A CHANGING OF THE GUARD: Wallace Hall is being overtaken by newer developments on campus. By the time school starts in January, the old, dependable building will be demolished, the Lowry Building will be complete and the new Wallace Dining Hall will be in construction.

Goodbye, Wallace

Eulogizing a building that has become part of the Big Red tradition

By McLean Hudson
News Editor

Tradition is usually thought of as an abstraction, an intangible. When one comes on campus, though, the idea of tradition becomes manifest when one looks around at the buildings, especially the Ball Building and Wallace Hall, the two oldest on campus. The Carter Building, originally known as the Science Building because the science labs were on the first floor, has been torn down and re-built. Wallace and Ball are, to many long-lived alumni, the physical essence of MBA.

During my sixth-grade year at FRA, my father took me to see my first MBA game, hoping I would join the school a year later. We arrived early for an alumni tailgate, but instead of talking with his friends, my dad grabbed his barbeque sandwich and led me across campus. We stopped in front of a big building about whose history I knew nothing.

“Do you see that classroom right there?” He pointed towards a window in the corner of the building. “That’s where I had Mrs. Lowry’s English class.” Unable to find an unlocked door, we continued to circle the building as he excitedly peered into the windows of a building he’d spent several years of his life peering out of. I’ll admit, I spent much of my private tour thinking about spending the night at a friend’s house after the game, but now I regret not soaking up just a little of that building’s rich history.

One of the most well-known classrooms in MBA history is the third floor English teacher office. Many alumni of MBA remember Mrs. Lowry, who was the English teacher there for years. While the current school is being torn down and re-built, I will always think of the old, dependable building as an abstraction, an intangible.

Long Mountain project coming to fruition

By John Mellow
News Editor

Over the last several years, the expansion onto Brighton Road, the construction of new soccer fields, riflety ranges and tennis courts, and the rise of the Lowry Building, new Wallace and a parking garage have all been hot topics around campus. The school has been growing at a rapid pace.

Often lost in all the discussion about the exciting projects around campus are updates about the development of the Long Mountain property. As construction at Long Mountain finally comes to an end, the MBA community can now begin to enjoy all that the property has to offer.

In 2006, Montgomery Bell Academy was given by members of the Board of Trustees a property halfway between Nashville and McMinnville. The land sits atop predictably-named Long Mountain, a wooded peak almost 2000 feet above sea level.

When the school received the land, several possibilities for its use were considered. One option was to build a lodge on the land and make the property a mountain retreat for students and alumni.

After the land was surveyed, another option surfaced. Long Mountain is a relatively isolated property, away from the MBA community can now begin to enjoy all that the property has to offer.
The new Wallace building is being constructed to save energy and environmentally friendly technologies will be used in the building. The new building will be well worth the wait. As with all the other campus additions and improvements, this one will be just as unique and groundbreaking.

The finishing product is stored in the second vat, where it mixes with methanol, with the main theme of his book is that waste is not truly useless but can actually be used as biodiesel fuel. MBA, trying to adopt this idea, is considering to make our campus more sustainable, environmental technology on the campus. The school has put in geothermal wells on the lower field and has cut the irrigation bill by collecting excess water runoff in the new parking lot with new, high-tech concrete. However, the green Big Red has begun to undertake a new way to save money and the environment.

Around four years ago, William McDonough, discussing his book Cradle to Cradle, spoke to the school at assembly. The main theme of his book is that waste is not truly useless but can actually be used as biodiesel fuel. MBA, trying to adopt this idea, is looking for ways they can make the most out of supposed garbage. One of the largest and easiest strides that we can all make to save the planet is simply turning off the lights. The largest and easiest strides that we can all make to save the planet is simply turning off the lights.

According to Mr. Chenery, one of the largest and easiest strides that we can all make to save the planet is simply turning off the lights. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally friendly. One idea is that, environmentally-friendly technologies will be used in the building. The new building will be well worth the wait. As with all the other campus additions and improvements, this one will be just as unique and groundbreaking.

The finishing product is stored in the second vat, where it mixes with methanol, with the process expedited by potassium hydroxide. In this container, one fifth of the methanol is replaced by glycerol, which can be used for lotions and компост. Then, the finished product is stored in the second vat as biodiesel fuel. It makes use of garbage and saves money that we would have to pay to dispose of the cooking oil.

The biodiesel fuel will have a few possibilities on campus. MBA has two large buses, and one of them has an engine that can accept biodiesel. However, the school cannot use it for the second bus because the warranty prohibits it. MBA can, though, still use the new type of fuel to power MBA’s tractor.

There are many ideas that MBA is considering to make our campus more environmentally friendly. One idea is that, when they become more widespread and less expensive, solar panels could be placed on the Lowry and new Wallace buildings. The new buildings being constructed will be two of the greenest and most sustainable school buildings in Nevada.
English classes switch to anthologies

By Rahul Ramanna
Staff Writer

Over the past year a team of MBA English teachers, consisting of Mr. Tarkington, Mr. Moxley and Mrs. Palmore, has compiled an anthology containing all the short stories and poems in the freshman and sophomore curriculum. This anthology condenses the students’ tote-load from thirteen small books, which were often lost or forgotten, into two larger books, one for each semester. Teachers had been suggesting this anthology for years, but it only became a possibility now because of a recent change in copyright laws. As of this year, any story published before 1923 is a part of the public domain, and, therefore, can be published by anyone.

MBA’s affiliation with Ingram Entertainment was also essential in the publication of this anthology because this connection allows MBA access to a subsidiary of Ingram Entertainment named Lightning Press. This relatively new subsidiary can put together books of any size or quantity at a very reasonable price in a very short time.

In the future, however, these paper copies will become obsolete and be replaced with electronic copies on your iPad, Nook or laptop.

Visitors assess MBA relative to national standards

By Bryan Oslen
Staff Writer

Recently students may have noticed a conspicuous group of strangers wandering around campus. These visitors were involved in the accreditation process through which MBA is officially recognized as meeting the essential requirements of a qualified school.

This process occurs every five years in order for people from outside the school to see what inside observers do not, which is crucial for improving MBA as a community. SAIS and SACS are the two organizations that determine accreditation in our area. SACS is geared toward public schools, while SAIS (Southern Association of Independent Schools) is geared toward only private schools. MBA, however, is dually accredited by both organizations.

The process before their arrival on campus is extensive. Eighteen months prior, Dr. Rick Seay and the Curriculum Committee (comprised of two teachers from each academic department) started gathering information from each department to develop a 143 page self-study concerning the improvement of MBA, which the school was to give to the members of the organization. All the teachers were vocally represented, yet the information was filtered through this committee.

This self-study was called the Strategic Plan (2012-2017), outlining where MBA plans to go in the five years for which the SAIS committee gave us its outside feedback.

During their visit to our campus, there was a lot of coordination among different groups on campus. The visitors’ schedule included a variety of events, from a luncheon with parents to a breakfast with board members; from a meeting with Headmaster Gioia, Dr. Seay and the department chairs to a discussion with several students.

Some of the questions they asked students concerned the use of electronics in the classroom, the hours of sleep we get each night, the reasonableness of our homework load, and the teachers.

The SAIS committee highlighted many positive aspects of the school, but specifically mentioned that MBA better coordinate the Strategic Plan with the goals of the academic departments. Also, they suggested ways to improve the use of technology and achieve better balance throughout the school.

And, obviously, we are an accredited school.
Students place well at regional art show

Greylon Gawaluck ('12) wins top honors

By Matt Miccicoli
Staff News Writer

MBA was invited to submit fifteen works in the Fourth Annual, 2011 Middle Tennessee Regional Art Competition, and seven of those fifteen received recognition and were chosen to be judged in the juried portion of the competition.

The Competition is a way for local artists in sixth through twelfth grade to display their work in a highly competitive show, and in partnership with the Renaissance Center in Dickson, TN, all selected pieces are displayed at the Center, and the Best-of-Show Winner’s piece will be on display permanently. As well as permanent display, the Best-of-Show winner receives a $500 Purchase Award, and additional monetary awards are also given to acclaimed pieces.

Sophomore Andrew Dupuis submitted two photos receiving recognition, titled: “Unfolding” and “Orange Marmalade.” Senior George Preston received recognition for his Warhol-inspired computer graphic, “Me as Warhol.” Daniel Bellet was honored for his printmaking in “Ring of Fire” and John Mark Bellet for his drawing in “Let Me Out.” As well as Daniel’s, Greylon Gawaluck’s print “Aviator Dream” was selected, and Robert Hoover’s sculpture, “Jazzy” was chosen.

These selected pieces and all other qualifiers were further judged by a select panel on November 19. George Preston received Honorable Mention in digital design, Andrew Dupuis received Second Place in photography, and John Mark Bellet received First Place in Drawing.

For his outstanding printmaking, Greylon Gawaluck received Best in Printmaking and Best in Show; his work will be displayed on a billboard and he will receive various scholarships for his work.

Big Red leads the way in participation at Race for the Cure

By John Triplett
Staff News Writer

It was the cool, crisp morning of October 29th in Maryland Farms, and the roads were packed with people for the service event of the month: Race for the Cure.

Although it was quite cold, with a temperature in the low 30s, many people came out to run, walk, jog or even juggle their way through the 5K or one-mile race. MBA had a massive number of people at the race—most registered, but some just came at the spur of the moment, thanks to the varsity football team and countless other sports teams and advisory groups.

The group took a picture and then moved onto the race area where they waited until about 9:15, when it started. It was very nice weather and it warmed up as the day progressed, encouraging many to run longer. The scenery of Brentwood was also a very nice aspect of the run of that fine morning. Not only did the weather improve, but there were many volunteers along the side of the road cheering the participants on or providing much needed water.

