‘Tis the Season of Service
by Nicholas Green

Service is a significant emphasis at MBA, and students in the Junior School participate in a variety of service-related projects. During November and December, several homerooms held bake sales and coordinated other drives for various worthy organizations.

In the seventh grade, Mr. Russell’s homeroom collected sixteen backpacks loaded with school supplies for the children of Sierra Leone. They are also planning a bake sale to raise money for 200 more school children in that country. While the seventh graders are reading A Christmas Carol, Mr. Russell’s homeroom will have a “Dickens Day” bake sale and will dress up in period costumes. Mr. Cooper’s homeroom held a coat drive for the homeless at the Nashville Rescue Mission; they collected a total of 222 coats plus other items. Mr. Wims’ homeroom held a bake sale, which

continued on page 2

Q & A with Chris Sanders
by McLean Hudson

Coach Chris Sanders, who arrived on the scene at MBA last spring, has led a life most of us can only imagine in our dreams. Not only was he a star athlete at “The Ohio State University,” but he was also drafted into the NFL, where he played with the Oilers/Titans: the ultimate daydream for boys across Tennessee and the rest of the United States. Now, he is back at the high school level, helping the next generation of wide receivers develop their skills. A few weeks ago, I got the opportunity to interview him for Top of the Hill, which I gladly accepted. Now you too have the opportunity to get to know “that tall guy” a little better.

Q. You participated in both football and track and field at Ohio State and were named OSU Athlete of the Year in 1994. What is your greatest memory of athletics at Ohio State?

A. I was long jumping at a meet at Iowa State in 1992. I jumped pretty far, and the crowd went crazy, but I didn’t know why. My coach came up to me and said: “Do you know what you just did?” “No.” “You just broke Jesse Owens’ long jump record.” (Jesse Owens won four gold medals, including long jump, at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.) He was just screaming! I mean, he almost tackled me. So that was the highlight of my career there.

continued on page 3
SERVICE

included a strobe light. Their proceeds were donated to Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital. The money raised from Mrs. Roberts’ bake sale went toward the dinner and children’s gifts for the Boys and Girls Club/YMCA of Middle Tennessee.

Several eighth grade homerooms sponsored service projects also. Mr. Anderson’s homeroom had a bake sale for Zac Hood’s Sports’ Servants organization. Several of Mr. Anderson’s students volunteered to have their hair buzzed to encourage participation in this worthy project! Mr. Brown’s homeroom raised around $280 for Mr. Hood’s organization. Many school supplies were collected by Mr. McMurray’s homeroom for Sierra Leone. Also, Parrish Preston organized a tennis equipment drive with Mr. McMurray’s homeroom; this drive is for the group Mentor Tutor See, a non-profit organization that tutors children while teaching them the game of tennis. The homeroom is collecting used racquets, balls, and shoes for tennis. Ms. Ellery’s homeroom held an Election Day bake sale for the Nashville Rescue Mission and raised $350. On the day before Halloween, Mr. Spiegl’s homeroom held the fourth annual “Haunted Bake Sale.” They raised $403, which was used to purchase bleach, food, towels, and toys for the animals of the Cheatham County Animal Shelter. Mrs. Pettus’ homeroom raised $360 during their bake sale for the Last-Minute Toy Store and asked students and parents to bring in toys for this worthy cause. Mrs. Christeson’s homeroom sold donuts to raise money for the Nashville Rescue Mission; any student who brought in a hat, gloves, or coat received free donuts!

Competition can often produce beneficial results. Coach McGugin’s homeroom challenged Mr. Brown’s homeroom at the beginning of the year to see who would get the most school supplies to donate to the Sierra Leone drive. Because Coach McGugin had turned his homeroom’s supplies in early, Mr. Brown’s homeroom crowned themselves winners of the challenge. Because of everyone’s hard work and effort, Junior School students have made significant donations to people and animals in need.
Q. You played alongside Eddie George, a familiar figure in these parts, in both college and the NFL. Do you have any special relationship with Eddie?
A. Oh yeah. We talk periodically, and we do some events together. Last year actor Danny Glover had a movie, and we saw each other at the premier. We talked; we laughed, so we do still have a good relationship. He’s a great guy.

Q. You were drafted in the third round of the ’95 NFL Draft. How did it feel to hear your name announced on that day, and how did you feel about playing for the Oilers, who later became the Titans?
A. At first I almost started crying. I was very excited to see one of my dreams come true. When they announced I was going to the Houston Oilers, I was just overwhelmed with excitement, laughter, crying, joy, hugging, and all that good stuff. It was a great place to play. We had great coaches, and it was an honor to play for them.

Q. You’ve played countless games throughout your career, but who is the best player you have ever lined up against?
A. Dale Carter: He went to the University of Tennessee and played for the Kansas City Chiefs. There’s another guy named Ray Lewis, and he’s probably the reason I’m retired. But I’d still have to say Dale Carter.

