

THE RETIREE: *Will Parkman be MGRHS's last 'shop' teacher?*

In the 1970s, Mount Greylock's three industrial-arts classrooms were bustling with classes all day and four teachers. Now there's just Jeff Parkman, 55, who will retire in June. His position will be eliminated if the school's budget is "level funded." Learn what he finds most appealing in teaching, what he is considering doing in retirement, what started his career in technology . . . and more. Q-and-A, PAGE THREE.



What would a \$9.4m 'quality budget' mean to students?

By the Echo Staff

The Mount Greylock school committee continued deliberations on Tuesday in Lanesborough on the fiscal 2005 budget. Within two weeks, the committee will have to make a recommendation to voters in Lanesborough and Williamstown.

The administration has framed the debate in terms of a "quality budget" calling for a \$1.2-million increase in expenditures next year, or a 14.5% increase. But fearing that such an increase won't be approved by voters, the board has also talked about a "maintenance" budget with a much smaller increase. Lacking another year of support from Williams College and the GAP Fund, that budget will result in the loss of multiple teaching positions and other services, administrators say.

Overall, the so-called "quality budget" would include \$5.6 million for salaries, up from \$4.8 million in the current fiscal year, and \$2.0 million for benefits (mostly health and retirement benefits), up from \$1.75 million in the current year. The number of teaching positions would rise to 71.2, a restoration to 2002 levels, from the current 65.6. This year, 14.8 teaching positions are funded by non-taxpayer sources (such as GAP Williams College gifts).

What would the "quality budget" do for students? Some examples, from the administration's Feb. 24 FY 2005 Preliminary Budget blue book:

- User fees for athletics and student activities would be eliminated.
- Girls volleyball would be added as a fall sport.
- Girls and boys lacross are made part of the official spring sports schedule, elevated from "club" status.
- The lone industrial-arts teaching position which would otherwise go vacant with the retirement of Jeff Parkman, would be retained, and a new teacher hired.
- The school's intercom system would be repaired so that speakers in all classrooms and hallways would be restored to working order.
- Three middle-school team leaders, eight curriculum-leader positions, the middle-school division head and the artist-in-residence post would all be restored.
- English department field trips to MassMoCA, Shapere & Co. and Shaker Village would be restored.
- Science department middle-school teams would be restored, along with field trips to Mount Greylock State Reservation, a planetarium and to the anatomy department at Berkshire Medical Center.
- A full-time reading teacher would be hired to help a growing number of students with reading deficiencies.
- A library paraprofessional position would be restored.
- Televisions would be installed in all classrooms, more LCD projectors acquired, and computer equipment for editing videos added.
- Replacing one computer lab with high-end workstations and the first major software upgrades in four years to the school's 211-computer network.



All photos courtesy of Henry Gold

Amanda Bell, left, and Alex Kopynec, as Eliza Doolittle and Henry Higgins

A Fair Farewell to My Fair Lady

Reviewed by Kejia Tang

My Fair Lady came to a clapping, cheering, and balloon-showering close on Saturday, the last of three near-packed performance nights. The Mount Greylock version of this musical classic, made famous by Rex Harrison and Audrey Hepburn in the 1964 movie and by Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews in the original Broadway production, starred seniors Amanda Bell (Eliza Doolittle) and Alex Kopynec (Henry Higgins).

The show was directed by Jeffrey Welch with vocal director Marlene Walt and orchestral director Lyndon Moors. My Fair Lady tells the story of a young London flower girl, Doolittle, with a lovable but ridiculous Cockney accent who is "picked off the curbstone" by an arrogant and demanding linguistics professor, Higgins.

Higgins makes a bet with his friend Colonel Pickering

(Charles Cochran) that he can turn Eliza into an upper-class lady in six months by teaching her how to speak proper English. In between the lessons and the trials are welcome interludes of humor, provided by Eliza's moral-less and happy-go-lucky father Alfred P. Doolittle (Jesse MacDonald), romance, in the beautiful if slightly cheesy song "On the Street Where You Live" by the lovestruck Freddy Eynesford-Hill (Paul Bergmann), and advices, from the only truly level-headed character in the play: Mrs. Pearce, Higgins's housekeeper (Kelsey Schelling).