Once the run was finished there was also a village type of area where there was lots of free stuff. Everyone loves free stuff!

Not only did MBA have a massive amount of people participate in the race, but the school also raised a large quantity of money for the Susan G. Komen Foundation by selling coffee and wristbands, A Boy Named Banjo benefit concert and the ever-popular MBA Race for the Cure T-shirt. MBA raised more money for this cause than any other entity in its relationship with the students.

With all the emphasis and hype put on this event through announcements at assembly and advisory and the selling of merchandise during lunch periods and the football games, MBA really stepped up, with the highest participation (299) contribution of money ($35,468).

This year was one of the best years for MBA in its relationship with Race for the Cure. Credit should be given to all the people who attended the race, Mrs. Williams and Eric Walsh ('12), who spearheaded the effort. The many people involved in putting this event together worked very hard and made it once again another successful year for MBA in the Race for the Cure.

MBA Debaters participate in international forum

By Jack Thompson
Staff Writer

Three of MBA’s finest debaters traveled to Singapore on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to participate in the Prometheus Cup, an international debate tournament.

John Mellow ('13), McKay Proctor ('13) and Kelly Haselton ('12) were invited and accepted this remarkable honor. Coach Robbie Quinn accompanied the students.

As expected, the competition was very strong. Further, the MBA debaters had to adapt hurriedly to a new style and speed of debating. Our team met keen opposition in the preliminary rounds, even debating the world champions and losing only on some minute issues.

In the end, though, the Montgomery Bell teams failed to break into the quarterfinals, missing by only a minuscule margin of one speaker point.

The brave, surely tired unit of debaters will not be returning to present Mr. Gioia with a trophy and a firm handshake, but we must all recognize that simply being present at this worldwide tournament is a feat in itself.
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Student leadership in pep rallies needs to be preserved

Today The Bell Ringer mourns the loss of one of the most treasured aspects of the Hill: the student-run pep rally.

Rife with innuendo, jabs at the administration and at least one event designed specifically to demean a microbe, the pep rallies of yesteryear were a staple of every home football game.

Each event was anticipated by all students and the duly-elected student body president never seemed to disappoint his constituency. This year, however, a marked change arose when power became increasingly concentrated in the hands of the athletic administration. The fateful words never again finally sealed the pep rally’s fate. (A decree referencing either student leadership or genuine entertainment at pep rallies, no one quite knows.)

Despite the occasionally offended cheerleader, belittled faculty member or emotionally scared seventh-grader, student-led pep rallies provided a much-needed public forum for student expression. Furthermore, a sense of ownership and participation from the student body promotes school spirit better than any possible administrative action could.

Pep rallies were previously a delicate balance of humor and genuine enthusiasm for MBA football. These wholesome events were one of the last remaining areas for independent student expression. Each pep rally was led by a senior elected by the student body, not simply appointed by the athletic administration behind closed doors. The enthusiasm displayed by this leader was mirrored by the students he was elected to represent.

With regards to humor, there was always a line, and, for the most part, it was never crossed. There were light-hearted teacher impressions and senior-favored competitions. Amazingly enough, the seniors at that time were able to use their own moral compasses to decide appropriate material. If there ever was doubt about certain material, it was cleared by the administration beforehand. Sure, the occasional off-color joke slipped in from time to time, but the overall sentiment of the pep rally was always about bringing the student body together in a jocular manner. Each pep rally was about more than getting excited about the night’s game; the rally also provided a cathartic release of pent-up emotions after a long week.

The administration recently wanted more control over pep rallies. Maybe a few of the jabs hit a little too close to home, or they decided we were just having too much fun. A little oversight is not a bad thing, as long as the student body still feels in control of the program. Otherwise, apathy sets in as the students realize they have no vested interest in the pep rallies.

The current state of the program is exactly what the administration should avoid. An administration-heavy pep rally destroys the camaraderie that pep rallies previously encouraged. Frankly, a program designed by an administration for political correctness has the danger of becoming about as entertaining as a social awareness meeting.

In addition, the entire idea of a mandatory pep rally tends to defeat the whole purpose of building school spirit.

The pep rally still has potential for redemption. The onus is on our seniors to push for more ownership again. There might have been a few poor jokes in the past (as a rule, it’s never a good idea to overtly make fun of individual faculty members). But past mistakes cannot justify eliminating all senior control.

Pep rallies these days are a sorry affair that, if anything, manages to diminish school spirit. The school could pursue new options: guest speakers or a thirty-minute bananas chant. Bottom line: the current template of a senior reading a script followed by a day-by-day prayer huddle is not achieving the goal of motivating our student body and needs to be addressed.

Do you enjoy good times and the smell of freshly painted paper?

Write for The Bell Ringer! Don’t waste the best years of your life.
**A nuclear whimper**

What we learned from the NBA lockout

By McKay Proctor

Opinions Editor

There was a time during the NBA lockout when I lost hope. Despite the general sports savvy of this campus, I seemed extraordinarily alone. I’d already exchanged tearful mourning on the nonsensical course of the negotiations with anyone that would listen. Everyone else failed to care. I understand.

The Southeast is a region where football reigns supreme and the NBA is a sport in which no team from the Cotton Belt has even made a Finals appearance. I understand that a good number of you will probably be Economics and skip to the class news, but those of you who stay, hear me out.

What the sporting community has seen over the last four months is a masterwork on the part of the NBA owners. They had simultaneously proven to care the least about the season but care the most about the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (henceforth known as CBA), while the players cared more about getting their pay checks and the least about the season but care. Owners had let the players have so much BRI because they were willing to sign a deal making the players money and buying seven dollar drinks. When that revenue stream dried up, they panicked. Some smaller.

**Can someone please just drop their ego and admit fault?**

Because if nobody can overcome their pride, we’ll have the exact same problems the next time.

market teams like Sacramento and Charlotte ran under water last season. The owners were justifiedly angry, but the problem cannot be totally laid off on the revenue split.

General Managers across the league had started an arms race at some point where they would grossly overpay for role players and mid-level guys who do not necessarily contribute to the revenue of the team. The owners overacted in trying to cap the salaries of the players they need the most - the upper crust of guys that bring people to the arenas - and failed to address the midlevel problem.

Fast forward to November 6, 2011. After 4 months of unsparingly unfruitful negotiations, things became unsparingly complicated. David Stern, the league commissioner, announced that the owners were going to offer one final ultimatum. The players would accept 51% of BRI and a system tilted heavily in the owners’ favor by Wednesday night or the owners would reopen negotiations, with the players receiving a maximum of 47% of BRI Thursday morning.

Stern was bluffing. They players knew he was bluffing, the media knew he was bluffing, even the owners knew he was bluffing, but they were in an attempt to force the players to sign a deal to allow a season. If this sounds nothing like negotiation, it’s because it’s nothing like rational negotiation.

The players, though, thought they could live with a 51-49 BRI split, so they came back on Wednesday night and asked for six revisions to the proposal. That was it. SIX TWEAKS TO THE SYSTEM. Anyone with a brain and a team of lawyers would have come into a back room, changed those six things, handed the owners a pen and ended the lockout. The owners, however, went back and ADDED to the proposed CBA, making it even more restrictive for the players. The players gave the owners the weekend to think over the proposal, backing down quietly from Stern’s brinkmanship. The players came back with a bomshell. They thought that the collective bargaining process was getting them nowhere. So, it was time for another, more drastic, course of action.

The players began the process of “decertification,” which is a big scary term for basically suing the owners for a season and a fair CBA. When Billy Hunter, head of the players’ union, declared their intent to decertify, it took most people by surprise for two reasons: first, because the players and owners were incredibly close to a deal. A seven-point gap in BRI had melted to one measly point. Vast disagreements about the payment system have come down to mostly minor squabbles. For a time, it seemed like things were actually going to work out for the better. Then the negotiations entered what Stern called “Nuclear winter” in an interview with ESPN. Second, this decision to decertify meant that there was the owners in the wrong, these negotiations continued to be an unconquerable will crashing heads with a bottomless pocketbook.

Stern let the owners get too much control of him, but he never admitted it. Billy Hunter and Derek Fisher blindly led the players into a six-month legal process that could easily come back fruitless, but no one admitted it. The owners themselves made a mockery of Stern and Billy Hunter’s union, declared their intent to decertify, made a mea culpa. Everyone handled this whole situation in what might be the worst way possible, but no one admitted that they messed up because that would give the other side leverage. Until one side or the other was willing to admit they were in the wrong, these negotiations continued to be an unconquerable will crashing heads with a bottomless pocketbook.

Ironically enough, these labor negotiations ended a full month and a half before the negotiations of 1998 had. Somehow, Billy Hunter and David stern managed to scrape together enough brain power between the two of them to realize what just about everyone else in the situation realized when talks of a lockout began. Nobody wins when the teams don’t play. So crisis averted! Billy and David can dust each other off and ride into the Sunset knowing that they somehow saved the season.

But have the sides actually learned anything? They learned to get along when it mattered, but there has been no mea culpa. Nobody came after the new CBA was announced and said “I’d like to apologize for stretching what could have taken 3 days to a 4 month long ordeal.” It’s almost like we as fans are supposed to forget about the 4 out months we spent on edge and just love David Stern and Billy Hunter for being so magnanimous as to give us a season. I want someone to apologize! I want vindication! Can someone please just drop their ego and admit fault? Because if nobody can overcome their pride, we have the exact same problems the next time we have to re-up.

