A summer of intense campaigning has paid off in victory for Alan Coverstone. MBA's academic dean and now the newest member of the Metro Nashville Public School Board. Mr. Coverstone pulled in a whopping 49.5% of the vote in the hotly contested race for the District 9 seat, beating out 4 other strong candidates - a final result which can deservedly be called a landslide.

Despite stiff competition, Mr. Coverstone's campaign made the win look easy. With strong fundraising, he asserted himself early in the summer and quickly seemed to shake all opponents but Ms. Lee Limbird, a Meherry Medical College administrator whose campaign also had strong funding.

Mr. Coverstone felt throughout the race that his campaign should honor the importance of local schools by being able to operate on a professional level. "Schools are every bit as important as Congress and every other level of government," he said. With the help of many MBA volunteers, including current students, alumni, and parents, Mr. Coverstone's campaign organized call banks, mail-outs, the distribution of yard signs, and even cocktail parties - all in addition to the many forums and debates with the other candidates. In the closing weeks, Mr. Coverstone and volunteers focused on door-to-door canvassing. Multiple newspaper endorsements and an abundance of yard signs helped sell the candidate as the front-runner over Ms. Limbird.

"I think we reached a broad coalition of people who shared in common only a sense of the importance of a strong educational system," Mr. Coverstone said of his campaign efforts.

In the end, he perhaps need not have worked so hard. He commanded a four-hundred-vote lead after early voting and lost only three or four precincts on Election Day, Aug. 7. The voter turnout in District 9, which potentially could have been raised by the large field of candidates, was around 10% - low, but not terrible for a local August election during presidential campaigns.

Mr. Coverstone sees the turnout as a mandate to breed more interest in Nashville's schools, saying, "10% of our community can never be enough."

Even after an easy win, Mr. Coverstone was excited at his post-voting party at Whitfield's Restaurant the night of the election. "I decided to run because I wanted to do the work of a school board member," he said. "So today I am more excited to have that opportunity than I even am to have won the campaign."

The new workload will not in any way diminish Mr. Coverstone's role at MBA, and he understands the difficult balancing act of school, Board, and home that awaits him.

After he is sworn in on Aug. 26, Mr. Coverstone and his fellow Board members will address the topics of the state's role in Nashville's schools, the selection of a new director, and the aftermath of the recent re-naming decision. (Mr. Coverstone dislikes the narrow range of options defined by that decision, but feels the board must now honor the decisions it has made.) "I am excited to get started," he said.

The MBA community is undoubtedly excited to see him start, too.

**MBA Dean Wins Metro School Board Seat**

by Pat Killian

Features Editor

Rewind to August 2007: MBA is nearing its first regular season game with no one knowing what to expect. MBA was coming off a season where it missed the state playoffs for the first time in years and it had a new, young head coach after Jeff Rutledge departed.

Forward to 2008: MBA dominated going 13-0 in its last season and comes into the 2008 season with high expectations. Few will disagree that MBA was one of the elite teams in the state in 2007, but the departure of many seniors means new players will have to step up.

MBA's first game will be against Antioch, and then the team will head to Cincinnati, Ohio to play powerhouse Moeller. MBA seems to have reasserted itself as a yearly contender for the state championship behind the great leadership of Daniel McCugin, who led the team to one of its most remarkable turnarounds in MBA's long history.

Many will look at the Big Red this year and point to all the seniors that the team lost, but there are many young players who are ready to step up. Senior defensive back Reggie Ford explained that, "This year's team has less experience because we have a lot of juniors on whom we are depending that didn't play much last year." A lot of the team's success this year will depend on the play of underclassmen like linebacker Brad Bar or receivers William Tanner and Holden Mobley. Also, Coach McCugin will be looking for several seniors to step up and be leaders for such a young team.

Offensively, MBA returns several key players, like quarterback Spencer Wise, running back Patrick Crum, center Owen Lipscomb, and tackle Wesley Johnson. Patrick Crum would have started all last year at tailback if not for a season-ending knee injury. He will anchor the running game along with sophomores DeAnte Hughes and Tyler Franks. It is critically important that the backs step up to help open up the air attack which will feature receiver Drew Turner and tight end Joe Sloan.

Defense seems to be the team's strength with a solid front seven and senior Reggie Ford anchoring the secondary. The defense was a major strength of the team last year, and they will have to face several good offenses throughout the year like Hillboro, Ensworth, Moeller and others which will undoubtedly test them immediately.

Junior Tee Griscom said of the team, "The defense is probably our strength, with a good defensive line, and the biggest strength of the offense is the speed."

Most importantly however, this team seems determined to return to the state championship, and they outwork many teams that they play. "There are three strengths which quickly come to mind which make our team great," said junior linebacker Brad Bars: "Our desire to keep constantly improving on the field and in the weight room, the mental toughness of both players and coaches, and the team unity set our team apart."

The outcome of the 2008 season remains to be seen, but MBA football is for sure back to its winning ways.
I got my driver’s license this past summer and, after unsuccessfully “accidentally” running over my brother and reconfirming Borat’s realization of a lack of sex magnet in my car, I noticed the biggest problem of all for my gas-guzzling 1997 Toyota Camry — the ridiculous prices at the gas pump.

Only a month ago in July a barrel of oil reached its highest price yet at $147, sending gas prices skyrocketed over $5 a gallon in some major US cities. In Europe, it’s not uncommon to see gallon of gas at over $8, which partially explains their appreciation for tiny cars.

