The moment Coach Anderson yells “GO!,” the entire seventh grade roars its battle cries and rushes towards the dodgeballs. In Camp Laney’s indoor gym “battleball” directly translates to “war.” Fighting as if they were playing to the death, Mr. Russell says, “this year’s battleball was some of the most intense playing I had ever seen.” This year’s exceptional players were Coach Simpson and Coach Kimball. Coach Wims and Coach Anderson offered great rewards to the student who eliminated these powerhouses. Coach Kimball’s loose cannon of an arm sent kids crying to the sidelines. Will Trotman experienced the power firsthand. He says, “When Coach Kimball hit me in the stomach, I flew back two feet. Afterwards, I had a huge red mark on my chest!” There were many good throws/hits from the students, and the rewards were passed out many times. Some of the rewards included coke, cookies, brownies, jailbreaks, and high fives.

There were some minor controversies though over whether or not a head shot was legal, the exact rules for catching balls, who got out by a caught ball, and finally, if someone actually got hit or not by a ball. Despite the chaos, the nervous battleball energy did not result in any major cheating. This year’s seventh graders upheld the tradition of honor that was bestowed upon them by the school. It may seem easy not to cheat, but it’s not fun just to sit and watch your team being crushed without the urge of jumping back into the line of fire. Luckily, Coach Anderson and Coach Wims manipulated the game so that it was both fun to watch and play. Sometimes they would put the coaches at the three-point line, and they would not be allowed to move. Also, the two coaches would change the boundaries, allowing students to cross the center court line or even the three-point line. This strategy allowed the game to become so chaotic that teams were destroyed in seconds. It was definitely the craziest dodgeball I have ever seen!

Everyone in the seventh grade had a great time. Thanks to the support of our teachers, coaches, and Camp Laney for letting us use their gym. This year’s battleball was a major success and a privilege to experience!
The 7th grade class was given its annual challenge this year at Laney. We had to construct a boat made of cardboard and successfully paddle across the lake. It was certainly a fun and interesting challenge, and the results varied by team. A couple of boats made it, but a few sunk, and some boats did not even make it into the water!

The challenge took place on the last day of the Camp Laney Trip. We started the day with a hearty breakfast of bacon, sausage, biscuits, and cereal. After filling our stomachs, we had a few minutes of break. Many people went to go play pitball, and others played tennis. Then we met at the fire pit where we discussed the rules and collected our materials. The objective of the competition was to build a sturdy boat, to race across a very narrow lake, and to come back. The time had come for creativity and imagination.

The teams, which were based on the cabins in which we stayed, started making their boats with plastic, cardboard, duct tape, and a utility knife. A lot of cabins were spying and trying to sabotage other cabins’ boats. There were many different creations such as boxes, diamond-shaped boxes, coffins (boats that looked like coffins, in which you had to balance on top), canoes, and other various forms. All of these boats were built to carry a different number of people at one time. Most boats carried either one or two passengers, but Cabin 9 tried to carry three people and was the first to sink.

At last the bell rang; time was up, and it was time for the race to start. As we walked down to the river where we would race, I began to reflect on the week as a whole, but particularly on what Mr. Russell had said the night before. He told us that we all had fears, but we had persevered through them and strived to help others with their fears. He had a point. All of us had fears whether it was jumping off the Kamikaze, climbing the Pamper Pole, or getting into a boat made of cardboard for a race, but we all persevered through these challenges and helped others do the same. This point also captures the main reason that we went to Camp Laney, to improve our teamwork and to bond and support one another.

After all ten of the boats were lined up at the lake, the whistle blew, and the boys and boats started sinking. The first boat to go down was my cabin’s boat (Cabin 9), so we had to drag it out of the water and throw it away. It sunk because we forgot to put plastic on the entire boat. Other boats made it up and down a few times, but they never lasted very long. Congratulations to Mr. Cooper’s cabin (Cabin 16) for winning the race with their very durable boat and to Mr. Anderson’s cabin (Cabin 11) for winning second place. Also, congratulations to Coach Vernacchio’s cabin for effort (Cabin 9).

After the strange race, we cleaned up all of the trash, ate our last meal at Camp Laney, and then headed back home on the buses. The ride back to MBA felt like a very long ride, even with the movies and a myriad of pillow fights. Camp Laney helped us bond as friends and learn to work as a team.
High Expectations for High Ropes
By Ben Coulthard

The seventh graders journeyed to Camp Laney in Mentone, Alabama from September 12-14. Even days before the trip, the Junior School was abuzz with talk about the three-day retreat.

The part of Camp Laney talked about the most leading up to the trip was the High Ropes course, especially the Kamikaze. The high ropes were the Zip Line, the Vine, the Kamikaze, the Pamper Pole, the Bonzai, and the Rock Wall.

Zip Line: You would put on a harness and a helmet and walk down from the viewing area to the area where you get strapped in. Once it was your turn, you would have a hook attached to your harness, and you would climb a ladder up to a platform. On the platform you would have another hook attached. Once all the hooks were in place, you would jump off the platform and zip away!

The Vine: Personally, I thought that The Vine was the most nerve-wracking of all the high ropes. You would put on another harness, get hooked in again, and climb up a ladder. Once you had climbed up the ladder, you would navigate your way across a piece of cable, and there were pieces of rope hanging down which you would have to grab hand-over-hand. The pieces of rope were spaced very far apart, so I felt like I was about to fall.

Kamikaze: The Kamikaze was one of the most popular parts of Laney. You would climb up a cargo net about fifteen feet off the ground, and then have someone hook a carabiner and rope onto your harness, and you would maneuver across an obstacle course. The obstacle course consisted of a wooden plank, a wooden log, a cable and a section of thin pieces of rope. The plank made people say to themselves, “Oh, this obstacle course isn’t so hard,” but the log was the part that made people think twice about what they said. The log spun when you went over it, so I had to get quickly past the log so I didn’t fall. The pieces of rope may have been the hardest part of the obstacle course. You had to position the middle of your foot on the middle of the rope to stay upright. Once you finished the obstacle course, a person hooked you onto a sturdy wire. Then, you took a couple of steps to your right, and the person helping said to try and sit down on his foot. When you stepped out, you were in a free fall, swinging back and forth until you were helped down.

The Pamper Pole: The Pamper Pole was essentially a telephone pole that you shimmied up to get to either a 3x3 foot platform or a disc that was just big enough to stand on. To get up the Pamper Pole, you climbed up rungs very similar to the rungs on a telephone pole. The pole shook when you climbed. I could feel the pole shake the whole way up, and it made me feel very close to falling. The disc was very small, but it was just big enough so I could stand even though the pole was still shaking. Once I got to the top, I jumped as far as I could to try and grab a hold of a trapeze bar. I failed, but the Pole was still very fun.

The Bonzai: The Bonzai was a smaller, wimpier version of the Kamikaze. To get up the Bonzai, you climbed a ladder about seven or eight feet up in the air. Once you got up the ladder, you climbed across a cable and grabbed the wire on the side to support you. Once you finished going across the cable, you would be hooked into a swing. It wasn’t much of a swing because it wasn’t too far off the ground, but it was fun anyway.

Rock Wall: The Rock Wall’s highest point was about 30 feet up in the air. There were three different walls. One was easy, one was medium, and one was hard. I tried the easy and the hard walls. The hard wall was difficult for me because I don’t climb much, but almost anybody who tried made it up the easy wall.

All of the high ropes at Camp Laney were extremely fun, and the seventh graders all enjoyed the trip. Thanks to the Camp Laney staff, the folks from Higher Ground, Mrs. Stewart, and all the teachers who came to make Camp Laney fun.
CAMP LANEY

James McKnight, Wesley Hall, and Houston Hartle

Colin Snell, Brady Slinger, and Alex Bulgarino

Ben Evans

Thomas DeRoche

Carter McClellan

Luke Speyer

Thomas Bellet

Rashad Townsend with Mr. Kimball
My Interview with Richard Freund

By Tony Huang

South Africa is an exotic and beautiful country. Richard Freund is a South African exchange student here at MBA. He lives in Cape Town, South Africa, where he attends the Bishops School, which is a Catholic school. He lives in an environment that is both similar to and different from ours.

T.H.: What grade are you in?
R.F.: At MBA I am in 10th grade. At my school in South Africa, though, I am in 11th grade because our school year is from January to December, unlike yours.

T.H.: I heard from Mrs. Roberts that the security in South Africa is really high. What are the differences from security here and security in South Africa?
R.F.: I noticed how the houses here don’t have walls surrounding them. In South Africa we have a wall surrounding our yard, so if a burglar tried to rob our house, it would be hard to get in. If you wanted to get into the house, you would have to knock on the wall or gate. We also have infrared motion-sensing lasers in our backyard, so if someone got past the wall and sneaked into our backyard, we would know that they were in our yard before they got near to our house. We don’t have as much greenery in our yards as you guys do because of the walls.

T.H.: What is different about school here and your school in Cape Town?
R.F.: At my Catholic school, we wear coats and ties every day. Our classes rotate throughout the week, so we don’t have as much homework as you guys do. Since we have rotating classes, we have two days to do the homework.

T.H.: What are the different races where you live?
R.F.: The ratio of races in South Africa isn’t what people think. The ratio of whites to blacks is actually about fifty-fifty, with whites predominantly in the upper class.

T.H.: You told me how you go to a Catholic school. What are the major religions in South Africa?
R.F.: South Africa has many religions, but the majority of the people are Christian. I go to a Catholic school where the majority of the people are Catholic. There are Jews, Muslims, and atheists there, even though the school is Catholic. When we worship, they don’t worship with us, but they still sit back and respect what we are doing.

T.H.: How did you grow up?
R.F.: I grew up well. Some people would say I grew up naive because I was born in 1996, after the Apartheid* from 1948 to 1994.

T.H.: What are some other major differences you’ve noticed about Tennessee?
R.F.: Your dialect is pretty different. I was pretty surprised when people said “y’all.” There is also a lot more fast food. I like that, though.

T.H.: Are you going to come back to America after your time at MBA?
R.F.: Yes, I will probably return at some stage, but I don’t know when.

Thanks, Richard, and we hope you have a good time at MBA!

