

## High CO<sup>2</sup> levels sideline one classroom; \$400K vent rebuild eyed

By Rachel Payne  
*Echo Staff*

Besides the formerly leaking roof, deficient boiler systems, and last year's impure water, Mount Greylock's aging school building has been afflicted with poor air circulation, leading to heightened levels of carbon dioxide in many spaces.

The matter will be addressed in an epic series of repairs and renovations within two years. Along with other Mount Greylock infrastructure deficiencies, the building's various ventilators will be replaced to improve

air quality. This venture will cost \$400,000 by last estimates, to be payed off over 10 years.

This problem was first discovered in 1994, when Mount Greylock leaders summoned officials from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for examination of the structure.

It was discovered that the 1980s practice of closing air vents to conserve energy had definite cons; namely carbon-dioxide levels exceeding acceptable standards. This problem was remedied to a degree by reopening vents that had been disconnected.

Another examination occurred in November of 2002, once again at the request of the school rather than by state policy.

The results were not received until the following July, but they showed some improvement. Even so, 32 areas were noted to have carbon-dioxide levels over 1,000 parts-per-million (ppm), while 800 ppm is the highest permissible reading. Twenty-five of these had the exhaust blocked off or shut off, and therefore were able to be remedied.

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## LUNCH STORY *An Echo reviewer likes calzones and 'lunch ladies'*

By Jason Silberstein  
*Special to The Echo*

Lunch was about as good as usual these past weeks. Delivered once again by those familiar, smiling faces behind the counters, lunch and the lunch ladies really haven't changed that much these past weeks or years.

The lunch ladies have really become institutions at Mount Greylock Regional High School. Can you imagine how disturbing it would be if you went in to get your Chicken Burger deluxe and there was some

strange, hairy man smiling at you, asking if you wanted cheese? That would just be scary. The lunch ladies are irreplaceable.

As for lunch itself, the food has gone generally downhill ever since I got here. Prices have skyrocketed. Fish fillet smells bad. Cinnamon-sugar bagel chips are rarer and the bagels, far from being soft and warm, hurt if you get hit in the face with them. Making your own salad has lost its edge of excitement and fun, and once you have memorized what the rotation is for the pre-made salads, you know you're in trouble. Also, that recent time where we had to wait 15 minutes for lunch, while maybe not fruity or stupid, was definitely annoying. I mean please.

There are, however, exceptions to this general reduction in the quality of the lunch experience. One thing that has

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## MATHIAS RECALLED . . .



*A young prodigy dies, but bequeaths the promise of a more loving community*

By The Echo Staff

His death was neither violent nor public. But the Jan. 31 passing of 16-year-old Mathias Jessup Bartels jolted Williamstown and Mount Greylock Regional High School to a prolonged period of reflection last week, produced one of largest outpourings of collective grief in the town's recent memory, and may be drawing the school community closer together.

**"It has been a long time since I have heard a group of young men stand up and say, 'I love you,'"** said Devlin.

At least 820 people filled Chapin Hall at Williams College on Feb. 4 to hear Bartels eulogized by his principal, teacher, peers, uncle and brothers as scholar, musician, inquirer, observer, responsible, respectful, polite, honest, fabulous. How could such a gifted young man eat pasta one night with friends, go home to bed primed

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## INSIDE:

### Presidential primaries

Over the past year or so, the American public has become acquainted with a group of 10 statesmen, preachers, and dreamers whose only unifying characteristic is the desire for the Presidency of the United States....

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## Committee will have recommendations by June on reorganization after Norton

In light of the proposal for administrative reorganization that has been drafted by a group of Mount Greylock teachers, the School Committee recently decided to abandon its search for a new principal.

Principal Russell Norton said the school community had expressed a general desire for change. In order to beter examine the suggested alternatives to the principal position, the School Committee lans on organizing a special subcommittee consisting of committee members, community members, and a student. It would carefully study the possibilities and make recommendations by May or June.

The decision to forsake the search for someone to

replace Norton -- who is retiring Aug. 31 -- stems partly from a low applicant pool. Only five completed applications had been received. School Committee members believe they can turn to an interim principal if one is needed.

In another development, school officials in the Boston suburb of Milton confirmed last week that they had chosen a different candidate for their superintendent, passing over Mount Greylock Supt. Mark Piechota, who apparently was their second choice.

Piechota began looking for a new position after some teachers last year supported a "no-confidence" vote on the superintendent.

# OPINION

## On leadership and the cult of 'electability'

### A 15-year-old views the presidential primaries

By Rachel Payne

Over the past year or so, the American public has become acquainted with a group of 10 statesmen, preachers, and dreamers whose only unifying characteristic is the desire for the Presidency of the United States. Four of these — Bob Graham, Carol Moseley Braun, Dick Gephardt, and Joe Lieberman — have surrendered to their obscurity.

