptable and questionable. An issue in 1970 featured a student-strike joke, a 1981 issue featured a letter-to-the-editor insulting the headmaster, and a 1982 issue featured a candid student-perspective on “poor college placement performance.”

The Bell Ringer today has evolved immensely from its beginnings, tackling new, current topics, but it still values student opinion as its driving force. Freedom of press is a privilege students at MBA have not hesitated to take advantage of for many years.

GENTLEMAN, SCHOLAR, ATHLETE IS AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY.
From 2000 on, Big Red football has produced some of the most successful teams in MBA history. With state titles and a number of different accolades to claim, this decade had some fantastic football players who not only had outstanding statistical seasons but were also leaders among their teammates. So without further ado, here is our best attempt to assemble the best team from the past decade of football:

**QB: Ingle Martin** - Needless to say, this could’ve been one of the easier choices for the All-Decade team. As a junior, Martin completed 97 out of 140 passes for 1,450 and 14 touchdowns. He went on to a larger role in the offense during his senior season as he completed 62 of 137 passes for 964 yards and seven touchdowns while also rushing for 935 yards. He went 6 for 9 when attempting field goals, making a school record 56-yard field goal. From his sophomore to senior year, Martin won three consecutive state titles amid a 32 game-winning streak and helped MBA to two top 25 rankings in the final 1999 and 2000 USA Today polls.

**OL: Andrew Wilson** - A standout center for the Big Red, Andrew Wilson was a key cog in the offensive lines for the 2001 and 2002 teams. He blocked for great runners like Michael Koban and helped the 2001 team, led by Ingle Martin, to a huge state championship. Wilson went on to play for Princeton.

**OL: Kevin Carr** - Being a big offensive lineman, Kevin Carr could often be seen opening huge holes for Fitz Lassing and Tyler Franks during the 2009 season. Carr regularly utilized his size to win battles out on the edge at tackle as he would dominate opponents from snap to whistle. After his career at MBA, Kevin walked-on to the football team at Notre Dame and still plays today for Brian Kelly.

**TE: Tom Santi** - As one of the few draftees from MBA, it’s hard to keep Tom Santi off the list. He was one of Michael Fisher’s favorite targets in 2003 catching 37 passes for 337 and three touchdowns during one of MBA’s best seasons. After his high school career, Santi continued on to Virginia and later to the NFL.

**DL: Ben Daniel** - With all of the great talent from the 2005 defensive line, Daniel was one of the most consistent for the Big Red. Racking up 44 tackles, 10.5 tackles for loss, and nine sacks, Ben was a consistent and significant contributor to the MBA defense and will be remembered as one of the best linemen for the Big Red.

**OL: Matt Bubis** - Coming from the inside of the line, Matt Bubis was a dominant lineman for MBA. During both his junior and senior seasons, Bubis accumulated more than 80 tackles, 15 tackles for loss, and 10 sacks. His stats alone are telling of a playmaker at defensive tackle as he racked up some of the most impressive stats of any defensive lineman for MBA.

**DL: Matt Bubis** - As a part of one of the best teams MBA has ever seen, Reggie Ford was a major contributor to the 2007 and 2008 defenses. Reggie played exclusively in the secondary for the Big Red and quickly became a force as a junior breaking up ten passes and making over 20 tackles. In his senior year, he was the staple for the defense. Opposing offenses threw away from Reggie. He ended up with four interceptions and five passes broken up along with a few key forced fumbles.

**DB: Reggie Ford** - Like Ingle, Moses started on all the “three-peat” championship teams in the late 1990s. His speed to the ball and bone crushing tackles were his trademarks. Moses’ coaches often said his hits were such “thuds” they sounded different from other tackles. After MBA, Osemwegie went on to Furman and later to the NFL.

**LB: Ben Bartholomew** - Even though most remember Bartholomew for his hard blocking at fullback, his presence at linebacker was equally felt during the 2006 and 2007 seasons. Over the course of his junior and senior seasons, he racked up 83 tackles, nine tackles for loss, and two sacks. After an impressive run at MBA, Bartholomew now plays fullback at the University of Tennessee.

**LB: Moses Osemwegie** - A true playmaker for the Big Red secondary, Wade made countless plays during the 2007 championship season. With big plays during key moments, Nathan had 39 tackles, intercepted six passes, and broke up seven passes. After MBA, he went on to Furman where he started as a freshman and had a fantastic career.
Eights E.G. Vinsang- Throughout the 2007 state championship season, E.G. Vinsang was the star of the Big Red offense, rushing for nearly 1400 yards and 15 touchdowns as he charmed out game-changing plays throughout the course of the season. Part of a dynamic backfield with Christian Waddey (1033 yards, nine TDs) and Ben Bartholomew (500 yards, three TDs at FB), Vinsang was the leader of the three as he became a huge difference maker for MBA in his senior season. After MBA, he went on to play at Sewanee for Robert Black.

QB: Michael Fisher- Normally a football team is blessed to have a talented quarterback like Ingle Martin. But right after Martin left for the University of Florida, Michael Fisher stepped out of Martin’s own shadow over the position. He created his own legacy in Big Red football as he led the team to two state titles while garnering the Blue Cross Bowl MVP both times. In his senior year, Fisher threw for 2000 yards and 14 touchdowns while maintaining a 60.7 completion percentage. He averaged 180 yards passing per game and only threw four interceptions.

WRI: Brad French- During a fantastic 2003 season, a trio passing attack of Michael Fisher, Tom Santi, and Brad French made offensive history at MBA with over 2000 yards passing on their way to an exciting to state championship against Brentwood Academy. In that season, French had 33 receptions for 697 yards and five touchdowns to go along with an unforgettable season.

OL: Wade Longmire- Playing both guard positions and center, Wade Longmire was a stalwart linemen for the Big Red as he started the entire 2008 season. Even though the rushing attack wasn’t very potent, the interior of the line helped the passing game to carry the offense throughout the season, keeping Spencer Wise upright as he threw for over 1500 yards.

