

# OPINION/ANALYSIS

## Greylock senior offers a first-person account of a visit to Haiti

By Leo Pucklis

Two and a half years ago, 1999 MGRHS graduate Ben Erickson recommended that I go to Haiti as part of the Haiti Plunge, part out by the COTY Youth Center in North Adams Mass. Lead by Sister Eunice Tassone the Haiti plunge is a program that has established a cooperative of nine Haitian villages and have been taking them through the stages of early development over the past 22 years so that one day these nine villages can become self-sufficient. With the help of donations and fundraising efforts the Haiti Plunge has brought houses, trees, a school, a church, a bakery, and medial facilities to these nine villages.

Now take a look at the picture to the right of Jeff Tee. The 12 year old Haitian boy I am standing next to is the only boy in a 14-sibling household. As a child he was so malnourished that he grew barely at all. Even though he eats every day now, he still grows and gains weight at half the rate average American children do. He wears only pink clothing – not by choice, but because his hand-me-downs are all from his older sisters.

He is the type of kid you see in those infomercials where some missionary is holding a baby and asking the viewer to sponsor a child, where for less than \$100 a year that child is given a bowl of rice everyday and can attend school. Jeff Tee is sponsored, and for \$100 is given a piece of bread and a cup everyday. Every morning he walks six miles one way with his sisters to the Desabe Primary School, where he is taught basic reading and writing in Creole (Haiti's language is a combination of Spanish, French, Portuguese and several tribal African



languages), arithmetic, and some history. His knowledge is roughly equivalent to that of a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grader. Most people would take this educational structure a sign that Haitians are not as smart as other people, but that is not

### Jeff Tee lives in a country that has had seven coups in 12 years.

it at all; the children start school when they are eight because two out of every five children under the age of seven die of disease. This boy, if picked up and plopped in the Berkshires would be attending Mt. Greylock as a seventh grader. He lives in a world that has had seven coups in the last 12 years, in a world where our judgment of him and his country is fueled by propaganda from media sources such as CNN and FOX Network.

In a country where the average life expectancy is 43 and the average yearly wage of a working Haitian is 400 Haitian dollars (or about the equivalent to \$80) there is only the daily fight to avoid disease stay alive and not watch your children die from malnourishment. The Haitian people have nobody to rise against and to blame for there problems, they can't storm the borders or fly bombs into the U.S. and French capitals because 200 years ago we destroyed there livelihood and left them on an island to die.

So the Haitian people look to religion as there only hope. Spending four hours a day in church and almost nine hours on holidays, Haitians pray for peace in there country, and for food. Jeff Tee comes from a long line of slaves who were left on Haiti when the resources ran out and the slave owners had no use for them anymore.

## Senior projects listed

**EDITORS' NOTE** -- Here is a list of *senior projects at Mount Greylock this year, alphabetically by student, with the essential question each project answers.*

Acheson, Alexander — To what extent can I understand and predict the fluctuations in the stock market?

Alcaro, Gregory — To what extent does the death penalty act as a deterrent?

Appelbaum, Joshua — To what extent has the management and ownership of the Boston Red Sox contributed or detracted from their quest of winning a World Series title?

Bailey, Damaris — How can I learn African step dance through observation, research, and practice? — Baldwin, Matthew — How does one plan, organize, execute, and then evaluate the overall merit of an outdoor bench with two planters? — Bates, Amanda — How is science affiliated with cosmetology today?

Beattie, Erin — What is happening at the chemical level of cooking and why do certain cooking tips work? Bedard, Megan — How can the daily behavior of young children be most effectively managed though diet and healthy living habits?

Bell, Kiersten — To what extent does a personal faith manifest itself in the decisions of adolescents? Bird, Alexander — What is the importance of photography in documenting events?

Boehringer, Stefan — More and more high school students are purchasing automobiles. In this growing trend is there a car or truck that will best suit the financial, quality and transportation needs? — Brazee, Kevin — To what extent can the logging industry preserve the environment while appreciating a meaningful profit?

Briguglio, Claire — How does fashion challenge the definitions of traditional art? Buckler, Katherine — How can I put together a children's book about fairies with my artwork?

How can I write, record, and produce a cd of self-composed music? Burnham, Brandon — What are the reasons for getting a tattoo, the steps of getting a tattoo and what effects can it have on your body?

Calderwood, Carissa — How can I learn to make a good Tiffany lamp? Casey ConorHow can I learn the skills necessary to open a used book store in Williamstown?