Q. Participating in so many games, you had to have taken many hits. Do you remember any specific instances where you were, as Chris Berman would say, “jacked up”?
A. We were playing the Pittsburgh Steelers, and I caught a pass over the middle. I was KO’d. I thought it was Christmas because I was hearing bells.

Q. You averaged nearly nineteen yards per reception in the NFL. Would you consider yourself to be a possession receiver, like Dallas Clark, or a deep threat, such as Randy Moss?
A. Oh, a deep threat. My rookie season I averaged twenty-three and a half [yards per reception].

Q. Following your career in athletics, you coached at Christ Presbyterian Academy and recently came to MBA. Did you ever imagine you’d wind up back at the high school level?
A. No. I didn’t really think I wanted to coach at first because I’ve played football all my life. But I absolutely love coaching. God has given me the ability to play football, and I want to share that with the next generation of wide receivers.

Q. How have you enjoyed your stint at Montgomery Bell thus far?
A. I love it. I love the leadership that we have with Dan McGugin, Brad Gioia, Jamie Tillman, and all the areas of the school.

Q. In college, you were given the nickname “Tippy Toes.” How did that come about, and does anyone still call you that today?
A. (laughs) Yeah, they do. The reason they call me that is because I can’t walk flat-footed, so I hear that every once in a while.

Q. Your son C.J. played the part of a young Ray Charles in the movie Ray and has appeared in multiple episodes of Six Feet Under, an Emmy and Golden Globe award-winning series. Does he plan to continue acting, and if so, does he have any major roles on the horizon?
A. He’s doing a lot of auditions right now, but he’s really concentrating on football. He’s actually a better player than he is an actor. When he finishes high school, he’s going to stop acting and focus on winning the Heisman and going to the NFL! That’s his goal, so I’m going to encourage him. He probably will have some more roles though.

Q. He sounds like a pretty ambitious young man. Do you see C.J. attending MBA when he is of age?
A. Yeah, when he moves back from California, he will probably come here. It’s a fine school, and I want him to get a great education and be around some fine people.

Q. To close, what are your aspirations for the MBA football team in future seasons.
A. To win championships.

I’m sure everyone here at Montgomery Bell would like to see that. On behalf of the entire Junior School, I’d like to wish Coach Sanders and the rest of the Big Red football team good luck. Roll Red Roll!
Duct Tape Wallets

by Will McFadden

Need a wallet? Want one that costs less than a nice leather one but isn’t low quality? Two words: Duct Tape. DUCT TAPE IS THE BEST TOOL ON EARTH. You can do just about anything with it--fix stuff, make stuff, or tape your friends to the wall. I use it to make wallets. They are just like nice leather ones, but you can get one custom-made with your initials. The wallets have gift card/credit card slots, an ID holder that can be flipped out to make you feel like an FBI agent, and a change holder, or man-purse as some people call it. The man-purse is basically a box made of duct tape used to hold loose change. It can be folded flat inside the wallet. Obviously, there is a bill holder in the back just like all wallets. I bet most of you didn’t know there was such a thing as colored duct tape. Well, there is, and I’ve got a lot of colors: red, orange, white, yellow, purple, goldish-brown, turquoise, black, and of course, the traditional silver. If you really want a logo on the outside, I can put MBA in red, or some college initials in that team’s colors. Right now my price for a wallet with four gift card slots, an ID holder, initials, and a man-purse is around $7-8. If you want the MBA or college initials on the outside, it might be a little more. Talk to me or e-mail me if you are interested in buying one.

And remember. . .duct tape is the best thing ever invented.

Entrepreneur Will convinces doubters about the quality of his product.
FEATURES

Match the teacher with his/her former job!

1) Used jackhammers to clean the inside of cement trucks
2) Delivered pizza for Salvatore’s
3) Worked in a bomb factory during the Vietnam War
4) Answered phones for a women’s clothing store
5) Worked as an accountant for UPS
6) Sold women’s lingerie at Castner-Knotts (now Macy’s) in Green Hills
7) Cashier at the Green Hills Krystal
8) Sold Toyotas
9) Packed sausage in a freezer for ten hours a day and had lunch with a man with pig eyeballs stuck on his coat!
10) Was a cook at Waffle House
11) Grew mutated tulips from outer space
12) Vaccinated pigs and chickens
13) Waited tables at a country club and played the harp for the Nashville Symphony
14) Played the cello for the San Angelo Symphony in Texas
15) Was a justice for the student organization at the University of Alabama
16) Worked as a valet parker and bellman at Loew’s Vanderbilt

(answers on page 15)
Two and a half years ago, my dad picked up the Clarksville newspaper and read about the annual “Riverfest,” held on the Cumberland River every August, which featured games, food, multiple exhibits, and cardboard boat racing. Wait…What was that? My dad, being an engineer, and his friend Ray Alley couldn’t resist the challenge of the “Riverfest.” Over lunch, they talked over multiple designs for the race. Their final design, which was drawn on the back of a paper plate, was decided on, and they began building. “Box Top,” (suggesting a cardboard box) as the two decided to name it, was built and painted over the course of ten days.