I’ll probably forget about this come Christmas, but it just doesn’t bode well for whenever this CBA expires. As long as ego dominates reason in collective bargaining, Nuclear Winter will exist. I’m looking at you Mr. Stern. It’s only getting colder.
Sizing up the GOP candidates
A Republican's perspective

By Davis Lovvorn
Opinion Contributor

Now, I know most of you either don’t really know who is running for President on the Republican side in 2012, don’t know who any of the candidates even are, or might say: “I don’t care about politics! It doesn’t affect me!” Let me tell those of you who side with the third excuse: start caring now. President Obama has thrown our country into turmoil. To name a few examples, he has plunged our country into national debt with excessive spending and bailouts, he has introduced America to socialism by implanting government-funded health care, which has many problems which I won’t go into, including an increase in spending leading to more debt, downgraded the USA’s credit score by excessive spending and given speeches to other countries apologizing for American behavior in one way or another.

There are many candidates available, and Republicans have worried that this separation would increase sectionalism. Some who did not run include former Alaskan Governor Sarah Palin, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie. I will rank candidates according to their plans, experience and flaws that could cost them the election.

My personal favorite candidate for President in 2012. He has served as Governor of Massachusetts and has been the CEO of successful group Bain Capital. On his first day in office, he plans to abolish President Obama’s health care plan. However, he does not plan to let Medicare lie idle; he plans to reform it a little, with steps like cutting the ability for lawyers to sue doctors when the damages are not the doctor’s fault. He also plans to cut taxes and spending. On foreign policy, Romney believes in a firm hand with Iran and reasserting American greatness throughout the world. However, with his experience and his success in debates, I think Romney is the best hope for defeating Obama.

**FLAWS:** Romney passed a health care plan similar to Obamacare in Massachusetts when he was governor, so Republicans worry about his consistency on issues. Romney has defended his actions by saying that government-controlled healthcare is what Massachusetts needed at the time. Also, while Romney was governor, Massachusetts had the 47th ranked economy in the nation. That puts his state in the 6th percentile.

**1. Mitt Romney**
Former Governor of Massachusetts (2003-2007)

Herman Cain is perhaps the favorite on the Republican side. Cain has won some of the debates he has participated in and done extremely well in others. Cain bases his campaign on his experience as a successful businessman and not a career politician. Unlike all the other candidates, Cain has a specific tax plan, “9-9-9,” which sets at a flat nine percent the national sales tax, household tax (down from 35%) and capital gains tax on investments. Critics claim it is too simplistic; Cain argues that its simplicity is its beauty. Cain also believes in a firm hand in Iran.

**FLAWS:** Cain finds himself in the middle of a sexual harassment scandal for which the media have been hounding him. Cain denies all charges, and no criminal action has been taken.

Rick Perry used to be the clear frontrunner for the race, but has since fallen back due to poor performances in debates. An Air Force veteran, Perry is a patriot who plans to stand firm with America’s allies. Perry’s state of Texas has created 40% of America’s jobs since 2009. He has a specific “Cut, Balance and Grow” plan that cuts taxes and provides millions of jobs by 2020. Perry plans to repeal Obamacare as well. Perry’s main stance in national security is securing the border against illegal immigration, a huge issue in his home state of Texas.

**FLAWS:** Perry should be the clear frontrunner, but terrible performances in debates have set him back. Perry stutters and fails to answer questions with conviction. Additionally, he forgot about one of his plans in a debate, stating only a feeble “Oops.” If Perry does not get his act together, he could well be out of the race.

**3. Rick Perry**
Governor of Texas (2000-Present)

Newt Gingrich is a lightning-rod of in-your-face, tell-it-like-it-is politics who has risen lately due to strong performances in debates. Gingrich bases his candidacy on a 21st-Century “Contract with America” much like the one he presided over when he was Speaker. The new contract includes legislative orders to create jobs, a series of first-day executive orders and a citizen involvement system to change the government by 2021. Unlike other candidates, Gingrich has a specific “Patent Power” healthcare reform plan that has more base and workability than any other healthcare plan.

**FLAWS:** Gingrich has had his own mediocrity in the debates. She plans to stand with Israel, secure the border, and won’t stop the war on terror until there is no more terrorism left. Bachmann wants to continue offshore drilling in the Gulf as well.

**FLAWS:** Perhaps Bachmann’s biggest flaw is that she has not really made any progress in the polls since June. Bachmann does not have many specific plans and has only performed with mediocrity in the debates. She will have to work her way up to have a chance.

**5. Michele Bachmann**
Representative of Minnesota’s Sixth District (2007-Present)

**2. Herman Cain**
Former CEO of Godfather’s Pizza (1986-1996)

**4. Newt Gingrich**

Bachmann has been the dark horse of the Republican primaries so far. She has plans for deep spending and tax cuts. Bachmann plans to repeal Obamacare but does not yet have a specific plan of her own. For national security, she plans to stand with Israel, secure the border, and won’t stop the war on terror until there is no more terrorism left. Bachmann wants to continue offshore drilling in the Gulf as well.

**FLAWS:** Perhaps Bachmann’s biggest flaw is that she has not really made any progress in the polls since June. Bachmann does not have many specific plans and has only performed with mediocrity in the debates. She will have to work her way up to have a chance.

**Other Candidates:** Rick Santorum, Pennsylvania senator, has performed well in debates but has recently been downgraded for his former support of Jerry Sandusky, former Penn State defensive coordinator who has been arrested for more than 40 cases of child sex abuse. Ron Paul, a stalwart Libertarian, has found his way into the support of many Tea Party conservatives but has been ridiculed for his support of completely defunding education at the federal level.

**Vice Presidency:** Since I really only think Romney and Cain have a chance of winning, that leaves the others for the vice president slot. I think that the best vice president would be ones who have experience in the House of Representatives. Therefore, the two best choices would be Newt Gingrich and Michele Bachmann. Rick Perry, a power who has disappointed with the Presidency, would work well too. Don’t be surprised if Sarah Palin gets a look also.

**Davis’ Ideal Ticket:**
Mitt Romney / Michele Bachmann

**Prediction:**
Herman Cain / Mitt Romney
When the walls of tradition are knocked down

FROM WALLACE, I

my attention to the beautiful day outside. I spotted a tiny junior-schooler staring into our classroom, and it struck me suddenly that I had stood in the same spot three years ago, half listening to my dad recounting stories from the best English class he ever took.

I spent much of that class in awe, thinking of my place in the school’s history and wondering if some day my son would sit in the same spot and recall some vague memory of a story I had told him.

When I learned I would be writing this piece, I decided it might help my angle if I talked with a few of the teachers who had spent much of their careers in Wallace. I spoke with Mr. Kelly, who has been teaching in his classroom in Wallace for 14 years; Dr. Batten, who is in the 26th year teaching in his classroom in Wallace for 14 years; and Dr. Gaither, who is in his 41st year in the ol’ W15.

I asked what Wallace Hall meant, both to the teachers and to the school. Mr. Kelly, who allows each of his students to write a quote from British literature on his walls at the end of the year, had this to say: “Mine is the only room I’ve taught in at MBA. On the walls of my classroom are the voices of my students through the years. It’s going to be difficult to leave it behind.”

Mr. Gaither and Dr. Batten agreed that what they will miss most about Wallace is the comfort and familiarity. Said Mr. Gaither: “It’s like an old friend.” Though a bit nostalgic, these teachers are very excited for their new classrooms. “That building is swanky,” said Dr. Batten.

All three would like to keep some similarities with their new rooms, but Dr. Batten primarily wants to keep a few of his framed pieces in the back of the classroom, some of which belonged to the legendary Mrs. Lowry before him. When asked if his new room would still be a harbor (of peace and serenity), Mr. Gaither responded: “Oh, absolutely. Mr. Gaither is the calming influence.”

Not until a few weeks ago did I ever sit facing Wallace Hall from the benches in the quad and think about that first day in English class. I recalled my thought, wondering if my son would ever peer unknowingly into the same classroom. I realized that the answer was no. In a matter of months, the most iconic building on campus would disappear, and no one would ever look out of or into that window again.

Though I think my histrionic sister may be rubbing off on me, I remember feeling a sudden wave of emotion. I imagined myself, on the last day of exams, walking to my car in the gym parking lot and turning to see the tradition-filled Wallace Hall one last time. I might even tear up as a stream of carefree boys roll past, while I fixate on the smiley face or block-lettered name someone had printed on the side of the building with chalked-up erasers. As I turn away, I will think that neither my dad nor I nor any alumni or student will ever see it again, and then I will say goodbye to Wallace Hall.

Perhaps I’m being a tad overly dramatic, and it’s possible that I’ll mindlessly run off to my holiday plans with the rest of the school, but no matter what, I’ll return to see a very different Wallace Hall, either a pile of its remains or the bare frame of its successor rising up at the end of the quad.

Even with the incredible new building planned to take its place, I can’t help feeling that in losing Wallace Hall, MBA is losing part of itself. When I posed this question to the teachers, Mr. Kelly said, “Absolutely. Wallace is a big part of our campus, but the school has always been about the boys and their voices.”

Said Mr. Gaither: “Any time you change something, you must simply hope that what’s gained is greater than what’s lost. Progress has always left something in its wake. With progress something is always broken, whether it be a building or a heart.”

Weeks from now, while we are all far too preoccupied with video games or the approaching Bassnectar concert to be concerned with MBA, Wallace will come crashing down. Mr. Mosley’s Big Red Wheel will cease to spin, the harbor will cease to exist and my little window in the corner will shatter.

