

Q&A with B.o.B

BY JOHN BROOKS
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JB: When did you know music was what you wanted to do?

B.o.B: Since I was a kid, man, really. It's like I was magnetized to it and eventually it just stuck. I couldn't help but to write music.

JB: What was it like to be signed to a record label at 17?

B.o.B: You know I feel like as a young person, a young kid, not even graduating high school when I was signed, I didn't really feel special per se. It's like in sports when you get drafted fresh out of high school. Granted you're fresh out of high school, but you're in the league with professionals who have been veterans for ten plus years. I'm like I'm on the same playing field as the veterans and that's kind of how I always looked at it.

JB: Do you feel special now?

B.o.B: I always look at myself as the underdog, and I can't help but to. I'm at the point in my life where thus far I feel like I'm the most successful that I've been, but I'm working the hardest that I've ever worked in my life right now. You know, I'm just trying to make good music. That's really the main thing

there, making good music, because you know, everything else is just the extra, it's just the luxuries you know. What comes with it.

JB: Do you think the music industry has changed you?

B.o.B: I wouldn't say that. I think life changes people. Some people change faster than others, some people don't. I guess for me, I grew up real fast. I came straight out of high school at 17, pretty much went straight to the fire. I think I have adjusted comfortably to the change in lifestyle, the dramatic change in lifestyle, even though I've been doing it underground for years. When things hit on a global scale, you know, you're never really prepared cause you don't know what it's like till you experience it.

JB: Tell me more about that adjustment.

B.o.B: I think just you know first off traveling, a lot of [people] can't travel. It's a skill to travel. There's a lot of stuff that nobody tells you but you just have to learn through experience. For me it wasn't that difficult, honestly, because I had been so close to my fans in my underground phase, in those underground days, I felt very attached to what I was doing. So I never really felt like overwhelmed. I love people,

I love performing for people, I love meeting new people, going to different countries, so it was all a plus.

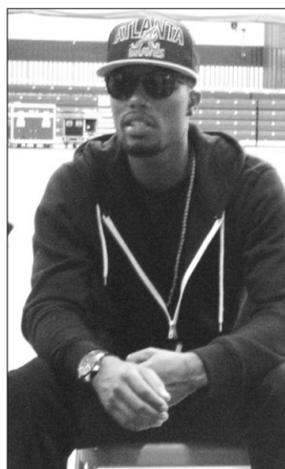
JB: How has being famous affected your family?

B.o.B: You know man, I keep everything separate — family separate, business separate, love. It's all about how you balance everything, you just have to balance, everything in life is a balance.

JB: Do you think you missed out on anything by succeeding so fast [getting signed at 17]?

B.o.B: I would say I did. When I was in high school I would just, after school I would go to my cousin's college campus to hang out, so I felt like I at least I got the better half of college. And then honestly, truth be told, coming out here and performing for college crowds, it feels like I'm back in my element, back with my peers. I don't feel out of touch at all, even going across the world I don't feel out of touch. Going across the world and people don't speak English and they know all the lyrics and the songs and then coming back, music is universal.

JB: What's it like being here, since you're not much older than most of the people that were here tonight?



Scott Skarvan/Index Rapper B.o.B sat down with reporter John Brooks Friday in the Pershing Arena. He talked about his love for music.

B.o.B: It's crazy. I'm [going to] turn 24. I'm about to turn 24 November 14. I'm [going to] put out my mixtape. You know I feel like at a certain point, it just don't matter how old you are anymore. If I could just get to 25, if I could just stop and just stay there like that movie Time Code.

JB: Beyond the money and the attention — what does music mean to you?

B.o.B: See, music is life. I'm not trying to get all psychedelic and

[stuff] and hippy, but you know it really is. There's so much that can be communicated through music that you can't really tell somebody in a conversation.

JB: You've collaborated with many different artists in the music industry — who have been your favorites?

B.o.B: Amy Winehouse. And Eminem, Lupe Fiasco and T.I.

JB: Do you ever worry that people don't understand what you're trying to communicate through your music?

B.o.B: No, I think this is the great thing about music. When you turn on a song, the energy in the song is unmistakable. Even if you don't understand the lyrics, even if you don't understand the language that the song is in, the energy behind the song is indescribable. If you put on like a Waka Flocka song, you know what I'm saying, it's going to make you wish you had dreads so you could shake them. If you put on like a Green Day song, certain types of music is so strong the energy is indescribable. I don't really overthink my lyrics too much, if I want to say something then I put it in my records. If I just want to have fun then I'm just going to have fun on the record. It just depends how it comes up.

JB: Thank you for your time.

B.o.B: Swag.

*This transcript has been edited for clarity and inappropriate language.

Reporter fakes athletic ability



BY JENNIFER MARKS
Staff Reporter

During a time where being athletically gifted at conventional sports is a societal bonus, it's important for the athletically challenged to be able to fake talent.

At Truman State, our school leans more toward brains rather than brawn — though there are plenty of those lucky athletes who happen to be brilliant. But for those of us with little brawn in sports that matter — soccer, football, baseball, swimming, softball, baseball, etc. — sometimes we just have to fake it.