The high price of gas is explained primarily through simple supply and demand economics. The supply of refined oil is down because the number of refineries to convert crude oil to refined oil is so limited. Even if we explore new oil fields, without refineries to convert the oil to gasoline, it’s useless. Unfortunately, due to environmental legislation in the US, it’s so costly to build a refinery that none have been built since 1976. If the supply of gasoline is limited, it’s more valuable and expensive.

The demand, too, has been increasing in the United States and globally. Although Americans are starting to shift from SUVs to sedans, the process is long-term and currently a very slow shift. Hybrids, electric cars, hydrogen fuel cars, and a host of new-age models are becoming more popular, but are still in their developing stages. As demand remains high and because we need gas, the prices will remain high at the pump as well.

Any solution to solve the problem of high gas prices has to be extremely complex and may result in causing other problems, such as funding enemies abroad, turning allies against us, and further environmental damage. Domestically, the two presidential candidates have equally ignorant and damaging plans. Senator Obama wants to put a windfall tax on “big oil” companies’ profits — this would be extremely detrimental because oil companies use that profit to fund exploration, efficiency, and expansion of existing refineries. That would result in ever higher gas prices. His carbon tax initiatives, although perhaps environmentally and diplomatically successful, would strain oil companies and force them to increase taxes.

Senator McCain wants a “gas tax holiday”, but this would only give us a week or so of lower prices — clearly not a long-term solution.

One reason why they propose these ludicrous plans is to get Americans to vote for them. It’s important to remember that they’re just like any other company trying to turn a profit, but you’ll never see riots protesting the high price of Apple’s new iPhone. This harmful sentiment against oil companies incites these ridiculous plans by our presidential candidates.

Domestically, a solution is three-pronged. First, allow for more exploration. Senator McCain intelligently wants to remove federal bans on off-shore drilling and building nuclear plants. The main concern is environmental damage and the safety of Americans, but in both drilling and nuclear power, safety and waste-removal measures have improved tremendously since the 1970s. Better alternative forms of power means that the demand for oil to be used for power purposes decreases. Even in areas like ANWR in Alaska, estimated to have billions of barrels of oil and significant amounts of natural gas, drilling could be an effective solution. More exploration allows for more exploration and a greater supply of oil, thus reducing the price. More importantly, drilling domestically prevents organizations like OPEC (Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries) from creating a stranglehold on American oil markets.

Second, subsidize new oil refineries. If oil refineries are expensive for oil companies, the US federal government should subsidize, or partially pay for, new and more efficient refineries. This increases the amount of gasoline and reduces the price of gas at the pump.

Finally, create incentives for using more efficient cars. If the federal government that financesistance on SUVs and pick-up trucks and gave benefits to hybrid car drivers, then more and more Americans will be tempted to buy hybrids instead of costly SUVs. The demand and price for gas, therefore, decreases over time. This solution would be much more long-term, but certainly effective after a decade or less of execution.

The United States also needs to address global problems as well to fully counter the issues surrounding high gas prices. As the U.S. imports over 60% of its oil, we are extremely vulnerable to the whims of a potentially hostile nation. Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, and Iraq, who have been hostile to the United States, are all in our top 10 exporting countries of oil. State-run oil companies fund socialist leaders like Hugo Chavez of Venezuela and private sources of oil wealth likely funded much of the Iraqi insurgency that continues violently against United States troops. Certainly the continuing war in Iraq should be an incentive for more domestic sources of drilling.

Another increasingly important issue concerns a number of countries subsidizing low gas prices. Essentially, in countries like China, India, and Chile, the government will pay for about half of the cost of gas, thus reducing the price of gas to its citizens. These countries continue to import more oil, while the rest of the world pays the price. The International Monetary Fund wants to ban this practice, and certainly the United States should back it and try to enforce the IMF’s legislation.

Something productive to solve high gas prices must be done. Our economy, national security, and livelihood is at stake.
I’d like to think that our summer reading books are intended to really speak to students and inspire dialogue in the classroom, and often they do so. Of course, every once in a while a book comes along that is so devastatingly hated that students will still whine about it years later (Light in the Forest). This year’s all-school read, The Sand Reckoner, though, certainly is not the latter.

Gillian Bradshaw’s fictional account of the great mathematician and inventor Archimedes’ support of the tyrant of Syracuse during the First Punic War provides the narrative of the book. Syracuse, on the east coast of Sicily, must find a way to remain neutral and safe during the strife between Rome and Carthage. To accomplish neutrality, Syracuse must show each side that Syracuse has the tools to do them great damage and that it would be best for both Rome and Carthage to take their fight elsewhere. The mid-third century B.C. is the time of the action.

To start, The Sand Reckoner is considerably different from last year’s all-school read, The Count of Monte Cristo, which was actually larger than most of our middle schoolers. Students generally seemed optimistic about Reckoner after receiving the book, simply because of its non-threatening size. This may have been a determining factor for selecting the novel. Students simply aren’t going to read something that looks like it will rip a significant portion of their summer away from them. Just ask the English teachers how many of their students they believe read Cristo.

Archimedes pondering the ways of the moon

So, if you count the success of the all-school read by the number of students that actually pick up the book, then this year’s choice wasn’t too shabby. There is, however, another reason why The Sand Reckoner may have been the perfect choice. Finding subject matter for a school full of teenage boys to read can’t be easy, and the administration deserves a pat on the back for finding a book that students can’t complain about. It’s a quick read, but it covers all the topics we love: like feats of heroism, large rocks crushing people, showing off for the ladies… and flutes.

