

Repeated building analyses yields same

By Flora Lim

The Mount Greylock building committee met Jan. 24 for the discussion and presentation of enrollment projection and educational space needs.

Prepared by utilizing the most reliable statistics available as of January 2006 and information gathered from the community, the projected enrollments showed a stable and slightly increasing number of students over the current enrollment. Currently about 700 students attend Mount Greylock -- 250 middle schoolers and 450 high schoolers.

The enrollment prediction will help the design team develop the space requirements. The school district has done a thorough study to figure out the model of space needs and program requirements for current and projected needs. The current school building, -- as demands on educational facilities have significantly changed since the 1960s when it was built -- is not designed in the most efficient manner and many federal and state mandated programs have been adopted since its construction.

Among various acts, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) require the building to be fully accessible for the handicapped. According to Dr. Travis, Mt. Greylock's superintendent, the safety level of the building needs to be upgraded to match the new safety standard. The stairs leading to the gym do not come far enough for the handicapped to hold and some doors to classrooms are not wide enough for wheelchairs to enter and do not present the equality of use.



Unused classrooms: wasted space?

In general, the building is not in ideal condition. A large area of the school needs renovation. The inconsistency of heating is a problem. The school currently lacks a modern thermostat that can call and deny heat automatically. The boilers, built 45-50 years ago, are at the end of their design life and need to be replaced. Single pane glass windows need to be replaced by 2 or 3 panes of glass to stop the heat from escaping. Also some of the window frames are starting to crack, letting more heat out of the building. Because neither Mt. Greylock's hallways nor many of its classrooms have windows,

air circulation is bad, especially in the winter when the doors are closed.

Numerous front entry exterior doors increase security risks. Dr. Travis says that the doors to the building near the gym, the principal's office, and the superintendent's office are all difficult to monitor. In a modern building, the main entrance and all the others should be secured by outside for safety.

Now that the problems are identified and a detailed plan for renovation has been set, the building will be changed into a more efficient and safe place.

Continued on Page 2

PTO auction nets \$5,500 -- targeted for school website

By Evan Dethier

A Jan. 29 silent auction of 90 services raised over \$5,500 in the major donor effort for the year of the Mount Greylock Parent Teacher Organization, PTO officials said this week.

"We can now proceed with efforts to improve communications systems at the school," PTO co-presidents Nancy Nylen and Anne Hogeland said in an email message to PTO members. A first target is enhancements to the school's website.

The website software's price runs high, with a ticket near \$5,000, so the members of the PTO set that price as the fundraiser's goal. The event auctioned off donated items and services, ranging from a knitting seminar to a supply of chocolate. Local funnyman Rob White served as M.C., counting down the final seconds of each silent auction as bidders scrambled to one-up their competition.

Also featured were various musical artists, mostly students from Mt. Greylock, who shared their musical talents with the assembled community members. Free refreshments were served by student and parent volunteers. The auction was a huge success, pulling in more than \$5500. Supt. William Travis congratulated the PTO at last week's school committee meeting, though committee member Christopher Kapiloff ruefully remarked that his wife had spent an entire paycheck at the auction.

Schedule survey dilemma: to rotate or not to rotate

By Grace Laidlaw

Mount Greylock students recently took part in a Student Council survey about what kind of schedule they would like next year, particularly whether they would prefer a rotating or fixed (non-rotating) schedule. The survey was just part of an ongoing debate concerning next year's schedule, an issue that has yet to be resolved. A recent interview with Supt. William Travis provided some information on what students can expect next year.

When asked about his opinion about next year's schedule, Travis explained his preference for a fixed schedule. "I think that there are a lot of advantages to a fixed schedule, and I think a lot of that has to do

with students who may want to participate in a workstudy program and need to be able to be there at a set time on any given day." Because students in workstudy programs receive credit for their work, doing it in place of a particular class, a fixed schedule, which would allow them to miss the same classes every day and replace them with workstudy, would indeed be very beneficial to students taking advantage of workstudy programs.

Students participating in classes at Williams College, by contrast, do not receive graduation credits for their efforts, and it would therefore be beneficial to those students to have a rotating schedule, so that they would not miss class work for the same classes

each week. When asked about the problems caused by a non-rotating schedule for students taking college classes, Dr. Travis pointed out that a schedule for around seven hundred students cannot be based around the needs of a few.

