Boxes of Thanks
by Hamilton Millwee

Two advisories, one eighth grade and one seventh grade, were trying to come up with an idea of what to do for their quarterly service project, and one idea was agreed upon: to send care packages to Iraq for Capt. Matt Woolsey, who is the leader of the 2-159th Aviation Regiment, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, consisting of over 400 soldiers. Capt. Woolsey flies an Ah64D Apache Longbow helicopter, which has a maximum speed of 200 miles per hour and has an array of weaponry including a 30 MM Cannon, Hydra 70 inch rocket launchers and the Hellfire Missile Launcher. Capt. Woolsey says it “scare[s] the crap out of the bad guys.” He is now stationed at a city named Balad after moving from Germany to Kuwait.

Capt. Woolsey is the son of our very own Pat Woolsey, who teaches 8th grade algebra. Led by Todd Baker, Will McFadden, James Kay, Bryan Oslin, and Matt Anderson, the care package project was a roaring success. To spread the word about the drive, they passed out flyers to teachers, and Mr. Gioia announced the drive at one of the assemblies. People responded, bringing in pens, toothpaste, candy, sports memorabilia, letters, and our most collected item, Pringles. All in all, the two homerooms collected thirty-three boxes of items to be shipped to Iraq, adding up to 630.7 pounds. For their service project in the second quarter, Mrs. Pettus’ advisees held a bake sale to raise money for the shipping costs, raising about $300. Mrs. Roberts’ advisees also hosted a bake-sale to raise enough money to ship the items to Iraq. In the end, Mrs. Roberts’ advisees raised $476, which with the two advisories combined was more than enough to pay for the shipping costs.

It took about two weeks for the packages to arrive in Iraq. Capt. Woolsey e-mailed us telling us that he chose the Titans and Vols gear and left the rest out on the table for others in his platoon. He said by the next morning, it was almost all gone; there were many thanks from his comrades. Finally, on behalf of Mrs. Roberts and Ms. Pettus, as well as their advisees, thank you very much to everyone who contributed.
Several homerooms held bake sales in recent weeks and made significant contributions to local agencies. Congratulations to these homerooms for their community service:

Mrs. Christeson -- Nashville Rescue Mission’s Thanksgiving Day dinner program
Ms. Ellery -- Tanzanian School
Mr. Spiegl -- Cheatham County Animal Shelter
Mr. Russ -- Nashville Rescue Mission
Mr. Anderson -- Salvation Army Local Chapter
Mr. Brown -- Sports Servants in Balize

Good Luck to Everyone on Exams!!

Happy Holidays
MBA Tunnels

by Aaron Ardisson

Have you ever wondered how, during a day when the rain never quits, our teachers seem to remain completely dry? Have you ever gone to the library only to see the teacher you left behind in Massey already there? Many students have often wondered if there is a system of tunnels under our campus or some other similar contraption, and I thought it was time to stop pondering and start an investigation of my own to answer the question once and for all.

I started by asking several Junior School teachers about the tunnels. Most of the responses were as I expected. Some immediately changed the subject; others seemed to drift into some type of a trance as if to take an imaginary trip through these passages. But the most common response from the Junior School faculty was to act as if they didn’t even hear me ask them. They ignored my question!

Intrigued by the different responses, I was determined to dig deep (no pun intended) until I found the truth. I stopped a couple of high school students and asked them if they knew anything about the tunnels that connect the buildings under our campus. One senior, who shall remain anonymous, told me that it was probably in my best interest not to ask questions about the tunnels. He left with a look in his eye like he wanted to tell me more but didn’t want to risk his ability to earn an MBA diploma to help me in my investigation. Later, however, I found a note in my backpack which was exciting, yet troubling.

This note read: “The tunnels are real, but any student with knowledge of their existence will face immediate expulsion. Only one other in your class had knowledge of the tunnels. He stumbled upon them during the new family picnic before your seventh grade year and never even made it to orientation. You know what happened to Tony Metke, or at least what you are supposed to believe happened to him. If you want to go on the eighth grade trip, I suggest you stop asking questions.”

I knew that I should probably stop looking for answers, but I was captivated by what I had uncovered so far. While it appeared that I had given up my mission, I continued to search for evidence. I studied the campus, putting together clues from faculty traffic patterns and irregular building construction in hopes of finding the entrance to the underground labyrinth connecting the buildings. What did Tony Metke find? After an exhaustive search which yielded no signs of an entrance, I noticed what appeared to be a small opening between the debate building and the maintenance building which I am sure they have sealed shut by now.

Armed with my camera, I entered the opening, hoping to find a path to another building. What I found was amazing! Not only was there a tunnel, there was a teachers’ lounge with a bowling alley, walls made of flat panel plasma screen TV’s, and oh so much more.

I have published a photo taken of some unsuspecting staff moving underground to prove the existence of the tunnels. If anything should happen to me after this article is published, know that my job as photographer for the newspaper should be picked by a majority decision of all the other editors.
Looking Ahead: *The Hobbit*

by John Elam

The Junior School play this year is *The Hobbit*, directed by Dr. Rick Seay. All of the seventh graders are very familiar with this plot line because they read it recently for summer reading, but the eighth graders are probably a little rusty on the details. The story is about a little Hobbit named Bilbo (the lead role), who is called on an adventure to slay the Dragon Smowg and protect a city from its fiery breath. Gandolf, the mighty wizard, mentors Bilbo. The characters go through many adventures and snares, including being trapped inside a cave where Gollum, a weird creature, lives. They eventually reach the lair of Smowg, where the Dragon is slain and is no longer a nuisance to the people.