OL: Joseph Birdsong- This outstanding lineman had a huge part in MBA’s success during the early to mid-2000’s as he blocked for great runners and protected Michael Fisher’s blindside. Birdsong was so skilled, he ended up signing with Wake Forest after MBA and started for two years at left tackle.

OL: Wesley Johnson- One of the best and most successful offensive linemen to come out of MBA, Wesley Johnson was an anchor for the Big Red in the last two years of his high school career playing tackle and paving the way for countless 1000-yard rushers. After MBA he ended up signing with Vanderbilt and is currently starting at left tackle for the Commodores.

DL: Scott Bubis- The younger of the Bubis brothers, Scott had a fantastic 2007 season as he led the defensive line in tackles for loss with 10.5. Playing with a mean streak, Bubis was a real problem in the middle for opposing offensive lines as he regularly broke up running plays and stuffed quarterbacks in the backfield.

DL: Clay Haury- As a part of the 2003 and 2004 state championship teams, Haury played a huge role along the defensive line for the Big Red. In his final season on the Hill, Clay racked up 44 tackles, 5.5 tackles for loss, and six sacks to finish off a fantastic career for MBA.

LB: Alfonza Knight- As the leader for the 2007 defense, Knight had an illustrious campaign racking up 58 tackles, 10.5 tackles for loss, and five passes broken up. He went on to play at Sewanee, where he played linebacker for four years under former MBA football coach Robert Black.

DB: Jed Crumbo- Although the offense is remembered as the focal point of the 2003 state title team, the defense held its own and Crumbo was a big part of that. During his senior year, Jed made over 30 tackles, four interceptions, and 11 passes broken up. He was a true ball hawk for the Big Red defense and held his own in the back end.

SS: Joe Riegel- It’s hard to remember a better safety than Joe Riegel. After starting for two straight seasons, Riegel amassed 147 tackles, 10 tackles for loss and 12 pass-breakups to go along with two interceptions. He was the second leading tackler his junior season only to lead the team the next year. Joe was always a leader for the defense and the rest of team, winning countless team awards for his dedication to the team.

Honorable Mention:
Dominique Morris-CB
Charlie Morgan- LB
Andy Snyder- RB
Blake Goodman- RB
Zach Wall- LB
Michael Swett- DL
Brad Bars- DL
Jas Rader- DB
Christian Waddey- RB
Andrew Harris- WR
Spencer Wise- QB
Tyler Franks- RB
Connor Caldwell- DL
Andrew Fletcher- K/P
Michael Koban- RB
Basketball flips mediocre season into state success in the state tournament, beating BA in overtime in the first round and beating MUS on the road by two points. These two wins led up to the much-hyped matchup against Ensworth in Lipscomb’s Allen Arena for the semifinals. However, Ensworth won in a game that was never really close.

Concerning the state tournament, Kaiser said that “we were obviously disappointed with the Ensworth game and wish we could have played better, but a state semifinal appearance is something to be proud of.” Although the Big Red will lose much senior firepower next year, next year’s team looks like a contender, with juniors Duncan Smith, Vinny Gaglione, Elliott Morrissey, and Alex Bars looking to provide leadership.

The Big Red seniors leave a legacy of reviving a dying season to make a great run at the state tournament. Kaiser reflected that he would really miss the camaraderie among teammates. I’ve really enjoyed the last couple of years on the hardwood and am proud to have worn that red jersey.”

2013 athletes ink their letters of intent

All these athletes have a promising future ahead of them, and there may be a few more added to the list. The basketball and baseball teams have a few students that are looking to continue their athletic careers. Kamani Hodges (basketball) has not yet signed and Jack Rhodes (baseball) also has plans to continue playing in college. These athletes would finish off an already solid group of signees for the class of 2013.
By Armand Jhala
Staff Writer

Smashville. Hockey-Tonk USA.

“I like, I love it, I want some more of it.”

These are just a few phrases that we NHL fans didn’t hear for a months. Fear not, ye lovers of hockey, for the NHL lockout officially came to a close in January of this year.

But now, although the league is back in session and the fans are attending games again, what exactly did the NHL lockout deal accomplish? According to ESPN, the majority of fans did not know what the lockout deal actually entailed. So let me try to break it down for you.

Major Points of the Deal

This new agreement will be valid for another 10 years, but there is an opt-out option after 8 years (unfortunately…).

Gary Bettman, the commissioner of the NHL, managed to persuade the NHL Players Association (NHLPA) to agree to a half and half revenue split. Players are still allowed to sign contracts for up to eight years, or seven if they are signing with a new team. (This prevents the ridiculous decade long contracts *cough cough* Ilya Kovalchuck *cough cough*.)

Now there is also a built-in variance of 35% between how much a player is paid at the beginning of his contract and at the end of it. This idea prevents teams from front-loading contracts. Also, no one year of the contract can be less than 50% of the highest-paying year.

The cap and floor ended up moving in the direction that the owners wanted. The cap for the new season will be at $64 million while the floor will sit at $44 million. The cap is subject to variation, especially in a shortened season such as this one. Although this is a bit technical, it’s still imperative to know.

The deal gives the league some leeway on punishments as well. It allows them to more effectively punish teams that decide to front-load their contracts. Honestly, this is the most confusing part of the deal, and it really does not make much sense. Just know that the league gets a bit more power!

Winners of the Deal

-The League as a whole. Commissioner Bettman and the rest of the league finally got that 50-50 split that they have wanted for so long. The players’ share was originally 57% but now it is down to 50%, which cuts the average team’s expenses by nearly $8 million. The league also agreed to increase the money set aside for revenue sharing. Owners get what they want, and the teams and players get what they want also. (Everyone is still making millions.)

-The minority of fans (sort of). We finally get hockey back. There really isn’t a perfect system out there currently, but the success of the negotiations shows a compromise.

-Small-market and Big-market teams. Small-market teams have usually been at a disadvantage in the NHL. The decrease in a salary cap will definitely allow these smaller teams to make larger profit, which might level some of the playing field; however, the same can be said for the big-market teams, who will just make more money.