Chhuon, Sary — To what extent does culture influence ethnic food? Christie, Joshua — How can I save money by maintaining and servicing my own vehicle?

Chum, Than — How does a small business owner compete against the larger chain businesses? Coniglio, Stuart — How can I build a basic wood burning stove that would most efficiently heat a small ice fishing shack?

Cooke, Miranda — How can I create an automotive repair web site?

Curtiss, James — How can I develop an aptitude for writing and decrypting codes?

DeMatteo, Mary — How can I most effectively produce a dessert cookbook?

DeMatteo, Max — How can I use yoga to improve my athletic achievement in cross-country skiing and/or track and field?

Demo, Nathan — What does it take to become a firefighter and what does it take to advance?

DeSanty, Danielle — To what extent does an effective athletic trainer influence the athletics of a college or university?

DeWitt, Erica — To what extent does advertising affect women's self-image?

Dias, Jodi — To what extent can specified exercise regiments and nutritional balance yield optimum training for an alpine ski racer?

Dow, Ashleigh — To what extent does our daily life impact the content of our dreams?

Dufour-Martinez, Ashley — How would lowering the drinking age influence teenage drinking habits?

Durfee, Leigha — How can I design a room to enhance one's mood?

Emmons, Sarah — How does a traditional learning environment negatively affect students with untraditional learning needs?

Fedotowsky, Michael — To what extent does dodgeball have a negative influence on the development of adolescents?

Finan, Rachel — To what extent can "performance enhancing" food and timing of meals affect the performance of athletes?

Flynn, Patrick — How has special forces training changed as the foreign policy of the U.S. has changed throughout history.

Flynn-Kasuba, Ryan — To what extent can proper training help me to run a sub 4:40 mile?

Fowle, Jesse — How can two amateurs create a high quality snowboarding video?

Fox, Justin — To what extent can certain training regiments bring about better pitching speed, accuracy and overall effectiveness? — Frank, Amanda — To what extent can I express myself through stained glass?

Frank, Graham — To what extent has the sport of fly-fishing evolved in the last 400 years? How is it going to change in the years to come?

Garcia, Emily — Does the unique genre of gospel rely more on the performer's passion for the music's subject rather than on his/her technical skill?

Garivaltis, James — To what extent does a government leader need to understand psychology in order to gain power and popularity?

Girard, Jon — How can wrestling bring about the successful ingredients required for adulthood?

Gmuer-Johnson, Danae — How is the illicit sale of conflict diamonds impacting the countries of Africa?

Greene, Robert — What can we do to save small farms from disappearing so quickly from the Northeast?

Guntlow, Casey — To what extent does stress negatively impact teenagers, and what are the overall causes/impacts? — Hamblin, Sawyer — To what extent can an athlete hope to return to a competitive level after sustaining a significant knee injury?

Heno-Coe, Gilles — To what extent can an art conservator preserve artistic integrity for future generations?

Hirsch, Sarah — How can I write, direct, and produce an entertaining musical?

Hogan, Daniel — To what extent do the physical and psychological training strategies used by the armed forces differ from the strategies used in training for team sports?

Jones, Keith — How can one decide the best overall set up for a snowmobile based on riding conditions?

Kaiser, Nicholas — How can a hot rod be customized to reflect the personality of the owner?

Kalisz, Samantha — How can a young writer get a book published?

Kasuba, Thomas — How can I learn the process needed to wisely select and purchase mutual funds?

Larson, Michael — To what extent is there a common bond between injury prevention and improving performance for athletes?

Lucido, Michael — To what extent does psychology affect a Quarterbacks performance on the field?

Lynch, Robert — How has rock n' roll music evolved since the 1950's?

Mansen, Derek — To what extent can I design a control scheme that is ergonomically sound yet still flexible enough to be used in a number of very different applications?

Margulies-Major, Chloe — To what extent can pottery, painting and sculpture forge different connections (for both the artist and the audience) from a cognitive, emotional and physical perspective? — Mason, Carly — How can an architectural design best prepare a house for its surrounding climate and environment?

Mason, Emily — How important is physical education for elementary aged children?

McCarthy, Ashley — What are the three major aspects of photography that affect the finished outcome?

McCarthy, Colin — How can I teach the proper mechanics of golf and help an individual to improve their golf game?

McKeen, Benjamin — How does a foreign culture affect and enhance the local cuisine?

Moody, Lara — To what extent is hypnosis real?

Murdock, Amy — How does love affect our mind and body?

Nawazelski, Michael — How can music therapy be used to reduce stress?