The tryouts for this play were on November 19. Aaron Ardisson will play Bilbo Baggins; Marshall Sorenson takes on the character of Gandalf; John Mark Bellet will portray Thorin Oakenshield. The production is scheduled for February 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Have you ever been bored at home with nothing to do? Have you been telling yourself: “There’s nothing to do in our city. All we have is old historical sites”? Wrong! Nashville has more to it than meets the eye. Nashville Ghost Tours offers a look into Nashville’s exciting and sinister past. The tour guides show you many of Nashville’s historical sites believed to be haunted. These include the Hermitage Hotel, the State Capitol, St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Printer’s Alley, and the Ryman Auditorium. All five of these locations have been dealing with strange and unexplainable happenings for several years. Some believe that these happenings are a result of spirits from the afterlife.

The Hermitage Hotel was built in 1910 as a place for prestigious guests visiting Nashville. Unfortunately, strange things have been happening to indicate that not all of the hotel’s guests are alive. One of the most prominent spirits believed to be haunting this area is a woman called The Lady in White. According to the tour guides, this figure stayed in the hotel in 1911 with her husband. One day she returned to her hotel room earlier than expected and found her husband with another woman. She was later found dead, either by suicide or murder. Many guests have reported seeing a transparent woman in a white dress since the incident.

The State Capitol also has its history of the supernatural. In 1862 when Union forces captured the Capitol, a band of Confederates tried one last time to recapture it in a bloody skirmish. They failed, but they managed to kill a few Union soldiers, one of which is believed to still be patrolling the grounds. Many years ago a man that was working on a project took a nap on one of the couches. He woke up to find a man looking at him saying, “Keep your feet off the furniture!” The terrified man got up and saw that the man who woke him up was in a blue Union soldier uniform. The soldier turned around and then disappeared. The Union soldier is one of many ghosts believed to haunt the Capitol grounds.

St. Mary’s Catholic Church is one of the oldest Catholic churches in Nashville. It is also believed to be one of the most haunted buildings in Nashville. Several decades ago, a cook at the church saw an unknown clergyman walk right through the kitchen without speaking. She later mentioned it to the head priest, but he said that was impossible because she was the only one there. Later, the church bell began ringing loudly without warning. When they got to the roof of the church, no one was there, and the bell was silent. No one understood these events until in 1970, when electricians were rewiring the church. Under the altar they found the tomb of a man named Bishop Pius. The church concluded that it was he who was haunting the church.

The Ryman has its share of spirits as well. Many singers and stage crew members recount seeing a man in a grey Confederate uniform on several occasions. At first they didn’t understand why a Confederate ghost would be in the Ryman, but they later figured out that in 1897 there was a Confederate Veterans’ reunion at the site. It is very possible that someone could have died there.

Whether you believe in the supernatural or not, Nashville Ghost Tours is entertaining for both older kids and adults. Parents may want to leave younger children at home. It is not just a search for spirits, but a search into Nashville’s dark and forgotten past. The tours are open Wednesday to Monday (closed Tuesdays) depending on the weather. The tour begins at 8:00 P.M. and ends at 9:30 P.M. and is a walking distance of ½ mile. Adults 12 and up are $15, Children 7-11 are $8, and children 6 and under are free. I strongly recommend going on this tour. It will show you a side of Nashville that you didn’t know existed.
Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock
by Hayden Holliman

Guitar Hero is a game in which you use a mini-guitar with five fret buttons to rock out on the game’s famous rock songs. You can use real guitar methods such as the whammy bar and fret slides. Your goal is to hit the notes as they scroll by on a variety of gameplays, such as career mode, where you earn cash to unlock characters, outfits, finishes, videos and songs, co-op, battle mode, and online play. Guitar Hero III comes with a new extensive sound track of over 60 songs, including my favorite by Tenacious D! As you progress through the game, you play gigs at new venues, even a Alcatraz-like jail island. In this trilogy, the bonus characters are Metalhead, Elroy Budvis, The God of Rock, The Grim Reaper, Tom Morello, Slash, Lou the Devil, and Bret Michaels. The total package comes with the hefty price of $100.00 (approximate cost) including the guitar. This is a great game, so buy it and get ready to shred.

Overall Rating: 4.0/5.0

U.S. Men’s Soccer Olympic Qualifiers
by Robert Papel

U.S. Men’s Soccer Olympic Qualifiers will take place at LP Field in Nashville, Tennessee, for the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics. Nashville became a desirable venue because LP Field hosted both the U.S. Women’s National Team that played in the 2004 Athens Olympics, and the U.S. Men’s National Team that played in the 2006 FIFA world Cup. The Women’s Team drew a crowd of 10,500 people while the Men’s Team drew about 27,000 fans for their games at LP Field.