-The Players (sort of). They get to play hockey again. Many of the players spoke out during the lockout and called it utterly useless. These players just wanted to get back to playing the game they loved.

Losers of the Deal

-The majority of fans. Through everything that has happened, the fans are the ones that have suffered the most. After coming off one of the most interesting playoffs in years, the hockey season was anxiously awaited coming into October. After all of the hype and anticipation, we got no hockey. Now we only get to watch 48 games….48!??!?? The playoffs, nevertheless, should definitely bring about some surprises again.

-The Players. The players actually lost 40% of their wages this season. Although there had to be a cut in order for the lockout to end, it hammered the players pretty hard.

-Gary Bettman. Let’s be real…He is going to get most of the blame for not getting the deal done sooner.

-The KHL! They were supposed to have an all-star lineup because many of the NHL players shifted over. Some of the big names included Evgeni Malkin, Ilya Kovalchuk, Pavel Datsyuk, and Alexander Ovechkin. Sounds like an NHL All-Star game! Unfortunately, the lockout ended and all these players came back to the states. Sorry, Russia!

I would call the NHL lockout a fundamental breakdown of the system, but we also have to take into account both sides of the spectrum. These people are making a living off of the sport. Is it a bit ridiculous to argue for a couple extra million dollars? Yes. As long as there are players and owners, however, there will be lockouts. Let’s just hope the next time it happens, for whatever sport, a compromise is easier to come to.

Frozen and over

A recap of the lockout: winners and losers

Submit to Archives

It’s an adventure
GO WITH THE FLOW: LACROSSE

By Andrew Karpos
Sports Editor

The varsity lacrosse team expects a promising season after losing in the semifinals of state to MUS last year. Despite the level of lacrosse in general improving around the state and the challenges that the Big Red will face, this year’s squad is confident in their ability to compete for a state title. In terms of expectations, Head Coach John Harvey explains, “Our goal is to be a much better team in May than we are in March, and come into the State Tournament confident and playing our best lacrosse.”

This year’s team is filled with lots of talent and skill, but a few players will have to settle into their positions and develop throughout the season if the team is to be successful. Coach Harvey believes that the strengths of this year’s group include “overall speed and athleticism,” while some points of weakness “lie in the team’s limited experience and new faces playing new roles this year.”

The obvious source of leadership for the lacrosse program this year will be seniors and returning starters such as Conner Griffin, Frank Vest, Jackson Flora, and Jack Benton. Although other seniors besides those mentioned will also contribute, Coach Harvey believes that much of the load will fall onto the shoulders of juniors, saying, “We really need juniors to start stepping up and leading as well. The more they mature as players this season, the better we will be in the end.”

The road to a State Title will be fraught with difficulty because of the number of high-level teams in the league. Some of the best teams this year include the always-strong programs of MUS and McCallie. Other tough games will include those against Ravenwood, Ensworth, Brentwood, and Christian Brothers High School.

The early season game against Ensworth was a big test for the team. Coach Harvey noted that this “game is a big emotional test, and we need it for state seeding at the end of the year.” In this game, which took place on March 13th, the Big Red defeated Ensworth 11-5. This result bodes well for the progress of the team, and clearly demonstrates that Ensworth’s lacrosse program is still far behind that of MBA in terms of skill, execution and talent.

Because of the level of competition around the league, it seems as if every game will be a large test. Coach Harvey reflects, “We really do not have any games this year that will not deserve this team’s full attention, and that is what makes it so fun.”

It’s a long season before the lacrosse State Championship takes place in May, but everyone in and around the program is confident that this team will develop into a top contender by the end of the year. After making it to the semi or finals of the state tournament the last few seasons, it appears that this year’s team is confident in their ability to go all the way and take home a State Championship.
By McKay Proctor
Staff Tactician

This team should seem familiar. Its backbone has been around the soccer program since Hayden Deakins and Trey Gill came into the team. Henry Lynch and Jonah Rappuhn closely followed with even more of today’s side getting significant minutes as substitutes. In the end (though end is a bit too terminal a word) this iteration of the Big Red Side may have reached its fully evolved form. The loss of set piece wizard and master of the over-the-top through ball Chris Meluch seems for this side a necessary step in its growth. Meluch is the only major loss in the transition into the rule of the Class of 2013, which should prove grand if all goes as planned.

Meluch was a special player, with skills in possession and composure that influenced the pace of the game, but the midfield of this year’s team retains its greatest strength. Meluch’s old midfield partner Jonah Rappuhn (‘14) will take over his position as a deep-set playmaker. He shares Meluch’s talent for holding the ball under pressure, but he comes about it more through his broad shoulders than Meluch’s patience and balance. Look for Jonah to play mainly within the midfield circle on attack and in front of the back line in defense, with his innate tactical understanding and touch allowing him to pull the strings from afar. The wingers in Coach Cheever’s 4-4-2 are veteran Hayden Deakins, a fixture on the line-up card for the last four years, and Nick Obremsky. Deakins uses serious speed and determination in both attack and defense – his back tracking is the most dogged in the side, and usually involves a slide tackle of dubious legality. Obremsky’s high work rate manifests itself in less violence, but playing more central. Both are aggressive in attack, often making incisive runs to stretch opposition back lines and punish overlapping fullbacks.

Jonah’s partner in the midfield could depend on the tactical approach on a game-by-game basis, but one option is Louis Brown - a perfect foil for Raypun. Louis spent a good bit of time last year at the wide positions, and showed a clear understanding of timing and space that would be perfect in a more attacking midfielder. His combination play last year (especially quick passes with Marcus Riley in hold-up play) was the strength of his game and he should find himself playing alongside Jonah, if a bit farther forward.

The back line will be a fusion of styles that should yield a gritty and resourceful result. Newly minted center half Ross Blackwell will partner with stalwart Henry Lynch at the heart of the back four. Ross brings a midfielder’s technique and pace to balance Henry’s strength and tactical awareness. This pairing should prove ideal, as if (uncharacteristically) Henry is out of position, Ross has the pace to cover, and in the opposite situation, Henry will read the situation and rationally close any lanes Ross has left behind.