Step One: Build your sporty wardrobe

The fastest way to appear athletic is to literally look athletic. Gym shorts, spandex, T-shirts with slogans about running and running shoes make even the slowest, most uncoordinated runner look like a real athlete. But make sure your sporty clothes don't blend sports. You're trying to look like an athlete, not a physical fitness prodigy.

Step Two: Ponytails and headbands

Sporty girls and boys with long hair need to control their long flowing manes as they charge down the field. If you want to look like them, style your hair like them. Ponytails of various heights are acceptable, as are headbands of any thickness. However, towel-like sweat bands don't make you look athletic off the field. As soon as your feet leave the field, you look like a bad 80s workout video.

Step Three: Vagueness is your friend.

Always refer to exercise of any sort as "practice." Whether you are doing saxophone scales, pretending to lift weights at the Stu-

dent Recreation Center or doing your calculus homework, call it practice. So as you walk out the door with your sporty clothes, your roommates and passersby think you are off to perform amazing athletic feats.

Step Four: Use sporty lingo.

Did you miss a question on a test? Boy, you sure fumbled that one. Did you remember to take that Blackboard quiz last night? GOAAAAL. These are just a myriad of sporty words you can work into everyday sentences.

Step Five: Be a big fan.

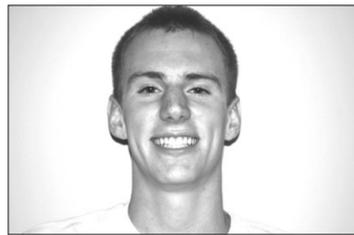
Being a Cardinals fan if you're from St. Louis and watching the Olympics do not count as watching sports. Mostly because nearly everyone from St. Louis, regardless of athletic ability, likes the Cardinals and everyone loves the Olympics for the U.S. Men's Swimming team and Women's Beach Volleyball. If you want to seem like a sports follower, ergo a sporty individual, you have to watch a sport consistently and cheer appropriately. Usually you can just cheer along with or opposite of whoever you're watching it with. However, a basic Wikipedia account of your chosen sport's rules should be consulted. If the information features some fun facts, you can impress your sporty friends with your vast knowledge of tennis history.

Step Six: Refrain from actually attempting to play a sport.

Tricking people into thinking you're athletic is exactly what it sounds like — a trick. Wearing sporty clothes and using sporty words does not make you any more coordinated on the field. So when your new athletic friends invite you to a pick-up game, find the easiest way to bail possible. If you don't, you'll find yourself tripping over your athletic shoes, fumbling the ball constantly and scoring a total of zero goals.

With these six steps, you've outfitted yourself with quite the athletic arsenal. You're just copious amounts of talent away from being Sporty McSporterson. They say if you've got it, flaunt it. Well if you don't got it, sometimes you just have to fake it.

Nice guys lack personality



BY JOHN BROOKS
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A lot of people like to think they're nice. A lot of men, in particular, like to think they're nice. I'm sure you've heard of them before — the nice guys. They get "friend-zoned." Women pass them by for mean jocks, and these poor fellows are left in the dust, wondering why girls don't like them.

As a former nice guy in remission, I'm here to set a few things straight about the nice guy front. I used to buy into this myth. The problem was many of these nice guys aren't really nice at all — they're actually just plain boring. And that's what I was: I was boring. I wasn't funny, I was shy and I couldn't understand why that didn't appeal to people. Here's the problem, nice guys: nobody likes a boring person. After I realized I was a boring person, the first step I took was to become a not boring person.

How can you not be a boring person? Probably the easiest way is to be funny. How can you be funny? Think about the jokes that make people laugh the hardest. Many times something is funny because it's true and something that everybody has at one point or another thought of, but doesn't want to say out loud. Being legitimately funny sometimes means saying things that could be construed as offensive.

What I'm getting at is that you need to develop a personality. It's easy to get by without a personality during high school. It

gets more difficult as people get older and physical attraction starts to become less of a factor. Consider this: at some point for all of us, our physical features will, by and large, cease to be the overriding factor by which people judge us. Maybe it won't happen for another 20 years. Maybe it's happening now. But when it does happen, what will you have left to share, to entertain?

Back to the nice guys. I used to let people walk all over me. Sometimes I still do. How could that possibly be unattractive? I'm not saying it's all your own fault. I am suggesting that if you find yourself wondering why people don't seem to be attracted to you or want to be around you, consider what you can do to change their perception of you and to be a person people will enjoy being around. Being funny is one way to do this.

My idea of humor might not involve what everyone finds funny. It tends to involve determining the most truthful, inappropriate thing to say at any given moment and then saying it. That doesn't mean you should try to shock people. Some jokes are tasteless no matter what. For example, humor about Columbine or 9/11 or the Colorado shooting — you're just resorting to trying to shock people.