*Apartheid-period from 1948 to 1994 when whites discriminated against blacks and occupied the entire upper class in South Africa.
Scenes from an Eighth-Grade Mixer
WELCOME

New Faculty in the Junior School

Mrs. Yu
Math/Robotics

Mrs. O’Connell
Grammar/Vocabulary

Mr. Hannon
Introductory Physical Science

Mr. Simpson
Dean of Students

Mr. Calico
Math

Mr. Kimball
English 7

A New Addition to the MBA Family

Mary Coleman McMurray (she goes by Coleman) was
born May 29, 2012, during Junior School
Honors Night.
8 lbs. 14 oz.
Her proud papa is Coach Will
McMurray.
Congratulations!
TO THE HILL

New Students of the Class of 2017

Micah White

Previous school: Brentwood Academy
Favorite thing about MBA: The challenging academics
Favorite Sport: Basketball
Hobbies: Forensics
Favorite Class: Math

Dorian Goldner

Previous school: Lincoln School in Costa Rica
Favorite thing about MBA: The community
Favorite Sport: Soccer
Hobbies: Sports
Favorite Class: Geography

A New Addition to the MBA Family

Brynlee Reese Thornsberry was born on July 9th, 2012 at 8:17AM.
8lbs 5oz and 20 inches
Her proud papa is Athletic Trainer, Brandon Thornsberry.
Congratulations!
Homeroom Representatives 2012 - 2013

Elected offices are President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer

EIGHTH GRADE

Mr. Anderson: Hudson Dobbs, Caleb Jernigan, Sam Morris, Cameron Wade
Mr. Brown: Turner Johnson, Will Hansen, Call Bainbridge, Cal Rieke, Will Gray
Mrs. Christeson: Will Hoffman, Jack Pickel, Drew Martin, Jack Hayles
Ms. Ellery: Will Peters, Jacob Kovick, Andrew Freeland, Jed Griffin
Mr. McMurray: Jackson Maradik, Ben Gauldin, Drew Davis, Christian Palm
Mr. Russ: Micah White, Noah Wamble, William Hollahan
Mr. Spiegel: Warner Lamar, Josh Herndon, Tom Peters, Richard White
Ms. Williams: Jack Benson, Will Warren, Peter Taylor, Ellis Moore

SEVENTH GRADE

Mr. Barclay: Mike Miccioli, Tyson Briggs, Jackson Abbey, Colin Snell
Mr. Boysen: Bradford Holliday, Jackson McFadden, Ben Coulthard, Anderson Flack
Mr. Cooper: Harrison Graves, Benjamin Dotye, Will Grana, Fenner Pollock
Mr. Euverard: Houston Hartle, Alexander Roberts, Zach Smith, Hudson Walker
Mr. Gillespie: Wesley Hall, Will King, Alex McClellan, Larry Hayes
Mr. Kimball: Thomas Carr, Hunter Dunn, Chris Hawkins, Wake Warthen
Mrs. Roberts: Oliver Briggs, Franklin McKenzie, Trace Fontana, Patrick Butner
Mr. Russell: Rhys Rutherford, Luke Speyer, Isaac Wills, Gordon Pollock
Mr. Sawyer: Jamison Russ, Centre King, Brawner Smith, Joseph Hatcher
Mr. Wims: Ruff Maddux, Daniel Lee, Brady Slinger, Sebastian Nigrelli
Serializing novels was a common practice in the 19th century. Made famous by such authors as Charles Dickens, some authors still serialize their work today. Stephen King’s novel, The Green Mile was first published in a serialized format. This year marks the fourth time that the editors of this paper have decided to serialize a short story using an anonymous writer. This story will continue in each issue until its conclusion in our final issue in May. Enjoy!

### Jake and the Tribe: Part One

By Anonymous

Come on Jake! You can do it! Just jump! Jake looked down. He saw a twenty-five foot drop to the river, but the other boys already jumped, and he was the last one of the group to go. The other boys did not get hurt, so why would he get hurt?

“Okay…” Jake went into the cave, asking himself why he even thought about joining this crazy group of kids he met at school. The rednecks were nice, but definitely wild. The boys made him jump off a bluff into the Tennessee River, eat worms, hold a piece of hot coal on his arm for thirty seconds, and now they are making him catch a fish in pitch black with his hands. It is hard enough to catch a fish with only his hands, and they want him to catch a fish in a dark, mysterious, and freezing cold cave.

By now he was in the cave and searching for a fish. He felt something massive swim by his leg. It felt just like a cold hand was touching him.

“Ahhh! GET ME OUT OF HERE!” He started swimming towards the mouth of the cave, and he felt another fish swim by his leg, but this time, out of instinct, he grabbed the fish and held it dangling and thrashing above his head. The fish’s tail slapped him on cheek. He thought to himself, “Yes, I finally did it!”

He came out of the cave whooping and went over to the rest of the tribe. All of them got out of the water and circled Jake. They started chanting, built a bonfire, and roasted the fish on a stick. When the boys settled down, the chief came over to Jake and said, “Jake you have mastered your fears, and for that I now rename you Moon Fish. Now meet your new brothers.”

Jake was thinking that these kids must be out of their minds for naming themselves after Cherokee Indians, but he went along with it because he wanted some new friends and he’d only been in town a week. Jake, now Moon Fish, shook hands with Mighty Squirrel, Majestic Robin, Green Tree, and Brown Rock.

“Now that Moon Fish has been welcomed,” said Blue Stream, “let us show him our sacred grounds.” They walked the trail up to town and stopped at the only McDonald’s on the main drag.

Once everybody got their burgers, Blue Stream said, “My real name is Luke, Mighty Squirrel is Jack, Majestic Robin is Rob, Green Tree is Peter, and Brown Rock is Zach. We’re really not weird and crazy—we just wanted to see if you would do everything we said.” While Luke was saying this, everybody was cracking up laughing.

“Man, you fell for it, too!” shouted Rob.

“I can’t believe you actually had the guts to go into that cave!” said Jack.

By this time Jake was feeling pretty stupid, and his face turned red. Seeing Jake’s embarrassment, Luke said, “Don’t worry about it, Jake. We were just playing, and what you did was pretty impressive.”

Jake felt better and started to joke around with his new friends, or his new tribe mates. By the end of the day, the boys were swimming and fishing and jumping and screaming. Jake thought that maybe the little town of True Mount Point, Tennessee wasn’t that bad after all.

--To be continued...
This election, the Democratic Party of America is preparing to defend their spot in the presidential seat and is campaigning and advocating extensively for their candidate, Barack Obama. Socially and economically, the Democrats are presenting an agenda based around reform, personal liberty, and equality. The Democrats must demonstrate how they can be trusted to lead America into prosperity in a second term under their ideology.

This year, social issues such as abortion and contraception, gay marriage, and illegal immigration have been a large part of Obama’s campaign. The Democratic Party has taken a relatively progressive stance on these issues. Democrats believe that it is a woman’s right to an abortion and that she has full control over her body. One of the more controversial acts during the president’s term is a law that requires all hospitals (including evangelical) to carry contraception for women who seek them. On the issues of gay rights, the Democratic party pushes the idea of marriage equality and advocates for the legalization of gay marriage, gay adoption, and all the rights and privileges attached. This proposal is beneficial to the country as it shows our progression towards equality and freedom that doesn’t hinge on religious groups. President Obama and the Democrats are looking to keep voters confident that they will deal with illegal immigration. Obama said that in 2008 when he promised reform, the dwindling economy took priority over that promise which is true as we went through one of the worst economic recessions in our brief history, and are still going through it today. Obama believes that we need to crack down on employers that hire illegal immigrants but still focus on the illegal immigrants who are criminals and don’t have any United States heritage. A noble act for which the president has fought is the full amnesty of illegal minors who match the criteria of the DREAM Act that was proposed in 2001. The DREAM Act states that illegal immigrants who arrive as minors, demonstrate good moral behavior, and graduate from United States high schools shall be granted full amnesty in our country.

Economically, the Democrats believe that companies outsourcing jobs should void their four billion dollar tax break, and those showing a good environmental and local hiring record should be rewarded with tax deductions. Democrats also believe that the national debt and the economy problem should be solved by raising government revenue through taxing wealthier people and corporations while lowering them on middle-income families and small businesses. A tactic for creating jobs in the Democratic ideology is creating government programs that can put the unemployed to work. With 90 billion dollars dedicated to green jobs, more solar, wind, and electrical grids have been installed and initiated all across the country.

Health care has been one of the largest and most talked about issues since the presidential race began. The Obama Administration’s biggest accomplishment is the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. This monumental act signed into law by Barack Obama on March 23, 2010 changed the landscape of the health care system in America. It mandated health care coverage for all Americans, forbid insurance companies from turning down coverage of those with preexisting conditions, and makes insurers hold their clients’ children’s health care until the age of 26. Other than this, the Democrats have been very vocal in protecting Medicare and Medicaid, which guarantees the elderly and low-income families health care.

As President Barack Obama is poised to retain his presidential spot, his opponents, the Republicans, have readied to challenge him with their candidate, Mitt Romney. Only the democratic system of the United States will decide the fate of the incumbent and the challenger. Be sure to watch the coverage on election day when the winner of what many say is the most important election of this millennium is decided.
This year brings about a very important time in our American history. The 2012 election could be an important turning point for our economy. It could get this country back to full speed and restore the nation to its former glory. I think Mitt Romney is the exact person to do that. As November approaches, it will be your parents’ time to make that decision. After the economic slump in the early 2000’s, Obama has done little to nothing to get the job done and boost the economy. When it comes to something as serious as the presidential office, I think Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan are the perfect men for the job.

Mitt Romney has a very conservative mindset. He is pro-traditional marriage, pro-life, and he has strong family values. He is a born and raised Mormon who has very strict personal ideals. His self-respect and dignity paired with his incredible work ethic have earned him the chance to run for office. We need a president with a strong moral base, not one who cannot determine what he really believes. Mitt Romney has a great background morally, and he has the perfect mindset to take on the job of president.