On the day of the festival, my dad and I took Box Top up to Clarksville and surveyed the competition. It turned out that there was also an adult-youth division, as well as an adult division. So, of course, we registered for that as well. My dad and Mr. Alley had no trouble winning their division: the boats that didn’t capsize or sink were so, well, “boxy,” that they were unable to keep up. Then it was my turn. My dad and I boarded the boat, wearing proper safety gear of course, and waited for the competition. After all had attempted to board their boats, we were left with only one competitor, which capsized thirty feet into the race. So, at the end of the day, the three of us had won two first-place trophies: the “Queen of the Harbor Award,” which went to the best-looking vessel, and another for being one of few boats still intact. The latter was a feat few seventh or eighth graders at MBA could match.

Last summer, with cardboard boats the last things on our minds, the three of us—me, my dad, and Mr. Alley—were challenged by a group in Atlanta to another race. We loaded up Box Top and Dixie Cup, the newest addition to our fleet, and headed down to Atlanta. After a nice barbeque, the race began on the formerly depleted Lake Lanier. Dixie Cup, which I piloted for the sole heat of the event, was a total failure. Not five feet into the race, the side walls crumpled, and I took on several gallons of water. While my dad and Mr. Alley cruised to an easy victory, I struggled to get some momentum going. After several minutes, I was able to finish, but not before I took on so much water that my bow, or front of my boat, rose three feet into the air. When all was said and done, Box Top had another victory, while Dixie Cup began and ended its legacy with “The Titanic” award, which goes to the boat with the most spectacular sinking.

A few weeks before school this year, it was time again for the Riverfest, so we did some repair work on Box Top and returned to Clarksville. We recognized several boats and competitors, but the competition looked especially stiff this year. Before the adult races, my dad and Mr. Majka, a stand-in for Mr. Alley, were interviewed by Paul Jones of Fox 17 News. Somehow, he had received word of our escapades in Atlanta and asked several questions. After their two minutes of fame, the two TV stars walked down to the dock and boarded Box Top. The strategy was to try to get out into the channel where they would be assisted by the downstream current. Unfortunately, Mother Nature provided little assistance, and Box Top lost for the first time by mere seconds to a boat that resembled Dixie Cup at the end of its first race. Naturally, I was fired
FEATURES

up. Wasting no time toying with the elements, my dad and I paddled all out for the finish. Again, without much in the way of competition, we took first place with around fifteen seconds to spare. We had redeemed ourselves, but it was little comfort. Besides losing our first race, Box Top, the most decorated cardboard boat in Tennessee, had finally had enough. She was incredibly waterlogged and in no shape to race another day.

Though we may have retired our first two boats, we’ll continue to build, and hopefully to win. Perhaps next year, we will return with an armada of ships ready to take on any and all challengers. Or, maybe not…but either way, folks up in Clarksville haven’t seen the last of us.

Androcles and the Lion:

Be There!

by Hunter Crabtree

Androcles and the Lion is the play that Dr. Seay selected as this year’s Junior School production. The story of Androcles is the comedic account of an escaped slave in the time of ancient Rome who runs into the woods near his master’s estate. Androcles meets a lion but eventually discovers that the lion is not as vicious as it originally seems. After befriending the lion, Androcles is recaptured and sentenced to death in the Colosseum.

To find out the rest of this exciting story and hear the clever songs, go and see the play on January 30th, 31st, and February 1st, 2009. This year’s cast includes Colin Caldwell as Androcles, Cecilia Bellet as Hermione, Vince Panvini as the Lion, Jackson Crook as Crassus, Andrew Scott as Caesar, and Mrs. Pettus as Mama. Try-outs were held on November 17 and 19, and the first read-through was on December 2. The good news for the actors and tech crew is that practice doesn’t start until we return from Winter Break.