On March 20th the semifinals will take place; three days later on March 23rd, the championship game will occur. The U.S. Team, expected to advance to Nashville, could include forwards Freddie Adu and Jozy Altidore, as well as midfielder Michael Bradley. The U.S. men failed to qualify for the 2004 Olympics after playing in six consecutive Olympics dating from 1980. The Men finished fourth in 2000, their last Olympics. Good Luck, USA!
**Halo 3: A Must-Have Game**

by Nicholas Green

Halo 3 may be not only the best Halo game but also one of the best action video games. The action-packed game includes a very thorough campaign mode and an exciting multiplayer mode. The campaign mode has a very well-written story line. Though the levels are long, they include tons of action that require you to concentrate at all times. Multiplayer includes not only system link but also Xbox Live, which is very fun and sometimes challenging. You can be on teams with people all around the world, or you can play a free-for-all. System link allows you to play with the people that are right with you. It is fun killing your friends and laughing at them once you win (all in fun)! Overall, Halo 3 is a great game and if you can, get it as quickly as possible.

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**Docta Love’s Love Advice**

**Dear Docta Love:**

I really like this girl that I met at an MBA game. But, there is a small problem. She doesn’t even know my name! We have talked numerous times but it seems she just cannot remember. What should I do?

Sincerely, Embarrassed Lover

**Dear Embarrassed Lover:**

Perhaps this young lady is under a lot of stress with the ongoing anxiety that exams bring, and if I had to guess, your name is probably the least of her worries right now. So my advice to you is to wait until exams are over, and then make your move! Trust me, she will eventually remember your name.

--Docta Love

**Dear Docta Love:**

I really like this girl, but I’m scared it is not going to work out between us because of the schools we go to. You see, she goes to Ensworth (MBA’s arch rival), and I know if she were to become my girlfriend, my friends would never let me live it down. Any suggestions?

Sincerely, Hopeless Lover

**Dear Hopeless Lover:**

If they are really your friends they will not care about what school she attends. Their only concern should be your happiness. So my suggestion to you is to GO FOR IT, and just ask her out. It seems she really likes you, and hopefully your different schools will not hurt your relationship.

--Docta Love
**ENTERTAINMENT**

**Beowulf, the Movie**

by Noah Fardon

Only recently did word come out about the promising new feature *Beowulf* with 3-D animation that is the first of its kind. Not only was this a promising addition to this film, but there was also the fact that famous Robert Zemeckis would be directing, and stars such as Ray Winstone, Angelina Jolie, and Anthony Hopkins were featured. With so much promise to be an amazing movie, *Beowulf* did not fail, but it was not as successful as most people were hoping it would be. When the film starts, the excitement mounts, and the new set of 3-D animated visuals surprise and amaze the viewer at the same time, but as the surprise of this new idea fades, so does one’s interest in the movie. Truly, it becomes quite dull. Although the fighting scenes are quite fun, they do not bring enough excitement to revive this movie. There is no acting to recommend for the fact that the creators could have covered up the performances when layering the animated features of the actors’ pictures.

The story follows Beowulf’s adventures dealing with the monster Grendel (Crispin Glover) and the just as evil mother (Angelina Jolie). Luckily, the viewer will be able to leave the theater happier than he had been during the entire movie because of a visually fascinating final battle between Beowulf and a fire-spewing beast of a dragon. In conclusion, the hype about this movie’s release cannot be supported by the shoulders of the movie itself, and therefore fails to provide the constant excitement and creative imagination that one would expect from a film based on the wonderful old-English poem. The fact that the hype could not be withheld does not make this a bad movie; it’s a mediocre movie that makes one feel disappointed when thinking over what one has just seen.

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**Washington, D.C. Here We Come!**

by Kevin Wang

Brace yourselves for the most exciting event that’s going to happen this year: the 2008 Science Olympiad National Tournament! Led by event manager and science teacher Dr. Marro, Division B (15 members from grades 7-8) and Division C (grades 9-12), members will enter into the region competition on February 23, 2008, and advance into the state championship. Once they conquer all teams in Tennessee, the would-be champions will enter the Nationals! Taking place at George Washington University in Washington D.C. on May 30-31, the “real game” will consist of 19 subgroups and 4 main-team categories, including Tower Building, Scrambler, Robo-Cross, and Balloon Launch Glider.

Teams will arrive Thursday, May 29 to attend a full-day event, including visiting Congressional Representatives, checking in, tours, and other exciting activities. The second day will be spent raising spirits, celebrating for the teams that have made it to the nationals. Parades, receptions, and available tours will be held that day throughout the campus. Finally, May 31. The huge, mind-twisting, blood-churning, head-joggling TOURNAMENT. From 7 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., teams will be competing and answering various questions. With our team members working hard everyday to turn in and file information and research on certain categories, and especially with the support of the whole school, I only emphasize my “Three W’s”- WE WILL WIN!

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Good Luck, Science Olympiads!
Can YOU See the Similarity?

A creation of Zach Chen

Large and IN CHARGE!

Youthful and innocent... but looks can be deceiving!

A teddy bear with teeth.

Cute and sweet... but not all fluff!