Nice guys, it comes back to whether or not you're boring to be around. It's not that women dislike nice guys — it's that people dislike boring people. Don't be boring. But please, whatever you do, think about how to be witty, clever or original in a way that's genuinely entertaining. Reciting lines from stand-up comedy you watched on YouTube and passing it off as your own joke is pathetic. At least if you're going to do that, attribute it. Humor takes practice. Develop a personality, and people will want to be around you. So start practicing and stop thinking that being nice is what's keeping you from getting a date. It's possible to be nice and not be boring at the same time. Just give it a try, nice guys.

INDEX

Classifieds

660-785-4319

For Rent

For Rent: Wagner Enterprises rental properties are available for 2013-2014 lease. New units with one to four bedrooms are all within two blocks of campus! Complete with washer/dryer in each, all electric, central heat and air, private parking and maintenance staff. For more information, call 660-341-5538 or visit www.wespaces.net

For Rent: Awesome, restored, 3B, 2BA house one block from TSU. Hardwoods and all new appliances including dishwasher, washer and dryer. Pottery barn paint. Very spacious and modern with central air. Available in June 2013. 319-530-7393

For Rent: Excellent 4-5 Bedroom 3BA house right next to TSU. Modern with central air, stainless steel appliances including washer, dryer, and dishwasher. Hardwoods and nice dining room. 319-530-7393

For Rent: 1-BR, Clean Apartment. Close to TSU with Stove and Refrigerator Included. Off-Street Parking. Water and Trash Payed. Available November 1. \$275/mo. Broker/Owner Call 660-216-1952

For Rent: 3 bedroom house for rent near Truman and A.T. Still. new carpet, laundry, dishwasher, central air, 90+ furnace, plenty of off street parking. Available immediately. \$960.00/month. 970-318-8902 or 815-519-6509

For Rent

For Rent: Northeast Missouri Properties is now renting apartments and houses for the 2013 school year. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 bdr places. Very pet friendly. Most within walking distance to campus. Locally owned and maintained. Places are going fast. Northeastmissouriproperties.com. Call or text us at 660-216-1794

For Rent: 3-BR, 2-Full Bath house, completed 8/2012, walking distance to TSU/KCOM. Available 8/2013. Living Room, Kitchen, Laundry room, All New- Refrigerator, Dishwasher/Disposal, Washer/Dryer, Central Heat A/C, 660.988.5175. jim@kirksvillental.com. www.kirksvillental.com

For Rent: 2-BR, 2-Bath house, Living room, eat-in kitchen, totally remodeled, TSU 2 blocks., refrigerator, dishwasher/disposal, stove, new central heat & a/c, roof, siding, insulation, windows. Available 5/2013. 660.988.5175 jim@kirksvillental.com www.kirksvillental.com

For Rent: Woodwinds Apartment Sub-leaser. 2 bedrooms 1 full bath. \$500/mo. Contact: 785-317-5440. Available Jan. 1, 2013- July 31, 2013. Includes washer/dryer, pool, covered parking, deck, and extra storage. NO PETS. Trash included.

For Rent

For Rent: 4, 5, and 6 BR Houses near TSU. Off-Street Parking, Washer/Dryer On-Site. 2 Refrigerators per house. Many other exciting events throughout the year for residents. Call Chuck 660-342-4323

For Rent: Property Concepts LLC is now leasing for May and August of 2013. Studios, 1 bedroom, and 2 bedroom units available. Apartments starting at \$330 with heat, water, trash, electric, free Wi Fi, cable TV included. 2 blocks from campus. On site laundry. 24 hour maintenance. Pet friendly units available. Close to downtown. 660-627-1400. www.kirksvilleapartments.com. Text 660-216-5004.

For Rent: 3 BR house located 2 blocks west of Pershing Bldg at 608 W. Patterson St. laundry, carport, AC, new bamboo floors throughout, small pets okay \$650/mo call 988-0646

For Rent: Now Renting - Great 1, 2, 3, and 4 bedroom apartments. "White Apartments" and other close locations. Call 627-2060 to schedule an appointment.

For Hire

Now Hiring: Maritz Research - Part-time work - Flexible scheduling, Evening shifts (20 - 40 hours weekly) - \$7.50 hr starting wage, employees meeting quality standards could earn up to \$9.75 hr within 90 days. Interviewing each Wednesday, Missouri Job Service (MACC campus/Kirksville) from 1 - 4 pm and each Thursday in our call center from 10 am - 1 pm, 2815 N Baltimore St (Kirksville). Call 660-626-1500 to schedule alternate days and times.

Now Hiring: Bridal/Prom consultant. Looking for December graduate able to work 28-38 hours a week, including weekends, and available for training in October. Required: positive and energetic personality, ability to manage many details at once, and work well under pressure. Apply in-person at Teresa's Bridal Boutique, 101 S. Baltimore.

Now Hiring: Alteration person for prom season. Must be attentive to detail as gowns are jeweled and beaded. Required: high commitment to customer satisfaction, ability to complete work in a timely manner. Must be available for evening appointments. Call or apply in-person at Teresa's Bridal Boutique, 101 S. Baltimore.