More MGRHS students, however, currently take advantage of college classes than workstudy programs. Of course, this discrepancy may be due to the difficulty of participating in a workstudy program in a school that currently operates under a rotating schedule. Indeed, Dr. Travis observed that perhaps one of the reasons Mt. Greylock is losing enrollment is be-

Turn to SCHEDULING, Page 3

Charting decline in enrollment: alarming trend or temporary dip?

By Rachel Payne

In its study of the high school's spatial needs, the members of the Building Committee have performed a study of Mt. Greylock's enrollment. Drawing on historical enrollment information and birth data from Hancock, Lanesborough, Williamstown, and New Ashford, they have projected that enrollment will increase slightly over the coming 10 years.

The enrollment projection was the product of a complex formula that allowed for the changing demographics of the four communities as well as "out of district" student enrollment. Projections for enrollment during the next decade fall between 750 and 800 students.

The expectation of increased enrollment contrasts with the most recent study of Mt. Greylock's student

population. Performed by the school district in October of 2004, the study reveals that enrollment had declined by nearly 100 students in the past 5 years, with 833 students attending Mt. Greylock in 1999 and 734 in 2004. This decline appears to be the result of diminishing class sizes in the elementary schools that feed into the high school. In the five years addressed by the study, the number of sixth graders attending feeder schools decreased steadily, by an average of 8.5 students each year.

The Mt. Greylock administration is undertaking a new study of enrollment trends this week, which will possibly reconcile the findings of the past study and of the Building Committee.

The question of whether the high school's budget crisis has affected enrollment remains unanswered.

INSIDE:

On the ARTS page, Review of the 'Food of Love' performance at the Williams Inn with photograph.PAGE 2

On the NEWS page, interview with Rosana Zarza, who went on Job Shadow Day, and a new Nate Wooters cartoon! PAGE 3

On the SPORTS page, Kelsey Dudziak sums up the winning Hockey Game and ShanWang reports on Prospect Mountain.PAGE 4

ARTS

'Big Easy' composer Dankner shares classical passion

By Lizzie Fox

What is "classical" music? Why do people listen to it? Is it just for entertainment purposes, or does it have a deeper meaning beyond the orchestra? During the week of January 30th, Greylock music students were asked to consider those questions in a musical theory class taught by Dr. Stephen Dankner, a composer and former chair of the music department at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts. After Hurricane Katrina, however, Dankner was hired as a professor for Williams, where he had previously taught. The seminar consisted of an overview of the five major periods of classical music:

Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionistic/Late Romantic, and Modern.

Dr. Dankner has dedicated his life to music and wished to teach students to appreciate music for its meaning and the feelings it invokes, not just for a catchy tune. "I want to teach the students a higher level of musicianship, and it's obvious that many of the students are on that track already,"



Dankner at piano in the band room, left; supplied photo, right

said Dr. Dankner. His own music, he says, is a "cross-pollination between the old and the new, a balancing act between love of the past and interest in the present." And indeed, Dankner's music, such as "Wade in the Water," an orchestrated version of an old folk song and recently premiered by the Albany Symphony Orchestra, is similar to modern classi-

cal music, but also classical music from the Romantic period. It is not abstract or dissonant, but tells a familiar story. "[Classical] music is capable of such a tremendous power," Dankner said. "Power to express emotions and power to move people. It doesn't all have to be loud to make an impression and I draw on that in my work."



If his music had to be compared to a form of visual art, Dankner said his music would be composed of "images we recognize as opposed to images we invent." Currently, Dr. Dankner is working on a piece for the Nuremberg Symphony, which will be written in more of a modern style. When asked why he chose to be a composer in the first place, as he could have pursued the childhood dreams of being a motorcycle cop or paleontologist (an interest that has actually lasted into his adult years) or could have continued being the personnel manager at a bread company, Dankner simply replied, "I did not choose composition. Composition chose me."

Unfortunately, today classical music does not seem to be respected as much as it once was. Dr. Dankner, however, does not agree. The only difference between now and a hundred years ago, he says, is that "people once sought out concerts, which is not as common now. But the orchestra is such a unique thing. It will never go out of fashion."