The fullbacks, on the other hand, are more explosive than pragmatic (in a good way). The most enjoyable player to watch in the side these last two years has been Sam Smith, a fire hydrant of a left back with quick, chipping feet and a world-class center of gravity. His diminutive height and combative style of play make him both a great wingback and invisible to any referee. The uncalled fouls he amasses (and the frustrated wide forwards that suffer them) are easily the best of the team’s simple pleasures. His rapid transitions from defense to overlapping attack also make him a fifth forward.

On the other side of the field will be Jack Emerson. Jack is the missing link between the shin-splitting, charging play of his older brother Ford and the light elegance between the shin-splitting, charging play of his older brother Will and the light elegance of his younger brother Will (also in the side). He is less aggressive in attack than Sam Smith on the other side, but he will probe the right side of the defense with a similar tenacity if the opportunity arises.

In goal, the Big Red have a stable of capable custodians. Drew Benson puts athleticism and reflexes to great use in his time. His primary competition comes in the form of the lengthy, oft-injured senior Jake Simons. Both are more than enough to mop up after the defense, but Benson will probably play more often with Jake’s history of injury. Should both be healthy and in form at the same time, Coach Cheever would have a tough decision with no wrong answer.

Options abound at forward, where the key ingredient in the team’s style of play will be Marcus Riley. Marcus is at his best in hold up play, allowing runs from the midfield, wings and his fellow forward (last season it would be Chris Briggs). That allows tremendous flexibility in the second striker, who can play in a withdrawn position with plenty of space to make runs off Marcus. Along with the mercurial Briggs, wunderkind Andrew Conwell can also flourish here. Both are more technical and less physical than Riley. The withdrawn position means Riley does all of the battling with center backs so that they can run into space and finish. He probably will not get the glory for those goals, but in doing the dirty work, Marcus Riley made them happen.

That withdrawn striker position is perfect for the team’s brilliant utility man, Trey Gill. His career is defined by his extraordinary balanced abilities. At any point in his time with the soccer program, Trey has been called on to play everything but ‘keeper. The South Carolina commit will likely determine the character of the team more than any other cog. In sports, Trey is brilliant, delivering a marvelous combination of power and finesse from anywhere on the field. The only complaint is his tendency to check out when he could be controlling the game. That said, even his lackadaisical efforts can be breathtaking, but in order for this side to reach its (dare I say-virginal) potential, Trey needs to be present and dogged. He has earned the captaincy (along with Henry Lynch and Hayden Deakins) but he needs to assert himself more often to take the team to its ceiling.

Coach Cheever’s take on the 4-4-2 is true to its shape in defense, with the wings both tracking back hard and the forwards dropping in to defend. On the counter, though, something interesting happens. The wings drive vertically, stopping about even with the withdrawn forward (in this case the talented Mr. Gill). The central midfielders stay back of that line dropping in passes and occasionally venturing further forward. Of the two, Jonah is more prone to screen first for the ball.

The resulting shape is not the stodgy 4-4-2, but a streamlined, potent 4-2-3-1 (pictured to the left). The switch between the two is rapid and also takes the best from both forms: the 4-4-2’s defensive stability and the 4-2-3-1’s attacking thrust and spacing. The 4-2-3-1 and its cousin forms of the 4-3-3 are all very en vogue in international tactics. The 4-4-2 is more spatially redundant (i.e. more players in the same space), which is perfect for defending. The 4-2-3-1 removes those redundancies completely, evenly divides the field and gives a clear structure for a counterattack.

As of press time, the Big Red are undefeated, with their most recent result being a show in resilience in drawing Overton. The tactics of the match were interesting. Overton had technical quality and aself -entered style of play that manifested itself in driving runs on the counter, especially from a wall of a carrying midfielder who nicked a goal in the second half. Defensively, Overton restricted the space around the penalty area and were aggressive in tacking Marcus and Trey, who to their credit kept creating chances through their speed and tenacity. Obviously, the Big Red have played a larger part in the match than expected as they lost control of a few of Overton’s more emotional players who began menacing everything in sight. In the end, alooping Ross Blackwell free kick evened the score, but the chess match was clearly won by the Big Red. They carried every counter but one with ease and built well from the wings with Deakins blazing a trail past a looingly back more than once.

In its current iteration, the Big Red Side has plenty of technical execution to go around - they may be the most skillful team in the mid-state – but their innate understanding of space, structure and vision (mainly coming from the central midfield and Trey at forward) will be what sets them apart. Creativity within this system holds the key to the future. To call this a golden generation of MBA soccer may be a bit of hyperbole, but is not too far-fetched. The Class of 2013 has long contributed to the team and now they must prove that they can lead where those before them failed. Big Red soccer has continually hit a ceiling in the late rounds of the state playoffs, but this could be the team and it very well could be the year.
Think Different.

Creative thought among MBA students is currently on the wane, and I’m not totally sure how to label it. It’s not a problem, per se, but rather a state in which we have found ourselves that deserves to be analyzed.

Creative thought does not only constitute sitting down and writing an e.e. cummings poem out of sheer expressive volition (though such an activity does require quite a bit of creativity). In work and in the arts, it’s a faculty extremely necessary to one’s problem solving ability. In life, it’s simply an attempt to rise above the banal. Or to make one’s life more interesting and to avoid the daily rut.

Think about it. Elementary, middle and high school are more or less the only workspaces in which formulaic problem solving is successful. True, working at Wendy’s is pretty formulaic, but I hope my readers have higher goals in life than burger-flipping. Otherwise, nearly all of us will have careers that necessitate experimentation, constructive failure, experiential growth, and breakthroughs to solutions. All a part of the creative process. A few years ago, we read Tracy Kidder’s *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, the all-school read about Dr. Paul Farmer’s exploits in curing tuberculosis in rural countries. He worked in Russia for a stint, where new, vaccine-resistant strains of TB were appearing. Until he discovered the solution for curing these new strains, he had to treat countless patients on a case-by-case basis, creating a “cocktail” of medicines and treatments for each individual suffering from TB. In a job for which Farmer essentially had only his brain, no guidance, no teachers, no WebMD to consult — his capacity for creative problem solving was his only tool.