Though some of the younger members of the audience might not have been able to enjoy all of the subtleties and jokes in this complex play about London classes and society, the production was a resounding success in the cast, crew, musicians, and directors' abilities to provide for the Mount Greylock community a beautiful and artistic rendition of one of the greatest musical classics of all time.

Below, Paul Bergmann as Freddy Eynesford-Hill; Sabrina Gogan and Nicole Castella



INSIDE:

Political opportunities

State representative Daniel Bosley urges students to become involved in politics at the local level . . . and Supt. Mark Piechota suggests they take that advice to heart in grappling with the Mt. Greylock budget.

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OPINION

Bosley: Why politics is a youth occupation

By Dan Bosley

When I was in high school, I became very involved in political campaigns. It occurred to me that decisions that affected my life were being made and I wanted to be part of that decision-making process. And

everyday, decisions are being made that affect your life. Among these are the budget for your school; the roads you travel on getting there; the safety of your homes; the rules covering driver's licenses; and many other aspects of life are regulated by laws that people involved in the process worked to develop and pass into law. In order for your voice to be heard, you must be involved in such decisions.

That is the relationship between citizens and government in our country. Your government is here to work for you and you are tomorrow's leaders. Each generation takes part in the process and passes on our government and by extension, this society to the next generation. Your generation will determine what the future holds for yourself and your fellow Americans. That is precisely why you should get involved now. It's



easy for every student to engage in some form of political activity.

There are people who will tell you that your voice begins with your vote on Election Day. But you don't have to be old enough to vote to be active in your community. There are many matters important outside of Election Day. Maybe you have the desire to get involved, but don't know where to begin. That part is easy. Start with something you care about. Political involvement doesn't have to be on a grand or national scale, a lot of things get done on the community level in many small, but important ways.

The local level is a good place to start with holding a sign for a candidate on Election Day, collecting signatures on a

petition on an issue important to you, or participating in a neighborhood clean-up day. Anyplace you have an idea or see something you would like to change is a good place to start. Perhaps political activism can start in your own school.

My daughter is a sophomore in high school. When she was a student in the North Adams middle school, she ran for student council and got involved in changing some things in her school. Her class raised money for the United Way; arranged for alternative foods to be served in the cafeteria for students with food allergies; became monitors for a special education student to help him mainstream in his school; and decided on a location for a class trip. Any of you can step

forward and become active in your school. You don't have to run for office, but can pick a project and lobby for that cause. It is as simple as that.

There are organizations, such as the North Berkshire Community Coalition, that offer opportunities to get involved locally. There may be organizations that offer discussion groups pertaining to our government or internships. These range from volunteering for an activity in local government to traveling to the White House.

A new wave of campaigning has arisen in the 2004 presidential campaign. Websites and organizations such as Music for America, Youth Vote Coalition, and MTV's Get Out the Vote activism are working to get candidates to realize what a valuable asset young people really are.

One candidate's approach has revolutionized campaigning by widespread use of the internet to promote a national platform. In doing so, he has touched many teenagers and college students and mobilized their support for his campaign. Web logs, or "blogs" as they are called, are one way of exchanging ideas and presenting solutions to the political issues of the day.

Lastly, and maybe most importantly, one way to develop political ideas and action plans is to simply talk about your views. Call your elected officials and tell them what you think. Tell your friends and teachers about different issues that interest you and start a discussion. Engage your parents and family in dinnertime debates and share ideas and concerns. Sometimes the best idea comes from a conversation with a friend as you talk out an issue.

Here are a couple of websites to give you some ideas:

<http://www.dosomething.org>
<http://www.youthvote.org>

I hope these ideas start you on a life of political activity. Start early and you can change the future of the world.

Daniel Bosley, of North Adams, is a state representative who's district includes Williamstown.