Both can spot their prey from a mile away.
ENTERTAINMENT

Pacman Jones
Naughty? Or Nice?
by David Arteaga

Tennessee Titans’ cornerback Adam “Pacman” Jones, former 6th overall pick from West Virginia in the 2004 draft, was suspended last April for violating the NFL’s conduct policy. Since drafted, Jones has been arrested five times, but after Jones became involved in a melee and a triple shooting at a strip club, he was finally suspended.

Onstage at the Minxx Gentleman’s Club and Lounge in LA, Jones was showering strippers with up to 80,000 dollars. Chris Mitchell, the Houston promoter who hired the strippers, told them to pick up the money and later said, “I thought it was for the dancers.” Once Mitchell left, a melee broke out. Jones became furious about the loss of his money, so a woman who had come with him attacked one of the strippers. As Jones was moved outside, the woman continued to fight and even bashed a security guard with a champagne bottle while trying to be restrained. Minutes later, shots were heard from inside. The shots had hit a female customer in the head and two security guards, of which one is paralyzed. The shooter remains unidentified.

After this incident Jones was indicted with two felony charges: one for inciting the triple shooting although he had no direct involvement and another for threatening to kill someone. As a result, Roger Goodell, the new NFL commissioner, suspended Jones from the Titans’ 2007 season for violating the NFL’s conduct policy but promised that Jones may be able to return after the Titans’ tenth game if he behaved well. He also took away Jones’s annual salary for 2008, consisting of $1,292,500.

Jones did little to stay out of the public’s eye after his suspension. He soon became a rapper, but this career did not last long. Jones then joined the TNA, Total Nonstop Wrestling league, and won the tag team championship. Jones saw little action in the match because the Titans required the TNA to keep Jones safe. After the Titans’ eighth game, Jones once again met with Goodell to discuss his return. Goodell informed Jones that he still had not changed his mind on the suspension because of the fact that Jones’s biggest community service was buying tickets for some Atlanta students to watch his next wrestling match.

In preparation for Jones’s suspension, Jeff Fisher, Titans’ head coach, signed veteran cornerback Nick Harper from Indianapolis, drafted safety Michael Griffin, first-round pick from Texas in the 2007 draft, and developed second-year corner, Cortland Finnegan, into a starter. By having a 7-6 record and the possibility of winning the AFC wild card race this year, the Titans show that they are capable of winning without Pacman. Titan members seem split over Jones’s return. Quarterback Vince Young has stated, “Pacman doesn’t care about the team,” while linebacker Keith Bulluck says, “I would like him back.” However Pacman’s future turns, hopefully it benefits the Titans.

MBA Survey

1. What should the Titans do once Pacman returns? (57 votes)
   ** readmit him – 72%
   ** trade him for a different player or a higher draft pick for the 2008 draft – 28%

2. Which new Titans’ secondary has best filled Pacman’s position? (56 votes)
   ** Cortland Finnegan – 77%
   ** Michael Griffin – 14%
   ** Nick Harper – 9%

3. Is Pacman innocent? (59 votes)
   ** YES – 32%
   ** NO – 68%
First student to see Joe with a correct puzzle wins the prize!
SPORTS

HVAC Runners-Up

by Daniel Bellet and John Mark Bellet

The Big Red Microbe Wrestlers had a great season this year, going undefeated with exception of the Brentwood Academy match in the regular season. The eighth graders showed exceptional leadership, and the seventh graders displayed an intense work ethic throughout the season. Coaches Shone, Tarkington, and Gillespie were all very pleased with the perseverance of the team. From red flag day, to Coach Gillespie’s special finishes on singles, no one quit. In the final competition, the microbes received a well-earned, second-place finish in the HVAC Championship Tournament, narrowly losing out to Brentwood Academy.

Despite going into the tournament without injured co-captain and defending HVAC champion John Mark Bellet, the team still finished a mere seven points behind BA. Co-captain Cayce Ortale defended his HVAC title at 75 pounds and was named Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament. Daniel Bellet took the championship at 100 pounds. Charlie Steere completed an undefeated season with his win at 175. Matthew Davidson and Mattison Hamilton also delivered exceptional performances, winning upset matches to take conference titles at 95 and 135 pounds, respectively. Second-place finishers were George Swenson at 82, Kevin Murphy at 160, and Caleb Counce at Heavyweight. Third place finishers were Thomas Forcum at 107, Franklin Garstin at 120, Eric Owings at 127, and Clay Cauble at 145. Special thanks goes to all the second, third, and fourth stringers who helped the starters prepare for the HVAC Championship.

Congratulations to all of the Big Red Microbe Wrestlers for a fine tournament performance and a great season! Coach Shone summarized the season: “I’m very proud of all these wrestlers and especially their performance in the tournament even though several of our athletes were injured.”
Four-Peat!!

by Bryan Oslin

The Microbe soccer teams had fantastic seasons with the A and B teams combining for a record of 15 wins, 2 losses, and 1 tie. The A team, coached by Coach Cheevers and Coach Klausner, won the HVAC soccer championship for the fourth year in a row with a hard fought 2-1 win over a tremendous BGA team. Noah Fardon opened the scoring with a superb shot into the back of the net. The game was 1-0 until Jack Emerson played a perfect pass to Bryan Oslin, who finished with a wonderful shot. After an unlucky MBA penalty, BGA scored on a direct kick right before halftime. The score remained the same throughout the rest of the game. The Big Red fought with heart and refused to lose. As Coach Klausner said, “This team was the perfect combination of talent, toughness, and intelligence. They had something about them in that they just refused to lose. As well, even though we were quite young, this team was blessed with significant talent which makes the future of MBA soccer look bright. What was great to see was that Coach Cheevers put in an entirely new system of play the day before the championship, and the boys played it to perfection. It takes great kids to be able to make such a dramatic change in one day, but we knew these kids could do it.”