Another example can be found in a company whose products never leave many of our pockets. If creativity is about thinking outside the box, Apple Inc. has cemented this idea into the overarching vision of their company. From 1997 to 2002, their motto was, literally: Think Different. In explanation of this construction seemingly horrendous in grammar, Steve Jobs insisted, as explained in his biography, that “he wanted ‘different’ to be used as a noun, not a verb.”

As I found in Calculus this year and Physics last year, problems require significant critical reasoning to get to a point where a formula can be used. Thus the more difficult classes weed out the students who are unable to traverse these mental hurdles.

Obviously, creativity has always been a major component of the arts. Throughout art history, for example, one was often considered ahead of his time if he simply made a painting differently than everyone around him made a painting. But what is the connection between creativity in artistic expression and creativity in scientific or mathematical problem solving? Well, it all comes from the same source, the critical thinking part of the brain. When one exercises his critical thinking in a specific field, he enhances his problem solving skill for the entire critical thinking part of his brain. For example, the careful consideration of lighting, balance, shape, color, repetition, and variation in a painting one is making will further train his critical thinking part of the brain.

There is a different kind of fear associated with creativity at MBA as well, the fear of failure, with which I myself have wrestled as I have continued to pursue art. At MBA, it’s easy to emphasize that there is a clear right way of doing things and solving problems. As students grow older and more sophisticated, it’s important to teach the idea that failure is a platform for learning and struggling is a part of the creative process.

Number two is that I think the average student buys into the talk that “MBA’s curriculum is difficult” so much that he doesn’t allow himself time to express himself. Trust me, I understand that MBA is one of the most academically challenging high schools in the South, and I can’t imagine working as hard anywhere else. But one of the best pieces of advice I’ve ever received was from my sister, who told me I had to make time for what I enjoy. No matter how much work you think you have, you still have time to do what you enjoy, as long as you make time.

Number three is the profound impact of technology and the internet on our ability to think for ourselves. With unlimited knowledge and countless services at our fingertips, it has become less necessary that we need to solve problems on a regular basis, which aids the naturally creative in his process, it weakens the problem solving ability of the rest depending on how attached they are to technology. (Isn’t it interesting to think that it took creative minds to build gadgets that influence a weaker creative capacity in most of their users?)

The bottom line is that the societal problems we are in charge of solving today cannot be approached with the formulas of the past, and the problems of the future will not be solved by the conventions of the present. New strains of TB will arise, new boundaries in personal computers will manifest, and demanding work in fields we do not even know of today will emerge. I applaud the administration for their efforts to foster creativity, such as the Anne Potter Wilson room makeover. MBA already produces scholars. By continuing to emphasize the importance of the creative process and its influence on critical thinking, MBA can introduce an outstanding breadth of thinkers, ready to approach the problems of the future.
The kids call it sampling
DJ Shadow gets back to his roots

By John Higham
Staff Writer

"Now look, we’re going to do this for a little while and that’s it, because I am not going to do it the way you want. I will never be able to do it your way. I can only do it my way, and if you are not satisfied with my best, then that’s too f*****g bad!"

The ominous audio clip fades out and a brooding alien drone builds up. A kick drum begins to thump as the DJ incorporates an upbeat violin piece. A child’s voice announces, "DJ Shadow: All Bases C-C-C-Covered!" And so begins hip hop icon DJ Shadow’s infamous South Beach Set.

It was this same set that was deemed "too futuristic" by Miami’s The Mansion nightclub as they asked the headlining California DJ to end his performance early.

DJ Shadow is the stage name of Josh Davis, a San Francisco local who pioneered the sampling movement of the 1990’s. During his time at the University of California, Davis began experimenting with early electronic instruments. He dug through countless underplayed and aging records searching for sounds that caught his ear. Davis purchased an Akai MPC60, a device that allows the user to record short audio clips (called samples) from tapes and records and play them back on command. Davis would assign each sample to one of 16 keys and arrange them together to form brand new songs.

In 1996 under the name DJ Shadow, Davis released his first LP entitled *Endtroducing*. Shadow’s debut album was the first album to contain absolutely no original audio. The album was entirely comprised of previously recorded samples from other artists. Although the album was commercially and critically successful, it was a very controversial piece of music. Some praised it as revolutionary and innovative while others called Shadow a thief. Despite the controversy, the majority of critics raved about Shadow’s extraordinary work. *Endtroducing* is one of only a handful of albums to ever receive a perfect 10 rating by Pitchfork. It is still held today as one of the most influential electronic albums of all time.

Sampling was already a widely popular practice, but until *Endtroducing*, it was used only to supplement original works. DJ Shadow transformed the sampling movement by doing nothing but rearranging borrowed works. Shadow’s music started a genre all of its own, and it’s never stagnant. His works have evolved and changed with each subsequent album and tour. He started out producing minimalist drum and bass tracks as on *Endtroducing*. Over the next few years, Shadow released a number of experimental singles and compilations such as *Preemptive Strike*. In 2002, he released *The Private Press*, an album that transitioned from the dark and doleful tracks of previous albums and brought forth orchestral, ambient beats and vocals. Significantly less beat-driven than previous works, Shadow’s most recent LP, entitled *The Less You Know, The Better*, sounds like an electronic interpretation of rock music.

Following the release of this album, Shadow’s live performances have taken a new direction. Currently in the middle of his “All Bases Covered” Tour, DJ Shadow is returning to his roots on the turntables and sampler. He is not using a computer and instead is focusing on scratching, cutting, and live sampling, continuing to evolve and take the risks that make him a transcendant artist.

is over 4 years of music. In the process known as “digging,” he sorts through this massive collection and selects samples from nearly every genre, from piano concertos to freeform jazz to progressive rock. Many of Shadow’s songs also feature mysterious dialogue from movies and unknown sources to set the mood of his music. The seemingly motley assortment of samples mixes and flows unbelievably smoothly to create one of the most recognizable sounds in all of electronic music.