Piechota: MGRHS budget offers a chance to make a difference on class size, choice

By Mark Piechota

TO MT. GREYLOCK STUDENTS:

I would like to take this opportunity to answer your many questions about the budget that is being developed and debated for FY2005. This is the budget that will impact your life at Mount Greylock next year.

The Restoration Budget: On Feb. 24 the administration presented the School Committee with a proposed "Restoration Budget." It represented

what we believed would be required to adequately meet your needs, and it totaled \$9,387,030. It aimed to return our programs to the quality levels of the 2002-2003 school year.

This proposed budget reinstated teaching positions that were previously cut, and it absorbed the cost of the 5.4 teaching positions that are presently being funded by Williams College and the GAP fund. It provided enough faculty to ensure class sizes that would average 20 students per class.

With these additions to the faculty we aimed to give students an adequate number of courses to meet their needs and interests. The budget also funded extra lab periods for science courses, and it returned middle-school students to teams and advisories.

This budget provided an adequate supply of texts, materials and equipment to support student learning, and it upgraded the computers in one computer lab.

It fully supported athletics and activities so that students would not be required to pay participation fees and the GAP would not have to fundraise. It also added girls volleyball as an autumn sport, and it transformed girls and boys lacrosse into official spring sports.

This Restoration Budget increased district expenditures by almost \$1.2 million. That translated into 14.5% growth to the FY2004 budget.

The Level-Funded Budget: On March 2, the administration explained to the School

Committee what the school would look like if the budget were level-funded. In essence, we described how the school would be impacted if we had to cut more than a million dollars out of the Restoration Budget.

We first cut \$223,488 from items such as professional development, software and library books. Students might not immediately see the impact of these cuts, but in the long run these reductions would undermine the quality of their curriculum and instruction. We eliminated district support for field trips. We also cut back district support for athletics and activities. This cut would require continuation of GAP fundraising and participation fees.

We next made cuts in staff and stipends, resulting in \$111,780 in savings. Included in these cuts was a reduction of mid-level administration and of library staff. This latter cut meant that the library would be open just three days per week to students.

Finally, this exercise forced us to consider cutting teaching positions. We eliminated 13.4 positions to save \$711,615. This cut meant that we would have a minimum number of teachers available to help students fulfill their graduation requirements. As there would be fewer teachers, there would be fewer courses and course sections offered. This would result in more schedule conflicts, and students would have great difficulty getting into all of the courses that they might need.

Class sizes would average 25 students, and some classes would have enrollments of 30+ students. The middle school would be reduced from three to two teams, and no science classes would have extra lab periods.

We are hopeful that we will not be forced to live with a level-funded budget. The School Committee does not want to see this. On March 9 the School

Committee met to decide whether to cut anything from the proposed budget. It will make its final decision on March 23.

We encourage students to read the proposed budget and attend the School Committee meetings. If they have questions or concerns, we want them to speak up. The mission of Mount Greylock is to develop responsible citizens. Such citizens educate themselves about the facts and make their voices heard on public issues. We would like to see such citizenship display itself at our budget sessions.

Mark Piechota is superintendent of the Mount Greylock Regional School District.

Ruthless or revolutionary, 'rap' acts are youth models

By Pamela Freeman

Rap and Hip Hop can't be classified as just a genre of music. It's a language, a lifestyle and an attitude that has had a profound impact on adolescents. It would be difficult to envision or culture without Rap's influences of materialism and violence -- which surprisingly, have been welcomed into our culture with open arms.

The roots of this jazz-and-poetry fusion stretch back to pre-slavery times in Africa. Since the 1970s, there have been hundreds, if not thousands, of rappers whose sounds have flowed through our stereo speakers. Each has thrived on the multi-cultural audience that is drawn to Rap's vivid lyrics and spellbinding stories of life on the streets.

The major difference between the mainly political-activist rappers of the old-school era and the new-age rappers who are "All About the Benjamins" is that they chose to portray and promote a "gangsta" lifestyle. Hip Hop is no longer about fresh beats and hot lyrics; it has taken on an entirely new meaning, where flashy dimaonds and 24-inch spinners define a rapper.