The A-team had a 9-1-1 record. The defense, led by team MVP Chris Meluch, as well as Daniel Mace, Ryland Close, Chris Briggs, Jackson Flora, and Chris Duffey, stood strong throughout every game, only allowing five goals the entire season. The offense, Jack Emerson, Noah Fardon, Bryan Oslin, Jason Katseff, Alex Matheny, Madison Rieke, and Hayden Deakins, scored 37 goals in 11 games. Also, the mid-field controlled play by working intelligently and aggressively throughout every game making tackle after tackle and directing the team. The mid-field was made up of Trey Gill, Andrew Karpos, and Henry Lynch. In the back, Mason Luplow and Nick Fletcher made incredible saves as the two goalies. Lucas Fortune, Jack Whitson, and Landon Bullock were pulled up from the B-team and greatly contributed to the success in the tournament. Each individual player played intelligently and had great determination to keep the streak alive. The coaches and eighth grade players look forward to watching the next A-team start the march towards a five-peat.
Microbe Swim Team

by Aidan Davis

On Saturday, November 17, the Microbe Swim Team had its first swim meet of the year. The team dominated the meet and crushed the other teams with an amazing victory of over 300 points! This score is almost double what the score of any of the other teams made. The microbe team is looking forward to an enjoyable season this year.

The swim team also had another outstanding meet at USN on Wednesday, December 5th. The teams were neck-to-neck all the way to the final relays when our competitors pulled out all the stops. Everything relied on the last relays, and MBA was able to pull it off by the width of a hair! The final score was 72 to 66 Big Red! Cornett, Fazio, Akers-Campbell, and Gorham started us off with a victory in the medley relay. The same four won the 320 free relay (winning the meet), along with Sharlin, Wagster, Turner and Wang as well as Sargent, Hudson, Rotker, and Ardisson, who took 2nd and 3rd in the 160 free relays. Akers-Campbell, Fazio, and Sharlin placed 1st, 2nd, and 4th in the individual medley.

The members of the swim team are comprised of any seventh or eighth grader who is willing to join. The practice goes from Monday through Friday and is a fun, competitive sport for people of all experience. The practices on Monday are dry land practice that goes from 3:30 to 4:30 while Tuesday through Thursday practice goes on at the JCC from 3:30 to 5:30. No tryouts are required, and transportation is free. Everyone is having a great time this swimming season and would all encourage you to join swimming. Feel free to contact any of the swim coaches (Coach Dobbs), your advisor, or any one on the swim team for more information. We hope to see you next year!
College Basketball Preview
by Joe Barry

College basketball this season is going to be phenomenal. I, personally, am so excited that I just can’t wait! I am going to give you break-downs of every conference, player-of-the-year awards, and my Final Four predictions.

SEC: I will start with a conference that probably everybody is anxious to hear about: the SEC. My All-SEC First Team has Tennessee’s JaJuan Smith at the point, teammate and sharpshooter Chris Lofton at Shooting Guard, Vanderbilt’s multi-dimensional Shan Foster at Small Forward, Mississippi State’s Jamont Gorgon at Power Forward, and Alabama’s Richard Hendrix at Center to wrap up my Top 5. Now I’ll break-down the teams, starting with the SEC East. Tennessee is undoubtedly #1 in everyone’s preseason polls. How can they not be with players like JaJuan Smith and Wayne Chism returning, not to mention Chris Lofton, who is a First Team All-American and a preseason candidate for the John Wooden and Player of the Year awards? Plus, they lost Derrick Byars to the NBA after their phenomenal Sweet 16 run, but they still return players like Shan Foster, Alex Gordon, and Ross Neltner. They also recruited Australian native A.J. Ogilvy, who will be a key performer this season.

Fourth place goes to the Florida Gators. Despite losing their top six scorers from a back-to-back national championship team, the Gators will still pose as somewhat of a threat for Tennessee and Kentucky. The Gators return Walter Hodge, who is the only returning player that got good playing time. But they have also added McDonald’s All-American Jai Lucas and fellow freshman Nick Calathes, who is #10 by scouts.com. They will still be an SEC East contender. At fifth place I have the South Carolina Gamecocks. They lost Tre’ Kelley, and this year will be a rebuilding year in Columbia. Last in the East is Georgia. I would have them at fourth or fifth, but the recent dismissal of Takais Brown drops the team to sixth. They could still win a few good conference games. Now about the SEC West. Arkansas is my #1 for the West. They have Patrick Beverley and Steven Hill which gives them good balance all around. They will be the team to beat in the West. I have to give second place to the MSU Bulldogs. Nashville native Jamont Gordon, with help from teammates Charles Rhodes and Ben Hansbrough, should be able to help Mississippi State challenge for an SEC Championship. Next may be a bit of a surprise. LSU! Yes, they were horrible last year and lost Glen “Big Baby” Davis, but Tasmin Mitchell and Garrett Temple should be able to get the Tigers wins against quality opponents. They will be decent in my opinion. Next, the Alabama Crimson Tide. They would be second or third in my book, but the recent loss of Ronald Steele sets the Tide back, though they still will have some potential with big man, 6-8 Richard Hendrix.