Though I’ll long remember my experiences in Wallace, I believe better things, like the incredible new dining hall, are to come. And I’ve spent a few passing minutes observing the new Lowry building, and I must say, there are some mighty fine windows out of which to look.
The view from Long Mountain

As development phase ends, property’s amenities come to light

FROM LONG MOUNTAIN, 1

many towns and cities. The light emitted from houses, cars, street lamps and other staples of suburbia often brightens the night sky as it escapes into the atmosphere, an effect called light pollution. Thus, in Nashville, many stars and entire constellations are no longer visible in the night sky.

Long Mountain is removed from this light pollution, thus making the property ideal for an observatory. The school decided that it could create the same mountain retreat environment with an observatory as an added bonus.

Construction began in 2008 and was finally completed several months ago. The telescope is now functional, producing high quality images of the night sky.

Dr. Dickens, who teaches the astronomy course at MBA, has been an astronomer knowledgeable with telescopes and the ins and outs of the telescope at Long Mountain. Dr. Dickens will be in charge of managing MBA’s observatory.

The school hopes that in the future it can occasionally lease the observatory to universities and organization in the mid-state but is still working out legal arrangements for concerns such as liability issues. In the future, the telescope will not only capture beautiful and educational images for students and the astronomy class but might also be a tool for astronomy for institutions throughout the mid-state.

The observatory was not the only project that MBA undertook at Long Mountain. The school has spent about $1,000,000 dollars on the property as a whole. Much of that sum has gone to construction at the site and stocked by an East Tennessee company with thousands of bass and smaller fish for the bass to feed on. A small dock and canoe rack has also been built on the lake. These developments ensure that fishing will be one of the possible activities for visitors to Long Mountain.

In addition to the athletic field and lake, a campsite has been cleared so that visitors can pitch a tent and camp out in the woods. Throughout the property are trails for campers to hike and explore nature. The trails will be useful in the future for the Environmental Studies classes and the Envirothon program at MBA.

The Long Mountain property has been a project years in the making, and the possibility for expansion remains. The school is still interested in building cabins and a lodge on the property, but right now it is focused on fundraising for the construction on campus. At the present time, therefore, construction has ceased on the Long Mountain property. An observatory, athletic field, lake, and campsite all exist for the community to use.

Some are already making good use of the property. Leadership retreats and outdoor painting trips have already taken place at Long Mountain.

Another chapter of exciting expansion at MBA has come to a close. Present construction at the property has ended, allowing more and more of the community to discover the many uses and benefits of the Long Mountain property.

Students start working with observatory

By Joe Scherrer

Staff Astronomer

After years of planning, construction and setup, the Long Mountain Observatory is finally ready to be opened to the MBA community, and a few individuals have already been making good use of the facility. Two pioneers of the observatory effort, Dr. Dickens and junior Adam Bowman ('13), have perfected remote operation of the telescope and have taken several high-quality astronomical photos, two of which are pictured here. They plan to hold a workshop for other interested students and faculty in telescope operation, and several public viewing nights are also in the works.

Students should contact Dr. Dickens if they are interested in getting involved.

BEYOND THE VEIL: The Veil Nebula in Cygnus is a supernova remnant, a cloud of gas from a star that catastrophically exploded several thousand years ago. Cred. Dr. Jim Dickens and Adam Bowman

COMET STREAK: Comet Garradd, a comet discovered in 2009. If you look closely, you can see both the white dust tail and the blue-green ion tail of the comet. Cred. Dr. Jim Dickens and Adam Bowman
Students are getting their first exposure to MBA’s 150-acre property in Warren County. The Bell Ringer takes a closer look.

Leadership Retreat an opportunity for bonding, introspection

By McLean Hudson
News Editor

On November 12, several busloads of boys gathered at MBA before heading up to Long Mountain for the overnight Leadership Retreat.

After a short drive and possibly an hour of Brooks Best’s alphabet game, we arrived on the property. Almost immediately we were put to the test on the low ropes course. Highlights there were Jordan Whitaker’s bumping it (literally) over the high bar and Connor Murphy’s bending it, like a pretzel on the trust fall, where Cade Hooper caught Connor—almost single handedly—but lost his sunglasses in the process.

After the low ropes course, we made our way back to the observatory/camp site and ate lunch. With a little food in our tummies, we proceeded to set up our tents around the observatory. Some free time followed, filled with anything from football, to fishing (Jack Benton had the only catches of the day, and he did so with a fly rod), to taking a Polar Bear Plunge when the canoes were empty field to start a fire and roast s’mores. Led in song by Cade Hooper and Wilson Johnson, the whole group enjoyed the simple pleasures of relaxing around the fire.

Afterwards, we went repelling down a forty foot rock face with a gentleman from Climbing Nashville, following the descent, some people went back to chill at camp while others chose to cavort around various boulders in the immediate vicinity.

Next came the Big Red Race, a relay between the grades which involved a sprint around the observatory, and canoe race, a sprint to and mounting of the high bar, another run back to the lake and a lap around the lake broken up by twenty pushups on the dock. The juniors completely dominated, led very clearly by Landon Bullock and his pushups.

After more football and an excellent dinner in the observatory, we watched clips from various movies and discussed the qualities of leadership in each, and got a talk from Coach Shone on the same subject. Then Dr. Dickens taught us about the telescope and showed us a couple of cool pictures he had taken with the telescope.

With a little chill in the air and night having fallen, we headed over to an emptied in about ten seconds and the fire was barely affected. Note to everyone: fire extinguishers do almost nothing against raging bonfires.

With a lot of dead grass and trees for an uncontrolled fire to eat at, we were left with few options. Ms. Raines said I should use some sort of euphemism for what we did so that no one could really understand it, but I’ll just say it: we peed on it. Way more effective than a fire extinguisher. Stay hydrated, men.

After this incredible feat of practical problem solving skills, we were all exhausted out so we settled down for the night. Far too early in the morning, we were woken for breakfast and the last of our movie clip/leadership study sessions, where we watched a few scenes from “Band of Brothers.” Unfortunately I was grumpy during that part because I never got a Pop-Tart.

My spirits were soon lifted though along with everyone else’s by a big football game on the field. It was pretty awesome all the way around, and we learned that Ben Shankle is an excellent quarterback. The game ended on a high note with a pick-six by Ryan Potter who capped off his dash to the endzone with a Marshawn Lynch-style dive across the pylon.

With another great game in the books, we loaded back up in the buses and headed back to MBA. Though I can honestly say the last bus ride was one of the most uncomfortable in my life, I must say the rest of the trip was awesome and really surprised me overall. If you get the chance in the future, you should definitely think about going. You might even find a really nice fishing rod in the lake if you look hard enough.

A LAND OF MANY WONDERS: During the school-sponsored leadership retreat, students are exposed to Long Mountain’s numerous attractions. Cliffs and bluffs offer ample climbing opportunities (top right); scientific sensors give real-time weather information (top right); the lake is full of fish and refreshingly cold. (bottom left). All in all, it is a great place to relax (bottom right)
The Bell Ringer profiles students and teachers whose tales fly under the radar. In this issue: two seniors who love the outdoors, and a teacher who immigrated to the U.S. from Venezuela.

Hidden Stories

William and Wills go hunting

By Hayden Palm
Staff Biographer

Many of us remember the story from last year: Wills Brooks (’12) sitting in the park with his date, the spotting of the unwelcome raccoon, the palming of the rusty red brick and the well-aimed, deadly strike.

I needed a student with an interesting pastime to investigate for this article, so I recalled the raccoon incident, which prompted me to explore the hobby of hunting in the life of Wills, as well as of William Reames (’12), another skilled marksman.

Wills does most of his hunting on the family farm, 200 acres of land nestled in a forested valley of East Tennessee. He began shooting with his dad at the age of 7 and has hunted ever since, predominately tracking small game such as rabbits, squirrels, quail and, occasionally, deer.

Talking about his best kill, he described a nighttime pursuit in which he crawled within 10 feet of a small buck before making the kill. “The adrenaline and excitement that I felt,” he said, “was incredible. That’s what hunting is all about.”

While he likes the sport, Wills is a sympathetic hunter who does most of his hunting with a shotgun to produce an instant kill. On his one attempt at bow hunting, he shot a deer that bounded away with the arrow in its side. This experience motivated him to retire his bow and spare another animal from enduring the same fate.

When he is not hunting, Wills likes to fly-fish on the Katty Fork River where he catches a variety of trout and bass.

Like Wills, William began his hunting career at the age of 7 with his dad at Buffalo River Ranch. He was instantly hooked on the sport and began to hunt several times a month. On one particular occasion, he, John Morphis (’12) and MBA alum Scott Herring “limited-out” on ducks, shooting a total of 21.

While he does most of his hunting on the ranch, William has also hunted ducks, pigeons and doves in Argentina, which boasts the largest dove population in the world. He recalled one day of the trip in which he alone shot 23 ducks.

While he enjoys hunting, William is also a traveled fisherman who has fished on the Smith River in Wyoming, the Lake of the Woods in Canada and the Atlantic Ocean in the Florida Keys. In Canada, he caught a 3-foot Northern Pike that earned him acclaim in the Tennessean.

When asked about his best kill, he described a nighttime pursuit in which he crawled within 10 feet of a small buck before making the kill. “The adrenaline and excitement that I felt,” he said, “was incredible. That’s what hunting is all about.”

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When asked how he felt about hunting, William affirmed Wills’ opinion, saying, “It’s great. The thrill and adrenaline that you get from hunting game—man, there’s just nothing like it.”

From Caracas to Nashville: Dr. Carro’s journey

By Mr. Jamie Tillman
Staff Biographer

How far is Caracas, Venezuela, from Nashville? Did you guess 2,159 miles? Too far! Not for Dr. Gabe Carro!