In the past four years, Obama has stood idly by as people have lost jobs, taxes have gone up, and the economy continued on a downward spiral. Obamacare may not have seemed unconstitutional due to the Supreme Court vote, but it violates the very statement of freedom in this uniquely free nation. Obamacare introduces the idea of universal healthcare, or mandatory healthcare. This type of reform means that everyone, no matter if they are young, old, sick, or healthy, has to buy health care. Also in Obamacare are ideas that will make hospitals carry “morning after pills” or birth control medicine. This mandate violates the beliefs of the religions on which the hospitals were built. In some religions, it is strictly forbidden to use any kind of pregnancy control agent, and it is unconstitutional for the Obamacare bill to force hospitals to do so. If Romney is elected, he promises to repeal Obamacare from our nation.

Romney plans to cut ridiculous spending from the government when he takes the office. Right now, the government is putting itself into deeper debt than it has ever been. Sixteen trillion dollars is not a manageable amount. Romney is going to cut bogus spending and prevent further measures that would put us even more in debt. In Obama’s entire campaign, the government has spent more money than all of the nation’s wars combined. Mitt Romney plans to lower tax rates for all incomes. This type of plan means that people will have more spending money, and they will go out and spend it, effectively helping the economy. Some people argue that he will raise taxes on people with low income, but actually, he means to do quite the contrary. Mitt Romney has a good plan to get the economy back up and running again.

Whether Democrat or Republican, you should suggest that your parents vote. This election could be crucial to the economy and job creation. I am convinced that Mitt Romney is an all-around better candidate than Barack Obama.
The Syrian Uprising

By Tony Huang

Last year, on the Ides of March, residents of the city Daraa protested the arrest and torture of students who had put graffiti on walls that said the “government would fall.” When the government retaliated with heavy force, the rest of Syria exploded with unrest and began demonstrations that gave way to fighting. The fighting in Syria has caused many problems for the civilians, especially the children.

Children in Syria are going through horrifying times. Many have been starved, beaten, and tortured, sometimes to death. Almost all the children have seen a family member die. One teenager saw a six-year old child starved and tortured to death. He said, “I watched him die. He only survived for three days and then he simply died. He was terrified all the time. They treated his body as though he was a dog.”

Religion has further complicated the uprising. President Bashar al-Assad and the majority of the military are Alawites, who make up ten percent of the Syrian population. Sunni Muslims, on the other hand, make up as much as seventy-five percent of the Syrian population. The majority of the rebels are Sunni Muslims. The Alawites think that the Sunnis will kill them (probably rightly), so the Alawites are brutally killing Sunni Muslims. The military Alawites think that if they stop killing the Sunnis, the Sunnis will annihilate them.

This February, the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly voted to condemn President Assad’s brutal retaliation on the uprising, but China and Russia blocked further action. Russia is very big on helping President Assad. Syria, under President Assad, allowed Russia to extend its influence into the Middle East. If President Assad and his regime fall, Russia’s power in the Middle East would fade. Iran has also increased its support for President Assad.

Al-Qaeda is also playing an important role, but it is one against President Assad. Much of the violence has actually been Al-Qaeda terrorist attacks. Most of the attacks are done with suicide attacks and car bombings. At least two–hundred deaths and one thousand injuries have occurred because of these attacks. And because the U.S. has been arming Syrian rebels, it is also helping arm Al-Qaeda.

The United States’ most direct warning of U.S. intervention was in late August when President Obama warned that the U.S. would use military action if there was any sign that chemical and biological weapons were being moved or used. Syria has acquired mustard gas, sarin nerve agent, and cyanide, which President Assad said would not be used unless there was foreign intervention in the conflict. This action is seen as being used to prevent Western countries from attacking Syria.

These are the statistics as of September:

- 20,000 dead
- 260,000 fled to neighboring countries.
- 1.2 million internally displaced people
- 2.5 million needing humanitarian assistance.

So far, there is no end in sight to this conflict, and it may be a long time before the conflict is over in Syria.
A False Sense of Security

By Ben Rosenthal

On September 11, 2001, Al Qaeda, a group of terrorists led by Osama Bin Laden, bombed the World Trade Centers and sent America into a new era. Now, it is eleven years later, and Bin Laden may be dead, but Al Qaeda is still wreaking havoc on our country. Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other U.S. citizens were in Benghazi, Libya, when they were murdered during an attack on the U.S. embassy. When the death of Ambassador Stevens was first reported, the believed cause for the infiltration of the Embassy was a Youtube video of riots caused by the death of a top Al Qaeda official. However, our Ambassador’s death was actually the result of a terrorist attack on America planned for 9/11. The president and other high-ranking officials in the state department knew that it was a terrorist attack soon after it happened, but for almost two weeks the president denied that it was a terror attack and continued to talk about the meaningless video, saying that they were “investigating.” In addition to the denial about the attack, the government turned down additional protection for the Embassy after being warned about the attack three days prior.

Why would they do this? Well, first ask yourself these three questions. First, did you know that it has been almost thirty years since a U.S. ambassador was killed on another continent? Secondly, with our technology improving, how could this attack have happened? Finally, did you know that all U.S. embassies, no matter where they are located, are sovereign U.S. territory (meaning they are part of America, not the country where they are located)? This attack was not in Libya; it was in America, mentally and physically. Also, the American embassy in Libya was not up to the standard of the Inman code -- which states the safety requirements for all embassies for withstanding attacks?

Well, first ask yourself these three questions. First, did you know that it has been almost thirty years since a U.S. ambassador was killed on another continent? Secondly, with our technology improving, how could this attack have happened? Finally, did you know that all U.S. embassies, no matter where they are located, are sovereign U.S. territory (meaning they are part of America, not the country where they are located)? This attack was not in Libya; it was in America, mentally and physically. Also, the American embassy in Libya was not up to the standard of the Inman code -- which states the safety requirements for all embassies for withstanding attacks?

So what does this all mean? Well, to put all of the information together, it means we were warned of an attack on a poorly equipped building on sovereign U.S. territory, a rarity since an attack of this nature has not happened in so long. Most of all though, it means people are left wondering how this could have happened, and why their own government lied to them. If you doubt the fact that the government lied, then tell me why Hillary Clinton said that it is was a terrorist attack, and then four days later Obama said that the government was still investigating. If that is not enough evidence then refer to the official report which came out on September 26, showing that President Obama knew it was terrorism twenty four hours after the attack.

Now that we understand why the attack happened and why it was reported as the result of a Youtube video, we need to understand that this incident was no gang or mob violence. It was an organized operation involving RPGs and automatic weaponry. This attack was a coordinated assassination lead by Al Qaeda, showing that although Bin Laden may be dead, Al Qaeda is still a threat. We need to be committed to protecting our country against more heinous acts like these, but clearly this was not evident immediately as a head security official in Yemen was assassinated on October, 11.

We need to focus on our foreign policy, no matter how important the economy may be at the time. This cold-blooded murder, and the cover up scene, could possibly affect the election and the history of our great nation.
Dr. Love’s Guide to Fall

By Turner Johnson

Dear Dr. Love,

Lately my girlfriend has been avoiding me because I “smell weird” (whatever that means). All of her friends say that I am not getting the “hint,” but I don’t understand what I am doing wrong. I shower once or twice a month, and I wore deodorant once too. Do you have any advice for me?

Sincerely,
Confused 7th grader

Well, Mr. Confused 7th grader, your first problem is your shower schedule. With your being required to do a sport here at MBA, a shower is necessary once or twice per DAY. Also, deodorant is needed every day before school, and after your sport, I also recommend that you keep a stick of deodorant in your gym locker. Just remember that girls love it when a guy smells good, but girls hate it when a guy smells “funky.” Remember guys, go easy on the Axe body spray - a little is good, but a lot is overpowering and smells awful.

Dr. Love and friends

Shiloh, Fail or Hail?

By Joe Moxley

In my opinion, Shiloh by Shelby Foote is a wonderful novel. The book was confusing, though. The way I understood the novel was by re-reading passages again to catch little details and hints of other characters, and most importantly going to Shiloh over the summer and touring the battlefield.

When re-reading passages, I found that some main characters were mentioned in other chapters where they were not the main character of the chapter. For example, The Confederate rifle man, Luther, is mentioned throughout the novel by different Confederates. One of them was Polly, who was part of the Calvary. Polly was the one who told Dade where a doctor was. If readers understand details like this one, then the book will go a lot more smoothly for them. These details also make readers more alert and are carefully placed throughout the novel so that readers are always looking for clues.

To truly understand and enjoy Shiloh, you had to go to the Shiloh battlefield and tour it. MBA provided this opportunity over the summer. I climbed the Indian mounds that Polly used to spy on the Union reinforcements; I saw the hornet’s nest, and I walked down to Pittsburg Landing. Seeing these places helped me visualize what was happening in the battle. Before I went to the battlefield, I had a small idea of what was going on, but after going, I finally understood the book.

I know a lot of you guys did not like the book, but if you have any interest, I encourage you to go to the battlefield and tour the place. Overall, I think we should “hail” this book because Mr. Foote wrote it so well, and we should not call it a “fail” even though the book was confusing.
Cutting-edge TV Shows: Charismatic, or Catastrophic?

By Ben Rosenthal

August 8th, September 17th, or TV Shows: Cutting-edge, and it brings me relief during a stressful week.