Because of Rap's quick exit out of the credible underground domain and disappointing shift toward pop culture, we see and hear rapper after rapper succumbing to the desires of both rich kids in the suburbs, and poor kids in the projects, all of whom just want some entertainment. Rappers like 50 cent, Ja Rule, Cam'Ron

and Baby of the Big Tymers have realized that kids of all ethnicities and cultures are intrigued by this thug persona which many Rap "artists" unsoundly depict.

The eccentric and unrealistic lifestyle they they stand for, which includes: spending lavish amounts of money at Jacob the Jeweler, wearing a full Gucci outfit, drinking Crystal champagne, driving a Bentley, being a member of a gang, selling crack, robbing and killing people if they give a mean stare or step in your Tims, is what many kids have grown up on. They have model themselves after these present-day idols. In an effort to profit of these naive teen-agers, many Rappers and Hip Hop artists of this day and age have put their conscience and ethics behind them, therefore promoting crime and murder, while totally ignoring their obligations as role models.

Not all artists abuse their position as role models or resort to ruthless means to make money. Such "revolutionary" individuals are non-confrontational and intellectual and include Mos Def, outkast, the Roots and even Has -- where religion is such a key element in his music.

Maybe one day wrappers and Hip Hoppers will escape the prominent obsession with materialism and violence and go back to their old ways of preaching the truth and teaching others about their adversities. Until then, we can always count on the true poetry of Tupac Shakur.

NEWS/CLUBS



They created an egg shell

Five seventh-grade students from Mount Greylock RHS placed fifth of seven teams on Feb. 25 at the "Egg Drop and Sling" held at General Dynamics Corp. in Pittsfield. Team members Matt Baker-White, Chris Densmore, Ryan Ericson, Adam Mille rand Ryan Bailey created a duct-tape monster to protect their egg. The teams were judged on efficiency, creativity, size, weight, effort and aesthetics. The could only use material that came in a box supplied by organizers.

Will Parkman be the end of the road for industrial arts at MGRHS?

Interviewed by Chris Densmore

Q: How did you enter the industrial-arts field?

A: I started out in a two-year tech school and then I went to Buffalo State, where I gained teaching credentials for industrial arts. I took a automotive course when I was a senior and that person thought that I'd be a good shop teacher. But at that point I was just getting out of high school and another four years of college was so far out of sight, it wasn't even anything to consider. But the seed was planted. When I went to the two-year school, and saw success there, I broke it into smaller steps. And here I am today.

Q: When did you start at Mount Greylock?

A: That would have been Feb. 11, 1970. Thirty-four years. The principal at that time was a tremendous educator called Dr. William Clarke. He was later on the teaching faculty here. He was highly regarded in all areas of educational cycles throughout the state. He was just right up there. And the superintendent at the time was Robert Osterman. He was here for a few years. He had the vision for turning the shop into an industrial-arts program. When I was hired, he hired two other people and those people were the core of having a solid program at the time.

Q: What are the different classes you have taught over the years?

A: The very first position at Greylock was in the middle school, and I taught a wood shop. And then I moved into metalworking. And at one time there were two metalworking classes. I've also taught electronics and a robotics classes, and three different levels of technical drawing.

Q: How have the tools changed?

A: Probably the biggest change is in the programming for the computer-aided drafting (CAD). That's much more sophisticated than in the past. The first ones used were two dimensional. Now there are three-dimensional programs with animation. That part of it's really changed. The actual tools haven't really changed. Most of our courses have used hand tools and simple power machines. We've never gone to something called CNC, which is computer numeric control. That is something they do in the vocational schools. It is beyond a level which our students would seek.

Q: What skills interest students?

A: Some of the robotics have become of



Photo / Chris Densmore

Jeff Parkman could be Mount Greylock's last "shop" teacher if the so-called "quality" budget isn't approved by voters.

interest to the students.

Q: What do you hope your students learn or gain from the experience of your classes?