MBA’s own Gabe Carro grew up in Caracas. He graduated from Alexander Humboldt High School, a private co-ed high school in the midst of a bubbling city with a population of over five million.

The school was half German, with all classes taught in German, and half Venezuelan. Even the native Spanish speakers had to master German. When asked how the school differed from MBA, Dr. Carro answered: “It was co-ed; it was secular; interschool sports were not as popular as they are in Nashville; high school life was much simpler—not as many demands. We ate lunch at school only two days a week.

2:00 was lunch time; dinner was about 7:30, and it was a lighter meal. There was no choice in the curriculum—classes were fixed. Kids got in trouble just for being late to class or not wearing the right uniform. High school life was much simpler—not as many demands. We ate lunch at school only two days a week.

Dr. Carro entered the business world with an internationally known automotive components manufacturer, TRW Company. From there he went to the Sandvik Corporation, a Swedish company that had a division that manufactured tools for the worldwide forestry business. After approximately ten years of international travel in his area of research and development, there was a chance conversation at a family get-together. MBA’s David Norton, Dr. Carro’s brother-in-law, mentioned that there was a teaching position open at MBA, and in 2004 Gabe Carro, research and development specialist, became Dr. Gabriel Carro, esteemed physics teacher at MBA.


His parents came from Spain in the 1950s. In Venezuela there was a promise of economic prosperity. His father was involved in sales; his mother was a speech therapist. Today his older sister lives in Spain, his younger brother is a banker in Caracas, and his mother still works as a speech therapist.

Dr. Carro has spoken much about the opportunities and the pressures in the U.S. Perhaps once he can better understand his feelings from his article written for the Tennessean on the day he became a citizen of the United States.

Gabriel Carro: Gentleman, Scientist, U.S. Citizen.

LEAP OF FAITH: A young Dr. Carro demonstrates the conservation of mechanical energy. The physics teacher lived in his native Venezuela for 18 years.
“I love Dr. Gluck!”
-Spanky the Ewok, The Bell Ringer’s mascot

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The nationally ranked Big Red Rifles are winding down their fall and early winter season with unerring success.

The Rifles have dominated all opponents in dual match competition with a record of 9-0, handily shooting down perennial powerhouse and former nation champion Siegel and local rival Hume Fogg.

On November 18, the Rifles competed in the Ole Mill Invitational in Griffin, Georgia, one of MBA's few chances to shoot Olympic-style small bore, especially important for upperclassmen like Connor Yakushi ('12), Winn van Cleave ('12), Adam Hawiger ('12), Joe Scherrer ('12), Tim Bulso ('12) and Hunter guye ('13) who are aiming for Junior Olympic Qualifications in early December. The Junior Olympics is an extremely important competition for prospective collegiate shooters like Hunter and Tim.

However, the most impressive of the Rifles’ accomplishments may have not come in dual match competition or away tournaments, but in the annually hosted MBA Rifle Classic. The MBA Rifle Classic is the largest high school rifle tournament in the country, held over Fall Break and attracting over 300 competitors from schools, clubs and JROTCs from across the country.

Needless to say, the Big Red entered the competition with their work cut out for them but came out unscathed, winning the competition for the first time in history. As well as placing one squad, led by a 580 from Winn van Cleave, at number one, MBA also placed another squad at third place overall.

Individually, Hunter guye and Winn van Cleave both finished in the top eight shooters, at fifth and eighth respectively.

The Rifles have only several postal matches and the Junior Olympic Qualifiers before the team biathlon and the subsequent pause for exams and Winter Break. After break, the team will resume dual match competition and preparation for the state championship.

College-Bound
So far, four seniors have made athletic commitments to universities

**DAVID HOWARD**
Basketball, Power Forward
University of Evansville

**MACLIN DAVIS**
Swimming
University of Southern California

**BLAKE BARS**
Football, Offensive Tackle
University of Michigan

**MATTISON HAMILTON**
Lacrosse, Midfielder
Dickinson College

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**Curtis Lovelace**
An 11-time high school All-American swimmer, and the 2008 Tennessee Swimmer of the Year, Curtis Lovelace has done little to disappoint anyone after graduating from MBA in 2008.

The four-time high school state champion has since taken his talents to Stanford University, where he is now a senior. While at Stanford, he has earned nine All-American recognitions and has contributed to one of the top swimming programs in the country. Ranking third in the Stanford record books in the 100 Breaststroke and fifth in the 200 Breaststroke, Curtis looks to continue his success as his senior season continues.

Curtis was selected to be a member of the U.S. National Team and over the summer competed in China.

Additionally, he competed at the U.S. Nationals, where he placed sixth in the 100 Breast.

As the swimming season progresses, Curtis will certainly contribute to the fourth ranked Stanford Cardinal.
**Winter Varsity Sports Previews**

**Wrestling**

By Jody Gorham  
Staff Writer

The Big Red begins its long anticipated wrestling season in early December at the Black Horse Invitational in Houston, Texas.

The senior-packed team looks to make a run at the state title this year and credits this opportunity to their leadership and experience. Coach Frank Simpson emphasizes that the experience and leadership of these seniors will be what carries this team deep into the season.

Co-captain Daniel Bellot (’12) commented on the camaraderie of the team, saying it is the most unified team he has seen in his five years wrestling for MBA. Daniel, along with the two other senior co-captains John Mark Bellot (’12) and Matthew Davidson (’12), also wants to stress the importance of “team” in such an individual sport as wrestling.

The road to the state championship is not easy, as Coach Simpson described the team’s schedule as “very challenging.” Father Ryan, Christian Brothers and Baylor stand in the way of the Big Red this year and could potentially cause some problems on the mat.

Father Ryan has close to 10 returning starters along with the addition of Michael Hooker, last year’s state champion from McCallie. Baylor is as strong as usual and is led by University of Virginia signee and returning state champion Zach Watson. Christian Brothers, led by sophomore Tate Robinson and junior Kaleb Baker, who are both returning state champions, may also have a good year.

MBA has strong middle-weights in Daniel and John Mark Bellot, both of whom are preseason top three in their weight class. Matthew Davidson (’12) and Cayce Ortale (’12) are projected to finish near the top of their weights as well. This year looks to be promising for the Big Red as they are projected, as a team, to be a viable contender in the state tournament.

MBA begins the season at the Black Horse Invitational, and then moves to the Middle Tennessee Grand Championships and the MBA Duals in December alone.

They start off the new year on January 3 against Baylor and McCallie before competing in the Father Ryan Invitational. MBA is also wrestling in the Southeastern Prep Slam in Atlanta, Georgia, one of the most prestigious high school wrestling tournaments in the nation.

The Big Red will host the Father Ryan match this year, which could be an extremely close match and definitely one to watch. These matches all lead to the individual and team TSSAA State Tournament in which MBA hopes to have a strong showing.

The potential for success is there, and the team is ready for whatever is thrown its way. The captains and seniors of the team believe that their main weapon this year is not only their leadership and experience, but also their work ethic. They have a positive attitude going into the season and believe that they will hold each other accountable for actions on and off the mat. Captain Daniel Bellot believes that the work ethic and the heart are there. If all those elements come together, the team believes that they will be tough to beat.

**Swimming**

By Andrew Karpos  
Staff Writer

The MBA varsity swim team has officially started its season. Last year the team finished second in the state, and this year’s group is optimistic about their chances in the upcoming season.

For those of you not familiar with the team, it is basically made up of two groups of swimmers. There are those who swim all year for clubs such as NAC, and those who only swim during the MBA season and may play other sports.

One of the main goals of the coaching staff is to bring these two groups of swimmers together to achieve the goals of the MBA team. Coach Michael Dobbs remarked that some of the team’s goals include “keeping an undefeated dual meet record within our division, continuing our undefeated regional championship record and trying to compete for the state title each year.” However, Coach Dobbs believes that the team’s main goal is “creating an environment that allows each individual to recognize his importance to our team and how his desire to improve positively impacts every other member on their team.”

The team, which competes in the toughest division in the Middle TN High School Swim Association, has not lost a dual meet in its division in four years. Ravenwood will be the biggest competition within our division this year, but the coaches are confident that we can “find ourselves undefeated going into the state championships.”

One of MBA’s major rivals in the past few years has been Baylor, whom the swimmers hope to get revenge on for a loss at last year’s state championships. Ensworth could also become a rival in the future, after building a new swimming complex.

This year’s group will definitely be led by a number of upperclassmen. The team has a strong trio of seniors in Maclin Davis, Nathan Stinson and Adam Cornett. These three captains all possess “great leadership and ability in their own right.”

Maclin Davis, who will be swimming at the University of Southern California next year and is “one of the fastest swimmers in the country,” will anchor the team in multiple butterfly events. The team will also get contributions from many other swimmers throughout the high school, and it looks as if the future of the sport depends on the development of our athletes and the number of talented swimmers who decide to come to MBA in future years.

Overall, coaches Michael Dobbs and Tim Boyd are confident that the squad will have a great season. They believe that each member will work hard and give it their all for the good of the team. With great depth, immense talent and solid camaraderie, it looks as if the swim team has the potential to add another state title this year.
These three teams will look to senior leaders for inspiration as they chase state titles in the upcoming season.

**Basketball**

**By George Swenson**

Sports Editor

After a hard-fought loss in last year’s state semifinals, the MBA basketball team looks to build upon its 19-win season.

To achieve such success, the team will turn toward the senior trio of David Howard (‘12), Aaron Simonis (‘12) and Austin Blackwell (‘12). Each starting for the Big Red for the third year, these seniors will provide needed leadership and skill as the team looks to capture its second state title in three years.