They are certainly soon to be joined by other defeated individuals, some of whom have already begun to distinguish themselves. Their failings are not in policy, for most of the candidates are rather similar or can appear to be so. No, what marks a nominee as a failure is his or her lack of ability to convince voters that their stance is right, and will be nationally recognized as such.

Their ideas are no longer the selling point for these candidates. It is the presentation thereof, and its creation of popular confidence in their ability to win by convincing others. The persuasive few still standing as viable contenders are similar to those who have won offices before them. They tend to be shape-shifting pragmatists, who are officials momentarily legitimized by the mob's favor, and swayed by its whims, rather than genuine leaders.

I do not intend to give an entirely hopeless impression of our future president, for I respect many of the men striving for that title. They are reasonable people, who merely recognize the impure tactics by which political success has previously been gained. However, I am skeptical of

America's ability to elect a leader qualified for the challenges he will necessarily face.

Our primaries, and entire democratic process, are determined by the media, and by assumptions. News stations try to simplify the candidates, who are all complex men with carefully formed policies. Yet the public is only trusted to recognize caricatures of these figures (Dean — liberal, angry; Kerry — aristocratic, war hero . . . ) and on that basis, we are expected to elect the most powerful man in the world.

The other deciding factor in the majority of votes is electability. The Democratic Party's only goal is the replacement of George W. Bush, rather than creating long-term solutions to America's many problems. One would hope that he with the best ideas for national improvement would defeat the incumbent, but the American voter is only confident in his peers to follow the herd, rather than to back the more able leader.

Therefore, voters flock to the candidate they believe can win an election, rather than the one they most respect.

For example, Democratic front runners have timidly hinted at their partial support for liberal initiatives like legalizing same-sex marriage and expanding health care. Yet the only remaining candidate to voice unwavering support for gay marriage and for absolute universal health care, Dennis Kucinich, has very minimal backing according to most polls.

Though voters are lured to the supposedly liberal inclinations of men like Kerry, Dean, and Clark, once a candidate speaks forcefully on

controversial issues, they are condemned as unelectable. Had either Iowa or New Hampshire solidified behind a man like Kucinich, who said out loud what others had mumbled, he would now be a front runner.

Unfortunately, the whole party seems to prefer second guessing its own actions. Far better would be simultaneous primaries in all states, so that each voter may voice his opinions undeterred by the choices of his peers. As it is, the Caucus states tried to vote in accordance with opinion in states whose primaries are later on. Yet the results of the caucuses seem to determine the sentiments of the rest of the nation. If such cowardice is the Democratic Party's tactic for success, perhaps we don't deserve to beat Bush.

Certainly, the flaws in the Democratic Party are not ones of intent. There is nothing sinister in the desire for success. Edwards, Kerry — both were taking a moderate approach to the candidacy simply to appeal to us, the ever-elusive majority. Yet, they did not understand that America was formed as a republic, not a true democracy, specifically so the country could have leadership. These are times of the greatest complexity, and matters like the economy and foreign policy are meant to be governed by a force somewhat more civilized than mob rule.

The only time the candidates even began to resemble genuine leaders (and the resemblance was purely superficial) was when Howard Dean happened to strike a chord with angry liberals everywhere in his criticism of the war in Iraq. His connection with the youngest, and most vocal sector of the party was a stroke of luck rooted in the risk-taking at the heart of true leadership. Yet, it was a risk he alone was at leisure to take, for he had little initial hope of election, as a lowly governor of a small, rural state.

During Dean's time as the front runner, all of the candidates worked Dean's anti-establishment passion into their speeches (save the stubbornly centrist, pro-Iraq Lieberman, whose mainstream opinions cost him the election), in the greatest act of conformity. In this way, they have chased the party's core of voters from the moderate center to the left.

I may watch all of this primary chaos — the exaggerated impressions of the media, the cowardly cult of electability, and the candidates chasing voters rather than leading them — with a sense of detachment. I am too young to vote, and therefore may cynically observe and critique these multimillion-dollar deliberations to my fullest delight, without actually having to make a choice.

As a mere spectator of the Democratic process, I am able to recognize the faults in the system.

I believe all primaries should be simultaneous so that voters may choose the candidate with whom they agree, without the influence of the majority in other regions. A minuscule portion of America's population inhabits Iowa and

New Hampshire, yet the results of those Caucuses have influenced voting in other states, and have placed Kerry on top in Missouri, Arizona, North Dakota, New Mexico, and Delaware, and certainly will continue to do so.