The second of the three shows, Revolution, airing Monday at 9:00c on NBC, takes place in a post-apocalyptic world without electrical power. The protagonist, Charlie Matheson, was only three when the “blackout” hit. She moves to the country and resumes a normal life until the militia come and want to take her dad. A fight ensues, resulting in the death of a militia man, Charlie’s dad, and the kidnapping of Charlie’s brother, Danny. It seems the militia is the only order, which still exists. It is a brutal group of military men who capture people and make others pay taxes. The beginning of the show hints Charlie’s dad may know the secret to the blackout, because he knew that it would happen. He also had a locket/USB, which can turn on the power in a small area, but the show only reveals four people to have the power source, and two remain anonymous. Charlie’s step-mom and her dad’s friend set off to seek Gloria, her dad, and the protagonist, Charlie Matheson, was only three when the “blackout” hit. She moves to the country and resumes a normal life until the militia come and want to take her dad. A fight ensues, resulting in the death of a militia man, Charlie’s dad, and the kidnapping of Charlie’s brother, Danny. It seems the militia is the only order, which still exists. It is a brutal group of military men who capture people and make others pay taxes. The beginning of the show hints Charlie’s dad may know the secret to the blackout, because he knew that it would happen. He also had a locket/USB, which can turn on the power in a small area, but the show only reveals four people to have the power source, and two remain anonymous. Charlie’s step-mom and her dad’s friend set off to seek Gloria, her dad, and the main plot in which Charlie and her uncle, Miles, try to find Danny. However, Miles has many secrets which make him a huge asset, but also a liability. It is the most plot-based of the three shows and the most confusing to follow. There are violent scenes, including sword fighting and blasts from primitive guns, but nothing is too revolting. Overall, I like the show, but of the three, it had the most hype leading up to it and has been the most disappointing mainly due to the believability factor. I mean c’mon, is it possible that after fifteen years, everyone still has clothes which fit and guns which are made in factories that are powered by electricity? Finally the third show that may be of interest to you is Elementary, which airs Thursday at 9:00c on CBS. It is a crime show which is a fast-paced modern version of the old Sherlock Holmes novels. The main character is Sherlock Holmes, a recovering addict who worked for the Scotland Yard and is working as a detective in New York. His “sober companion” is Joan Watson, an ex-surgeon who quit after allowing one of her patients to die. Watson is a woman in this series, which is an interesting twist from Sherlock’s traditional companion. From the very beginning of the show, you learn something about Holmes: he is insanely good at deduction. He is more OCD than I thought possible and is smart to the point where he can memorize entire books. He is able to complete thoughts so fast that you may want to rewind the show a few times to truly understand what is happening. He may not wear the outfit of the old Holmes and has a few more tattoos, but his ability at a crime scene remains the same. He is able to identify causes of death and the location of a body without any effort at all. He may get carried away in the case or overly aggressive, but he always is able to succeed. Elementary has surpassed Hawaii 5-0 as my favorite crime show and is a must-watch for all who like crime-solving shows. These new shows are all excellent additions to television. Of course, I’m not one to decide which will be your favorite, so watch them all, and try not to get addicted to at least one. All three of these shows may have been caused by catastrophe, such as the blackout, but they are charismatic and pleasurable to watch.
Old Tricks, New Movies

By Reilly Dodd

Trouble with the Curve starts out with Gus (Clint Eastwood) waking up and going to a baseball game where he continues his career as a scout for the Braves. As he watches the game, he notices his vision has declined drastically. Being the old stubborn mule that he is, he refuses to actually go and get some help. Fast-forward, and now Gus’ best-friend, Pete (John Goodman), is in the office trying to convince Gus’ boss not to fire him because an upstart scout who has been using his computer to track players’ stats says that Gus should be replaced. Pete tries to convince Gus to get his eyes checked, but when that fails, he asks Mickey, Gus’ daughter, whom he hasn’t seen in years, to help. Even though Mickey resents her father for abandoning her twice, she decides to go out and try to help the old man. There is an unrelated love interest named Johnny (Justin Timberlake) who appears in the film, but he doesn’t really matter so...

The plot line alone didn’t quite impress me because it made itself out to be just another movie where the father and daughter reunite, fight, have some kind of sub-conflict which sprouts into mini conflicts, and so-on and so-forth, and then all those conflicts come together into one major final battle and are resolved. Afterwards, the father and daughter have another happy Disney ending, and the aforementioned love interest swoops back in, and they all walk down the street while the camera fades to black. Turns out I was spot on. Let’s not get confused here; I liked the actual movie; the battles that each character undergoes in the storyline are all well done, and all the controversies that interconnect are played out well enough. This movie looked like someone copied and pasted the hero’s journey sheet and made it into a baseball movie. Another thing I didn’t like about it was that at times it seems sporadic. For example, Gus and Mickey are at a diner eating some breakfast and having a pleasant time, but all of a sudden, Mickey gets a sullen look on her face and starts talking about therapy and how Gus had messed with her life. Also, like I said before, the love interest has nothing to do with the plot; he just kind of hangs out. He might say hello and take Mickey out on a date, but he doesn’t really matter to the plot. It is true that he helps Mickey step out of her comfort zone, but that’s about it. I was entertained though by thinking of the contrast to Moneyball, a movie where the new baseball system is incorporated, and scouts are being bashed for being old fashioned, and now this movie has the roles reversed. All-in-all though, this wasn’t a bad movie. It was just average, so if you want to go out and see an average film, go see Trouble with the Curve. I give it 7 out of 10 stars for predictable plot and ending and a somewhat jumbled storyline.

Mr. Eastwood does not approve of Reilly’s low score!
A Review of the Dark Knight Trilogy

By Peter Taylor

Ever since the release of Batman Begins in 2005, the Batman reboot trilogy has been praised for its acting, storyline, direction by Christopher Nolan, and its darker, more realistic tone, a departure from the previous Batman movies. For those of you who have seen the campy-but-good original 1966 Batman, starring Adam West, or the so-bad-it-should-have-never-been-made-there-is-nothing-done-right movie Batman and Robin, you know what I’m talking about (some informed movie critics have stated that Batman and Robin may actually be the worst movie of all time). Now that the finale, The Dark Knight Rises, has finally been released to critical acclaim and financial success, I’m here to look at the trilogy as a whole. (Spoiler Alert)

Batman Begins

The Good- Batman Begins is a great start to the trilogy. The best part is the fact that it is an origin story. Most comic readers probably knew how Bruce Wayne actually became Batman, but this was the first time it had ever been explored in a film. The first forty-five minutes are about how, after the death of his parents, Bruce Wayne travels the world and receives training as a ninja from Ra’s Al Ghul of the League of Shadows and returns to Gotham City to fight crime. It dives deep into Batman’s past and motivations, getting the audience to care for both Bruce Wayne and Batman. It is really cool to see how Batman gets all of his gear. Some other aspects of the film are the maturity the film brings to the Batman franchise, a dramatic turn from the corniness of most other superhero movies. When you hear people talk about the Batman coming to save them, it doesn’t sound childish at all. The movie has great action sequences, the most action oriented film of the series, and the performances by Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman, and Gary Oldman make Batman Begins a very solid start to the trilogy.

Best Moment- When Carmine Falcone, scared out of his mind, is sitting in his limo and says “Who are you?” Batman lands on the top of the car, breaking the ceiling and utters in his distinct gravelly voice, “I’m Batman.” One of the best scenes of any movie ever.

The Bad- The villain of the movie is the weakest part of the entire film. There really is no clear villain. Ra’s al Ghul and the League of Shadows are obviously supposed to be the villains, but their motivation is not all that clear. And if they are the true villains, what is Scarecrow? Is he just an extra who helps the League of Shadows infiltrate Gotham? Why does he even put on the Scarecrow mask in the first place then? The villain, or lack of one, is my only real problem with the film.

The Dark Knight

The Good- While Batman Begins is great, The Dark Knight improves on it in every way. It is a near perfect film. The best part about it is the acting. Heath Ledger as the Joker was awesome, one of the best performances by an actor ever, but the performances of Christian Bale as Batman, Aaron Eckhart as Harvey Dent, Gary Oldman as Commissioner Gordon, and Michael Caine as Alfred are also great.

The plot of the movie is amazing, and the inclusion of two of the best Batman villains is awesome. The action sequences are great, but as Warner Lamar says, “the best part of the movie is when it ends,” because the ending is just so dang cool.

Best Moment: “Do you wanna know how I got these scars?”

The Bad- Not really much I can say bad about the movie. If I really want to nitpick, the change in actresses for the Rachel Dawes character from Katie Holmes to Maggie Gyllenhaal was not my favorite, because I prefer Katie Holmes, but Maggie’s performance was fine.

The Dark Knight Rises

The Good- The best part of the Dark Knight Rises is the ending. The last twenty-five minutes or so is awesome, not only because of the action...
sequences, but just the sheer power and force of the ending. Christian Bale, Gary Oldman, and Michael Caine were awesome as usual. Joseph Gordon-Levitt as John Blake, Marion Cotillard as Miranda Tate, and Tom Hardy as Bane were great as newcomers, but it was Anne Hathaway’s performance as Selina Kyle/Catwoman that really stole the show (she is never actually referred to as Catwoman in the film). The action sequences of the movie were great, and the plot was well constructed, though it had some holes (more on its bad points in a second). Dark Knight Rises was a great end to an amazing trilogy.

Best Moment: When Batman is driving his Batmobile on the freeway, and the news helicopters are reporting that, “It’s Batman.”

The Bad- First off, the movie was a bit on the predictable side. When you see the one cop that comes on the screen, you know exactly who he is going to become. However, there is one twist that I did not see coming involving the identity of one of the characters. There were a few plot holes that bugged me that they obviously skimmed over to make the rest of the movie work (why would they send all the city’s cops underground to get Bane? Who’s directing the traffic?). I also thought that the movie was a little too long. I’m usually okay with long movies, but this one had a few unnecessary scenes that could’ve been abridged or omitted completely, especially the part where Gotham is occupied, and the whole sequence with the special forces men. The only other big problem I had was the fact that Alfred leaves near the beginning of the movie for understandable reasons and just shows back up at the end. I would’ve liked to see a little more development of his character.

The Dark Knight Trilogy

The Good: The best part about the trilogy are the performances by the various actors, notably Gary Oldman, Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Anne Hathaway, and Liam Neeson. Heath Ledger’s role as the Joker will go down in history as one of film’s great performances, on par with the likes of Robert De Niro in The Godfather Part II, Humphrey Bogart in Casablanca, and Harrison Ford in Blade Runner. Though the trilogy lacked an overall arc, unlike Star Wars or The Godfather, each story was wonderfully crafted, despite the few holes in The Dark Knight Rises, and each flowed well. The direction and vision by Christopher Nolan as a darker, more realistic Batman series portrays a world where Batman could actually be real, unlike the original Batman where the characters seem to exist in a made up, comic book universe. He gets the audiences to care for the characters of Bruce Wayne AND Batman as well as the other characters. The Dark Knight movies are not just great Batman films, they are overall great films. Cinematic art and filmmaking genius aside, the best part of the movies may be the visualization of all of Batman’s gear and vehicles (The Batcopter was freaking cool).