Zach’s Top Ten
Must-Have List
10. “gonculator” (a very advanced calculator): science is tough
9. jumbo eraser: for every math problem you can’t figure out
8. quarters: cookies taste good
7. watch: you’ll be the only one who knows when study hall is over
6. binders: no point in doing your homework if you can’t find it in the morning
5. sleep: everyone says it’s good for you
4. good study habits: so you can say you did your best when you fail
3. big L.L. Bean backpack: virtually everyone on campus has one
2. mechanical pencil: don’t need to sharpen, only need one, neater
1. tolerance for awful smells: seriously, stop with the “Doorknobs!”
The Economy: Bent But Not Broken
by Parrish Preston

This fall, the issue of the economic crisis moved to the top of everyone’s list, surpassing climate change, immigration, health care, and even the war in Iraq. This crisis began early in 2008 when people decided to buy houses they could not afford. Banks agreed to lend money, but as interest rates increased, people were unable to make the payments. Thus, banks were not getting paid and were discouraged from approving other loans for a house or car. This decision by the banks resulted in a significant sum of money being withheld from the economy, thus hurting the housing market and auto industry. I am sure all of you have heard about GM, Ford, and Chrysler requesting 25 billion dollars from the 700 billion bail-out already proposed. They are arguing that this money could ensure that thousands of employees would keep their jobs. With people spending less, especially on a new car, automakers are having trouble paying their employees and providing health care for retirees. If Congress agrees to lend them 25 billion, automakers have to agree to make more fuel-efficient cars.

Recently, the Bush administration proposed a bail-out of the huge insurance company, AIG. Yet we are left with this question: Where is this money coming from? Regardless of the source of money, this buyout is necessary to prevent another Great Depression because it allows thousands of people to keep their jobs. With the stock market fluctuating wildly and real estate hurting, it seems the only thing we can hope for is low gas prices.

The high gas prices of the past several months are also a major contributor to our unstable situation. Companies spent more money filling up their trucks to transport groceries. In order to make profits, they had to raise prices on food; consequently, prices of essential goods like bread and milk are high. Hotels and restaurants are suffering because people are afraid to spend their money in uncertain times. As a result, the economy will not grow. As America has learned in the past, it takes money to make money.

Here are some suggestions for saving some cash: carpool, walk or bike to school (if close enough), turn off lights when not in use, get rid of cable TV (who has time to watch TV during the week anyway?), order back on the $4.00 Starbucks every morning (make your own at home). Several MBA students have their own ways to face the financial crisis:

David Maynard: “I carpool to school with Cortland.”
Jack Emerson: “I do not eat Snickers anymore.”
John Mellow: “I use broken reeds in band class instead of getting new ones.”

China Is What?!?!?
by Robert Papel

China has reportedly been spying on the U.S. government and businesses, but not in the usual way; they have been using computers and the Internet. A special panel, consisting of six Washington Democrats and Republicans, was appointed eight years ago to monitor U.S.-China relations. In its yearly report to Congress, the panel warned that China was gaining more access every year to secret information from the U.S. government computer networks, including all of the military systems. The panel said China was aggressively researching cyber-warfare possibilities to get the upper hand on the U.S. in any conflict, including war. China has neither confirmed nor denied this allegation. The panel says that the Chinese are looking for diplomatic and military secrets in government databases and potential industrial secrets for their factories. The panel said the U.S. government and economy are vulnerable to cyber-space attack since the U.S. depends heavily on computers and the Internet.
2012: End of the World?

by Ryan Potter

If the world were to end in 2012, what would you do? What would happen? How would it happen? These universal questions have been asked throughout the ages. The Mayans declared the “day of doom,” right? What is the truth underlying the beliefs about the end of the world?

An upcoming movie, ingeniously titled 2012, hopes to answer these questions. The movie shows some of the apocalyptic catastrophes that have been imagined or speculated about: a dire volcanic eruption, a thrashing typhoon, or an enormous glacier. Any one of these naturally occurring events could cause the end of humanity.

2012 is the story of an ordinary group of people who strive at any cost to survive. They may be the final people to live on Earth, but they will not go down without a fight. With talented actors such as John Cusack, Thandie Newton, and Amanda Peet, the movie will not be a disappointment!

With a powerful plot, action, suspense, conspiracies, and the pursuit of survival, this movie will be one to remember. Although the movie begins in the U.S., it is unclear where the action will take the viewer. Also, the characters’ fates will be uncertain. However, one thing remains: This movie will remind everyone of what may happen to the Earth, and perhaps show what we can do to save ourselves.

2012 is set to come out in early 2009 and is directed by Roland Emmerich, who also assisted in writing the screenplay. 2012 is rated PG-13, most likely for violence due to its destructive elements; however, this rating is not final. So mark your calendars for both 2009 and 2012 as you re-examine your future in a new way.

The panel said China would continue to target the U.S., using cyberspace as it is cheap and less risky than traditional spying tactics. Another advantage for China is that determining and tracing who infiltrated what computer and where is often difficult to establish. “China is stealing vast amounts of sensitive information from U.S. computer networks,” said Larry Wortzel, chairman of the panel. His panel recommended that Congress should provide loans for U.S. agencies, including those run by the military and homeland security. The panel says that would monitor and protect sensitive information on computer networks better.

The panel also warned that the expansion of China’s space program was making the U.S. more vulnerable. Chinese satellites can now locate U.S. navy ships more quickly and accurately than previously.