A: For the classes that are handling materials and working with wood, I think the thing that stays with them is the safety factors. Not just when you are in a shock situation, but in any kind of situation, the idea is watching out for yourself and things around you. I think if that can pervade -- whether they're learning to cook or out mowing the lawn or are just involved in some free activity or doing a few handyman things around the house -- they will look for safety red flags. It's just the idea that there are right ways and wrong ways of doing things and maybe they should seek out some help or find different tools. And things like getting along with others and sharing.

Q: Is the industrial-arts teaching position continuing?

There's a position in there in the "quality" budget. How it will all work out in the fall as to whether there will be anyone? It's not my decision. It is not something that anybody could tell now because of the budget situation. If it were filled, I am sure it would be continued well.

Q: Do you have an advice for person that takes your job in the fall?

A: I think I would let them bring whatever experiences they have. They could look at the state curriculum and see how they interpreted that and work it to how they feel they can best teach it. I don't think I'd hand them my curriculum and feel it was the only way to do it. So surely they should work on that.

Q: What things have changed over the

Inkberry offering April vacation workshop on student self-publishing using web "zine" techniques

Northern Berkshire high-school students can learn how to create their own "personal-opinion media" during workshop which will be offered in North Adams on two days during the April school-vacation week.

From 18th-century political tracts to comic book Amateur Press Associations (APAs), music 'zines to personal web sites, "blogs" and journals, the creation and dissemination of personal-opinion media has a long and storied history.

The workshop will consider various print and online forms of self-publishing, generate ideas, and participants can create, lay out, produce and distribute our own 'zine. The workshop is taught by experienced "zinester" Tara Needham.

The 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. workshops on Wednesday and Friday, April 21 and 23, will take place at Inkberry, 63 Main Street. For more information call Inkberry at 664-0775

or email info@inkberry.org. Tuition is \$75 and enrollment is limited. Some scholarship spots are available.

C-SPAN offers prizes to 7-12 videographers for issues presentation

Have you read Dan Bosley's article about students taking part in politics? Here's your first opportunity to get involved.

C-SPAN, the cable public-affairs network, is offering students in grades 7-12 thousands of dollars in prizes to produce a winning, 10-minute video in VHS, DVD or QuickTime formats about an issue in the 2004 presidential campaign.

All videos have to be the original work of students, however, teachers may advise and critique. Teachers of the top winning teams will receive digital media equipment for their There are multiple cash prizes of \$500, \$1,000, \$1,500, \$2,500, and a grand prize of \$5,000 will be awarded for the best overall video.

Entries will be judged on: capturing the contests' themes, quality of expression, persuasiveness, and creativity. All entries are due May 17 and winners will be announced June 3.

Send all entries to:
"Campaign Cam" Student Video Contest
c/o C-SPAN in the Classroom
400 N. Capitol St., NW
Washington DC 20001
More information at:
<http://www.c-span.org/classroom/campaigncam/info.asp>

Bartels scholarship details being settled

School officials are continuing to work on details of the Mathias J. Bartels scholarship fund, established last month in the memory of the Mount Greylock junior, a scholar and athlete, who died in his sleep last month.

"Mathias exemplified the best qualities of youth: a top scholar, a talented athlete, a devoted friend, a natural leader," the school said in announcing the scholarship.

Donations may be made to the fund in care of the school. Qualifications for scholarship grants will be announced.

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 Chris Densmore. Next publication date: April 15

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years?

A: My position in what I teach has changed. When I taught metalworking, there was shop preparation and a lot of machines to maintain and order. There were materials to handle and order. It was high inventory. Now with the technical drawing, its the way the course is. You have pencils and some other drawing equipment. There's just not a lot to it. I think at one time we had more advanced levels. We certainly have had more variety in the course offerings. We probably had at one time eight or nine different shop courses. Now we're down to drawing, in the middle-school area. At one time there were four people in the department, and I'm the only one that's here now.

All three of the shops used to be running five periods a day.

Q: Is that because of budget cuts?