'Food of Love' breaks audience-actor and \$\$\$ barriers

Reviewed by Shan Wang

Fifteen dollars, I thought, was a rather steep price for a student production. But I bought my ticket early, received a small but satisfying discount, and drove up to Williams Inn at 7:30 with the initial intention of supporting my friends and devouring the chocolate desserts promised to the audience.

The banquet room was full, and chocolate, although a welcome luxury, was certainly not the main draw. In the cozy atmosphere, all eyes collected on the performers, lavishly costumed and interspersed among the round tables upon which plates of truffles and toffees were generously heaped.

The sparse stage, most of the time empty and occasionally furnished with a simple bench, suited the nature of the performances very well, for with such constant scene change, a complex set would have dragged down the pacing and directed attention away from the actors. Attention was a little difficult to command in such a cozy room. Although closeness of actors theoretically involves the audience into the action, I was confused as to when certain scenes ended. I could very clearly see fully-costumed, completely ready players waiting right beside me to go on while a scene was still unfolding onstage. I would have liked the entrances and exits to flow more quickly to suit the clipped scene pace.

Line memorization was similarly rough and magnified due by the closeness of the actors. Granted, preparation time for such an all-encompassing production was limited, and one must not judge the actors too harshly for undertaking all of Shakespeare in some two-odd hours.

"Food of Love" comprised of numerous snippets from Shakespeare's numerous plays, all, of course, having to do with love, its reprisals and its happy endings. The choice to open with a monologue was



Nora Bayly as Titania and Zack Sheppard as Oberon

Photo by Irene Bayly

pretty choice. I was quite looking forward to another monologue, for I always feel that to fully represent the intricacies of Shakespearean language dialogue and monologue need to be equally explored.

Understudies had to be found for two players, Vanessa Dion and Hannah Tool, who were both sick. Therefore, Rosalind's monologue, originally performed by Tool, was delivered a little raw. But it was made up for nicely by a stately farewell from

Oberon, and a mischievous but thoroughly appropriate quip from Madden's Puck.

Director Deb Burns said the production grossed close to \$3,000 -- quite a bit more than last year, of which a portion would go to the Williams Inn to pay for the chocolate baking, and the rest will help with the costs of the fall Shakespeare program. "There was such a warm intimate atmosphere in that room," Burns said in a congratulatory email.

BUILDING

Continued from Page One

The new program will highlight the more efficient use of general educational space, and create larger and more useful science labs, arts space, better music space, physical education space, and performing arts space.

The building Committee's next meetings will be on February 15th for the development of building options and on February 28 for cost implications of building options.

IMAGES

c i n e m a

independent film for independent minds

Film seven nights a week * Midnight Movies
Wednesday matinees * 2-for-1 Tuesdays
Organic Popcorn * Real butter
24-Hour Video Goosechase
volunteer and see movies free

www.imagescinema.org
413.458.5612

Job Shadow Day: One account of the experience

On Feb. 2, a total of 19 Mount Greylock students from grades nine through 12 participated in Job Shadow Day. These students had the opportunity to “shadow” a career, gaining valuable experience and knowledge of the work environment. Echo staffer Isa St. Claire interviewed one “shadow” -- Rosana Zarza.

Q: So, what exactly is the purpose of Job Shadow Day?

A: The purpose of job shadow day is to get a feel for a job that interests you and to experience it in an actual working environment.

Q: What did you do?

A: I shadowed a nurse at North Adams Regional Hospital.

Q: Why did you choose it?

A: I am interested in becoming a doctor, and P.J. [Pannesco] had a nursing job set up, so I thought it might be interesting.

Q: How did you like it?

A: It was good; I gained a lot of respect for nurses. The nurse I shadowed works 12-hour shifts, so she's there from six in the morning till six at night without many breaks.

Q: Was there anything you didn't like about the experience?

A: I didn't get a feel for all the different aspects of being a nurse.

Q: Why not?

A: I didn't get to go in and see the patients all that much because of privacy issues.

Q: Do you think you would have liked it better if you had gotten to interact with the patients more?

A: Yes, definitely.

Q: What did you do the whole day?

A: I followed my nurse around the whole day, and also met the other nurses that treat each other like a family. I experienced what they have to do the entire day; they have to be in a good mood all the time for the patient's sake, remember various things, do a lot of paperwork [haha]. I made an incoming patient's bed, and went to get medicine in a storage room for another patient.