U.S. officials in Beijing have said China does not try to undermine other countries’ interests and seeks healthy ties with the U.S. (yeah right). The top dogs in Washington say relations between the U.S. and China have remained stable in recent years, but the panel suggests that the impact of China’s growing power and influence should now be reevaluated.
**ENTERTAINMENT**

**Rock Band 2**

by Chris Hooks

Last year, Harmonix shattered the music game genre by making a full band game that included drums, guitar, bass, and vocals. This year, Harmonix returns with their hit game *Rock Band*, but not without competition from their leading rival, Activision. The maker of the *Guitar Hero* franchise has their first shot at a full band game with *Guitar Hero: World Tour*.

*Rock Band 2* is a much needed improvement over the original game. There are only a few minor in-game display adjustments that only the trained eye could spot. This new game will feature new online modes, such as an online band world tour mode and weekly challenges so you can top your friends on the leaderboard. *Rock Band 2* also features a solo world tour, allowing you to play the world tour without requiring you to have a friend play, too. Based on fans’ requests from forums, the new instruments have been improved. The drums have more rebound, have expansion ports for cymbals, and have a sturdier kick pedal. The guitar has an improved strum bar and buttons, but is not changed much from the *Rock Band* guitar except for color. The real instrument hype comes from third-party peripherals. Fender released a P bass controller with split strum bar, and electronic drum company Ion has made a drum set that doubles as a real electronic kit. The song selection is huge, with Harmonix promising 500 songs by 2009 if you transfer your songs from *Rock Band* and buy all the downloadable songs.

*Guitar Hero: World Tour* is Activision’s first entry into the full band genre, and they enter the category with high ambitions. The new game is a substantial improvement over the previous games, and it takes the game away from its “metal heavy” look with a create-a-rocker feature. There are online modes such as a full, eight-person battle of the bands mode and an online tour. The game also features many famous rockers as only *Guitar Hero* can do. Zakk Wylde, Hayley Williams, Jimi Hendrix, Travis Barker, and Ted Nugent all make cameo appearances in the new game. The song list is expansive, covering a total of 84 tracks with downloadable content already releasing. The new guitar is a major improvement. It is bigger, has a slider bar for special sections and whammy effects, along with a few other adjustments. The drums are different from *Rock Band*’s, with larger pads, two raised cymbal pads, great rebound, and velocity sensitive pads, making sounds louder as you hit the pads.

Instrument compatibility was a big problem last year, but this year, *Rock Band* and *Guitar Hero* instruments will work with both games. This problem is huge seeing as *Guitar Hero III* owners last year were not happy that *Rock Band* instruments would not work with that game.

This year’s music game competition should be heated, and it is too early to tell which game will be the bigger hit.

**Recognize These Teacher Comments?**

by Zach Waterman

Most teachers have a phrase they say during almost every single class. We all know the more iconic phrases while others are less known. Here is a list I’ve compiled of Junior School teacher quotes. Can you identify the speaker of each one?

1. “Sit down; turn in your homework.”
2. “You have thirty seconds to study while I get some water.”
3. “Make it a great day!” and “Men, we’re going to fly through these notes!”
4. “All right men, let’s get started.”
5. “Stop clicking that pen; you’re driving me CRAZY!”
7. “Are you with me?”
8. “All right boys…girls…BOYS!”
9. “All right, no aids or calculators are permitted during the test, so if you have aids, you gotta go.”
10. “Okay guys, let’s get started.”

Answers: (1) Mr. Thurmond, (2) Mr. Russ, (3) Mr. McGugin, (4) Mr. Wims, (5) Mrs. Pettus, (6) Mrs. Christeson, (7) Mr. Sawyer, (8) Mr. Russell, (9) Mr. Woolsey, (10) Mrs. Roberts.
First student to see Davis with a correct puzzle wins $5.00!
The People behind the Buildings
by Hamilton Millwee

All of us at MBA recognize the buildings on campus: Wallace Hall, Currey Gymnasium, Carter Hall, and the Ingram Science Building. However, not all of us know much about the men for whom these buildings are named.

**Massey Building:** This building is named after Jack C. Massey, who is arguably one of the most remarkable businessmen in Nashville history. He was born in 1904, and before his death in 1990, had taken three separate companies public on the New York Stock exchange. These included KFC, HCA, and Winner’s Corp. He was born into poverty in rural Georgia, but between 1930 and 1964, he owned a drugstore chain as well as a surgical supply company in Nashville. He also helped start HCA, Nashville’s most important health care company. For his incredible business prowess, he was inducted into *Fortune Magazine*’s U.S. Business Hall of Fame.