The Bad: I would’ve liked to see Riddler, Penguin, Mr. Freeze, and Robin/Nightwing portrayed in the series, especially after their more campy portrayals in the Tim Burton/Joel Schumacher series, but I understand they can only put so many characters in each movie (Batman Begins had too many as it is).

CONGRATULATIONS, ANDREW KAPLAN!

Andrew debuted in his first high school theater performance in this fall’s high school musical, Lucky Stiff. In recent years, the MBA theater department has been providing more and more opportunities for junior school students to perform in high school productions.
Southern Ground Music and Food Festival

By Warner Lamar

On Saturday, September 21, Nashville’s River Front Park on the lawn hosted the Southern Ground Music and Food Festival headlined by The Zac Brown Band. The festival attracted a large and diverse crowd. Music lovers, ranging from those clad in cowboy hats and blue jeans to tie-dyes and peace signs, mingled together to enjoy the music and have a good time.

The food at the festival was delicious with local food trucks and a concessions stand serving out the best of southern cuisine, but with the huge crowd and limited number of food options, time in line waiting for food stretched upwards of an hour and fifteen minutes. Local food trucks in attendance included Waffle Boss, serving fried chicken and waffles, Biscuit Love Truck, serving southern favorites like fried chicken and country ham among others on a biscuit, Delta Bound serving southern comfort food including a wonderful Po’Boy, and Riff’s Fine Street Food, serving international dishes. The highlight was the Bistro Truck, serving fresh, made-from-scratch artisan pizzas. The only downside was that it took around twenty minutes after you ordered to make an artisan pizza from scratch. I suspect that more food trucks will be in attendance when the festival returns to Nashville next year. Also, a series of vendors in tents were selling items ranging from cowboy hats and belt buckles to carved wooden Grateful Dead signs and hacky sacks. Most of the vendors were open to haggling down the price.

Musically, the performances only got better as the night went on. Two stages alternated sets. The more notable musicians played on the big stage for an hour then a lower profile band played a thirty minute set before another band played on the big stage. Aside from headliner, The Zac Brown Band, highlights included Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros. Despite the fact that Edward Sharpe appeared not to have bathed in weeks, they put on a good show with simple but catchy songs that got the whole crowd singing along. Levi Lowrey played a half-hour set, and while he was not the best vocally, he played an excellent fiddle. David Gray played all his hits including ‘Fugitive,” “Babylon,” and “Late Night Radio.” His smooth rock sound was a great contrast to The Zac Brown Band’s country twang. Speaking of which, The Zac Brown Band opened strong with a good number of songs from their new album, Uncaged, that came out this past July alongside older hits. Fiddle player Jimmy DeMartini made an early and impressive performance, displaying skills unlike anything I have ever seen before while appearing to be on the verge of tears throughout the show. John Mayer took the stage early and continued playing throughout much of the performance. While he did not sing, he lived up to his introduction as one of the finest guitar players of his generation. Sheryl Crow joined and played a few of her songs with the band followed by Gregg Allman of the classic Allman Brothers Band, who sang a few of their classics including “One Way Out” (off one of the all-time great albums, Eat a Peach) and a few The Zac Brown Band songs. Amos Lee made a surprise visit to play “Day That I Die;” the song he recorded with the band on Uncaged. The encore opened with a ten minute drum solo that only the drummer enjoyed, followed by a cover of “The Devil Went Down To Georgia” that was better than the original. Then they played their best song, “Colder Weather,” that would have capped off the night perfectly. They closed with their biggest hit, “Chicken Fried,” and the night was complete. What can be heard digitally does not compare to a live performance. When the festival returns next year it will be one you don’t want to miss!
The Future of Blues Rock

By Peter Taylor

Ever since the release of his first album, *A New Day Yesterday*, in 2000, Joe Bonamassa has constantly been hailed by critics and music listeners, who have actually heard of him, as a guitar prodigy, a great singer/songwriter, and the future of blues, rock, and hard rock. Joe Bonamassa, a thirty-five-year-old man from New York, is influenced by the British guitarists and bands of the 1960’s such as Eric Clapton, Jimi Hendrix, and Led Zeppelin; groups that combined early rock and roll with electric and folk blues into what, over the next few years, would become rock and roll as it is today. I’d venture to say that Bonamassa is the greatest guitarist of the past fifteen years. He never fails to put out a good album, and *Driving Towards the Daylight* is no disappointment.

After the greatness of his last few albums, *Driving Towards the Daylight* has a lot to live up to, and I will say it has definitely lived up. Joe’s earlier albums were just straight up blues rock songs, mostly covers, and little regard was held for the songwriting aspects of each album. Since acquiring a new producer, Kevin Shirley, in 2005, in every album since *You and Me*, the songwriting has improved, each containing more originals without downplaying the riffs and soloing skills of Joe. *Driving Towards the Daylight* was meant to be a return to the earlier style of Joe Bonamassa, but Joe’s increased songwriting skills are still there, giving him fantastic song after fantastic song to solo.

Want an awesome rocker? Listen to “Dislocated Boy.” A cover of Robert Johnson, the master and biggest influence over blues music, with some searing twelve-string slide? Check out “Stones in my Passway.” What about a nice ballad with no guitar solo to be found? The title track is golden for this type of song, perhaps one of the strongest songs Joe has ever written. There’s also a slow blues ballad in “Place in My Heart,” reminiscent of one of Joe’s idols, Gary Moore, a guitarist very similar to Joe in style and songs.

Now, the reason that everyone who buys the album gets it. The guitar playing on this record is unbelievable. Fiery, bluesy, tasteful, dramatic, and just plain insane are all apt descriptions for his blues licks. Though at times he can overdo a solo a bit and just shred, playing as fast as he can, the majority of his guitar playing is just plain awesome.

There are not really any bad things with this album. A few of the songs are not the best, compared to some of the songs on his other albums (my favorite song he has ever written is either “Asking Around for You” or “Last Matador of Bayonne,” both on one of his other albums). Though it’s a far from perfect album, there are really no glaring flaws that I really just don’t like. On the song “Who’s That Talking,” a cover of the legendary Howlin’ Wolf, there is a sampled bit of Howlin’ Wolf talking about a way to do a “calypso beat.” I think that this conversation would be really cool if I heard it as part of an interview or something, but I am not crazy about it placed into a song.

The Verdict: Rating: 9/10
Comments: With strong songs, great singing and guitar playing, and an all around great sound, Joe Bonamassa once again proves that he is the modern king of blues rock.

Note: Joe Bonamassa is in another band with Glenn Hughes, former singer for Deep Purple, called Black Country Communion. They have a little heavier hard rock sound as opposed to the lighter blues rock of Joe’s solo records, and they are definitely worth checking out. Be sure to check out their third album, *Afterglow*, when it hits stores on October 30, as well as their earlier releases *Black Country Communion* and *Black Country Communion 2*. 
The guitar, the central instrument of the music of the 20th century. Each person who plays the guitar has their own message they want to say, their own spin they want to put on an old riff. Here are who I believe to be the top ten guitarists of all time and their key performances. I evaluated these guitarists based on skill, songwriting/riff writing, memorable solos, accompaniment and support to the other band members, influence, TONE, and overall style. I included a guitar pair as one entry on the list, as I believe the two guitarists complement each other to form one greater style.

1. Jimi Hendrix of the Jimi Hendrix Experience
   “Little Wing”
2. Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin and the Yardbirds
   “Since I’ve Been Loving You”
3. Eric Clapton of John Mayall, Cream, Blind Faith, The Yardbirds, Derek and the Dominoes, Solo
   “Hideaway”
4. Jeff Beck of the Yardbirds and the Jeff Beck Group
   “Cause We’ve Ended as Lovers”
5. Paul Kossoff of Free
   “Mr. Big”
6. B.B. King
   “Thrill is Gone”
7. Duane Allman of the Allman Brothers Band and every American soul recording of the Late 60’s
   “Whipping Post” or “Mountain Jam”
8. Rory Gallagher of Taste
   “Who’s That Coming”
9. Les Paul
   Anything he ever did
TIED WITH
9. Django Reinhardt
   “Minor Swing”
(Both of these guys are brilliant jazz guitarists, and you should check them out.)
10. Mick Taylor and Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones
    “Can’t You Hear Me Knocking”

Honorable mention (in no particular order):
George Harrison, Joe Walsh, David Gilmour, Jack White, Billy Gibbons, Robert Johnson, Wes Montgomery, Brian May, Gary Moore, Freddie King
iPhone 5 Review

By Jackson Maradik

September 21st, 2012 was the climax to all the hype surrounding the new iPhone 5, for the public was allowed to get their hands on one for the first time. The most popular smartphone in the world is amped up with a new bigger screen, thinner sides, and super fast browsing, all while increasing the battery life from the recent 4s.

Appearance: Apple made significant changes when it comes to the way the iPhone looked and felt in the past. When I first held the iPhone 5, I noticed how much lighter it is compared to the 4s (approximately twenty percent lighter). This lighter weight makes it easier to hold the phone up to your ear and talk on the phone. The new iPhone also has a new, longer 4 inch screen (aside from the 4s’ 3.5 inch) that makes it easier to hold in your hand, simplifies the use of the phone, and also adds a fifth row of apps. Apple uses the slogan, “How can something get both bigger and smaller,” to market how these attributes dramatically change the feel of the iPhone 5. This is an appropriate slogan and got me excited about turning it on.

Speed: One of the main tests I ran with the iPhone 5 was how its speed compared with the iPhone 4s. The new iPhone has LTE that affects the browsing and downloading speed, and an A6 chip which helps apps run faster and cleaner. Both of these features cannot be found on the 4s. After a browsing test, I saw a difference in the speed it took to reach certain websites with the 5 being a little faster by about half a second. I also played the app, Jetpack Joyride (fairly popular on The Hill), on both devices, but I did not see a difference in the way the game ran except a skip every now and then on the 4s. My tests showed that the iPhone 5 definitely shows faster results, but, not by a reasonable margin.

iOS 6: With the release of a new iPhone comes a new operating system: “iOS 6.” There are a few key features that are worth mentioning: Photo Stream, new Siri capabilities, passbook, and Facebook integration. To start off, Photo Stream allows users to wirelessly comment on photos sent by users with linked accounts like family members. At first I thought that Apple was turning the iCloud into a new social network, but truthfully, it is just an easier way to share photos with friends and family. Before iOS 6, all Siri could do was answer simple commands and questions such as: “What does a weasel look like?” or “Do I need an umbrella today?” Now Siri can answer questions about sports rankings, scores and games, movie times, and more. Passbook allows you to be able to purchase movie tickets, game tickets, gifts cards, and more. I don’t really think Passbook is that revolutionary, but over time I predict this will change the way people do basic things like buying movie tickets. Finally, another key feature on iOS 6 is the integration with Facebook. Basically, iOS 6 allows you to upload pictures and video statuses to Facebook all through your photo library. Is this feature going to change the way people post on Facebook? I don’t think so. However, it might save you a couple seconds. Anyways, it is a great luxury to have but not necessarily needed.