A: One thing was Proposition 2-1/2. That cut us from four down to three. After that it was a little bit of a struggle through the 1980s. At the end of the 1980s we were I think down to two or one and something. We just started losing the program.

Q: What are you going to do in your retirement?

A: That's still a question. There is always the possibility of remaining in education. I've always enjoyed the manufacturing sector.

So working in a factory or with machinery, would certainly excite me. I've got some inventions that might be kind of fun to bring into manufacturing. And I've also played around with the idea of going back to school and into engineering.

SEASONS BRIEFLY

A reader's guide to the Greylock winter and spring sports scenes

By Matt Schapiro

Boy's Basketball

Culminating a season of great achievement and disappointment, our boy's basketball team achieved what no other Mount Greylock boy's b-ball team had accomplished in 35 years -- a Western Mass Semifinal appearance. Led by seniors Greg Holland, Mike Quick, and B.J. VanLuling, the Mounties completed the regular season with an impressive 11-9 mark, the best record in years. The highlight of the season came in early post-season play, the Mountie faithful showing up in massive numbers serving as an overpowering presence as Mount Greylock defeated No. 4-seeded Hampshire.



Gillian Jones / The Transcript

**Racing toward next year . . .
Sophomore Libby Weimer**

Girl's Alpine Skiing

Although a bit disappointed, the Mt. Greylock girl's alpine ski team exceeded all expectations. Without a senior on the team, Jodi Dias (junior) and Jessica Real (sophomore) led the young Mountie team to a third-place place finish in States. Posting impressive individual efforts at the state championships were Dias, Real, Ashley Dufour (junior), and Libbie Weimer (sophomore), who all look forward to another state title shot next winter.

Preview: Softball

Coming off a promising season last spring, the Mountie girls are ready to fight for the Berkshire County crown. Senior captains Nicole Kasuba, Kathy Noonan and Deanna Kettles are poised and prepared to lead their young team into the post-season.

Preview: Boy's Tennis

Last years trip to the Western Mass. Semi-finals was an exciting one, and this year the Mounties are looking for another Western Mass title. For the second consecutive year, the Mountie squad lost no players to graduation, and has many promising underclassmen including eight graders Harry Harris and Nick Fogel, making the team extremely deep. Helping the Mounties achieve the elusive perfect season are the backbone tandem of seniors Dan Smeglin and Matt Resio, who together have never lost as a doubles team.

Preview: Girl's Tennis

Losing their top singles player along with an entire doubles team, the Mounties are looking forward to a rebuilding season. Led by Megan Lavin (senior) and Sam Baldwin (sophomore), the squad remains optimistic that underclassman will be able to successfully fill the voids left by last year's graduates.

Preview: Baseball

Led by senior captains Kyle Jolin and B.J. VanLuling, the Mounties are looking to improve upon their 13-5 mark set last year. Having exited the Western Mass tournament early last year, the Mounties are anxiously waiting for another chance at redemption, and a possible Western Mass title.

Preview: Golf

This year's golf team is looking optimistically towards the new season. Colin McCarthy (junior), Aaron Rothschild (junior), and Tom Kildahl (sophomore) are the leaders of the team, while returning seniors Aaron Souza and Bill Lamb look forward to helping Greylock improve upon a sub-par season last year.

Hockey

With high hopes for winter season, the Mountie skaters came devastatingly close to a post-season birth. Although Greylock missed out by a single win, plenty of great moments made this season unforgettable, namely Jake Williams' s game winning goal with under a second remaining against arch-nemesis St. Joe. Graduating senior captains Kyle Jolin and Ross Thurston emotionally led the team out on the ice this year, while juniors Dan Hogan, BrandonBurnham, and Williams are looking forward to lacing up their skates nextyear.

Girls Track

While most of us were off vacationing during the beginning of summer last year, senior Colleen Farley was off hurdling past opponents at ridiculously fast speeds, clinching yet another state title. This spring, she hopes to help the Mountie track team win a Western Mass title. With a huge supporting class of seniors and freshman alike, the Mounties will be a force to be reckoned with this year at the track.