**Ingram Science Building:** This building is named after E. Bronson Ingram, who was Nashville’s only billionaire when he died of cancer in 1995. He was a student at Vanderbilt for his freshman year and then transferred to Princeton. He graduated with a degree in English and was commissioned into the Navy. He went to Panama on a destroyer but eventually resigned his commission in 1955 to work for his father’s company. After his father’s death, Ingram enlarged his father’s corporation by $898 million over the next fifteen years. He also expanded a number of other companies, including Ingram Book Company, Ingram Materials, Ingram Barge Company, Tennessee Book Company, and Bluewater Insurance Company. Ingram named his business conglomerate Ingram Industries, Inc. At this time, his book company controlled over half of the entire book distribution in the USA, and his barge business evolved into one of the leading waterway couriers in the United States. One of his final business breakthroughs was acquiring Micro D industries, which turned into the largest microcomputer hardware manufacturer and distributor in the world. By his death in 1995, he had raised over $500,000 for charity and contributed a large sum to MBA for a science building.

**Ball Hall:** This building is named for Isaac Ball, who was headmaster of MBA from 1911-1942. Mr. Ball was one of the great headmasters in MBA history, and the school grew leaps and bounds under his leadership. He moved the school from Seventh Avenue North, close to the Capitol, to a 32-acre lot on Harding Road that was the former property of Garland Tinsley. A fire destroyed the original Ball Hall in 1925, but it was rebuilt and serves as an administrative/classroom building today.

**Carter Hall:** This building is named after the late headmaster Francis E. Carter. He was headmaster at MBA from 1957 to 1979. Carter led MBA’s charge to become one of the best prep schools in the nation. He introduced a number of national academic tests and AP courses. He also increased MBA’s Advanced Merit Scholars to one of the top in the Southeast. Mr. Carter was also responsible for MBA’s dynamic student ideal. He made “Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete” MBA’s motto. He believed that, above all, a person should be a gentleman. At his retirement in 1979, he was thought to be one of the best headmasters in the history of the school.

**Davis Building:** This building is named after Joe C. Davis, who headed up the board of trustees following Mr. John Sloan in 1979. His most notable achievement occurred when he led the fund drive of 1982. This campaign led to the building of not only Massey Hall but also Carter Hall, Tommy Owens Stadium, the baseball field, and the remodeling of the gym. Finally, he completely remodeled Frank Andrews Field, adding a soccer field, and a practice field.

We continue to enjoy the architectural beauty of the MBA campus and certainly appreciate the contributions of these impressive men.
Mr. Russell and his homeroom are super Big Red fans!

Our Hero

by James Higgins

As most of the students on campus know, on Thursday November 13, there was a robbery at the school. The target: Mrs. Lechleiter’s purse inside the Ball building. The culprits were two men working as a team. The first burglar’s job was to grab the purse and run to the get-away car across the street. This plan seemed perfect and simple; however, they did not take into account our resident hero, Coach McGugin. He chased down and tackled the robber before he could reach the car that would take him to safety. Unfortunately, the robber threw the purse to his accomplice in the car, who drove away. The robber who threw the purse was apprehended by Coach McGugin immediately and was led to a make-shift cell in Coach Anderson’s room. I was lucky enough to get an interview with Coach McGugin after this event.

Q. When did you first see the robber?
A. When I walked into Mrs. Lechleiter’s office.

Q. What were your first thoughts when you saw the robber?
A. I knew it was someone who was in a place he was not supposed to be.

Q. Who helped you in the pursuit?
A. Coach Rodriguez

Q. How far did the robber get before you tackled him?
A. He was across the street at the Dominican Campus

Q. How did you feel after you realized the danger you were in?
A. It all happened so fast that I did not have much time to rationalize anything.

At the end I asked Mr. McGugin if there was anything he would like to say. He told me, “We have a great and safe campus.” This statement is certainly true; however, if trouble ever arises again, we are very lucky to have people like Coach McGugin who are willing to put themselves in danger to make sure we are unharmed.
Thanks to these MBA veterans:

Captain Will Norton
Lt. Colonel Joe Sharbel
Captain Andy Gaither
Captain Stephen Shone
1st Lieutenant Jim Shackleford
Sergeant Sam Jackson
Commander Pete Carr
1st Lieutenant Julian Jones
Lt. Colonel Leo Lujan
Colonel Henry Gaither
Sergeant Pat Woolsey

November 11, 2008
Four went out, three came back. . .

by Robert Papel

It was 1968, the middle of the Cold War, and the tensions between the U.S. and the Soviet Union were high. It looked like a nuclear war was on the horizon. The setting was Thule Air Base, Qaanaaq Municipality, Greenland. This air base belonged to the United States, and it was the main warning of Russian attack on the U.S. by missile. This area was literally the top of the world, and the U.S., by having this base, had a major strategic advantage.

The Pentagon believed the Soviet Union would take out the base before they continued on their merry way to Washington D.C. for a nuclear strike against the U.S. So as a way to defend against possible attack, the U.S. began flying “Chrome Dome” missions in 1960. Nuclear-armed B52 bombers continuously circled over Thule, and if the base was attacked and destroyed, they could fly straight to Moscow to cripple Russia. This was a closely guarded secret for forty years.