Fifth is the Auburn Tigers. They had five players last year average double digit points, had a key win over Tennessee, and made it to the NIT. Look for them to be a surprise team this year. Finally, the Ole Miss Rebels. The Rebels are the team
that every SEC team will overlook on their schedule this year. That is how they might be able to win some upset matches and become noticed with player like Dwayne Curtis and Kenny Williams. The SEC will be full of excitement this year and, in my opinion, it will be nice to see someone other than Florida dominate (hopefully).

ACC: Now I’ll talk about my personal favorite conference, the ACC! My preseason All-ACC Team consists of UNC’s Ty Lawson at the point, sharp-shooter from UVA, Sean Singletary, at Guard, Duke’s DeMarcus Nelson at Small Forward, an all-around player from NC State, Brandon Costner, at Power Forward, and Player-of-the-Year candidate, Tyler Hansbrough, at Center. North Carolina is undoubtedly #1, but very good Duke and NC State teams will be nipping at their “heels.” Ty Lawson and Wayne Ellington will fill the backcourt while Hansbrough and Deon Thompson are getting it done down low. The Blue Devils’ rebuilding year is over. They are back at a strong #2 with key returnees DeMarcus Nelson and Jon Scheyer and new help from strong Freshmen Taylor King, Nolan Smith, and Kyle Singler, who were all McDonald’s All-Americans. NC State is at #3 after finishing a tough season with a strong run in the ACC Tournament. Their key player is Brandon Costner, who averaged 16.8 points last season. They also add J.J. Hickson, who is #13 by scouts.com. I have the UVA Cavaliers at #4. Though they did lose J.R. Reynolds, they managed to hang on to Sean Singletary. The Cavs will be dangerous this season. Clemson has to be #5. They were the last team to lose a game last season, starting 17-0, and still have Cliff Hammonds and James Mays; so you should keep an eye out for the Tigers this year. Maryland is next at #6. With James Gist and Greivis Vasquez, Maryland will be in the lead of the “middle of the pack” teams. Following the Terrapins is the “Ramblin’ Wreck.” They did lose their top two scorers (Thaddeus Young and Javaris Crittenton) but return Anthony Morrow and Ra’Sean Dickey; two seniors that have a high potential and a lot to prove. The BC Eagles lost a lot in Jared Dudley, but still have Tyrese Rice, who is on the Preseason All-ACC First Team. They will be deadly when conference play begins. My #10 spot belongs to Wake Forest. They will be playing with heavy hearts because of the loss of their coach, Skip Prosser. Ishmael Smith will be the leader of a young Demon Deacons, a team with no seniors. Next are the Hokies from Va Tech. They lost several players from their good team last year, and some recruits that would have been key players this season changed their minds because of the shooting incident. Deron Washington returns, though, and he will be the Hokies go to guy this year. Last place belongs to the Miami Hurricanes. Jack McClinton is the Hurricanes’ top scorer.

Big East: Next, the Big East. I love watching this conference because there are always great teams to watch (and I don’t feel any loyalty to a certain team). There are so many good players in the Big East; I really have to think about who I would put on my First Team All-Conference. Point Guard, I guess I would put Dominic James from Marquette. I think that he will rebound from a disappointing sophomore season. I really have to think about whom to put at SG. I’d put Scottie Reynolds from Villanova because he was the only freshman last season that scored 40 in a game. My Power Forward spot belongs to Earl Clark, from L-Ville. He will step this season to help an already good Louisville team. Power Forward; now I know he’s just a freshman, but I’m giving this spot to Donte Greene from Syracuse. He

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has already shown a little of what he do (which is amazing), and he can really help improve this Orange team that looks to rebound from last season. Choosing my Center is really easy for me: Roy Hibbert from Georgetown. He is looking to win the Big East player of the Year and lead the Hoyas back to the Final Four. Now teams. G’Town is undoubtedly #1. Though they did lose Jeff Green, who won Big East Player of the Year last season, they return Roy Hibbert, Jonathan Wallace, and DaJuan Summers in addition to some good recruits. #2 is a tough call, and should either be L Ville or the Golden Eagles of Marquette. I will give it to the Cards from the L. they have tons of talent from Earl Clark, Terrence Williams, Derrick Caracter, etc. A recent injury to David Padgett puts him out for the year, but in my mind this is nothing that they cannot overcome. Marquette is third, but don be surprised if the Eagles pass the Cardinals. Dominic James and Jerel McNeal lead Tom Crean’s team this season, and you will probably see them in the Sweet Sixteen at least. Syracuse is definitely at number four. They will be back at the top after several “off” seasons. Eric Devendorf and Paul Harris lead this relatively young team with help from fab freshmen Jonny Flynn and Donte Greene. The Orange will be strong down low with help from PF Jeff Adrian. AJ Price adds good ball-handling to the team and they should be a good threat to the top teams. The Nova Wildcats are next with Scottie Reynolds, who has great potential. He scored 40 in one game last season and provides good strength at the point for Villanova. Jay Wright’s boys will be good this year. The Pitt Panthers are at #7. Yes, they are ranked, but I just don’t see them being a power after losing Aaron Gray. Sure, Levance Fields is a very talented and multi-dimensional guard, but I just can’t see it. Next is the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. I can guarantee that basketball in South Bend will be much more exciting than football this season. They will rely on Luke Zeller and Tony Jackson is they want to make it to the Big Apple this season. Ok here is the rest of the Big East; the teams you really only care about if you graduated from there (not to insult anyone but it is kind of true). 9. Providence 10. Cincinnati 11. West Virginia 12. Seton Hall 13. DePaul 14. Rutgers 15. St. John’s 16. South Florida. I don’t have much to say about these teams.