Kerry's momentum, having originated in the tiniest victory, is wiping out personal opinion because of the primary format. Also, much of Dean's early success, and the eventual popularity of many other candidates, has come from taking shots at the incumbent. That is not to say that the criticism was unwarranted. Yet, Democrats would have a more balanced view of matters like the war in Iraq, tax cuts, and "No Child Left Behind" if the President was involved in the debates wherein these topics are discussed.

Had Bush been involved in these debates, not only would he have had to publicly justify his actions without the aid of prewritten speeches, but would also be able to address Democratic hypocrisy. For, special-interest funding contaminates not only Bush's record, but that of this party. Indeed, few candidates are free of it, though they rally against it endlessly.

Most of all, I wish that the Democratic Party would refresh its tactics, and move from this cowardice. We cannot hope to lure Independents or convert Republicans by following momentary trends of opinion in attempts to please.

We must, as a whole, take the risk of stating our genuine views and intentions on all matters. Hopefully, this will earn the respect of outsiders, for this bravery would be unprecedented and easy to recognize. If this technique was to fail, and the public disagreed with Democratic stances, then all is well, for we would have no place in the White House without popular support.

Of course, these are mere dreams. In the current political atmosphere, I am, like so many others, quite ambivalent. Truth be told, were I of voting age, I do not know whom I would vote for. The terrible choice is between six decent, intelligent, flawed men of whom I have no understanding. The little I know has no substance; I am only familiar with their apparent intentions and illustrious achievements, heralded from the stump and propaganda websites, and the ancient misdemeanors maliciously resurrected by opponents.

Not one can fully convince a very naïve and passionately Democratic 15-year-old girl. It is very unlikely that any will attract Independents or sway Republicans in November.

But, all is not lost; Party members may always pray that the economy will plummet once more, or that the reconstruction of Iraq will take a violent turn for the worst, for such a disaster would surely cost Bush his post.

But most likely, the millions spent, the ads run, and even the editorials written will seem foolish aspects of a foolish attempt to give the people what they want, when what they really want is leadership.

### The Greylock Echo

#### Join The Echo Staff Recruitment

#### Meeting

Tuesday, March 2nd,  
2:30 p.m.  
Room 60  
(behind the library)

By working with  
The Echo Team:

#### We need:

#### •Sports

#### Editor

#### •Advertising

#### Manager

#### •Club

#### Correspondents

#### •Photographers

#### •Columnists

#### •Reporters

#### •Copy

#### Editors

- Help make the school a better place
- Spend time with committed colleagues
- Practice clear, simple, fast writing
- Learn how to interview and obtain information
- Find out about all aspects of the school
- Be eligible for field trips, meetings, and talks

### TEAM ECHO

The Mount Greylock Echo is the student newspaper of Mount Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown, Mass. It is published once per month during the academic year. Each issue is developed and edited by a team of "issue editors" and writers.

Any Mount Greylock student may join the staff, attend meetings and submit articles. A year-to-year governance structure for The Echo is under development.

#### Issue editors, contributors

This month's issue editor was Simon Reinhardt. Next month's issue editor will be Chris Densmore. Next publication date: March 11.

#### Next meeting -- Tues., March 2

The next staff meeting will be Tuesday, March 2nd, at 2:30 p.m., in Room 60 (back of library). All are welcome.

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Mount Greylock Regional High School  
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Williamstown MA 01267  
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# ARTS



## Middle school chorus

The Mount Greylock RHS chorus, directed by Marlene Walt, performs during a January evening concert. (Submitted photo)

## Clark confab to eye school arts funding

By **Kejia Tang**  
Echo Staff

The Friends of The Arts is scheduling a symposium at the Clark Art Institute this spring for teachers and educators concerned about how to cope with dwindling tax collars for arts education.

“This is very exciting; all the arts educators in the county can get connected and empowered,” said Mount Greylock visual art teacher Sally Sussman.

The tentative name of the symposium is “Survival Strategies for Arts Education in Berkshire County High Schools and Middle Schools.”

This symposium will consist of arts teachers, arts educators, and school administrators from all over Berkshire County gathering together to discuss sustaining and expanding the arts in the schools.

The goals of Friends of the Arts are to get arts teachers across the county connected and revitalized, and to find practical solutions to the impact of the budget crisis on the arts.

The proposed symposium will feature keynote speakers, school principals presenting the ways their school’s arts programs have coped with the limited budget, brainstorming of funding ideas, panel discussions, workshops, and the possible initiation of a Berkshire County Arts Educators Association.