On January 21, 1968, one of those missions went wrong. The B52, piloted by John Haug and Joe D’Amario, was flying. Everything was normal, but then a fire broke out in the middle of the cockpit. They were about six hours out of Thule, and it was getting dark. They put out the fire, but another had broken out below decks, in the belly section. They flew as far as they could, saw no lights because of the darkness, and jettisoned from the plane. The plane had overshot Thule, and it crashed on the ice, detonating some smaller explosives around the four nuclear bombs. Fortunately, the nuclear bombs themselves had not been activated, so they did not explode. Three of the bombs were smashed to pieces, spreading a fair amount of radioactive waste over a very large area. The fragments of the three were found, and all but one was accounted for.

By April, a decision had been made to send a Star III submarine to the base to look for the lost bomb. The whole time this search was going on, the Greenland government, which was Danish, knew nothing about the incident. The U.S. never disclosed this information until now. The underwater search went badly, for the sub had technical problems, and, as winter approached, the ice began to freeze over, rendering the search totally pointless.

The U.S. decided that no one else would be able to discover what happened or find the missing bomb. Besides, the radioactive material would dissolve in such a large body of water, rendering it harmless. But the crash cover-up and the mystery of the lost bomb have continued to haunt those involved at the time, and those who live in the region now have concerns over the environmental and health impact of what happened back in 1968.

EXAM SCHEDULE

Wednesday:
Grammar-Vocabulary
or Latin I

Thursday:
English

Friday:
History or Geography

Monday:
Science

Tuesday:
Math

Words of wisdom from Mr. Thurmond about exams: “Relax, be confident. . .don’t throw up!”
Afternoon Antics

By Davis Lovvorn

For those of you who don’t have a sport to play during a sports season, then intramurals is for you! Intramurals is a relaxed, laid-back, and overall fun sport. First, you are placed on a team of five to eight people. Even if you don’t know these people, you will eventually become friends with them. Your team is then given a name based on a common professional sport or college conference team. Although it seems pretty unexpected, some team members become passionate about their team name and even come to intramurals wearing their team jacket. This season, I was on the lowly Vols (the teams had an SEC theme this quarter), and although we had one of the worst records, we became friends and enjoyed ourselves.

The sports we played were awesome. Even Fitness, which, due to an odd number of teams we had to participate in, ended up being fun. Flag Football was one of the most popular games. The games could get really intense, and there were also a lot of cool end zone celebrations. Ultimate Frisbee was another popular sport. For those of you who don’t know about the game, you throw a frisbee around to someone until it is caught in the goal, but you can’t run with it or drop it, or it is a turnover. Ultimate is harder than it looks, and a lot of people, including myself, made a fool of themselves by throwing the frisbee incorrectly. Another game was called Speedball. If you threw the ball into the goal, it was two points, kicking it in was three points, and heading it in it was worth four points. This game got wild sometimes, and body checking sometimes left black eyes. The other game we played was called Alaskan Beach Ball. You had to kick or throw this huge ball into a wide goal. There were a lot of restrictions, and you would go to the “penalty box” if you violated these rules. If your team wins and your teammates think that you are the best player for the day, you are crowned “MVP” and get your name on the announcements for everyone in the world to see! Overall, intramurals is a lot of fun and is a great choice for any season!
Leadership by Example
by Galen Bullington

As the Junior School wrestlers trained hard one practice, Mr. Stephen Shone, their coach, was in New York being inducted into his high school’s wrestling Hall of Fame. While many former wrestlers have good seasons, a person has to be dominant to get inducted into a Hall of Fame. In 1985, in his senior year, after five years of training, Coach Shone went undefeated, going 34-0 against his opponents to win the State Championship.

Now, twenty-three years later, I interviewed Coach Shone about his secret to success. His answer? Practice. During his senior year, Coach Shone trained five times a day, not including wrestling practice itself. In the morning, after lunch, and at night after practice were all times when he would train. These daily workouts included running and weightlifting sessions and practicing wrestling moves. All this practice was necessary because many teams stood between Coach Shone and the State Championship. The practice also helped him take down his opponents with his favorite move, the lateral drop.

Just as Coach Shone had success in his wrestling career, so has he had success in his coaching career. On Saturday, November 22, he led this year’s wrestling team to a second-place finish in the HVAC with wrestlers placing in the top three for twelve of the fourteen weight classes. Both Franklin Garstin and Tyler Forcum were HVAC champions, and Franklin won the award for the tournament’s best wrestler. In the Harpeth “Indian” Classic Tournament, the MBA JV wrestlers placed third overall out of twelve teams with half of the Big Red wrestlers placing in the top three. Ryan Owen was also tournament champion at 83 pounds.