I wasn’t expecting to be drawn in by The Sand Reckoner, but I couldn’t help enjoying it. Ms. Bradshaw blends history with fiction in an entertaining, easy-to-read way. This style is a fairly refreshing change from some of the more stuffy books we will have to read during our MBA careers. This difference is most appreciated during the book’s more action packed sequences. Unfortunately, many of the serious, and especially the romantic scenes, may cause the reader to wince. Some may say that’s a small gripe since Ms. Bradshaw doesn’t linger on the heavy stuff for too long, but it is novel’s most glaring weakness.

Ms. Bradshaw has no kind words for Rome, not the people or the imperialism, and some of us who cherish Rome and the Latin language find her continual denigration of Rome distracting and unsettling.

We weren’t overly taxed intellectually by Reckoner, and overall the novel is a lot of fun. I consider the book a victory for the MBA committee which chooses the all-school read.
The Governor’s School Pushes Passionate Artists
by Tommy Harless
Staff Writer

We were able to see what our friends in theater, dance, and art had been working on for the entire time, and every performance was incredible, from the theater performance of Twelfth Night to the dance students’ ballet.

As a voice student, I was able to perform both in our opera finale and in the music finale with the entire music ensemble. The complete series of productions lasted two days, with each and every one displaying the enormous talent of Tennessee’s young people.

The five weeks were not entirely dominated by working or hanging around the campus, though. We had three large productions that the entire school watched, starting with a performance by the black Mozart ensemble the first night, followed by the comedy act The Complete History of America Abridged (performed by the Shakespeare Abridged company), and finishing with a performance by the Nashville In Motion dance team. We got to go watch the symphony at the Schermerhorn, take a trip to a nearby mall, wander across town on Parent’s Day, and enjoy the numerous concerts put on by the very talented staff.

The sponsors had a college day for those interested in pursuing their art as a profession and even brought in a Metropolitan Opera singer with whom the chorale could discuss a career in music. All in all, the entire five weeks was jam-packed with activities to enjoy, complemented with free time to relax.

I know many of you probably would not enjoy spending five weeks of your summer surrounded by music geeks or dance maniacs. But the Governor’s School programs can be enjoyed by anyone with a passion, even if you didn’t come out of the womb with a paint brush in one hand and ballet slippers in the other. The friends and experiences you will make there last a lifetime and can be very valuable to you in the future. Look into the different fields of interest you have, whether it be growing corn or calculating in trigonometry, and send in an application as soon as possible. I know you won’t regret it. (Editor’s Note: Tommy’s mentor, coach, and teacher at the Governor’s School was fine arts professor Dr. Raphael Bundage, who spoke these words concerning Tommy and Tommy’s schoolmates. “The entire group this year was one of the best Governor’s School has ever had. They were a tight-knit bunch who worked very well together. Tommy was one of the best there and went over and beyond what was asked of him. I believe that Tommy has great potential as a singer and should cultivate that interest.”)

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Barack Obama may be the youngest 47-year-old ever to live. “In this election, it’s our turn. It’s your generation’s turn. Let’s bring a new generation of leadership to America,” he encouraged students at the University of South Carolina last summer. A man who came of age in the 1970’s and could join AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) in three years has seamlessly integrated himself with today’s youth.

But what kind of following has Obama attracted at Montgomery Bell Academy, an institution built on tradition and with a large percentage of conservative parents? If many youth at even our school support Obama, then the media hype about his young constituency should certainly be given credibility.

Junior Campbell Haynes feels that Obama’s message of change is what the country needs, especially with the Iraq War dragging on. “He understands it was a mistake; that Afghanistan is our battle.” Obama advocates a gradual troop withdrawal while McCain wants to maintain a troop presence in Iraq for as long as necessary, citing American bases in Korea, Germany, and Japan that date back to the 40’s and 50’s.

While Iraq is a standout issue in the coming election, the economy and oil were foremost in the minds of 60 percent of students responding to an informal poll. Junior Mitchell Lukens says that, “Obama has put forward a great platform to change the US to renewable fuels and energy,” but admits that this plan is long-term and idealistic rather than practical. As an avowed centrist, Mitchell offers balanced perspective on the issues and has only recently begun to warm up to Obama.

Senior Hicks Woolwine, on the other hand, firmly believes that Barack Obama is the last thing our struggling economy needs. “He wants to raise taxes, [capital] gains rates, and he won’t drill.” Rush Limbaugh would be proud.

As evidenced by both my own research and by the applause he received during a political assembly last year, Obama has gained a sizeable foothold among MBA students, although by no means a decisive one.

With compelling arguments for each candidate, choosing a side may seem difficult, but I cast my ballot for McCain. Obama appeals to the passionate and emotional side of human nature in hope of a vote based on feeling, not thought. His salient qualities of youth and tele-prompted eloquence entertain. His promises of change and government gas rebates assuage our material worries. Barack Obama is a modern-day politician of bread and circuses.

John McCain, however, respects Americans as rational citizens. No obscure promises of hope and change come from the Republican camp, just honesty and direct address of the issues. When considering the economy, Senator McCain has consistently vouched for off-shore drilling as a remedy to increased gas prices. Senator Obama recently threw out his own tire pressure scheme and adopted the policy of his more seasoned opponent. Obama clearly panders to the public sentiment of the moment, hoping that voters won’t be thoughtful enough to remember his little switch on a crucial issue. For our sake, I hope the young American voter proves him presumptuous.
Cdr. Carr Comments on the Science Department’s Plans

by Seth Akers-Campbell

Staff Writer

Earlier this month, Commander Pete Carr, the science department chair, conversed with The Bell Ringer about the upcoming year for science at MBA. Cdr. Carr, a bowling and Science Olympiad coach, also comments on the large Hadron Collider, a particle accelerator which straddles the French-Swiss border.