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Old albums about getting older
Two writers ponder coming of age

By Alex Floyd
Staff Writer

On March 2, 2013, I turn nineteen years old. (Happy birthday to me!) But more importantly, in my opinion, this date marks the approximate tenth anniversary of the first time I ever heard Neutral Milk Hotel’s masterpiece In the Aeroplane Over the Sea. Jeff Mangum’s biddingson of adolescence full of love songs for Anne Frank. Just to give a little context about the life of nine year old Alex, look at this picture. Armed with impending fatness, a fresh painful wound from my parents’ recent divorce, and confusion about the meaning of anything and everything, I laid in my bed as my brother played Aeroplane through the speakers in the bedroom we shared. As the music made contact with my ears I envisioned a grotesque version of myself being given the secret wisdoms to tackle his insecurities and ugliness. I watched monster me grow up at super speed into the prototypical idealistic young male who in my nine year old mind resembled something akin to Peter Parker discovering his spidey powers for the first time and beating James Franco to get the girl. It’s not as weird as it sounds. Everyone guy wants to be better than James Franco at something. We can’t help it.

Aeroplane encompasses what it means to be growing up, the discovery of self, the painfully awkward first encounters with those of the opposite gender, and the staggering omnipresence of all things sexual. But most importantly the album deals with the innocence of lost innocence. The album begins with “King of Carrot Flowers Part 1” which is easily the most accessible song on the album. This song gives the first glimpse of disillusionment as two children discover love for the first time while observing adult couples crumble and shatter. From this point on we are contaminated. We have changed. Something or someone has corrupted our vision of virtue and joy into something else entirely. The only way to cope with this is to keep ajar and separate from ourselves. From this point on we are contaminated. We have changed. Something or someone has corrupted our vision of virtue and joy into something else entirely. The only way to cope with this is to keep ajar and separate from ourselves.

In the aeroplane over the me

By John Higham
Staff Writer

Having a simple conversation about a Bob Dylan album, much less your favorite Bob Dylan album, is a process fraught with peril. The risk is that you mention your conversational partner’s favorite album, sparring a long string of hyperbole over just how good their favorite is, or worse if they disagree with your choice, they spend the rest of the time pontificating about how wrong/philistine/stupid you are for liking anything other than the canon. The same risk exists for me when I talk about the Beatles (I like Rubber Soul best - sue me). For Dylan I cut through the more common (probably better) choices (Freewheelin’, Blonde on Blonde, Highway 61 Revisited, and Blood on the Tracks) in favor of 1970’s New Morning.

To be clear, I do not think I have chosen his best album – the only song on the album that would be considered a Dylan classic is “The Man in Me,” and even then because of tacit approval from a flying soul in the song “Two-Headed Boy,” Mangum creates the mutated version of that innocence that through our maturation we have deformed into something to keep in a jar and separate from ourselves. From this point on we are contaminated. We have changed. Something or someone has corrupted our vision of virtue and joy into one of angst and cynicism. In “Communist Daughter,” even nature is spoiled and stained. This filthiness and ugliness is why Anne Frank is important. On the final track of the album the girl, presumably Anne Frank, cares for the two headed boy. she feeds him and protects him despite his ugliness but she leaves him all the same. “Don’t hit her when she gets up to leave.” I’m at the point where she’s leaving me. The formative years of my life are ending. That is why it is important to listen to Neutral Milk Hotel’s brilliant album now. It is childhood. Listen to this album now when the images have meaning and significance, not in ten years when it all turns into pure nostalgia. Think of the adults you knew. All of them a portion of their lives in nostalgia, looking back, but right now we have nothing to be nostalgic about. It’s brilliant. We look forward, and move forward constantly. Instead, listen to In the Aeroplane Over the Sea and be exactly where you are. I’m terrified, a year away from twenty, everything becoming dark and weighted with responsibility, but, as Neutral Milk Hotel would put it, “for now we are young so let’s lie in the sun and count every beautiful thing we can see.”

What it’s all about

Dylan probes heavier subject matter in the Civil Rights and Viet Nam era. That catalyzed his career into New Morning, slowing down and seeing what really makes him happy. The most salient example comes from the back-story of “Day of the Locust.” As the legend goes, Dylan was offered an honorary doctorate from Princeton which he was hesitant about accepting in the first place. When he finally did decide to take the honor, he refused to wear a cap and gown until the folks from Princeton nearly burned the diploma. All of this over a background of a 17 year cicada outbreak (if your memory needs refreshing, YouTube would be happy to assist), which is the central theme of Dylan’s satirical take. The moral, at least for me, is that the pressures of expectation should never be cause to compromise individuality.

Dylan probably should have been the magnumopus genius that Princeton imagined - they were, after all, giving him a free doctorate but the same neurotic, biting artist that they were rewarding for his brilliance would never yield to something as pretentious and petty as a wardrobe change. Dylan wrote and sang in demin. Why not give him the diploma in demin? Instead of the unrelenting metaphor that makes clear the craft of his earlier work, through, Dylan chooses to let the scene exist on its own, free of comment. That shows maturity, but also an unworried attitude. He could have camouflaged the meaning with epic similes and crooked through it and that would have brought him more critical acclaim. Dylan, in the vein of Self Portrait from the same year, decided to be content with what he sees. He uses his satisfaction as an opportunity to introspect, not criticize.

The lesson I take from New Morning is hard to put into words. I could talk about meeting Elvis in, “Went to See the Gypsy” as an expression of Dylan’s childlike joy. I can talk about the idyllic and melodic “New Morning” and Dylan’s connection with the countryside.