Big XII: The Big XII is going to be a good conference this season. Even if they didn’t have Kansas, they would be good. For my All-Big XII Team, D.J. Augustin is definitely at the Point. He is what still makes Texas good, despite losing Durant. My Shooting Guard spot belongs to Mario Chalmers from Kansas. This guy is a key part to the Jayhawks. Small Forward is easy to pick. Brandon Rush from Kansas is the best player for KU and could easily win Big XII POY. At forward, Michael Beasley eliminates all other competition. He is rated the #1 freshman by some sources and will not disappoint. My Center spot goes to big-man Joseph Jones from Texas A&M. He will need to step up as a leader to a team who lost Acie Law. Now for teams, I think KU will finish atop the Big XII. Their only loss is Julian Wright, who was only their third leading scorer. The Texas Longhorns come in at #2, despite losing Kevin Durant. D.J. Augustin will be the leader for the relatively young Longhorns team. The A&M Aggies are third with Joseph Jones and Josh Carter; Carter led the NCAA in 3-point percentage last season. K State is fourth because of one player: Michael Beasley. He is a great freshman and will lead this young Wildcats team to the NCAA Tournament this March. Mizzou falls at 5th and will rely on Vandy transfer, DeMarre Carroll, if they want to make it to March. The Sooners are sixth with the addition of McDonald’s All-American Blake Griffin and his brother, junior Taylor Griffin. OK State comes in at 7th. Losing Mario Boggan and JamesOn
ON THE HILL

Curry hurts the Cowboys. Eighth Place belongs to the Baylor Bears. Senior Aaron Bruce will lead a fairly good Bears team. I give ninth place to Nebraska. They will take advantage of Center Aleks Maric’s potential. Bobby Knight’s Tech team is at tenth place. Martin Zeno is the only key returnee. The CU Buffs are at eleventh place and will rely on senior Richard Roby. Iowa State finishes at last place this year in the Big XII.

Big Ten: Despite losing Greg Oden, Tyler Smith, Mike Conley Jr., and Alando Tucker, the Big Ten will be pretty decent this year. Now my All-Big Ten Team. I give Point to Jamar Butler of the Bucks. This guy is so good but is so underrated. Shooting Guard belongs to sharp-shooter Drew Neitzel from Michigan State. My Small Forward is no doubt Eric Gordon, a freshman from Indiana. This guy will be good. Power forward is Shaun Pruitt of Illinois. Center is all D.J. White, also from Indiana. This guy will get it done down low. Now my predictions. Michigan State is #1 with preseason All-American Drew Neitzel, Raymar Morgan, and freshman Durrell Summers. They’ll be good. Indiana comes in next a second with D.J. White and super-frosh Eric Gordon. They too will be good. Now comes Ohio State. It would be tough for any team to replace all five of their starters, but it is extra difficult when their names are Greg Oden, Mike Conley, Daequan Cook, and Ron Lewis. But the Bucks are not going to be bad with help from Jamar Butler

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Soccer fan Ella Harvey

Birthday Girl!

Grace Patterson Woolsey

The TSU Drum Corps performed during break.
and David Lighty. They won’t be bad. The Illini roll in at fourth with Shaun Pruitt, Brian Randle, and Chester Frazier. They will contend in the Big Ten. Wisconsin is 5th and Mike Flowers will be the leader of a team that lost Alando Tucker. The Badgers won’t be that bad. Minnesota is sixth with new coach Tubby Smith. He should improve the struggling Gophers sooner than people think. I have Purdue next at seventh. Chris Kramer and E’Twaun Moore will need to get it done for the Boilermakers this season. Michigan should finish at eighth with Ron Coleman. However, they lost Dion Harris and Courtney Sims. Penn State should be ninth and Geary Claxton needs to continue getting his 16.3 PPG average. Iowa will be tenth, but they take a beating by losing Tyler Smith to Tennessee. And finally, Northwestern will not be anything great. Seriously, someone tell me a player on their team without looking it up.