Some Drawbacks: Overall, there were three things I did not like on the iPhone 5: the loss of both Google Maps and YouTube, and the new dock connector on the bottom. Over the past few years, Apple and Google have had continuous conflicts regarding new products, patents, and so forth, which resulted in YouTube and Google Maps (both products of Google) being removed from iOS 6. YouTube is not as much a problem, since Google has gone to the trouble to create a YouTube app for the app store, but it has a different look and feel. Over time people will adjust. Maps on the other hand is a problem. Apple was forced to create their own Maps product, which has turned out to have many bugs, such as sending you to the nearest Burger King or displaying wrong directions with the new turn-by-turn feature. Apple’s CEO Tim Cook even apologized publicly for the poor job done on this new feature. Another big problem that I found was how the dock connector was made three times smaller then the 30 pin connector used on the 4s. This completely messes up the revolutionary connector that has always been used and causes frustration for people having to keep up with both. Chalk this change up as another bad decision made by the iPhone team, all just to enhance the speaker system. Don’t fix something that’s not broken.

The Final Word: I was very impressed with the iPhone 5, and I definitely saw a lot more good features than bad and would recommend it to anyone looking for a new phone or upgrade. The iPhone 5 starts at $199 for a 16 GB version, $299 for 32 GB, and $399 for 64 GB. I definitely enjoyed doing this review and can’t wait to see the progress Apple makes with this family product in the future.
Aries (21 March – 20 April)
An apple a day keeps the doctor away. But, remember: What’s worse than finding a worm in an apple? Finding half a worm!

Taurus (21 April –21 May)
Don’t count your chickens before they hatch. You’re in for an unfortunate surprise, and the yolk will be on you.

Gemini (22 May –21 June)
Two heads are better than one. Caution: You and your lab partner will experience difficulty in agreeing on an answer.

Cancer (22 June –22 July)
Think before you speak, and watch what you say, because the walls have ears. Be on demerit alert!

Leo (23 July –22 August)
Don’t cut off your nose to spite your face, especially when you catch a cold. Get your flu shot, or else you will miss some school.

Virgo (23 August –23 September)
You get what you pay for. A “free” lunch will cause you pain and an unwanted fire in your belly.

Libra (24 September –23 October)
Don’t bite off more than you can chew. Choose wisely or your health and grades may suffer.

Scorpio (24 October –22 November)
The early bird catches the worm. The end of Daylight Savings time (“fall back”) will affect your calendar and leave you in the dark.

Sagittarius (23 November –21 December)
He who hesitates is lost. A late start will hurt your chances to achieve your goal.

Capricorn (22 December –20 January)
Buyer beware! You will be disappointed with a purchase in the near future. Think before you go to the newest movie or stand in line for the new Xbox game release.

Aquarius (21 January –19 February)
Be careful what you ask for. You just might get it and find that you have too much of a good thing.

Pisces (20 February –20 March)
You’re swimming upstream. Don’t get baited into swimming with the wrong school of fish.
The great sport of tennis has had a fantastic year so far, and throughout many tournaments, legends, and upsets, people are still entertained by this international sport.

There was a great deal of excitement at the 2012 U.S. Open, including shocking upsets and a weather snafu. The most surprising turn of events occurred when the sixth seed Tomas Berdych defeated the five-time U.S. Open champion and world-number-one, Roger Federer, in the Men’s Singles Quarterfinals, 7-6, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3. This win allowed everyone in the Men’s Singles draw to have an easier shot at the 2012 U.S. Open title. Taking advantage of this opportunity, Andy Murray snatched his first Grand Slam title, after losing in his first four Grand Slam Final appearances. He dethroned reigning U.S. Open champion Novak Djokovic, 7-6, 7-5, 2-6, 3-6, 6-2 in four hours and fifty-four minutes, tying the record for the longest U.S. Open Singles Final. Earlier in the tournament, during a semifinal match against Tomas Berdych, Murray became agitated because of poor playing conditions. Murray’s towel and Berdych’s chair and bag got blown onto the court, causing a let. Nevertheless, he played through it.

Another astonishing upset took place in the Women’s Doubles third round, when Maria Kirilenko and Nadia Petrova took out thirteen-time major doubles champions Serena and Venus Williams, 6-1, 6-4. This unexpected victory cleared the way for Sara Errani and Roberta Vinci to defeat Andrea Hlavackova and Lucie Hradecka 6-4, 6-2. In the Women’s Singles Final, Serena Williams redeemed herself in more than one way by taking out world-number-one Victoria Azarenka, 6-2, 2-6, 7-5 in addition to making it through a whole U.S. Open without having a tantrum for the first time in four years. Without much drama, Bob and Mike Bryan defeated Leander Paes and Radek Stepanek, 6-3, 6-4 in the Men’s Doubles Final. This was the Bryan brothers’ fourth U.S. Open title. Last but certainly not least, after losing in the sixteenth round to Juan Martin Del Potro 6-7, 7-6, 6-2, 6-4, 2003 U.S. Open champion, and American tennis star Andy Roddick retired.

This year’s US Open had many spectacular stories and surprises and is gearing up next year to be another exciting one to watch.

Controversial calls, replacement refs, and fantastic games have highlighted the NFL season as it is in full swing. One might have his own predictions about the playoff possibilities, but there are some clear decisions. Sadly, the Texans will win the AFC South and make their way to the AFC Championship, while the Titans will attempt to grab a Wild Card spot that will be highly contested. The New England Patriots will claim the AFC East as usual, but will lose in the Wild Card round. The AFC North will be a shootout between the Ravens and the Steelers, and the Ravens will claim the division, and the Steelers will take a Wild Card spot. The Ravens have a chance to go deep in the playoffs. I have them going all the way to the AFC Championship. The San Diego Chargers will claim the AFC West with the Broncos in a tight second. The Texans will reach the Superbowl by way of the Ravens in the AFC Championship. On the other hand, in the NFC, the four divisions will be crowned by some new teams. The Chicago Bears will take the NFC North as the Packers will grab a Wild Card spot. The South, dominated by the Atlanta Falcons, will go to the NFC Championship. The Western 49ers will once again make a deep playoff run and will see the Falcons in the Championship. The Giants will win the East and make the playoffs but will not have a deep run. The San Francisco 49ers will win the NFC and will face the electrifying Texans in the Superbowl. Now, the Texans will have the best season in franchise history and will challenge the defensive-minded Niners, but the NFC powerhouse team will get the job done in the New Orleans Superdome.

The official NFL referees are back, meaning the uproar from the game call during Monday Night Football between the Packers and Seahawks that caused, according to espn.com, $150 to $160 million dollars in bets to be shifted, will be quieted. The replacement refs have been jeered in many ways and won’t be forgotten for years to come. Let’s just say Division 3/Three refs don’t quite cut it for NFL standards.

With Roger Goodell on track and the real NFL refs back, the 2012-2013 season gears up to be a competitive one.
Replacements Refs: The NFL’s Train Wreck

By Will Warren

During the first three weeks of the 2012 football season, it seemed like the NFL tried to replace the usual “zebras” with horses—painted with black and white stripes.

Ask yourself, “Did you really even know why the NFL tried this “Replacement Referee” experiment?” The answer turns out to be money—$3.3 million a year or a little over one thirty second commercial at the Super Bowl. It is not that the NFL, which has revenues of over $9 billion a year, could not pay the $16.5 million ($3.3 million over the next five years), but rather the NFL and the team owners did not want to give in to the demands of the referees.

Even though the NFL locked out its referees in June, most of America did not pay attention or become worried until we saw the work of the replacement referees. By this time, the real season had started, and people started to notice and worry for the NFL teams and the season.

The replacement referees had problems seeing and calling the games correctly. They had issues with throwing the correct flag and then explaining the penalty. Sometimes they would call the correct penalty, but mark off another or just simply the wrong distance. As usual, offensive holding and defensive pass interference were the most common penalties. Defensive pass interference and personal fouls were the most questionable penalties that replacement referees called too frequently.

With the necessary extra huddles of officials to discuss and agree the proper penalty to call, the average NFL game during the first three weeks of this season took almost ten minutes longer, 3 hours, 16 minutes (2012 Season) compared to 3 hours, 7 minutes (2011 Season). (Source: SportsData LLC, www.sportsdatallc.com)

The replacements appeared unable to control the game and definitely did not have the respect or support of the players. The game became more dangerous for the players and less fun for the fans.

Ironically, Roger Goodell became NFL Commissioner on September 1, 2006, and his focus has been on “protecting the shield,” protecting the integrity of the game and making it safer.” Even the casual NFL fan has heard or seen Goodell’s efforts, ranging from player conduct suspensions with Pacman Jones and Kenny Britt in Tennessee and Bountygate in New Orleans to player safety with moving the kickoffs up to avoid concussions and fining players for illegal hits.

To us fans, the NFL deserved its own fifteen yard penalty for the long personal foul of this season’s first three weeks. Some would even say that Commissioner Roger Goodell should have been ejected from the game.

If a picture is worth a thousand words, the photo (below) of the replacement referees at the end of Monday Night Football, when they stole the win from the visiting Packers and gave it to the home Seahawks— is worth $150 million.