Everything I want to say and everything I learned, Dylan expressed best himself in “Sign on the Window,” a tragically overlooked part of his musical repitioere. The melody meanders as a wardrobe change. Dylan wrote and sang in demin. Why not give him the diploma in demin? Instead of the unrelenting metaphor that makes clear the craft of his earlier work, through, Dylan chooses to let the scene exist on its own, free of comment. That shows maturity, but also an unworried attitude. He could have camouflaged the meaning with epic similes and crooked through it and that would have brought him more critical acclaim. Dylan, in the vein of Self Portrait from the same year, decided to be content with what he sees. He uses his satisfaction as an opportunity to introspect, not criticize.

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The Case for AP Art Studios

By Lucas Littlejohn
Entertainment Editor

In the wake of enormous change around MBA the past two years, nearly every facet of the school has been enhanced and expanded by new facilities. With the recent move-in to the dining hall, the Art Department is now in a unique position with double its original space. There has been talk of extending the art studios to the music rooms, and moving the music program downstairs. As an AP art student and one who has worked in a variety of studio spaces, I have a few suggestions for what could become studios for AP artists.

In a way, less is more when it comes to art studios. A minimalist approach to the new spaces would positively affect the work produced within them. The new studios don’t need to be fancy, pristine, or decorated, they just need open space, blank walls, and windows. Cabinets and racks for materials and pieces are extremely necessary, but these storage spaces wouldn’t need to take up much room with only a few kids working at a time.

The painting studios I worked in at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago last summer are a great example. The building is bare-bones, with concrete floors, white painted concrete block walls, and only a sink and yellow hazardous material storage cabinet as the permanent fixtures of each room. The freedom of each room was at first jarring in contrast with the mess and chaos of the MBA studios, but I quickly learned that the less clutter a studio has, the less distraction is present for the artist. With blank walls and concrete floors surrounding him, an artist can step back from the stress of a school day and focus on making great art.
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 Galen Bullington. Galen was recently chosen for an exclusive exhibition: “10 and 2.” It’s a great honor for a great guy.

Bell Ringer: What has your art career at MBA looked like?

Haha! My art “career” at MBA. Honestly, I was never really sure where my art would take me. I remember having to pick enrichment courses coming into the 8th grade. While I had some nominal experience prior to MBA (in the form of a few local classes), my interest in art was little more than the fact that I wasn’t absolutely terrible at sketching. Also, I knew that I didn’t have any talent for theater whatsoever…so art it was.

I suppose that I did have sort of a “breakthrough” that 8th grade year though. Ms. Hofffield asked me to complete the playbill for the junior school production that year, Androcles and the Lion. All I remember was staying up late for like 4 nights trying to finish it…looking back, those weren’t terribly late compared to what was to come in high school! Either way, I did complete the poster, and I stand by that perhaps my most lasting legacy on MBA’s campus came from my first year here. To this day, that poster for Androcles and the Lion is still hanging in Massey.

Sophomore year was sort of the first true breakthrough year, however. I acquired a love of oil painting in Mr. Womack’s Art II class. Perhaps it was just the Pink Floyd vibes, but that oil painting was the first work that I was truly proud of. It even ended up in my college portfolio application to architecture school. The tail end of sophomore year was important in more ways than one. I suppose that I created enough decent work that at least it looked like I knew what I was doing. Nevertheless, I ended up being invited to work in AP art the next year.

By far though, the summer between my sophomore and junior years was the most important to my development as an artist. Two opportunities radically changed the way that I thought during those few summer months. First, I attended a summer architecture camp at the University of Illinois. The two weeks I spent there was the first time that I had really had any experience developing a project in full. It set me on my path to pursuing a major in architecture in college. For those unfamiliar with architecture, it really pushes you to envision a 2-D design…and never be content with it. You have to take those initial sketches, those random lines and shapes and spaces on a piece a paper and imagine an entirely interactive 3-D landscape around them. In this way, your design becomes something dynamic – it has to draw people in and move them in a totally unexpected way. It’s quite magical really. While in a completely different medium, these same thought processes are what shape a lot of the work that I produce today.

The second thing that happened that summer was that I discovered the camera. I still remember the photo assignment that Dr. Krondo had given us to complete during the time that we were off. We had to photograph subjects in all these different categories…birds, reflections, engines…bunch of crazy stuff. Still, I completed every last one of them. I think we had to take like 100 pictures in total, I showed up the first day of class with somewhere around 3000. I guess you could say that I went a bit overboard. But then, no one ever said that artists were exactly normal, did they?

Today, I work almost exclusively in the medium of photography. If you ever see a weird kid in the back of studio intently staring at the screen of his laptop, it’s probably me working of my photos…or wasting time on Facebook. Although I work mostly in photography, many of the same ideas that I had to previously engage with in other mediums permeate my work today. To return to the thoughts about architecture from before, I am never happy with what I call a “static” photo. I don’t want someone to come up to my work, stare at it for a couple seconds then say, “oh cool” and move on. A photograph has to be dynamic; it has to have multiple layers…it has to draw you in.

What are you working on right now for your AP Portfolio?

The series that I am working on right now is one that I call Vibrations. The works try to address the multiple viewpoints and disintegration of urban life. For those that know me, I live about an hour and half away from MBA and make the drive to school with my dad every day and the other 70-mile commute back our farm every night. Although I live in a rural area, most of my life has been spent at MBA or in the various other cities across the country to which I travel for debate tournaments, summer camps, and all the other events and competitions characteristic to a high-schooler trying to get into college. Despite all this, the urban environment is still very foreign to me, and this duality to my life has always been one that has affected me greatly. Vibrations is the representation of my impressions and the impressions left by others as I have traveled through these urban environments. Many of the photographs come from a trip that I took to New York City, others from Chicago, New Orleans, and right here in Nashville.

Who or what inspires/influences you the most, and how does it show in your art?

Hmm, that’s a difficult question. Honestly, I try not to look at other artists work that much. Now, that’s not entirely true; there are PLENTY of artists that have influenced me throughout the past few years, but I don’t think that there is one that I can point to and say, “Hah! That was my inspiration!” Overall, I have found that the more that I look at other artists work, the more that I want to be like them. After awhile it sort of drives you crazy…either you’re not good enough, or creative enough, or just why couldn’t you have thought of that. This is not to say that you shouldn’t let yourself be inspired or be averse to interacting with all the other artists out there. Ultimately, I just have to remind myself that this is my journey and my way to express creativity no matter what anyone thinks of my work.