While experience is the team’s biggest strength, it is also the team’s weakness. Behind the senior-led trio, the team has little varsity experience. As Coach Anglin puts it, “We have many players with fantastic ability, just not experience.”

To overcome such an obstacle, senior Jhamall Wright (‘12) and the junior big-man tandem of Tom Kaiser (‘13) and Andrew Einstman (‘13) will be viewed as major contributors. Additionally, Coach Anglin discusses the need to establish its identity and to execute what the team has practiced during the off-season.

This off-season Coach Anglin is stressing consistency, physicality and protection of the ball. Last year the team had the skill level but, because of inconsistency, was not able to live up to its goals.

This year Coach Anglin is highly encouraged by the development of David and Austin. “David has not only improved his game but has improved his confidence in his game. He sets the tone for our team.” This improvement has showed, and David has committed to play at the University of Evansville next year.

Austin is viewed as a utility man for his ability to play several positions. With his ability to shoot from the perimeter to his ability to drive inside the lane, “Austin is the jack-of-all-trades for our team.” Coach Anglin, however, wants Austin to gain confidence in his game: “He has the ability to carry the team, he just needs to show it.”

The season looks bright for the Big Red. With David down low, Austin on the perimeter, and Aaron running the offense, scoring should not be a problem for the Big Red. The division, however, looks very strong as always. E nsworth seeks to repeat as state champions while Brentwood Academy seems to have a much stronger team than last year’s.

The strongest team, however, is Briarcrest. Although not on MBA’s schedule, Briarcrest has the ability to take the state tournament. As for out-of-state games, the Christ School from North Carolina visits MBA on December 9. With numerous college prospects, Christ School will definitely give MBA a tough time.

The Big Red begins its season on November 29 against FRA, and the team hopes to begin with a solid victory.

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**in the paint with David Howard (‘12)**

The Bell Ringer spoke to senior David Howard about the upcoming MBA basketball season and his recent signing with the University of Evansville, an NCAA Division I school in the Missouri Valley Conference.

**Bell Ringer:** What have you done this off-season to improve your game?

**David Howard:** I really took the ups, downs, and disappointments of the past two seasons to heart. So, starting this past spring, I hired a personal trainer to help improve my skill set, strength and conditioning. I worked with him two to three times a week throughout the spring, summer and fall. Plus, I’ve been lifting and conditioning with my teammates since the spring. On top of that, I run in my neighborhood or just go and get some extra shots in at the YMCA.

**BR:** How will your experience (three-year starter) help you this year?

**DH:** I think my experience is going to help the team most in the area of leadership. Winning the state championship my sophomore year was an experience that showed me what it takes on a daily basis to reach our goal. Also, coupling that with the successes and failures of my junior year, I think will help me to lead by example this year.

**BR:** What is your personal goal this year?

**DH:** My personal goal this year is to do whatever it takes to help the team win a state championship.

**BR:** What does the team have to do this year to win a state championship?

**DH:** I think we have all the pieces to win a state title. We just have to continue building our chemistry, toughness and killer instinct day in and day out during our practices and games. Ultimately I’m just putting my faith in God and trusting that my teammates and I are going to come out on top.

**BR:** What reasons made you commit to Evansville?

**DH:** It came down to Evansville and Furman, but I just felt like Evansville had the better basketball atmosphere in terms of fan support and culture. The competition that Evansville faces is tougher, and Furman’s arena is not comparable to Evansville’s Ford Center, which seats up to 10,000 people.
Cross Country starts strong, but comes up short at State

By Anthony Swenson
Staff Writer

After a series of sweltering practices beginning on August 1, the MBA cross-country team readied itself for the 2011 season. The team travelled to Sewanee for the annual Cross-Country Camp where the freshmen received nicknames, the “Gallon Challenge” was attempted and MEGA-bed was created.

A few weeks later the varsity team journeyed to the Trinity Invitational on September 17 where they finished seventh out of thirty-eight teams. Top runner Daniel “DP” Peters (‘12) finished in 15th place, with Eric “Rick” Anderson (‘14) behind him in 24th.

On the same day, the rest of the team raced in the Tennessee Classic, the largest cross-country meet in the state. The top JV runners filled in for those running at Trinity, and MBA finished 11th out of 29 teams.

The next meet was in Bowling Green, Kentucky, at the gatorland Run on September 24 where the team would face bitter rival Brentwood Academy. It was “a good day to run,” in the words of Coach Russ. Daniel Peters won the race, closely followed by teammate Alex Smith (‘13) in fourth place. The Varsity managed to run past BA and 21 other schools. The JV also finished first with Madison “Pig” Rieke (‘13) finishing in sixth place.

Two weeks later, the team drove to Hoover, Alabama, to compete in the Southeast XC Showdown. Daniel Peters was once again MBA’s number one runner, finishing second overall. The team finished second as well, losing by only four points. Will Pearson (‘15) in sixth and William Snow (‘15) in eighth led the JV team to a second-place finish.

The next meet was the Metro Championship at the Steeplechase. The varsity won with ease, with Daniel Peters in first, Eric Anderson in second, and Madison Rieke, David Arteaga (‘12) and Myles Anderson (‘12) in fifth, sixth, and seventh, respectively. The JV team also won their Metro Championship scoring 16 points, one short of perfection, with Anthony Swenson (‘15) in first place. A week later the JV team defeated BA in the JV’s last meet of the year.

However, eyes were on the looming State Meet. On November 5, the team competed in the TSSAA State Meet with support from about two hundred rabid Big Red fans. With much excitement, the team felt ready for its major competition, BA and McCallie. Disappointingly, the team had a bad day and finished third overall. However, state champion Daniel Peters recorded the fastest time of the day for all divisions, and Eric Anderson finished third. Freshman Gregory Quesinberry finished 19th.

The Bell Ringer: How do you think the team did this season?
Daniel Peters: I think we had a great season with some solid victories at the Gatorland Meet and the Metro Championships. State was disappointing.
BR: How do you think the team will do next season?
DP: I think they have a real shot at winning state. Every year, teams have sophomores that run really fast times unexpectedly. I call it the “Sophomore Surge.” I think we a lot of good potential freshmen runners ready to have their “sophomore surges.” Alex, Pig, and Rick will have to lead the team and get them focused.
BR: What do you think of the new cross country statue project?
DP: I think it’s great. We finally have an area on campus dedicated to cross country. Every other sport has something, and when the statue is finished, we will, too.
BR: What are your favorite moments from MBA XC?
DP: My favorite moment was when I saw Andrew Powell and Stephen Bedard finish last year in 4th and 5th at the state meet, so we had the top 5 spots. Other great moments include the following: making MEGA-bed at XC camp; going to Papa Ron’s at XC camp; and the gallon challenge.
BR: After recording the fastest time at the TSSAA state meet in all divisions, what are your hopes for advancing past Regionals and reaching Nationals?
DP: Well, I hope to go to Nationals if I can qualify, but I have to place in the top 5 at the Nike Southeast Regionals, so qualifying won’t be easy.
Grand Fenwick accepts immigrant students into walls

By Jamie Joyce
Entertainment Editor

Throughout the weekend before Thanksgiving, the MBA Players presented their production of “The Mouse That Roared,” a Cold War-era satire about the tiny duchy of Grand Fenwick.

When their livelihoods are threatened by an imitation wine seller called “Pinot Grand Fenwick,” the Fenwickians feel compelled to declare war on the United States, knowing how generous the U.S. is with opponents it defeats.

Their miniature army, outfitted in medieval armor and bows and arrows, invades the New York harbor and mistakenly pulls off the impossible—the win.

Another scene-stealer was MBA senior Rob Edwards (’12) as the pompous Count Mountjoy, leader of the Fenwickian anti-dilutionist party, who holds little trust in the leadership of his niece and sovereign, Gloria, played aptly by regal Harpeth Hall senior Emily Smith.

On the American side, audience members weren’t hard-pressed to find talent in the performances of MBA seniors Aaron Ardisson (’12) as the bumbling president and John Elam (’12) as the confused Secretary of State.

It should also be noted that junior Mattison Asher (’13) gave a boisterous performance as General Snippet, an enthusiastic and extremely loud Army Corps general, aided by his WAC daughters, played by Harpeth Hall junior Ellen Matthews and Harpeth Hall sophomore Lark Morrison. Moreover, Harpeth Hall junior Lizzie Boston was hilarious as a psychotic protest leader.

Under the direction of Dr. Cal Fuller, the show was definitely a success.

The set design was visually appealing and interesting, featuring an intricate laboratory and a fun, “Dr. Strangelove”-throwback “war room.”

Mrs. June Kingsbury did a fantastic job with costume design, giving the Fenwickians an aura of authenticity and the protesters a very believable 1960’s hippie vibe.

Let’s give a special shout-out to JT Braun (’13) and Vaughn Hunt (’12) for their excellent work on lights and sound.

Overall, this hilarious and interesting performance was a pleasure to watch. Watch out for the MBA Players’ spring production of “Twelfth Night,” directed by Mr. Malcolm Morrison.

“You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown”
“YOUNG VON PRETTYLIPS,” Young Buffalo

It may be a bit foolish to review a band’s debut EP too seriously, especially when it is titled “Young Von Prettylips.” Nonetheless, Young Buffalo’s newly released set of tunes deserves some attention.

For Young Buffalo from Oxford, Mississippi, 2011 was a great year. Before their name could be seen in major music publications such as NME or Mojo, they were opening for the likes of Smith Westerns and Arctic Monkeys, both of whom have had phenomenally successful releases this past year. It is, therefore, with one eyebrow quizzically raised that I admit their first set of recordings is surprisingly unconvincing.