The LHC, which has a circumference of 17 miles, collides protons traveling at 99.99% the speed of light using around 1600 magnets. The accelerator, which straddles the French-Swiss border, is currently being cooled to temperatures just above absolute zero and should be fully operational this fall. Scientists at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, called CERN (the French acronym), will then be able to observe a simulated version of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) event. Scientists at CERN hope to observe new phenomena that cannot be explained by the Standard Model of particle physics.

CDR CARR: The Large Hadron Collider will be very exciting. It will be a great opportunity to observe new phenomena that cannot be explained by the Standard Model of particle physics. It will also be a great opportunity to test our understanding of the universe.

BR: Do you expect the Science Olympiad to have a strong year, despite the loss of many seniors?

CDR CARR: Of course! We have a nucleus of a great team with a strong group of juniors and some pretty solid senior leadership, with Harrison Stringfellow, Ed Powell, Robert McNeilly, and my newest recruit, Brian Swenson. Also, our coaches are the best in the nation, so I predict another state championship for the manly scientists of MBA!

BR: Will the bowling squad win a state championship and/or produce another “Mr. Bowling”?

CDR CARR: Mr. Bowling (Rand Woodson) will be hard to replace, but I have some great rising seniors to lead us to the promised land in Smyrna. Will Andrews, Logan Lechleiter, Caldwell Ritter, Brian Swenson (now a dual threat with his addition to the Science Olympiad team) and Charlie Watkins. Juniors John Andrews, Denney Sandwith, Oliver Oldacre, Ben Sutter, and Conner Hastings are all potential first team all-state selections. When you are a great coach in the MBA tradition, like myself, you build a dynasty that focuses on success year after year! Rumor has it that several wealthy benefactors are planning an on-campus practice facility for the bowling team that will be named in my honor. I think the MBA “Carr-o-drome” has a nice ring to it!

(Editor’s Note: Cdr. Carr has not yet coerced Brian Swenson onto the Science Olympiad team.)

Freshmen Find Freedom in the Summer

by Joe Scherrer

Staff Writer

The freshman summer has been a busy one for many. Summer reading and sports practice can certainly be inconvenient and intrusive, but we all seem to find time to work on hobbies, go on fantastic trips, or just bask in the glory of doing absolutely nothing. I interviewed some fellow ninth-graders to see what they have been up to this summer.

Matt Anderson certainly had an exciting summer. He had the opportunity to travel all over the US, from the Southwest to a five-star resort in Virginia. He first went out west to the Grand Canyon and Hoover Dam, then to Vegas, quite a change from scenic beauty to gambling casino! Apparently, the people there are a bit unscrupulous, too; “There’ll be entertainers on the street handing out their ‘business cards,’ if you know what I mean,” says Matt. He also went to the High Adventure camp, spelunking in a non-commercial cave. His advice: don’t eat beans! There is no air movement.

Chris Lee visited South Korea for the month of June. He says they have really good food and video games! According to him, the rest of his summer was spent entirely in eating, playing video games, and studying for the PSAT.

Hunter Woolwine started a band over the summer. He, Maclin Davis, Blair Griffith, and Aaron Ardisson now play in their band, Prometheus Unleashed. He says they just got a bass player.

I hope that your summer was as fun as theirs and that the new school year will be fun and exciting for everyone.

Go see the musical!

Zombie Prom opens Thursday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m.

The Staff still needs a few good writers.
If interested, please contact Mr. Gaither or Brian Swenson!
MBA Students Descend Down Under

By Wade Longmire and Connor Shope
Staff Travel Writers

This June, as part of the MBA exchange program, we traveled to Parramatta, Australia to stay at the King’s School. Being an all-boys military boarding school, life is a little different from MBA.

Every day the students rise around 7:00 AM to go to breakfast from 7:00-8:00. School starts at 8:50 except on assembly days which are every second Wednesday. Assemblies begin at 8:30.

We found the school day to be not at all taxing. Each day has six periods, 50 minutes each, and the order of classes changes every day...to keep the students alert, we suppose. Inserted between 2nd and 3rd periods is a one-hour break, and lunch is an hour and a half, between 4th and 5th periods.

After school on Tuesdays and Thursdays is “training” (practice) for all sports. We participated in rugby, but cross country and soccer were also in season, which at the time was their winter.

The sports program at King’s School is very different from our own arrangement. Basically, there are no subs, and there are enough teams for everyone to be on a team. So, the “11's” are the varsity equivalent, while the “10’s” are so bad they are called the “social” team. We played on the 8’s and 9’s and dominated because of our size. Literally, we were as big, if not bigger, than their firsts and were constantly referred to as “big units.”

The boarding houses were one of the coolest parts of the trip. Every night we basically just hung out with the guys in our houses. They only get an hour of homework a night and there’s a study time put aside for it, during which we slept or played on the computers. Otherwise, though we often ordered pizzas, watched movies and rugby, or played Halo online with the whole house.

On the weekends we split up to go touring with our hosts visiting such places as the Sydney Zoo, the Center Point Tower (observatory), downtown Sydney, the Olympic Stadium for a rugby game, and the Blue Mountains, a famous hiking area.

The entire trip was incredible, and we want to thank Mrs. Warner, Mr. Gioia, and everyone who helped make this exchange trip possible! Juniors, do not let this great opportunity go by!