Q: Do you want to be a nurse?

A: I had fun, and it was great to try it out, though, I think I'm interested in other career options.

SCHEDULING

Continued from Page One

cause students who are interested in pursuing technical careers - many of whom might also be interested participating in workstudy - are leaving Mount Greylock for McCann because workstudy programs at MGRHS are so difficult to manage. Another solution to this problem might be to offer technical classes (like shop) at MGRHS in order to interest students who might otherwise go to McCann.

Students with strong views about next year's schedule are encouraged to attend the school board and committee meetings. In his interview, Dr. Travis stressed that the schedule is not yet decided - student input may still play a major part in the decision.

College classes and workstudy programs are not the only factors that must be considered in deciding on next year's schedule. The relative benefits to student body, faculty, and staff must also be taken into account. Some students argue that a non-rotating schedule means added stress because certain times of day are more conducive to learning than others.

Students with strong views about next year's schedule are encouraged to attend the school board and committee meetings. In his interview, Dr. Travis stressed that the schedule is not yet decided - student input may still play a major part in the decision.

If, for instance, a particular math class meets last period every day, then the likelihood of that class learning effectively is somewhat lessened. Classes that always meet first period or right before lunch might be faced with the same problem, and individuals who happen to be able to focus better at certain times of day might also find it difficult to concentrate during a certain period.

Dr. Travis observed that one of the reasons Mt. Greylock is losing enrollment is students leaving to pursue technical careers at McCann.

Students can also face difficulty with a rotating schedule, however. Dr. Travis pointed to a tardiness problem at MGRHS and explained that he believes it has occurred because people in the school - both students and teachers - are getting confused about class times as result of the rotating schedule.

A non-rotating schedule might also be an advantage to part-time teachers, who, assuming the schedule were designed correctly, would be able to leave school after their classes and prep work were done without having to wait in the building between classes unnecessarily, as unavoidably occurs on certain days with a rotating schedule.

While Dr. Travis is in charge of making a recommendation to the school committee, both the school board and the committee must review the schedule, and the school committee has the final vote.

Staged scenes: From 'Disney from the Heart' (bottom) and from stage right at the High School Winter Concert.

(Photos by Rosana Zarza)



Comic by Nate Wootters, for more check out fail.keenspace.com

End of Season



Upcoming sports events/reminders

- February 17- 5:30 Boys basketball home game against Monument Mt.
- February 18- 8:00 Hockey home game against Drury
- February 20-6:00 Girls basketball away game against Lenox
- February 21-5:30 Boys basketball away game against Lee
- February 22-5:30 Girls basketball home game against St. Joe, 6:30 Hockey away game against St. Joe
- February 24- 7:30 Hockey home game against Ludlow

Boys cinch statewide title in 200-skier meet

By Shan Wang

The weather finally complied on Valentine's Day, making for a sunny day for the Massachusetts Cross Country Skiing State Championships at Prospect Mountain.

On the boys side, Sean Condron muscled his way into 2nd place, followed by Nick Fogel, Evan Dethier, and Kyle Flynn-Kasuba. As usual, the boys cinched first place, but this time, in all of Massachusetts.

A total of 20 teams (up from the usual eight that participate in the Berkshire County league races) from all across the state came to participate, bringing over 200 racers.

As the girls queued up at the starting line, the spectators who gathered on the beginning hill to cheer created an amazing crowd of various school colors. As each racer skied into the finish line, nothing but determination remained on their faces.

The 6.9km course, full of ups and downs, separated Cross Country racers from the rest.

Coming in first for Greylock was ever-so-consistent Camille Robertson in 4th place. Caitlin O'Brien, Katie White, and Andrea Fisher filled the other three scoring positions. Though the girls' team score dipped slightly resulting in a 4th place overall finish, Greylock closed a gap between it and Mohawk Trail to a mere 9 points.

MG skaters out-manuever Drury; 1/2-time fun

By Kelsey Dudziak

The Mount Greylock hockey team started the season in a slump due to their tough schedule, but despite their first few defeats, the Mounties are now on a seven-game winning streak. After their win against Drury on Saturday, February 4th, the team is only two wins away from Western Mass qualification. The future seems bright for Mount Greylock hockey.