Photo: AP Photo: seattlepi.com, Joshua Trujillo

This photo, following the game-winning touchdown of Golden Tate or what seemed to be a game-clinching interception by M.D. Jennings, sums up what was the NFL’s replacement ref crisis. As this picture shows, one ref calls for a touchdown, and one calls for a touchback, therefore an interception. Was it a coincidence that the deal was done, and the replacement refs were not given another chance to ruin another single NFL game? No. Everyone, except maybe the Seattle Seahawks and their fans, would agree that the replacement referees were horrible in their three week tenure.

Even though the NFL has cleaned up its train wreck and is back on track, Conductor Goodell and the NFL better hope that the Green Bay Packers do not miss home field advantage or even worse, this season’s playoffs, because of their Monday Night Football “loss” at Seattle; otherwise, it will be really difficult to let all of the “replacement referee” jokes die.

Thankfully, Commissioner Goodell finally decided to “protect the shield” and let the replacement refs go back to their jobs at Footlocker and Buffalo Wild Wings.
Playoff Hope? The Tennessee Titans

By Andrew Kaplan

An injured Jake Locker. A slipping (literally) Chris Johnson. An upcoming Colin McCarthy. One receiver in jail, another fresh out of the draft. The 2012 Tennessee Titans are fighting through the season with difficulties, potential, and drive. The spirited team, competing with the NFL’s best Houston Texans and the “Lucky” Indianapolis Colts for the AFC South, will find itself having a hard time squeezing into the playoffs this year. As the years go on, the playoff team standards rise, and mediocre just doesn’t cut it. With an on-and-off Locker and a stable Matt Hasselbeck, the Titans don’t have any major issues at quarterback. Receivers are generally coming through with evenly balanced receptions and big plays by powerhouse Jared Cook, Nate Washington, and Kendall Wright. Defensively, they are giving the team a chance to win on some days, but other days not even close. The running game, you could say, has been a bit below par this year. The 2009 2K yard rusher in Chris Johnson is nowhere to be seen. After consecutive 1,000 yard seasons from 2008 to 2011, through four games this season he has been unable to rush for even 200 yards total. This performance puts him on pace for less than 800 yards this season, a huge hit to his spectacular rushing in years past.

The Texans will most likely clinch the AFC South with weeks to go in the season, so the Titans will have to try and scoot into the playoff race somehow and compete for a sixth seed. Coach Mike Munchak has coached his team the best way possible with his available resources. The Titans effectively showed the world just about everything they had in their playbook against Detroit, when they won an overtime thriller, blowing a fourteen-point lead with forty-five seconds remaining in regulation. The special teams look strong even without the injured Marc Mariani for the season. Players such as Darius Reynaud, Tommy Campbell, and Tim Shaw highlight the explosive special teams.

The 1-4 Titans have allowed opponents to destroy them in certain stat categories. The Titans have scored a total nine touchdowns on the season, while opponents doubled this total with eighteen. Opponents have maintained the ball over ten minutes more than the Titans per game. Other suffering categories such as rushing yards, total offense, and turnover ratio have really derailed the team from any winning way.

In order for the Titans to have a winning season and turn their dismal record around, they need to start by looking at these stats and begin to change them. They must eliminate the amount of possession time opposing teams have. Chris Johnson needs to step up, but if he continues to slide, Javon Ringer and Darius Reynaud are always available for a chance. Special teams coach Alan Lowry needs to continue what he is doing and help the Titans maintain an explosive feel, giving the Titans a chance if the offense doesn’t produce. Whether it’s Locker or Hasselbeck under center, it is necessary that they execute long drives that result in seven points and not make bad decisions as they have so far, resulting in turnovers. The defense needs to step up and not only give the team an opportunity to win, but put them in the position to excel on offense.

The 2012 Tennessee Titans have the chance to go places this season with the fulfillment of individual roles.
College Football 2012

By Hamilton Garber

Oh yes, it’s that time of year again. Time to bring out the eye black, jerseys, and get your tailgating grill fired up, because it’s time for college football. Five games into the season, and the race is on. At the beginning of the season, the top five BCS ranked teams were Alabama at number one after clinching the crystal pigskin for the fourteenth time. Next was USC, which has not been excellent in the past, but is looking fighting strong now. Next is LSU, the dynamic dynasty from Baton Rouge, who were ranked #1 last year, but sadly lost to Bama in the BSC championship. In fourth are the Oregon Ducks with their quick offensive style. Oregon played Auburn, but lost to the Tigers by a slim field goal in the 2010 National Championship. Oklahoma was ranked fifth with their Deep South football passion that has kept Oklahoma football strong for so long. I believe that some of these teams were overrated, but you can never underestimate a college team, especially with so many variables.

The big title is on the line this year, and many teams seem eligible to grab the victory. In each conference, several teams seem able to take the conference win and have a shot at a top bowl such as the Rose Bowl or the Tostitos Bowl. The SEC’s strong Southern pride and traditional football excellence seem to have a high chance of winning the seventh consecutive conference national championship title. It pains me as an Auburn fan, but I predict Alabama winning the SEC championship and going to the National Championship again. LSU looked strong for the beginning of the season, but lost to Florida in the sixth week, losing their standing and putting Florida at #4 overall.

I think Florida State is going to win the ACC Championship no doubt. FSU may not make it to the Big Bowl, but they will make it to one of the top tier ones for sure. For the Big 10, I believe Ohio State will win, but they are not as good this year as they have been in the past ten years. I predict Ohio State will make it to a top tier bowl.

The Big 12 is on a rapid decline from one of the most respected conferences to almost completely breaking up. Two teams have moved from the Big 12 to the SEC this year, Texas A & M and Missouri, which shows that teams no longer wish to be in the Big 12. I predict West Virginia to win the Big 12 especially with their Heisman Alert quarterback Gleno Smith. Finally, for the PAC 10, Oregon is going to take the victory and possibly make it to the Championship for the second time in three years.

Finally, be on the lookout for these players on the Heisman watch. Gleno Smith from West Virginia has no interceptions and 1,196 yards so far into the season. He has proven himself to be stellar. D’Anthony Thomas, the running back for Oregon, has a good rushing game, and he helps Oregon’s high scoring offense score points quickly. The Quarterback from Ohio State, Braxton Miller, seems to be a good, balanced rushing and passing quarterback, beating his own previous Ohio State record. Finally, Collin Klein from Kansas State is another great balanced quarterback.

This season looks to be an exciting one. Tune in Saturdays and now Thursdays for some good old-fashioned college action.
The Nashville Predators ended last season with a heartbreaking playoff loss to the underrated Phoenix Coyotes in the second round. Although the season ended disappointingly, Pekka Rinne highlighted the team with a sensational season, one of three finalists for the Vezina Trophy for the top goaltender in the NHL. He led all goalies for the most wins with forty-three and most games played with seventy-three. He also lead in shots faced (2153) and the most saves (1987). He and Flyers forward Claude Giroux were the finalists for the cover of NHL 13 the video game. Luckily, he will be staying with the Preds for another six seasons. Shea Weber was a major influence on the success of the team as well. He was a finalist for the James Norris Memorial Award (top defenseman). Thankfully, he also re-signed; Weber committed to a towering fourteen year $110 million deal with the Predators. If you are going to buy a Predators jersey, buy his; he will be in Nashville for quite a while. Assistant captain, Mike Fisher, re-signed for a two year deal. The veteran Paul (Goose) Gaustad signed off on a four year deal. The speedy American, Colin Wilson, re-signed for a three year contract. Sergei Kostitsyn re-signed for a two year contract. Hal Gill, a tall, wise, and disciplined defender got a two year deal. Brian McGrattan, a major enforcer, signed to a one year deal. A big hit to the defense has been one of two assistant captains, Shea Weber’s defensive partner, Ryan Suter, who signed with the Minnesota Wild for a thirteen year, $98 million contract. That whopping sum of money will keep him up in Minnesota for a long time. Many may be wondering why the Predators did not re-sign him. One reason is the fact that Suter has family on his wife’s side in Minnesota, and the two main priorities are Pekka and Shea. The Preds don’t have all the money in the world, nor can the organization spend much more. Each club has a certain amount of money set aside to spend on the players. Suter may not be the only decent player we lost, but he was a very valuable asset, and the Predators will definitely miss him. That said, defenseman Kevin Klein had arguably his best season, especially in the first round of the playoffs against the Red Wings. He really showed what being disciplined is like and made himself stand out to his team. He has some big shoes to fill. I think he’ll have another great year. Also, I had the privilege to interview Shea Weber, and he said if it were up to head coach Barry Trotz, Roman Josi would be on line one with Weber. Roman is a second year, offensive-minded defenseman. He needs to mature more, but he is proving to do well for the team.

The lockout is becoming more and more common for professional sports leagues today. The reason for the lockout is that the owners want a higher percent of the revenue, but the players do not want their contract values to drop. Therefore, they have to get an argument over it (like $100 million isn’t enough!). Hopefully, the owners and players will settle the problem and will get back to what they are supposed to be doing, dealing with the game instead of the money. As of now though, the NHL season looks grim. Many big name players have signed with teams in the KHL. These foreign hockey games are now being shown on TV because the NHL is very close to having no season at all.

Overall, I think the Predators will have a successful season, and I am not being biased. Shea Weber could really come to form as a legendary defenseman if he puts in the effort along with Pekka Rinne. Maybe the lockout will end soon, because I really want to see the Predators follow-up after an outstanding season. Make sure to read the next issue as I reveal the Q and A’s with Shea Weber!
David Price and R.A. Dickey are two of the most renowned pitchers in their league and all of baseball this year. With Dickey’s knuckleball and Price’s high heat, it is obvious why they have been so successful this year. Their numbers are almost identical, even though their pitching styles are totally different. Both pitchers are leading their respective AL and NL leagues in ERA, and both have twenty wins. Both Price and Dickey were selected to the 2012 All Star Game, where they pitched for their leagues and did not allow any runs.

At one point this season Price looked like a sure winner for the AL Cy Young Award, which is awarded to the best all around pitcher in each league. After starting his thirtieth game, Price has a 2.56 ERA-1st in AL, 19 wins- 1st in AL, and 201 SO-3rd in AL. David Price has been by far the most successful Rays pitcher in their short history. He currently holds numerous franchise records, including most wins in a season, lowest ERA in a single season, lowest ERA all time, highest win/loss percentage in a single season, and highest win/loss percentage all time.