MBA Welcomes New Faculty Members

As the school year approaches, MBA would like to introduce the new additions to the faculty and staff. All 18 arrived on campus Friday to take part in a three-day orientation, covering topics that include history of the school, its academic mission and vision, student life, and technology. The group began the day on Friday in the kitchen, preparing their lunch as a team under the guidance of MBA English teacher and coach Malcolm Morrison.

The new faculty and staff include:

Chris Bullington
Mr. Bullington will be teaching Introduction to Physical Science, coaching Science Olympiad and working with the intramural programs.

David Deutsch
Mr. Deutsch will be teaching Geometry and Algebra II, working with ACE, and assisting with the hockey, swimming, baseball and track programs.

Cole Eppstein
Mr. Eppstein will be teaching Geometry and Algebra I-Honors and coaching the football and baseball programs.

Sam Garner ('03)
Mr. Garner will be working with our Alumni & Development Office and helping with the football and lacrosse.

Kevin Hamrick
Mr. Hamrick will be working with our debate program, teaching, and helping develop school outreach programs.

Charlie Howell
Mr. Howell will be working in Administration and Development offices and with the AP-Government class. He will be assisting with varsity golf, basketball, and microbe baseball, and working with the Big Red Club and the Government Club.

Matthew Jacques ('04)
Mr. Jacques will be working with our Alumni & Development Office, coaching football, baseball, and basketball and working with The Big Red Club.

Jennifer Kalis
Ms. Kalis will be teaching Algebra II-Honors, College Algebra Trig-Honors and working with Service, the Math Club, and intramurals.

Ginny Maddux
Ms. Maddux will serve as Director of College Counseling.

Mike Martin ('98)
Mr. Martin has been the color commentator for the Big Red football radio broadcasts for the past seven years. Mike will be working with our Alumni & Development Office and assisting with varsity baseball and 7th-grade basketball.

Will McEachern
Mr. McEachern will be working with our College Counseling Office and teaching Government. He will also be coaching basketball and baseball and working with the Stock Market Game.

Will Norton ('99)
Mr. Norton will be teaching American History, coaching football and wrestling, working in Administration and with Student Council and Service.

Daniel Paolicchi
Mr. Paolicchi will be teaching Spanish I, II, and III, and working with Hispanic Achievers, soccer and track.

Robbie Quinn
Mr. Quinn will be working with the debate program, teaching English I, and working with Service.

Elijah Reynolds ('99)
Mr. Reynolds will be working in the Alumni & Development Office and coaching cross country and track.

Jonas Rodriguez ('08)
Mr. Rodriguez will be teaching Government-Economics, coaching football and basketball, and working with The Big Red Club.

Chris Sanders
Mr. Sanders will be coaching football and track and working with the Junior School counseling program.

Candy Vaughan
Ms. Vaughan will be teaching English in the Junior School, helping with Junior School publications, the Spelling Bee, and intramurals.
Thompson, Tyler Paslick and Alex Snow, Tyler Leroy and followed by Overton the team are very strong golfers, led by championship last year. The juniors on the team's best performance at the state year, including John Birch who turned in though losing several key seniors last MBA returns some great players, Hackistone, showing that the future is Preston won the club championship at year goes on. Another youngster, George the veterans will only get better as the players showed fabulous potential, and During this loss several young players showed fabulous potential, and the veterans will only get better as the year goes on. Another youngster, George Preston won the club championship at Hackistone, showing that the future is very bright for the Big Red. MBA returns some great players, though losing several key seniors last year, including John Birch who turned in the team’s best performance at the state championship last year. The juniors on the team are very strong golfers, led by Tyler Leroy and followed by Overton Thompson, Tyler Paslick and Alex Snow, but the team also has several good young players, including freshman Austin Dobler who led the Microbe team last year. Alex Snow said of the team, “We have a good mix of youngsters complemented by a solid junior class.” The team only has two seniors, Robert McNeilly and Nicholas Concepcion, so some juniors will also have to step up and show they can lead, also. There is stiff competition in the region this year, including a very strong Baylor team, but the squad was able to defend its Stan McNabb Invitational title earlier this month as well. There is no doubt the team will continue to improve and that the future is very bright for the Big Red. Putt Red Putt.

It’s that time of year. As the relaxing summer begins its transition into the regimented fall, people begin to return their minds to the sports world. Ever-present are thoughts of tailgates, Friday-night lights, and everyone’s favorite occasion: two-a-days. Known by most as applicable to football, the term two-a-days can be applied to other sports, including cross-country. As the twenty-eight runners who journeyed up to the campus of Sewanee for a few days of running soon found out, it is, in fact, possible to go for a run both in the morning and at night…in the same day. The camp experience provided the incoming freshman and other new runners the opportunity to learn what cross-country is all about and, in general, gave all runners a chance to focus themselves on the season. Highlights of the retreat included Coach Pruitt’s detailed, scientific explanations of different types of training which followed the ingenious mnemonic device, “Extra Terrestrials Ignore Reality”, and senior Nick Williams shouting “I just won four bucks in the lottery…!”

In the weeks of August after returning from camp at Sewanee and before school started, a dedicated group of runners met every afternoon at Vaughn’s Gap to run trails and complete track workouts. The team is really starting to come together, and the focus is now turned to November 1st, the day of the State Meet. The returning varsity runners are seniors Baker Mulherin and Matt Ractliffe, junior David Dalton, and sophomores Michael Peters and Hayes McCord. Also, Ryan Hill, who, while injured his freshman cross country season, ran an excellent track season in the spring, will also be running at the front. Commenting on last season’s performance and the outlook of this season with such great runners returning, Coach Russ said, “We missed second at state by only three points, and even though that was our best state finish in several years, we were disappointed and certainly start this year hungry.”