When asked about his coaching philosophy, Coach Shone replied that attitude is important to every wrestler regardless of age or skill level. An athlete might not always be the strongest wrestler on the mat, but he can always be the smartest. When strength fails a wrestler, smart thinking can always drive him on to victory and success.

However well this year’s wrestlers did, some team members were disappointed to lose the first-place spot to Brentwood Academy. Coach Shone was not disappointed at all. In fact, with losses to both BA and Harding and a tie with Ensworth earlier in the season, he said that he believed that the team had really stepped up and improved its performance. Coach Shone also said that, overall, he believed this year’s wrestling team was one of the hardest working teams he’d ever had, a team with much heart and determination.
Franklin Garstin was named Outstanding Wrestler at the HVAC tournament.

Medal Winners: Whit Emerson (2nd) and Franklin Garstin (1st)

Todd Baker finished third in the Heavyweight division.

JaTarii Donald placed third in the 145-pound weight class.

George Swenson battles against BGA in the 95-pound weight class.
Another Trophy!

by Andrew Karpos

On Friday, November 21, the Microbe soccer A team competed in the HVAC championship game at the USN river campus. The Big Red rolled over USN by a score of 3-0. The game was dominated by MBA in all facets. At goalie, Gray Bryant was very sharp; however, he did not get many chances to touch the ball because of the smothering defense, led aggressively by Henry Lynch, who played a great game. The defense shut USN’s top offensive players down and did not allow them any time on the ball. The midfield battle was also won by the Big Red. The midfielders did a great job of controlling the whole field and beating USN to the ball. Jonah Rappuhn also stayed with USN’s best player the whole game and didn’t allow him to get any chances on goal. Next, the forwards, led by Hayden Deakins, were constantly putting pressure on the USN defenders. The first goal was scored when Hayden Deakins was able to kick the ball in during a skirmish in front of the goal. The next goal came when Trey Gill hit an out-coming ball into the back-post of the goal. This goal gave the team a comfortable lead. The last goal was scored when Colton Black blazed by USN defenders and poked the ball past the goalie. This goal put the game away, and soon time ran out. This game concluded a dominating season for the team. The team went undefeated and outscored its opponents 41 to 2. The win on Friday was the fifth straight HVAC win for the soccer team and was a fitting end to a perfect season.
Andrew Karpos exhibits superb ball control.

Landon Bullock attempts to beat FRA’s forward.

Trey Gill delivers his customary “Do Work!”

Jackson Flora also loves to slide across the field.

Jack Benton makes an incredible save—or is he making sure his deodorant is still working?!
Tournament Champs
by James Higgins

The Microbe B soccer team had an awesome season with a record of 5-3-1 in the regular season. The team played tremendously on all sides of the ball, having several seventh graders step up into starting spots, leadership from eighth graders, great strategies from Coach Paolicchi, and famous words of wisdom from Coach Eppstein. Capping off the season, the team played in the first-ever B team tournament at Harding’s new fields. The B team won the first game of the round robin tournament against CPA 7-0 with a dominating performance from both the offense and defense. The next game was against a tough Harding team, who played very well throughout the game. Two goals late in the second half sealed the victory, the tournament, and the season for this team.

Harding Tournament Champs!
Alec Eskind steals the ball from the Harding forward.
Connor Seitz and Chase Duffey move the ball against Harding.
Coach Eppstein to James Higgins: “Don’t be a hata-elevata!”
Connor pulls away from a defender.
C Team Defies The Odds
by Sam Weien

We weren’t supposed to win. We weren’t supposed to make the team. We weren’t supposed to have the team. But we showed them wrong. Our first win came against the FRA B-team 2-0. The leading scorer, Ben Shankle, scored both goals in that game. Two weeks later we faced the FRA B-team again, and this time we beat them 6-0. Then, two days later, the C-team faced Ensworth’s B-team, and Matthew McCall led MBA to another impressive 3-0 victory. In the final game of the season, Charlie Hawkins and Keon Cleary led MBA to a 2-1 victory against BGA. The C-team’s leading scorers were Ben Shankle with four goals, Charlie Hawkins with three goals, and Keon Cleary with three goals. Matthew McCall, Rahul Rammana, and Taylor Adams led the defense with only one goal scored on them the entire season. The MBA Microbe C-team was undefeated and had a terrific season.
Cooper’s Coat Crew

Top of the Hill Staff
Nicholas Green and Robert Papel................Editors-in-Chief
Hamilton Millwee and Zach Waterman.......Features Editors
James Higgins.....................................................Sports Editor
Ryan Potter and Christian Sargent.....Entertainment Editors
Jackson Crook and Parrish Preston..........Photographers
Mrs. Pettus, Mrs. Roberts, Ms. Vaughan..........Sponsors