“Catapilah,” and “Full Metal Whacket,” both of which exhibit remarkable pop-sensibility, stand proudly among the best tracks of this year. As parts of the EP’s greater whole, however, they sink. Excluding the ominous intro to “Only We Can Keep You from Harm,” and the more ethereal tones of “Bury Me,” the EP feels like a singularly-focused collection of parallels in sound. From the rapid percussion to the stretching vocals to the three-part harmonies the band incorporates a lot of interesting and exciting ideas but without much effort to leave their comfort zone.

This point is where judging an EP becomes difficult. With a full album this band, which is undeniably extremely talented, would have the opportunity to experiment further with sounds and ideas both found and nonexistent on this brief set of tracks. Therefore, though this EP is ultimately forgettable, it is exciting in that it certainly displays promise for what the band could do with a full LP. Fingers crossed.

Young Buffalo, Youth Lagoon are not musical buffaloners

By Noah Fardon
Staff Music Critic

“Young Von Prettylips,” Young Buffalo

“Young Buffalo’s “Young Von Prettylips” is a miniature release that perhaps didn’t warrant a full-length album. Nonetheless, the EP feels like a singularly-focused collection of parallels in sound. From the rapid percussion to the stretching vocals to the three-part harmonies the band incorporates a lot of interesting and exciting ideas but without much effort to leave their comfort zone. This point is where judging an EP becomes difficult. With a full album this band, which is undeniably extremely talented, would have the opportunity to experiment further with sounds and ideas both found and nonexistent on this brief set of tracks. Therefore, though this EP is ultimately forgettable, it is exciting in that it certainly displays promise for what the band could do with a full LP. Fingers crossed.

The Year of Hibernation,” Youth Lagoon

Youth Lagoon’s “The Year of Hibernation” is a sonic hug. Built upon grounded layers of warbly synths, shimmering guitars, watery vocals and crunchy beats, this debut album remarkably displays the essential role of music in accessibly conveying raw emotion.

More specifically, “TYOH” digs deep to express the nostalgia that plagues the project’s sole writer, Trevor Powers. Through subtle yet crucial additions to the often frustratingly minimalist formula of most chillwave artists, Powers has raised the bar for his genre and produced one of the year’s best records.

The driving force behind the album’s ultimate success is the interaction between the music and Trevor’s emotions as he recalls tales of lost childhood.

On “17,” warm synths yield to twinkling guitars, rounded bass, and a crisp combination of claps and beats. As Powers hauntingly recalls, “when I was seventeen my mother said to me ‘Don’t stop imagining/The day that you do is the day that you die.’”

I do not mean to say this album is flawless. The majority of the songs are instrumentally elementary, which may not be a detriment to any individual song in particular but can inspire a feeling of musical stagnation well before the final track.

It speaks wonders of Powers, however, to note that such a beautiful album could be created without significantly branching out from a basic formula. There is great potential for Youth Lagoon in the future, or, in their case, the past.
The Bell Ringe

December 2, 2011

The Beach Ri

By Paul Brazil
Staff Writer

Aside from teaching numerous math classes at various levels throughout the day, Coach Stephen Shone has made the HVAC wrestling team into a ferocious animal that ruthlessly tears apart any opponent it encounters, leaving them dead and bloodied along the road.

Although we know Coach Shone to be a jocular and friendly man, who instantly forms close relationships with his students, the question remains: what drives the indefatigable, coal-firing engine that is Stephen Shone?

The answer: Rocky IV and the sweet sounds of the 70s and 80s. Here are some of Coach Shone’s picks:

5. “Point of Know Return” - Kansas, “Point of Know Return,” 1977

By Tejas Reddy
Staff Couch Potato

“How I Met Your Mother” - This month on HIMYM: Barney professes his love for Robin. Kal Penn makes appearances as Robin’s therapist/boyfriend. Barney escapes the ducky tie. Marshall and Ted get their hands on a bag of mari… wait for it... nated sandwiches. As the series progresses, new plot twists form around Barney’s love life, taking a toll on the comic aspect of the show. The laugh track once again really takes away from the quality of the show. 4/5

“Dexter” - This month on Dexter: Dexter follows Travis in the hopes of finding Professor Geller. He learns of Brother Sam shooting. The ghost of the Trinity killer comes back to haunt Dexter and Miami P.D. Capt. Laguerta continues to harass Deb as Lieutenant. Brother Sam (Mos Def) continues to play a significant role in Dexter’s life and in the series. His character proves to be one of the most interesting regulars on the series. Dexter’s new found “religion” proves to be a nice touch. The character development of the villains of season six, however, is mediocre at best compared to those of previous seasons (i.e. Trinity). 4.2/5

“The Walking Dead” - This month on The Walking Dead: Rick and the crew try to keep things kosher on the farm with Hershel. Lori struggles with the idea of raising a child in a zombie-filled world. Sophia has yet to be found. With Shane’s downward spiral as a human being, and Daryl and Glenn’s recent clutch performances, several more twists are expected from the midseason finale and beyond. 4.7/5

“Community” - This month on Community: The Dean of the School of Refrigeration and Air Conditioning further presses Troy to join their fraternity. Annie moves in with Troy and Abed. Pierce’s father comes back to reclaim his title of Hawthorne Wipes™. Community is one of the only NBC series worth watching anymore (along with Parks and Rec.), as others such as The Office, 30 Rock and Saturday Night Live on the decline. With the series being moved into hiatus for the time being, television blogs and Facebook fan-made groups express hostility towards the network. This season being the best so far, Community stands out from the rest of NBC’s lineup of Thursday Night Done Right with the perfect amount of dark humor. 4.5/5

Coach Shone’s playlist takes us back to better times

By Paul Brazil
Staff Writer

Aside from teaching numerous math classes at various levels throughout the day, Coach Stephen Shone has made the HVAC wrestling team into a ferocious animal that ruthlessly tears apart any opponent it encounters, leaving them dead and bloodied along the road.

Although we know Coach Shone to be a jocular and friendly man, who instantly forms close relationships with his students, the question remains: what drives the indefatigable, coal-firing engine that is Stephen Shone?

The answer: Rocky I – VI and the sweet sounds of the 70s and 80s. Here are some of Coach Shone’s picks:

5. “Point of Know Return” - Kansas, “Point of Know Return,” 1977
Freshmen eat turkey, sometimes date chicks in spare time

By Owen Powell
Staff News Writer

Thanksgiving has passed, but as the great day approached, the sophomore class is the only one to say goodbye to the fall season. But it’s not all smiles for the tenth-graders either. While football season is full of promise as well as some emotional goodbyes to the fall crew season. Speaking of football, Harrison Lien... ‘nuff said.

Greg Q-daddy (I say Q-daddy because I don’t want to embarrass myself by misspelling your name) finished third for the varsity in state so a shout-out to him. Anthony Swenson won the JV city cross-country meet, and Will Pearson and Richard Thornton also did well this season.

Finally everyone should follow George Hunt on Twitter. George also entered himself into the hottest teenager contest, so go vote for him.

Sophomores brave cold weather without jackets, man up

By Wells Hamilton and Harrison Davies
Staff News Writers

Though the cold and rainy weather has started, the sophomore class has inexplicably maintained its high morale. But it’s not all smiles for the tenth-graders who have to say goodbye to the fall season. Jack ‘iallready’ Grant is crushed by the end of football season. The emotional trauma has caused him to take a few days off from swimming to recover. Rowers, like William Holbrook, wish tearful goodbyes to the fall crew season.

For some, however, the off-season is full of promise as well as welcome transition into new sports. Max Katsoff, under the trained instruction of Frisbee vet Caleb Carpenter, is learning the club sport of Ultimate. Grey Reames is devoting his off-season to working out hardcore so that he will be ready when his number is called. He is charting his progress by a series of self-shot, post-work-out pictures #swag. Nick Trogdon plans on documenting his progress in a similar way with the use of his sleeveless MBA Rowing tank-top.

The winter is also welcomed by new sophomore fashion trends. Originally, it was believed that you had to have red pants worn by such individuals as Johnathan Barringer, who remains upset over all the red pants worn by those affiliated with that team. As a sign of dedication to Alabama, Ben Sell has established himself as a pretty good hockey player, as well as Turner Smith. Jack Goodrum has recently informed me that the freshman football team had a perfect season, whatever that means. So congrats to all those affiliated with that team.

Monthly shout-out to William Richardson for STILL dating that girl! Parks Ball is like...umm who knows. On a similar note Willess was to record in a studio over the Thanksgiving break, so MAYBE look out for an album.

On freshman sports news: Stephen Ray has established himself as a pretty good hockey player, as well as Turner Smith. Jack Goodrum has recently informed me that the freshman football team had a perfect season, whatever that means. So congrats to all those affiliated with that team. Andrew Porter reported that he made a game-winning tackle against Siegel, so a loud shout-out to him for putting the team on his back this entire season.
Juniors school’d out, don’t know what month it is

By McLean Hudson
News Editor

So I’m not even sure if this is coming out before Thanksgiving, so either I hope you had a good break or hopefully you’re about to. I’m writing this on a bus bouncing its way to our swim meet at St. X in Louisville filled with a group of bodybuilders so I’m gonna skip any witticisms and get to it.

With CoD, Assassin’s Creed and Skyrim all coming out in the last few weeks, several of our classmates have missed some school, even though Dallas Gibson swears he didn’t play any the whole day he was sick. Instead of playing CoD when it first came out, Ryan Potter simply went home and built a shrine to it. Showing some serious dedication, Colin Caldwell decided not to miss school and pulled an all-nighter with Assassin’s Creed instead.