With only four seniors, and with a few key juniors out with injuries, the underclassman will have to step up. But, as David Dalton so eloquently pointed out, “I think we have a good freshman group,” a group who will most likely contribute to the team in a big way.

Junior Quinton Burks, who missed the summer workouts with a hip injury, feels that the younger guys will contribute. Referring to the sophomore prodigy, he commented, “Michael Scott Peters is the next great hope. He inspires me each day in a new way.”

Baylor, the defending state champion and the obvious team to beat, will almost certainly have the top individual runner in the state this year. Big meets other than state include the TN Classic in September (the largest high school sporting event in the state of Tennessee each year, based on number of participants) and the Great America Cross Country Festival in Hoover, AL, in October. The team has potential to have a great season as long as injuries don’t play a part, and all the runners want as many people as possible to come support them at their big meets.
The Dark Knight Provides an Empty Night

by Karl Mecklenborg
Staff Writer

Missing from Batman’s utility belt – substance. I left the theater with a somewhat sick sense of eating too much popcorn and a slight sense of... dare I say it... boredom.

Sure, Christopher Nolan’s The Dark Knight is probably the best superhero movie ever made, but that’s like saying High School Musical 3 is the best Disney movie ever made. The Dark Knight impressively beat out such summer powerhouses as Mamma Mia! to break all kinds of records.

Christopher Nolan’s sequel to Batman Begins is a perfect example of a movie that takes itself too seriously. Throughout the movie Nolan uses a guy dressed up in a bat costume to address big themes: post-9/11 concepts of justice, abuse of power, and the manipulation of history. Nolan tries to create comic book characters whose tragic qualities have Shakespearean depth, and the result is a big mess.

There is no tragic quality to this movie in the way Nolan intended. Batman is simply an adolescent’s action figure with problems most of us can only dream of having. How many of us face the problem of having a split personality, unlimited wealth, or the responsibility of being solely able to fight crime? Even without Batman’s ear-shattering voice, nobody cares about what he says or feels. I also doubt anyone shed a tear when Batman voice disappointed me. It’s like saying “LOOK AT ME!!!” to a man disguised as Batman in a slaughterhouse, the audience shrinks totally in terror.

From the moment this film was advertised, I was interested. Heath Ledger’s performance has been the talk of the year, and his death has drawn even more curiosity. Plain and simple, Ledger is phenomenal. Hilarious and terrifying at the same time, he renews the face of the Joker. I do not think that Christian Bale should be overlooked in this film, however. He gives the best performance he can give, yet his Batman voice disappointed me. It’s like a mixture of Leonidas (The 300) and an 80-year-old woman with emphysema.

One must also be impressed by the film’s ability to take a pop-culture icon and make a modern tragic hero out of him. Nolan creates a very believable plot line, in which every character seems to matter and to have some effect on Batman/Bruce Wayne. The film haunts the viewer, especially in scenes where the guy with half a lip can spit out cheesy one-liners just fine, such as “The world is cruel, and the only morality in a cruel world is chance.”

Harvey Dent transformed way too fast into Two-Face, and he turns into a flat character existing only to prove the Joker’s power of corruption. The child endangerment scene with Two-Face was a low blow for cheap suspense, and the cheesy coin flipping was irritating after the seventh time.

The ending of the movie results in two disappointing conclusions. The scene with two boats full of people with detonators lacked any point. Defying reality, they set calm and throw out their detonators in perfect order. In another unrealistic event, Two-Face dies after falling the same height as Batman. I don’t think I’ve ever seen such an unsatisfying ending to a movie.

But last not least, Nolan, of course, felt it necessary to play Michael Moore and relate a comic book movie to politics. Like President Bush, Batman now has his own warrantless wiretapping program in the form of, yes, cell phone sonar, which brings up some questions about symbolism in the film: Is the Dark Knight like George Bush because he uses torture and telephone spy tactics to save everyone? Does the last scene suggest that Bush and Batman are taking the fall for all the bad things that have happened and that in the future their people will praise them? I don’t care. I have nothing against pseudo philosophical bubble in limited amounts, but does the entire movie have to be Nolan’s huge IMAX-quality sermon?

It’s a Christopher Nolan film; Christian Bale and Heath Ledger are in it; Morgan Freeman pretends to have some valuable purpose in the movie. Three reasons why The Dark Knight is the best action movie of the summer.

The 300

Christian Bale as Batman in The Dark Knight

Karl’s apices and nadirs of emotion during the film.
A. Joel Gluck DDS, MS

Board Certified Orthodontist

Father of Daniel (’03) and Jonathan (’04) Gluck

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Seniors Set Out for the Summer

by
Fadi Pulous
News Editor

The Senior Class had a very diverse set of individual experiences and adventures over the course of the summer. From camps and foreign lands to mythical creatures and excess facial hair (or even a combination of both), the seniors encountered a wide array of activities to enjoy.

Alex Martin spent a big portion of his summer at Northwestern University where he studied film and actively pieced together several short films of his own during his time there. This experience has motivated Alex to pursue a career in film and to achieve this career through four years of college at Northwestern.

In a slightly less believable feat, Owen Lipscomb sailed around the entire world in a raft without food and water. He must have somehow stopped for a time in order to make football workouts and such, but I'm all for breaking down the laws of time and space.

Leland Howe had a big summer that required him to travel to Detroit, Michigan for the Junior Track and Field Nationals. He competed in the pole vault and the javelin, but Leland didn’t do as well as he’d expected after suffering a minor knee injury. In other meets, Leland succeeded and, thus, enjoyed some time off on the beach in Georgia.