Boy's Track

After losing star runner David Quinn to graduation, you would think this would be a rebuilding year for the boy's track team, but this is simply not the case. Leading the way are captains Justin Quinn (senior), Angel Claudio (senior), Mike Williams (senior), and Hal Laidlaw (senior), who all look forward to competing with the best teams in Berkshire County. With star junior Ryan "The Pants" Flynn-Kasuba back at full speed, the Mounties plan to run right through Western Mass, not stopping until being named State Champs.

Girl's Basketball

With new coach Abi Jackson at the helm, the girls were ready to be competitive in the Berkshire County League. Competitive they were, losing many games within a margin of five points, pushing and defeating some of the better teams in the league. Leading the way for the Mounties this season were seniors Colleen Farley, Mandy Moriarity, and Sara Miller, while constant contributors Rachel Finan (junior) and Danielle DeSanty (junior) are optimistic for next year's squad.

Cross Country Skiing

With the passing of teammate and friend Mathias Bartels, the winter season was one of sadness and recollection. Through it all, senior captains Will Fogel, Ben Kolesar, and Scott Beatie led the boy's team to an impressive 3rd place finish in States, while the girl's team, led by captains Erin Beatie (junior) and Heather Murtagh (senior), raced extremely well and placed 4th.



Members of the MGRHS downhill team in a light moment!

Downhill captain offers his thanks to 'eight brave souls'

By Josh Weiner

Another year has come and gone for the Mount Greylock Boy's Downhill Ski Team.

In the end of last year, we were told that a major revitalization of the Boy's Ski Team was supposedly on its way. With the addition of five new racers, all of which are 7th- and 8th-graders or freshmen, you could say that we have become filled with pizzazz at each race.

Without fear of steep slopes and reckless speeds, together as a team, we charged headlong through the season, propelled by gravity at breakneck speeds past large plastic poles. With only eight brave souls who dare to risk

it all, we have come together this year as a team and have met all our goals and surpassed all expectations.

This year our eight valiant youths were Jay "The Player" Pirzil, Kennan "Topless" Chenail, Dan "Mcky D's" Lovette, Daniel "I'd Rather Do Gymnastics" Weiner, William "Got Speed" Patriquin, David "Can't Catch This" Rosenthal, Jimmy "The Mad Bomber" Nichols, and the captain, Josh "A Lovely Bunch of Coconuts" Weiner.

As a professional racer once said, "It's certainly more exiting then curling." A big thanks to all of the guys, it's been a real pleasure racing my final year with such a great team. Good luck and ski your spandex covered butts off next year!!!

Grapplers manage No. 3 showing at Western Mass.

For the 8th consecutive year, the Mount Greylock wrestling team has placed in the top four at Western Mass. Although it will lose captains Shane Miro and Kevin O'Connor, and senior, Chris Hinchcliff, the Mt. Greylock wrestling team is poised to a dominant force next year.

Although the Mountie wrestling team fell short of its goal of a Western Massachusetts championship, it still managed a strong 3rd place showing.

The team had two individual champions in junior captain Jon Girard at the 119-pound weight class and eighth grader Luke Wise-Martini at the 103-pound weight class. Overall there were 9 place winners at the tournament, including finalists Rick Trombley and Jeff Brodner.

The next week at the State tournament, only three of the nine qualifiers were able to place and advance to the All-State tournament.

Jeff Brodner who placed 3rd, had a great showing as he defeated the wrestler who had beaten him in the finals the previous weekend. Girard also placed 3rd, and Wise-Martini placed 4th.

The team as a whole placed a respectable 8th at States, besting other Western Mass teams. Wise-Martini and Girard both placed at All-States and qualified for New England.

Although the team failed to win a Western Mass championship, everybody was happy to have garnered its 5th straight Berkshire County League title.

The Greylock Echo

Join The Echo Staff

Recruitment Meeting

Thurs., March 18
2:30 p.m.
Room N-31

(middle school corridor)

We need: By working with The Echo Team:

- Graphics designer
- 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