How do you plan on continuing art in college and in life?

I will be an architecture major at Miami University this upcoming fall; although, first and foremost, I will always consider myself a student of design. I hope to pursue the impact that design has on our daily lives, and utilize design in a way that improves the everyday experience for people of all backgrounds. Perhaps I will take some photography courses in college, but regardless of academic credit, photography will always remain a passion close to my heart and a creative outlet. I hope to one day have a national gallery exhibit, but I’m sure that’s far off in the future!

What advice would you give to younger students interested in art?

Quite often, I get something along the lines of this type of reaction to my work: “Wow, what kind of camera do you have/use?” or “I bet you have a nice/expensive camera!” While the simple “Wow!” is always appreciated, I usually proceed to politely explain to these people that I DON’T have a fancy camera or equipment, that I DON’T have any expensive software, and that I have NEVER had any formal photography classes. Yes, you too can be a photographer! The truth is that I have an old point-and-shoot camera that my grandparents gave to me 6 or 7 years ago, I only use what software came on my computer or I can find online for free, and my secret process of taking and working with photos is that I just go by what looks good. If I could say anything to younger artists, it would be to not feel constrained by what you have around you. Art is whatever you make it to be, and an artist is just whichever you tell yourself that you are. It takes a lot of courage, and I’m still working on that myself, but it’s definitely a rewarding process. Finally, I’ve got throw a last pitch in to take advice from your studio teachers! It took me a while to work through that and what I felt about my own work. Other people are there to help you, but never compromise from your own vision.

Oh, and I have my first big gallery show in Nashville, beginning April 4th at the Two Moon Gallery. Please and thank you to all those kind enough to stop by for a few minutes and come see it!
M(B)AD-LIB: The Great Panini Press Stampede

It was a normal ____________ (day of the week). ____________ (noun, plural) were ____________ (verb ending in -ing) their copies of ____________ (MBA book), ____________ (teacher) was ____________ (verb -ing), even the lowly ____________ (plural diminutive of junior schoolers) were ____________ (verb-ing) in their ____________ (typical MBA article of clothing).

Suddenly the ____________ (plural diminutive for junior schoolers) lifted their ____________ (body part) to ____________ (verb). They were very ____________ (adjective) but then they began to ____________ (verb) towards the ____________ (adjective) dining hall. They all ____________ (verb-ed) in their ____________ (noun). Their ____________ (MBA shoes) ____________ (verb, past tense) against the ground with a great ____________ (sound).

In a few ____________ (nouns) of an ____________ (animal possessive), they had crossed the ____________ (noun). The upperclassmen ____________ (verb-ed) out of the way. The grass behind the ____________ (collective noun) was completely ____________ (adjective). On the steps, they nearly ____________ (verb-ed) ____________ (same teacher) had to ____________ (verb).

At the doors the herd of ____________ (noun, plural) let out a great ____________ (sound) and threw up their ____________ (body part, plural) in celebration. They had successfully crossed the ____________ (noun) as a group.

Inside the building, they rushed the ____________ (adjective) serving area where they found their new ____________ (religous idol from Ancient Meso-American society). Right there, on the ____________ (noun) was a ____________ (adjective) new Panini Press.

At first they ____________ (verb-ed) the press with their ____________ (part of the face), but after a few hours, their ____________ (same part of face) were horribly and irrepairably burned. What a silly group of ____________ (noun, plural)!

Then they found the ____________ (food) and spread it on the ____________ (food), but instead of a ____________ (noun), they rudely used their ____________ (noun, plural). Before they could ____________ (verb) their ____________ (adjective) creation, the seniors swooped in and ____________ (verb-ed) the microbes with a ____________ (useful gardening tool, preferably with spikes). “Silly ____________ (noun, plural) you can’t do that here! You are but lowly ____________ (noun, plural), no more ____________ (adjective) than a(n) ____________ (noun, preferably a funny one).

That day, the MBA community learned a few valuable ____________ (noun, plural). 1. The Memphis ____________ (animal, plural) are way better than the San Antonio ____________ (Cowboy article of clothing). 2. ____________ (Actor/actress is not as ____________ (adjective) as ____________ (Mila Kunis)). 3. My ____________ (Drink of choice in new dining hall) tases better ____________ (verb-ed) with the ____________ (adjective) remains of a(n) ____________ (adverb) ____________ (Verb-ed) junior schooler. 4. And most importantly, you never let the ‘crobes near your ____________ (adjective) Panini press.

The Perks of Being a Wallace Flower (or Quotation)

1. “GOOD MEN MUST NOT OBEY THE LAWS TO DO WELL” - RALPH WALDO EMERSON
2. “BOYS SCHOOLS (LIKE LIFE) ARE 90 PERCENT MEN. THE OTHER HALF ARE TEACHERS.” - YOGI BERRA
3. “OUR FIRST DATE WAS THE WAFFLE HOUSE.” - 2 CHAINZ
4. “BEATING YOUR FOUR YEAR OLD COUSIN IN CHECKERS IS A GREAT WAY TO MAXIMIZE SUCCESS.” - JAMES FRANKLIN
5. “BEATING YOUR SON WITH HIS SHIN GUARDS IS THE BEST WAY TO MAXIMIZE SUCCESS.” - KEVIN STALLINGS
6. “SO, HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEW RULE ABOUT SHIRTTAILS?” - COMMANDER WEBB
7. “BEING A CELEBRITY IS PROBABLY THE CLOSEST THING TO BEING A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN AS YOU CAN GET.” - KEVIN
8. “WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR CHAINS!” - KARL MARX
9. “OH MY GOD IT’S A MIDGET.” - ROBERT SYLVESTER KELLY
10. “AS A TEENAGER I WAS MORE OF AN ANARCHIST BUT NOW I WANT PEOPLE TO BE HARMONIOUS” - NICOLAS CAGE