**Pac-10:** Okay, the Pac-10 could possibly be the best conference in college basketball this season. This obviously means their All-Conference team should be stacked. Darren Collison is the Point Guard from UCLA. He will lead this team to a third consecutive Final Four. USC’s freshman OJ Mayo is Shooting Guard for this team. He’s good. I give Small Forward to Arizona’s Chase Budinger. This will be the Wildcat’s go-to-guy this season. Stanford’s Brook Lopez is my power forward and the Cardinal will be good with him and his brother this season. My Center spot goes to Kevin Love from UCLA. Sure, he’s a center, but this guy can shoot from anywhere. UCLA has the most experience with Collison and Mbah a Moute returning, plus the key addition of Kevin Love. I believe the Bruins are the only team that will definitely be in the Final Four. The WSU Cougars are good with Derrick Low and Kyle Weaver. Last year they rebuilt; this year they will contend. The Oregon Ducks come in at a strong third. Despite losing Aaron Brooks, the Ducks still have Malik Hairston and Tajuan Porter. I think Arizona will finish a fourth with Chase Budinger. He is their best player and his teammates need to get him the ball. USC basketball has struggled in the past, but signing OJ Mayo gives them a boost and with him at guard and Taj Gibson down low, the Trojans should make it to at least the Sweet Sixteen. Stanford has a key weapon with the Lopez twins, as long as Brook can stay in the classroom. He has had academic problems earlier this year. The Washington Huskies should be decent with Jon Brockman. He is a strong forward with a bright future. The Cal Bears will be average to below average. However, they do have DeVon Hardin who gives them power in the front court. ASU are rebuilding but I predict that they will have a few upsets. Oregon State doesn’t have a big-time go-to-guy, and won’t be too good this season.

There are always those mid-major teams that create quite a stir when tourney time rolls around here are the ones that I think will make an impact. MEMPHIS WITHOUT A DOUBT!!!!!! They have Derrick Rose, an eye-popping freshman from Chicago, and return Joey Dorsey and Chris Douglas-Roberts! Making it to the Elite Eight for the third straight season will be a disappointment. Next, Gonzaga will be good. Mark Few is a very good coach, and Jeremy Pargo and Matt Bouldin are ready to make the Zags known for more than Adam Morrison. Butler returns AJ Graves, a very sharp-shooter, that could very well lead this bulldogs team to the Sweet Sixteen. The Xavier Musketeers are good. They ended their season on a sad note in the second round of March Madness against the Buckeyes. However, they will be at the top of their conference, and we’ll be seeing them again this March, I bet. Finally, the SIU Salukis. Randal Falker should win player of the year in the MVC and lead the Salukis to the Sweet Sixteen.

I will wrap this story up with my Final Four predictions. The Final Four will be good this year, and I plan on seeing UCLA, North Carolina, Memphis, and Tennessee. These are my predictions, and I’m sticking to them!
SPORTS

What about Riflery?
by Joe Scherrer

Get jacked and play with guns. Well, when you hear the word riflery, you’re probably thinking more along the lines of “sissy sport.” And then, you probably are thinking, “How in the world do you get jacked from riflery?” A quick quiz: what MBA sports team has won eleven state championships in a row and is ranked among the top ten teams in the country? Answer: THE RIFLE TEAM!

Mondays and Wednesdays the rifle team undergoes a ruthless drill from Colonel Sharbel, with something like: “Give me three miles! Come on, you lazy grubs! Into the weight room! I want 15 pull-ups! Now! Now! NOW!” Well, you get the idea. Then Tuesdays and Thursdays we get to do the fun stuff: shootin’ with Coach Gaither.

There we only have two rules:

**Number 1:** Coach is always right.

**Number 2:** When in doubt, see rule number 1.

The best part about riflery is the fun of the events. During the rifle classic, we get to play Halo for three days straight. On our various road trips, we get to stay up late, watch movies, and go out to eat. It doesn’t get much better than that!

**EXAM SCHEDULE**

**Wednesday:**
U.S. History or World Geography

**Thursday:**
Science

**Friday:**
Math

**Monday:**
English

**Tuesday:**
Grammar and Vocabulary or Latin I
The MBA Big Red varsity football team had a season for the record books. Coach Daniel McGugin, first-year coach for the Big Red, led the team to a dominant 13-0 season. The fact that we beat two of our biggest rivals, Brentwood Academy and Father Ryan, twice in the same season is a school record. Also, MBA beat their opponents this season with a combined total of 364 points to 95, and beat their rivals, Father Ryan, Ensworth, and Brentwood Academy, with a combined total of 104 points to 14. MBA also had two 1000+ yard rushers during the season, another incredible feat. However, the most important of their numerous accomplishments was bringing home the shiny state championship trophy for the ninth time in MBA history.

The state championship game was the Big Red’s sixth shutout of the season. Held at MTSU, it was a thrilling and nerve-racking experience for both teams; however, MBA dominated BA right from the start. Andrew Fletcher, the offensive MVP of the game, kicked a record four field goals during the championship game to lead the Big Red to a 12-0 victory. The MBA defense was no less dominant, allowing BA’s offense to get not farther that the 46 yard line. Congrats to the coaches and the team for such a great season.

Whether it was bussing the eighth grade down to McCallie, having Big Red day before the Ryan game, or the new tradition of storming onto the field from the end zone at the end of every home game win, the MBA Microbes were supporting and cheering the team during the entire season.
Coach McGugin’s homeroom won for Best Spirit before the Ryan play-off game.

The State Championship Trophy inspires Junior School students.
The MBA eighth grade traveled to Chattanooga for the McCallie football game.

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