Furman Haynes (now to be known as the uncool twin), Jake Simmons and J. Carlton Smith hit the links where Farm won the ninth hole with uncharacteristically terrible short game. Sam Turner has started an underground plantation of coriander seeds. Jack Benton has a flow so sick, mainly due to the fact that he be so slick. And he caught all three fish at the days of the hard-working class of the century, or really even class themes, examinations, or really even the church ball. A group of rowdy young men, so naturally went to our cars to go off campus, which worked out for them.

As the first semester comes to a close, the faculty can wave goodbye to the days of the hard-working class of 2012. No longer are we subject to out-of-class themes, examinations, or really even exerting any effort in the slightest. Gosh, I’m sorry, I misspoke. We will be exerting effort to walk to our cars to go off campus for lunch. Exception: Senior Scooter Day (a.k.a. every day). Throughout this article we will try to discover who in fact Logan Standard is dating. On that note, let’s see how our beloved seniors have been doing this past month.

Daniel Peters, David Arteaga, Bellets, and Noah Fardon have decided to form a coalition for the awareness of major bro time. It will meet every 7th period to discuss the discrimination of the bro in the community at large. Beanbag chairs, flamin’ hot Cheetos, and Super Smash Bros will be provided. On that note, Wills Brooks killed a guy with a trident so he is considering laying low for a while or finding a relative close by. John Mitchell has agreed to let Wills sleep with his goats, but not on Mondays (they don’t exist).

In other news, we would like to openly condemn Paul Brazil for taking a season off this spring. The class of 2012 has decided that he is wasting his time and ours by not going to the climbing gym every day to continue to train for a competition that will never happen. Let the record show that Jamie Bradshaw would make a beautiful woman.

In an attempt to R-A-G-E, Carter Hach has suffered minor injuries to his pride after actually having to come to school in clothes that aren’t white orbitals. He is expected to wear his “raging” clothes every day at college.

Dear Maclin Davis, you are better than all of us and we know it, but you are too humble to accept it. Accept it. We are not worthy to breathe the same oxygen as you. ‘Nuff said.

Recently Rob Edwards was caught swooning Lilly Carver from his balcony across the street from her house. The police were immediately called for Rob’s attempt to “disturb the peace.” If singing “My Humps” to your girlfriend is wrong, I don’t think any of us want to be right.

Preston Evans recently attempted to “Pull a Jamie [Joyce]” by neglecting to do his homework. Preston disturbed Jamie for the remaining 8 hours of the day. Jamie hit him… in the face.

Bryan Odlin was recently caught asking his teachers if he could leave class early. Bryan explained that he enjoyed the classes and loved the learning but wanted to make sure he could get out early so he could get to class… so he could go to class… to learn… in class. He loves school.

James Kay, Cayce Ortaile, and Daniel Mace have recently joined the Nashville Ballet and will be performing in the production of “The Nutcracker.” Unfortunately, the bros were mistaken when they signed up as they thought “The Nutcracker” was the code word for “fight club.” No fighting ensued in pink tights.

The Bell Ringer would like to congratulate Jack Whitson for being named to the All-State men’s volleyball team along with no one from Tennessee. When asked about his accomplishment Jack responded, “Seriously stop putting stuff about me playing volleyball in the paper. I don’t even play.” Whatever helps you sleep night, kid.

In the most hambone move of the century, Baker Swain decided that he would like to do stand-up comedy for a living once he breaches the real world beyond MBA. According to Baker, his biggest influences to join the stand-up community are Daniel Tosh and Jesus.

Will Stewart recently acquired a black leather jacket that he has been donning religiously over the last few weeks. Well, Will, we’re here to say that we’re okay to see that jacket stay! (It’s a joke about his rhyming inclination to Totomoi. Gosh, you guys are so slow it’s almost embarrassing for me.)

Well, gentle-bros. If I could leave you with one piece of advice, it would be to never come to me for advice and to avoid being eaten while camping, always be faster than the slowest bro in your group. That’s it. Thanks.
Scott Dalton wrecks your dreams of being a safe driver

By Scott Dalton  
Executive Editor

If driving was a sport, it would be defined by bone-headed maneuvers, long hours behind the wheel, unathletic “athletes” operating the machine and unparalleled frustration for no apparent reason. Oh, wait. 

Seriously, though, have you ever really paid attention to someone driving on the road? Or were you just too busy texting, and, then, as soon as you stopped having friends according to your ringtone, you began to honk your horn in frustration at those who actually choose to put everyone’s life on the line without having the decency to hide it? 

Driving is undoubtedly something we take for granted because we do it every day, and it has become more of a necessity than a privilege. If you think differently, spoiler alert: you are an idiot, stop now and re-consider any and all future plans to do something successfully. 

Recline that chair back, half way buckle your seat-belt so that that annoying beep stops and turn that heat on to 90 degrees because it’s 12 A.M. and no annoying beep stops and turn that heat on. Breathe! 

Everyone is a little bit different when it comes to driving “style,” but one constant for everyone ages 3-83 (doesn’t apply to those wearing diapers) is that we all sing in the car. This one goes out to all “athletes” operating the machine and unathletic “athletes” doing work at the jack wagons that call themselves “mechanics.” What ever happened to Fats Domino car rides going to the county fair on Saturday nights? 

For the young people (below 30): See “The Sandlot” for an accurate portrayal of what life used to be like.

For middle aged people (31-74): Thanks for the national debt. Jerks. I think it would be a travesty to write this diatribe and not mention you freshman that think it is cool to ride with Lynyrd Skynyrd in the background. Because now I’m just going to drive really, really slowly down this long road with one lane, and there is nothing you can do about it. Oh, you want to pass me? Watch me speed up now and make you go 90 in a 35 trying to get around me. Sure, go ahead, you can get past me. Is that a cop 500 yards away? Are you now going to jail for reckless driving? Have a nice weekend! 

See how this goes for you? Learn from me because I am that guy. 

This one goes out to all the guys who wear flat bills and drive a car made in America. It is never OK to let everyone know that you have discovered Dubstep and that you have purple tinted windows. I have eyes; I can see you are a tool. I don’t need to confirm it with my ears. 

For the old people (above 75): 

Check yourself before you wreck yourself. Next time you think it’s a good idea to sing along to Katy Perry in the car, think again. You look like a hafion and everyone else on the road knows it. Try humming or whistling to keep it low key and clean for the whole family. 

Challenge accepted: When humans test and drive, science has shown conclusively that they have the coordination of giraffes. This indispensable evidence is still being tested in labs somewhere in Arizona...but we’re pretty sure it’s legit. 

Call Child services immediately: Seriously how could we have missed this, America? Those cookies behind him are only $5.99! This baby was immediately reprimanded for his shag carpet. If you chose to wear deodorant or not. Your music at a volume above 20, and, on a sunny day, they can see if you chose to wear deodorant or not. Next time you think that your car is a recording studio with soundproofing, think again because you can dang well bet that I’ll be there, window down with a package for that DVD to be sent to Daniel Tosh on speed dial. 

For those of you who think it’s ever OK to honk your horn, this one is for you, jerks. Yes, I understand that you are perfect and are always in race-ready mode to step on the gas pedal no more than .0002 seconds after the light turns green, but lay off the horn because some of us just couldn’t quite get our numbers and colors down at age four as you did. Really? Are you going to honk that horn and give me a “Free Bird” without Lynyrd Skynyrd in the background? Because now I’m just going to drive really, really slowly down this long road with one lane, and there is nothing you can do about it. Oh, you want to pass me? Watch me speed up now and make you go 90 in a 35 trying to get around me. Sure, go ahead, you can get past me. Is that a cop 500 yards away? Are you now going to jail for reckless driving? Have a nice weekend! 

See how this goes for you? Learn from me because I am that guy. 

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For middle aged people (31-74): Thanks for the national debt. Jerks. I think it would be a travesty to write this diatribe and not mention you freshman that think it is cool to ride with your parents and listen to your iPod in the front seat. Seriously, guys? Are we doing this right now? Do you really want to bring this on yourselves? Here’s something to think about: 1. Your parents own the car, pay for your education, and probably paid for that iPod. If you think you are better than them, try living without them for a week. I will personally bring you blankets and food stamps for when you sleep on the Greenway. 2. You are really that unintelligent and disrespectful to not be able to carry on a conversation with an adult? Lame. 3. You look ridiculous. 4. You are insensitive to the greatest generation of music ever. Shame on your existence. 5. If I see you doing that, you will lose my friendship. Rusted. 

Just a tid-bit of advice from a senior member of MBA to you youngsters out there: always have road flares in your car. You never know when a Roman candle war will break out, and you didn’t get the memo. Plus, paper covers rock, and road flare sends people to the hospital…for the win. 

Here’s something to think about before you decide to step into that wonderfully-filled-with-gas car you own: do as Ronald McDonald says and put a dang smile on. Next time you are out on the road, count the number of people frowning and then do what I do: make a sign that says “Stop frowning… I have ice cream” and hold it up to the window. If the intransitive gap doesn’t exist, I don’t know what does. 

I hope this simplistic page with colors and numbers and letters, just like in the “Baby Einstein” videos helped to serve as your mental stimulation for the entirety of your week, because, after all, a paper is educational. 

Keep it safe on the roads, but don’t be afraid to go against the norm and put a face on that says “Stop frowning… I have ice cream” and hold it up to the window. If the intransitive gap doesn’t exist, I don’t know what does. 

And, remember: If you own a car and it doesn’t have shag carpet, you are seriously missing out. Always get the shag carpet.