The Mounties first game against Drury resulted in a 4-1 game, in which Greylock just managed to slip by with the win. Coming into Saturday's game, Drury was looking for revenge. Although the Devils got on the scoreboard first, Greylock quickly retaliated with a pair of goals by junior Todd Bolotin and junior Ricky Lalonde.

Early in the second period captain Rorry Brenner ripped the puck into the back of the net assisted by junior Kyler Schelling. Moments later, Schelling himself received a pass from junior Joe Baisch and Schelling sent it whizzing past Drury's goalie to make a 4-1 game.

Although Greylock dominated the ice in the second half of the game, Drury did managed to break through Greylock's defense only to be shut out by Greylock's sophomore goalie Torrey Brenner. Brenner held down the Greylock defense for the rest of the second period.

At the close of the second period Rorry Brenner lashed out for a breakaway. He took his time to whip off a pretty shot striking low on the Drury goal post. This attempt was in no way a failure, since the puck bounced right to the stick of Schelling who was ready for the rebound. Schelling shot the puck into the back of the net before the goalie had a chance to react. This was Schelling's seventh goal in the past four games. Greylock held a comfortable lead of 5-1 over Drury at the end of the second period.

As the players exited the ice, Greylock fans raced

toward the team bench for the team's half-time fundraiser, Chuck-A-Puck. The object of the game is to throw a hockey puck on the ice and aim for a small blue dot in the center of the ice. The competition was fierce as fans young and old released their pucks. Pucks scattered the ice as the judges set out to determine the winner. This game's winner was Kael Woodyard, who has won Chuck-A-Puck for the past three games. Is there anyone who can challenge him?

The start of the third and final period grew near and the two opponents took to the ice sending the acrid stench of their hard work into the roaring crowd. "We're number one!" chanted the Mountie fans as the Greylock team resumed dominating the play. However, this was not done without some difficulty. Drury stepped up their game as a player fought his way through Greylock's defense and set off towards the Greylock goal. Disappointingly for Drury, Greylock's Chris Jolin denied Drury's attempt effortlessly.

Shortly after, Drury received another opportunity to score, but Brenner simply brushed the puck away. The stray puck was immediately chased down by , resulting in an intense struggle involving three Drury players and one Greylock player. In the following thirty seconds, the Drury players aggressively skated against the Mounties with many questionable "body checks". Respectably, the Greylock team kept their cool thanks to the coaching of Tom Hazelton.

At last efforts by Drury paid off with a second goal near the end of the third period. A breakdown in the Greylock defense left a Drury player wide open for a shot. The player collected a pass from his teammate and blasted a shot by the Torrey Brenner. Drury's triumph was short lived as thirty! seconds later Mountie senior Sam Lepicier avenged the team with a goal, assisted by Boliton and Lalonde.

The rest of the game was controlled by the

younger players of the Greylock team. A breakaway by Drury was again stopped by a diving effort from Jolin. Moments later Greylock's final goal was scored by Brian Hughes, assisted by Tim Russell, both sophomores.

Mountie fans chanted, "Warm up the bus!" as the Greylock team held down the ice as the seconds on the clock ticked away. The final score of the game was 7-2, launching the team with high spirits into their last games of the season.

The Greylock Echo

The Mount Greylock Echo is the student newspaper of Mt. Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown, Mass. Published monthly during the academic year, each issue is developed and edited by a team of editors and writers. Any Mt. Greylock student may join the staff, attend meetings and submit articles.

Next news meeting: **Tues., Feb. 28**
Next Deadline: **Fri., Mar. 10**
Next issue: **Fri., Mar. 17**

Issue Editor: Shan Wang

Co-News Editors: Rachel Payne and Lucy White

Copy Editor: Grace Laidlaw

Arts Editor: Rosana Zarza

Business Manager: Isa St. Clair

This month's staff: Kelsey Dudziak, Elizabeth Fox, Flora Lim, Rachel Payne, Grace Laidlaw, Shan Wang, Lucy White

Mount Greylock Echo / Mt. Greylock Regional High School / 1781 Cold Spring Road / Williamstown MA 01267 / (413) 458-9582

all submissions: echo@newshare.com