If the spring symposium achieves success, Friends of the Arts will consider holding another bigger symposium/conference in the fall before next year’s budget season to get input from not just educators, but also arts professionals, organizations, and perhaps even local politicians.

## Cafeteria

Continued from Page 1

remained remarkably plentiful -- and high in quality -- is the ketchup. On deli day I am always happy to reach the ketchup bin and take about a dozen of those puppies.

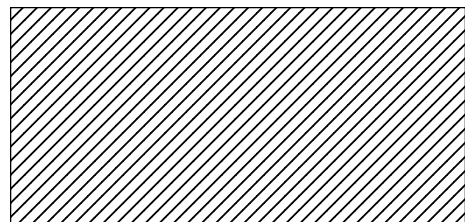
The pizza is also still good, and tater tots are classic. Tacos, ravioli, lasagna, Greek salads, Italian salads, Grilled Chicken Salads, Caesar Salads...the same, but still good. Chicken Fajitas are still good and still funny.

Calzones deserve their own paragraph. There is no shame in being seen booking it through the halls on calzone day. Those round pockets of cheese with their lightly browned crust . . . oh baby. I would choose a calzone over some girls that I have met. I mean hon-

estly, which would you rather spend some quality time with?

However, I was thinking that what we really need is a Chinese Line. And when I think Chinese food I think Mrs. Kubler. So, perhaps if enough people talked to Carl and his mom, we could get Mrs. Kubler down here to make us some dumplings.

Darn, that would be good.



## Ventilation

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The remaining seven rooms were unable to be corrected so simply as rearranging furniture and changing old habits. Fortunately, only one of these rooms was a classroom – C2, where Robin Lehleitner had taught. She was therefore moved to the Middle School corridor, as is well known. The other six, and now C2, are not used by students, and therefore are not a concern.

Action taken to deal with excessive carbon dioxide came from no legal obligation. The state seems to expect such readings, at times as high as 2,300 ppm, as they are the result of the aging of buildings.

While the problem of classrooms has been solved by simply opening the windows, there are rooms without access to windows, and without functioning ventilation. Broken parts in the circulation system cannot be replaced, as the parts are outdated. Therefore, the levels of carbon dioxide will likely rise as years pass.

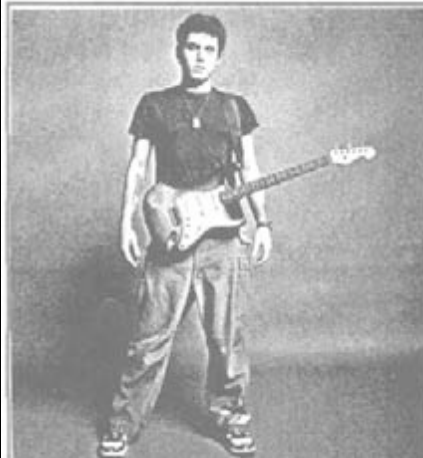
## POETRY CORNER

### You're My Night Sky

By **Jessica Vickery**

I watch the stars in the night  
Glistening and whispering to me the  
story of the sky  
They tell me the secrets they keep and  
the songs they sing  
They sing to me a lullaby and I know  
that everything is alright  
Their bright light hits the icicles and  
glitters upon the snow  
The miles they travel just to comfort  
me  
They are worlds away, yet they visit  
me so often  
Every night they surround me  
With their sweet song and voice

I can sleep with their presence  
And I dream of them every night  
Something about the happiness that  
they give to me makes me smile  
I hold it in the palm of my hand when  
I am scared  
I hold it in my heart when I am alone  
And I finally have something to hold  
onto  
Something that is my own  
They give me a home  
A home that I can go to and where I  
can stay  
Alone and by myself, and I am still  
forever lonely



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# Hoopsters need one win for postseason

*81-63 win over Lee sets up best shot at WMass since 2000*

**By the Echo Staff**

Mount Greylock's boys basketball team needed one more victory this week to make it to Western Massachusetts post-season play. The Mounties, 8-9, overcame Lee High, 81-63 on Tuesday night.

Coming after a cliff-hanging 54-52 win Saturday night over Drury High School, the win means Mount Greylock must win Friday night against Monument Mountain or on Feb. 17 against Lenox, both away games.

Under first-year head coach Jack Racette, the Mount Greylock boys' basketball team has been one of the most improved in Berkshire County. Last year, the Mounties finished 4-16 overall. This year, it took them just five games to pick up their fourth win. Greylock raced out to a 6-1 start that included solid victories over Taconic and Drury.

Mid-season, the Mounties struggled, dropping five in a row, evening its record at 6-6. Leading the way

this year have been B.J. VanLuling, Mike Quick, Jake Snow and Greg Holland, who did not play last year.