Newton, Nathaniel — How does one achieve a professional finish after an automobile has been prepared and is ready to spray?

Parker, Marie — To what extent can coastlines be salvaged from erosion?

Patel, Chirag — To what extent can genetic manipulation enhance or compromise the nutritional attributes of food?

Petricca, Tristan — How does a certain method of physical and mental training, create a certain lacrosse player?

Phelps, Daniel — How can a photographer most effectively capture the energy of sports through a still photo?

Piatczyc, Sasha — Why does domestic violence occur?

Pilat, Benjamin — How to build a compute a individual's needs?

Pucklis, Leon — How did weather effect the Northeastern Indians of the archaic period?

Quagliano, Anthony — How can physical therapy effectively prevent or rehabilitate injuries compared to how occupational therapists enhance the lives of people with multiple handicaps?

Quinn, Bobby — How can small adjustments to parts of a violin affect the quality of the instrument?

Rancourt, Justin — To what extent could the US continue its domestic and global goals with a smaller military that was supported in time of crisis with reserves or a militia?

Raney, Arthur — How can students who are unable to speak communicate?

Remillard, Zoe — What is included in the process of making an acoustic audio CD of original music?

Resio, Benjamin — How can troubleshooting be used to diagnose a faulty one cylinder combustion engine?

Roach, Bryan — How hard is it to obtain you pilot's license and what are the challenges with flying?

Robichaud, Jason — How can I film and create a quality skate and snowboarding video?

Rock, Devin — To what extent do building codes ensure adequate integrity given the demands of our environment?

Rothschild, Aaron — To what extent did the childhood xperiences of Alexander Hamilton prepare him to be a founding father of the United States?

Sayers, Timothy — What does it take to be a firefighter in today's times and politics?

Schapiro, Matthew — What is the best way to win money at a casino?

Schelling, Kelsey — To what extent has my experience as a stage actor influenced my role and my objectives as a director?

Simon, Denna — How can a veterinary technician most ffectively support an animal hospital?

Smith, Henry — How can sound and film react with one another to change an audience's perception of moving images?

Snow, Jacob — How can I transform an interest and talent for poetry into a performing art?

St. Clair, Paul — How can gardens be best designed and placed to promote learning and reduce stress in an academic environment?

Stinson, Emily — How can battery pollution be most effectively reduced in our community?

Sweet, Brian — To what extent has Harley Davidson advanced the design of their motors (from 1966 to present) and how can a consumer continue to enhance the performance, reliability and efficiency?

Sylvester, Sarah — How can an artist reflect different moods through the use of various styles of art?

Thier, David — To what extent can the timbre or structure of a certain instrument, particularly the banjo, affect its use in certain styles of music?

Thornton, Angelyn — How important is behind-the-scenes work to the production of a play?

Torra, John — To what extent have changes in the American diet led to obesity?

Trites, Austin — How can I compose the first movement of a piano sonata?

Trombley, Richard — How does wrestling bring out a person's character and what kind of character might it bring out?

Truedsson, Carl — To what extent does fluency in one language, Swedish, affect the acquisition of a related language, German?

Truskowski, Sarah — How can my mood at the time of composing, affect the outcome of a song? — Vinette, Jereme — How is music performance refined as it is practiced for a jazz recording?

Vogel, Lauren — How do Autistic children react differently in certain social settings?

Webb, Cody — How do I go about becoming a beginner in the art of glassblowing and also learn how to make glass that's not only aesthetically pleasing but also practical: 1- How much of glass blowing is art and how much of glass blowing is for particle use? 2- How can I prepare myself to become a beginner in the art of glass blowing and what are the basics of glass are?

Wateley, Sarah — How can the architectural structures of a high school building affect education?

Wheeler, Andrew — How can the sound of an electric guitar be altered?

Wheeler, Nicole — To what degree is art therapy an effective method for dealing with painful experiences?

White, Samuel — What is the appeal of motion pictures as a medium?

Whitney, Amanda — How can I design a room to enhance one's mood?

Williams, Jacob — How does video taping and picture taking affect my ability to skateboard to my best ability?

Williams, Michael — How does a volunteer fire department (specifically for a small community) ensure appropriate training and readiness for their department?

Windover, Elizabeth — To what extent is science integral to a self-created piece of pottery?

Wood, ThiVan — To what extent does the quality and quantity of a teenager's sleep impact their athletic performance?

Wooliver, Courtney — How can I develop the skills and techniques necessary to effectively capture an active scene?