Price, who has been known to throw high 90s with his four-seam fastball and two-seam fastball, has been very effective because of his use of his fastball and his off-speed pitches that include a changeup, a cutter, and a curveball. Price earned his twentieth win on September 30th vs. the White Sox. This milestone made him the first pitcher in Rays’ franchise history to win twenty games in one season. David Price is having a record-breaking season for the Rays. Price’s high 90s fastballs and twenty wins are part of the reason that he is once again an AL Cy Young choice, and the predominant choice as of now.

On the other side of the MLB is R.A. Dickey, who has been one of the most storied players that anyone has ever seen. While David Price brings the heat in the AL, R.A. Dickey has a different style that is a little bit harder to hit. He is one of the few MLB pitchers who has mastered the knuckleball. He has been one of the most successful pitchers in the NL this year, racking up twenty wins, which is second in the NL, 209 SO-2nd in NL, and he currently has a 2.66 ERA 1st in the NL. R.A. is only the sixth Mets pitcher of all time to collect twenty wins in one season. He has had a crazy MLB career, jumping up and down from the MLB to the minors and everywhere in between. He has played for four teams that include the Texas Rangers, Seattle Mariners, Minnesota Twins, and the New York Mets. Dickey’s knuckleball has been one of the hardest pitches to hit this year. His unpredictable knuckleball has left hitters wondering what just happened. One of the craziest elements of the knuckleball is in fact its unpredictable nature. It is impossible to know where it is going to go because of its complete lack of spin. This pitch is so crazy that Dickey doesn’t even know where it’s going sometimes. Although his pitch is sometimes wild and not always fast, it is still very effective for him, and most of the reason why he is a NL Cy Young Contender.
The Vanderbilt Commodores have two major sports in session right now, and they are about to begin a third. The Commodores’ football and baseball teams are primed for successful seasons while basketball is looking not only to have a rebuilding year, but also to be an SEC powerhouse.

**Baseball:** Coach Tim Corbin and his Vanderbilt baseball team are looking to have one of their best years in history this year. They got many of their players to return to West End and had the top recruiting class in the nation, according to *Collegiate Baseball*. This is good news after having the number two class last year. *Baseball America* also ranked Vandy high in their recruiting classes. In other news, the baseball team replaced the grass field with Astroturf. It is almost unknown why Coach Corbin and the staff decided to go with the Astroturf, but it seems like the decision will pay off throughout the season for reasons such as not having to have a tarp for when it rains and not having to worry about taking care of such maintenance issues as resodding. Coach Corbin said the main reason they switched was for weather purposes. The ‘Dores have already opened fall practice and have the annual Black and Gold games on October 25, 26, and 28th. I know that the team would like for people to come out for the games.

**Football:** Coach James Franklin and the team were welcomed back to West End with a brand new stadium with turf, new JumboTrons, and additional seating. They started practice at the beginning of August and have already played five games going 2-3. Their wins came against Presbyterian and Missouri and losses to talented South Carolina, Northwestern, and Georgia teams. They seem to have gained some confidence after getting their first SEC win against Missouri on October 6th, which will be key as they face an extremely talented fourth ranked Florida team who just came off a big win against LSU. Vanderbilt has shown some strengths and weaknesses this season, but no one will know what happened to their teams after James Franklin and Vanderbilt come to town.

**Basketball:** Coach Kevin Stallings and his team are scheduled to start practice on Friday to open up what is going to be an interesting season. Juniors Rod Odom and Kyle Fuller will lead the way for a young team. Coach Stallings said that this year’s team will “be under the radar” and “a team to watch out for” this season. He is taking what he calls “the box of chocolates” approach to things because “we don’t know what we’re going to get.” It will be hard this season for the team because they have the second to last amount of starts by players on the team, only behind Kentucky, who will be a team to watch out for with a whole bunch of talented freshman coming in to their program.

These three teams are going to be teams to watch out for this year as their seasons unfold. Watch out for breakout players such as Rod Odom, Kyle Fuller, and Dai-Jon Parker for the basketball team, Jordan Rodgers, Jordan Matthews, and Zac Stacy for the football team, and Mike Yastrzemski, Tony Kemp, Conrad Gregor, and T.J Pecoraro for the baseball team.

All the Vanderbilt teams are going to have great seasons this year. Even if you don’t know anything about sports, come and support the Vanderbilt Commodores sports teams!
The Microbe Rowing team had a great fall season. When the first day of rowing began, no one knew what was going to happen since rowing is usually on the water, but as the year progressed, it got better and better.

For the first few weeks, our daily routine included Big Red Laps around the campus, pushups, crunches, sit-ups, and working out on the rowing machines. On the rowing machines we would usually go for either a 500 meter or a 1000 meter run.

After a few weeks passed, the coaches, Mrs. Lamb, Mrs. Haverstick, Mr. Calico, and Mr. Tally decided that we were ready to go on the water. We have been going out on the water and learning to row on Saturdays. Being on the water was far better than doing our normal workouts. Before we could go on the water, we had to perform a lot of precautions for us to row. Precautions include getting the oars, carrying the boat to the dock (which is VERY heavy), untwisting the oarlocks, and tightening them back. After we finished doing the precautions we were ready to row. Rowing for the first time was awkward, but fun at the same time. It was awkward because the crew boats that we were rowing in were eight boats which mean that eight people are in the boat plus the coxswain; the crew boat is 60 feet long and weighs about 250 pounds. It was fun because you are out on the water and moving solely by the oars.

The final highlight of the fall rowing season was the intersquad-regatta. This small competition was against each other in heated races. When we got to the lake, we got to pick which boat we would row. This event was with the whole MBA crew team, so, as Microbes, we had to go last. The first race was the Varsity, and then it was the Novice. Finally, after waiting a long time for our turn to race, it was finally our time to shine. But after the Novice finished, Mrs. Lamb told us that our boat, the Noodle, had broke, and we would have to be on the Twelve, which is the nicest boat that MBA has. After getting in the boat, we rowed a little bit, and then finally it was the Microbes’ turn to row. When Mrs. Lamb said go, we were all off to the races, and we were ahead by a lot. Then a sailboat got in our way, so we ended up getting second place out of three boats. After we finished with the race Mrs. Lamb had a short speech and our season was over.

This fall rowing season was a resounding success in teaching us, many first-time rowers, the techniques to prepare us for the years of rowing to come.
Microbes’ XC-ellent XC Season

By Will Warren

The Microbes had a great cross country season in many ways. All of the coaching and training (individual and team) paid off at each of the weekly meets and led to an undefeated regular season. Between the two meets (season opener and Championship) out at Harlinsdale Farms, all of MBA’s thirty five runners improved their times weekly, with most setting personal records at the Championship.

The team’s chemistry and camaraderie reached a high and was essential throughout the season. Facing a strong Brentwood Academy team, we knew that the Championship meet would prove to be a tough challenge, and our coaches had prepared the team mentally and physically to compete at our highest level.

The high intensity Championship proved to be exactly what we expected. BA’s Charles Bennett set the fast pace and Harlinsdale Farm’s course record, with an impressive 10:50 time for two miles, taking the top spot. The meet officials compiled the results, and the team scores for MBA and BA were tied, after tallying the usual top five spots. Brentwood Academy barely beat MBA in the tie-breaker to win the 2012 HVAC Cross Country Championship by one point.

MBA’s top five runners who scored in all six meets were Tom Peters, Will Peters, Collin Ragsdale, Will Warren, and Alden Ferguson. Mack Smithing and Laws Hunter rounded out the eighth-grade powerhouse and top seven runners in the Championship meet. Tom Peters was second overall with a time of 11:09; Will Warren finished third in 11:11; Collin Ragsdale got fourth with 11:12; Will Peters was sixth in 11:13, and, with a time of 12:12, Alden Ferguson finished twenty-third. Mack Smithing and Laws Hunter finished twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth respectively with a time of 12:26.

MBA should be very proud of the Microbes’ XC-ellent cross country season. Congratulations to all of the runners, and thank you to all of our coaches and supporters. RUN RED RUN!!

Varsity Junior School Golf

By Coach Steve Shone

The golf team capped off their season with a fourth place finish at the HVAC Championships. The Microbe’s four representatives for the tournament were Josh Morris (4th individually) with a 42, Max Davis with a 45, Barrett Brown and Joe Waller with a 46 each. The team finished strong despite some tough losses during the season. Coach Shone looks forward to next year’s season as five of the top eight golfers were seventh graders.
7th Grade Football

By Coach Tim Bryant

The seventh grade football team ended their season last week with a big win over Brentwood Academy with a score of 13-7. Led by Houston Hartle, Ty Alexander, Wesley Hall, and Harrison Graves throughout the season, the team played as an unselfish team who truly learned the concept of being a unit. The record for the season ended at 4-2 (including the jamboree), and many of our opponents were comprised of seventh and eighth graders combined. This team was a fantastic squad of a determined and fun bunch of guys who understand our motto of being a Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete. The coaching staff consisted of myself, Chris Smith, Marcus Pigee, John Bernatavitz and Alex Dean. I look for great things to happen in the future with this team.

Eighth Grade Football

By Drew Powell

The Big Red eighth grade football team had a successful year. The season began with a disappointing loss in the jamboree, but it was made up for when the eighth grade team came back and defeated CPA in a rematch 34-22. After this win, the Big Red lost a tough game to Knoxville Fulton 12-0. Though it was a tough loss, the resilient team bounced back and beat Knoxville Webb 27-0. The next game against BA proved to be the toughest, most physical game of our season, and the Big Red lost 40-7. This game was a wake-up call to the team, and the afternoon practices became even more intense afterwards. Next, the team was scheduled to play a game against West Wilson Middle School, but it was canceled due to weather and never rescheduled. A last minute game with a team from Lebanon was scheduled so that they could play six games. This game proved to be an exciting one. Having to play this game without running back, Ty Chandler, the game was tied at zero with less than a minute left, and we had the ball at the two yard line. Michael Lee had the game-winning touchdown on a quarterback sneak that sealed the game. The team ended its season on October 4th with another loss to Brentwood Academy. This year will be built on, and the team looks to play hard next season.
Things you shouldn’t do with a backpack on

#32,017,625 Run down the stairs to 4th Period.