Bradford Norton spent a lot of his time in his room and didn’t go out much because, he claimed, it was cooler both logistically and metaphorically.

Chubburn Park went on some college tours up north and came to his personal conclusion that Boston is superior to all cities, and that’s where he’d like to continue his studies. Taylor Land had a pretty awesome summer chasing down William “Big Play” “Seabreeze” Hayes and being run over by Chris Johnson, fastest man alive. Taylor also got a chance to see Pineapple Express with Cortland Finnegans.

The ever saucy Karl Mecklenborg said he enjoyed his summer and attained a “black belt in keepin’ it real.” No one knows what that really means, but it doesn’t matter, because no one’s gotten what Karl’s said through high school anyway. Houston Oldham had an action-packed soccer fest this summer. From camps to games to tournaments, Houston kept busy on the field. He also mentioned his soccer team made it to quarterfinals in their region, which is a great achievement on their behalf. I’d also like to thank Houston for giving debate camp a shout out.

Crawford Standard enjoyed his exchange trip to the Melbourne Grammar School with his new best friend Michael Moore. Ian Preston began his summer with an exchange trip to New Zealand with Charlie Watkins and Clark Benton. It’s safe to say that everyone that went on any sort of exchange this year had a great time regardless of where they went. Those that went would really like to thank Mrs. Warner for making those trips all possible.

Brian Swenson had an MLB filled summer as he saw six games and watched his Seattle Mariners win one game against the Atlanta Braves. With that win, the Mariners notched in a season-high .350 winning percentage coming up only 29 games short of their division lead. Houston Oldham went to Destin for a couple weeks and then to the Young Life camp. Stephen Bedard, known as “Steve-o unbelieve-o” to us all, said for his summer he “went on a mission trip, went to this random island, and played a lot of soccer”. Hunter Ractliffe went to Cookeville for baseball; William Flaunt spent some time in California; and Chase Lovelace said of his summer, “Well...I swam. Just got back from Jr. Nationals; I went to Destin for a couple weeks and then to the Young Life camp”,

In an unrelated story, Ed Powell gained the new nickname “Ed Beard” after growing a massive orange beard for the entirety of the summer. A high-five to Ed and all those weeks of growing!

All in all the senior class had a pretty productive summer filled with an excess of summer reading. Everyone is looking forward to his final year on the Hill and is expecting a tough first semester, filled with tough classes and college applications. Somehow the senior class will have to tough it out together, as this semester will be a testament to how hard we’ve all worked to get to the apex of our high school careers.

Sophomores Stay Busy in the Summer

by
Andrew Powell
Staff Writer

“Summer’s been good - can’t believe it’s already over,” a reflective Hampton Farr commented, when asked about his months of freedom. Right there with you, Hampton.

Over the past few months, MBA’s Class of 2011 has been busy relaxing. From Jack Hallemann hanggliding in Chattanooga to Bradley Worthington fishing in Canada, the sophomores have had their share of summer fun.

Here are some of the ways sophomores spent their well deserved time off: Lane Bullock “went to Destin for a couple weeks and then to the Young Life camp”; Stephen Bedard, known as “Steve-o unbelieve-o” to us all, said for his summer he “went on a mission trip, went to this random island, and played a lot of soccer”; Hunter Ractliffe went to Cookeville for baseball; William Flaunt spent some time in California; and Chase Lovelace said of his summer, “Well...I swam. Just got back from Jr. Nationals; I went to Destin for a couple weeks and then to the Young Life camp”,

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All in all the senior class had a pretty productive summer filled with an excess of summer reading. Everyone is looking forward to his final year on the Hill and is expecting a tough first semester, filled with tough classes and college applications. Somehow the senior class will have to tough it out together, as this semester will be a testament to how hard we’ve all worked to get to the apex of our high school careers.

Aside from all the fun and relaxation, summer holds great opportunity for students to do a little work. Tom Markham and Carter Callaway packaged many MBA students’ school books while working at Davis Kidd. Ian Sharbel, Walton Macey, William Farrar, and Jack Hallemann made a little gas money working at Whittworth. Ben Crook, though, went one step further. He volunteered his time to the Green Hills Regal Cinema and to keeping the staff on top of their game. Ben accomplished this noble service to the community by getting kicked out of Pineapple Express...not once, but twice. Instead of working, one can dedicate his time to improving himself through learning a new skill. Lee Srebnick took this principle to heart. He spent countless days working on becoming a “regular” at the Charlotte Rd. Waffle House, which, he would like to add, is the closest place to heaven on this earth. Best of luck, Lee, in your ambitious pursuit.

For my summer, I went on a mission trip to Mexico, to Florida for a week, and, probably the highlight of my summer, National Ultimate Training Camp in Anhester, MA with frisbee pro Mitchell Shope.

I speak for everyone when I say this past summer has been a good one.
MBA Football 2008: A Look at Each Game

by Kyle Brantley
Staff Writer

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<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
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Antioch — (7-5) Class 5A-7th
The Bears will be looking to get revenge this year, after suffering a 13-38 beat down at the hands of MBA. The Bears will be led by Terrance Davis, the co-offensive MVP in Region 5-5A last year. Davis is a dual threat QB who averaged more than 200 yards of total offense last year. The Big Red have literally been counting down the seconds to this anticipated match-up - a countdown clock was put up shortly after the State Championship last year.