Any of the four are capable of pacing the team in the scoring department on any given night. Key contributors include Mike Holland, Phil Mabey, Brody Cunningham, Richie Haley, Devon Rock, Mike Larson, Mike Fedotowsky and freshman Chase Shepard. Racette was Greylock's junior varsity coach before taking over for Paul Barrett.



Caleb Jones/North Adams Transcript  
**Greylock senior Greg Holland attempts finger roll in Saturday win against Drury.**

## Grapplers end season undefeated in their league; head to B'town

The Mount Greylock wrestling team was off to Belchertown this weekend (Feb. 14) for the Division 3 Western Mass. Championships. Competition was to begin Friday. Preliminary seedings place seven Greylock grapplers in the top five sectionals.

The Mountie wrestlers finished the regular season by winning three of four matches on Feb. 7. They beat the Spartans (33-24), Generals (35-24) the Braves (36-30) and losing to Mount Everett (42-31).

This left Greylock at 10-0 in league matches and 26-5 overall. They have led the league for five straight years, and six of the last seven years.

## Girls skiiers capture 7th title; boys end as No. 2 in X-country

**By Simon Reinhardt**

For boys it was the last Berkshire County race of the cross-country season ski season, but Saturday's race was a little bit different.

It was a relay race, teams of four, each racer skiing 4 kilometers before tagging the next skier.

Many relay teams coordinated and wore costumes for team spirit.

Greylock skiers were seen dressed as baseball and soccer players, Harry Potter, and ninjas. Greylock boys' A-Team finished second to Hoosac, while the B-Team finished eighth. Both boys' and girls'

JV teams finished first.

The girls' A-Team also finished second (to Lennox) and the B-Team finished fifth.

Meanwhile, Greylock girls won their eventh-straight Berkshire County alpine ski title on Monday night.

Libbie Weimer and Jen Noyes led Mountain to winning time of 200.83 in Pittfield, while Taconic/St. Joseph's placed second at 202.80. Jodi Dias and Kelsey Real placed second and third, respectively.

Varsity cross-country skiers competed Wednesday in the States meet at Hickory Hill.



Photo by Simon Reinhardt

## Baseball in winter?

**No, just some playful dressing for Saturday's (Feb. 7) cross-country skiing meet by teammates Evan Dethier, Scott Beattie and Nick Fogel.**



**Mathias racing, in photo taken earlier this winter by David Dethier, father of a teammate.**

## Mathias

**Continued from Page 1**

for a morning cross-country ski-meet -- and never wake up?

"Because I can't make sense of it, I feel I have failed," English teacher Blair Dils told the crowd of parents, peers -- including at least two competitor cross-country teams. Bartels' natural death -- of causes yet to be determined or disclosed -- "denies us our satisfaction in knowing," said Dils.

Five friends recalled Friday-morning trips to Dunkin' Donuts, clandestine bridge and poker games in the back of classrooms -- all as Bartels excelled at piano, sports and academics. Dils called him an "Oh, no!" student -- someone who comes along every seven years or so. "Oh, no," said Dills. "How am I going to challenge this kid?"

"These past five days have really taught me not to take anything for granted," said one of the five, fellow junior Ryan Flynn-Kasuba.

"We can ascribe the sense of community at school to his death," added another, Will Fogel. "Each day, we grow closer because of him . . . each day we part not with a hug, and see you later, but with, 'I love you.'"

"Together, you are turning this tragedy into a triumph," Max DeMatteo told the audience. "And that's a beautiful thing."

As DeMatteo, Flynn-Kasuba, Fogel, Gideon Bradburd and David Thier spoke on the Chapin stage, they stood in a row, with arms across each others' shoulders. The display prompted Father Joseph Devlin, S.J., to observe near the close of the 90-minute service: "It has been a long time since I have heard a group of young men stand up and say, 'I love you.' And if that is part of what Mathias achieved, God bless him."

## As a shooting star, but never fading

*In tribute to Mathias Bartels — an encouraging leader and an unfaltering role model for all of us. His spirit will always be in the halls and hearts of Mount Greylock.*

**By Kejia Tang**

A star is born in murky darkness  
Glowing with promise and light  
unmatched  
Shedding warmth both close and far  
A beacon in all the days and hours  
Greeting with countless smiles and  
laughs  
Heartening with countless  
cheers and congrats  
Echoes resounding throughout  
the halls  
Shadows flashing across  
the walls  
Gone perhaps from eyes but  
not hearts  
Ascended to rest in perfection  
unmarred  
Ever watching, everywhere  
Never fading, always there.