Moeller – (8-3) Greater Catholic South-2nd
The Fighting Crusaders compete in possibly the nation’s toughest league, the GCL South. Moeller is returning nine starters from a team that took down some of the toughest teams in the country last year. One of the team’s most talented players is DL Sean McCllelan, who has already committed to Cincinnati. The Big Red will be participating in the Kirk Herbstreit Football Series, and the game will be featured on the NFL network. The big showdown is scheduled for noon on Sunday August 31st at Paul Brown Stadium (the Bengals’ Stadium). Also, the Cincinnati Reds are in town that same weekend, playing just down the street from the Bengals’ Stadium on Saturday night at Great American Ball Park. So make a weekend out of it and see the Reds at a beautiful ballpark and the Big Red in one of the most anticipated match-ups in recent history.

Baylor — (2-8) Division II AA-11th
The Red Raiders will be boasting a very tough O-Line, but the question is whether they will have enough difference-makers to challenge the Big Red. Baylor’s two wins last year came against JPII and St. Anne’s-Belfield, a team from Virginia. The game will be played in Chattanooga at Baylor’s field.

Hillsboro— (10-2-1) Class 4A-2nd
The Big Red pulled out a squeaker against the Burros last year, so look for Hillsboro to bring a little extra to the table in this game. The MBA-Hillsboro game was the closest and most intense game of last year. Hillsboro’s fans even chowed Big Red gum, in hopes it would help their team chew up the competition. This year, however, MBA will have to take on the Burros at their house. The biggest talent on this Hillsboro team without question is Eric Gordon, a cornerback who has received offers from Tennessee, Alabama, Miami, Florida, South Carolina, and Oklahoma, just to name a few. Gordon is a four-star player on rivals.com, and he is rated the 14th best cornerback in the nation. The new tailback for the Burros, taking over for Jaquese Seward, is Alex Crutcher. Crutcher has already received offers from Texas Tech, Tennessee, and Vanderbilt.

JPII— (1-9) Division II AA-12th
The Knights will have to rely heavily on the running game of Wesley Tate if they want to put up a fight against the Big Red. Wesley, the brother of Notre Dame football/baseball player Golden Tate, has blazing speed and can’t be stopped in the open field. He has picked up offers from Stanford, Navy, Air Force, Alabama, Ole Miss, and Vanderbilt. Plenty of underclassmen got playing time for the Knights last year, so that experience should be very valuable for the team moving forward this season.

Ravenwood— (4-6) Class 5A-22nd
The Raptors definitely gave MBA the biggest scare last year, coming back late in the fourth quarter on their Homecoming, only to lose in the end. This year, Ravenwood will be participating in MBA’s Homecoming game, which does not help their chances. All of the hype and festivities surrounding Homecoming always result in a great effort from the Big Red. MBA hopes to give its alums a good show, but hopefully one that is not as nerve-racking as last year.

Easwroth— (9-3) Division II AA-4th
No one, and I mean no one, associated with the MBA community could stand the thought of a loss to Ensworth. Everyone knows how much this game means to the Tigers, and they will most definitely give MBA a run for their money this year. Led by a frightening 1-2 punch in the backfield of Tavarres Jefferson, who will get the majority of the snaps, the Fighting Crusaders compete in possibly the nation’s toughest league, the GCL South. Moeller is returning nine starters from a team that took down some of the toughest teams in the country last year. Davis is a dual threat QB who averaged more than 200 yards of total offense last year. The Big Red have literally been counting down the seconds to this anticipated match-up - a countdown clock was put up shortly after the State Championship last year.

Brentwood Academy, a team the Big Red had the pleasure to beat twice last year, is returning sixteen starters from a team that reached the DII-AA title game last year. The Eagles are ranked the best team in Tennessee, regardless of Class or Division, and 26th nationally by maxpreps.com. Brentwood Academy’s strong point this year will be its fierce line, most notably Alex Bullard. The rivals.com 4-star Bullard is ranked the 9th best guard in the nation; Alex has already committed to Notre Dame for the 2009 season. Also, D-linemen Barry Dabney and Ryan Carethers are getting offers from some major college programs. The Eagles haven’t forgotten the shutout the Big Red handed them in the State Championship last year, so they will be bringing ‘A’ game for sure.

Father Ryan— (9-3) Division II AA-3rd
Every year the Irish seem to think it will be the year, but it never is. Last year, the Irish were more cocky than ever, coming into the game against MBA with an undefeated record. However, MBA put the beatdown on them, winning by a score of 26-0. Then the playoffs rolled around, and the Big Red just rubbed it in, winning this time 42-7. Father Ryan’s only other loss last year was at the hands of Brentwood Academy. Both MBA and Father Ryan boast extremely strong and proven kickers, with Andrew Fletcher booting field goals for MBA and Nick Pollard for Father Ryan. The two best kickers in the state might very well be on display at this much anticipated match-up. MBA knows the Irish will bring everything they’ve got, because if there is one team Father Ryan would like to beat this year, it is no doubt MBA.

McCallie— (5-5) Division II AA-8th
Look out for the Blue Tornados this upcoming season, as they are my sleeper pick for the year. After a mediocre .500 season, I’m feeling a big turn-around for McCallie. A big playmaker for the Tornados will be safety Jay Fullam, who has already inked at Vanderbilt. The Tornados are also hinting that Fullam will be used in the Tornados offense this season. The McCallie squad will be returning eight starters on both sides of the ball this year, while MBA is returning only four starters on both units. This is one of the more intriguing teams for next season, which is why I have ranked McCallie as the 2nd Toughest Opponent, ahead of Moeller and Hillsboro. The Big Red will have their hands full for the last game of the grueling and exciting season.

SOURCES: maxpreps.com; tennessee.couchn.com; tennessean.com; rivals.com