

Budget Facing Major Deficit

By NED KLEINER

What could \$750,000 buy for Mount Greylock? It could pay the salaries of fourteen new teachers, though things get more complicated when you add in health benefits. It could buy a new iMac and 64GB iPod Touch for every high school student. It could pay for over four and a half million kilowatt-hours of electricity, enough to power 100 compact fluorescent lamps for 1900 hours. Things look a little less rose-tinted when you consider the issue from the other side. What would happen if the high school suddenly had seven hundred grand less? The answer, of course, is very, very grim. As the Mt. Greylock School Committee heads into budget season, they are looking at what Ellen Kaiser, the business manager, calls “the bleakest budget I’ve seen many years”: a shortfall of up to three quarters of a million dollars.

The huge deficit can mostly be attributed to three sudden losses of revenue: a drop in state aid of \$35,000, a decrease of 50% in transportation money from the Mass. Department of Education, and the loss of tuition money from Hancock and New Ashford, a result of a large disparity between the number of graduating seniors from the two towns and the number of incoming seventh-graders.

The recession further complicates the situation: money is very tight in Williamstown and Lanesborough, though how much money is actually available is a point of contention. Because no one has a firm number from the Finance Committees of Williamstown and Lanesborough, the estimates of the size of the hole range wildly. \$700,000 is about as big as the deficit can get. The smallest deficit that seems plausible is about \$400,000. Even if this best-case scenario comes to pass, is it possible for Mt. Greylock, with some clever whittling by the School Committee, to avoid layoffs?

The answer is not immediately clear. Even if the School Committee gets rid of the Senior Project – which costs about \$30,000 overall – and all new technology spending, Mt. Greylock would, at best, be in a \$300,000 hole. There are a few other areas of the budget that include “discretionary spending,” expenditures not necessary just to open the school in September. The School Committee discussed a number of possible cuts: reducing the number of curriculum leaders, eliminating extra summer help for students, and forgoing software currently used for curriculum mapping.

The complexity of the budget deficit is increased by the fact that Mt. Greylock receives revenue from both Williamstown and Lanesborough. The relative contribution of each town is determined by the demographics of the school population, and this year, the fraction of the school from Lanesborough is increasing. Early reports indicate, however, that Lanesborough is particularly hard-hit by the recession, and will have trouble giving Mt. Greylock even

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COMMUNITY SPOUTS OVER “WHITE WHALES”

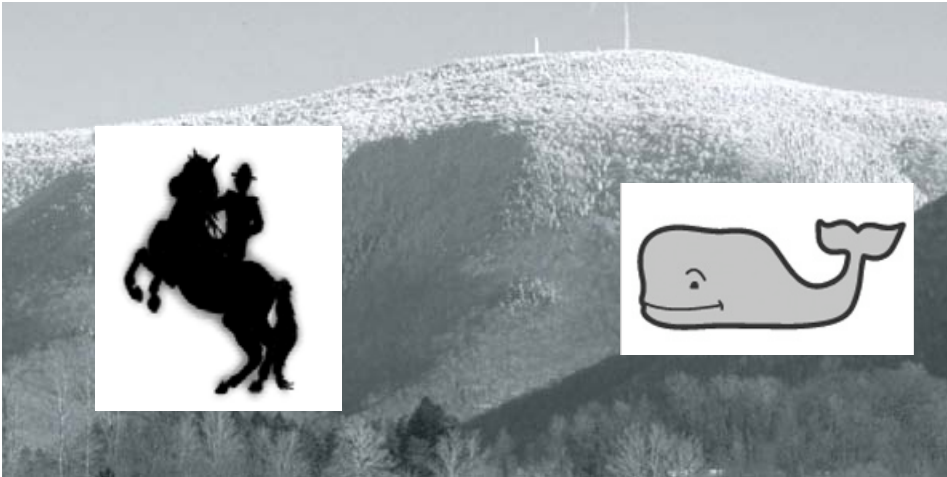
By NAOMI LACHANCE

About four years ago, Mount Greylock teacher and coach, Blair Dils, was considering the high school’s mascot, the Mounties. “All mascots should be evaluated in terms of their aptness,” he explained. The thought occurred to him that a new mascot ought to be explored.

Others, too, wonder about the school being represented by a Mountie. “I really have no idea what the Canadian Mountie Police have to do with Mount Greylock,” said sophomore Peter Iwasikwa. Mount Greylock alumus Edward Udel, class of

coaches volleyball and softball, heard of Dils’s campaign, he promptly said, “I think he’s out of his mind. I love the Mounties.” After some consideration, he added, “I understand the reasoning, but the White Whales doesn’t cut it.”

Dils suggested that many alumni, including his wife, would not support the mascot change. Udel, however, said he “would not be offended by any change,” adding, “I suspect most alums would be more interested in what is happening inside



The debate rages: are the White Whales a more fitting mascot than the Mounties?
Graphic: Editorial Staff

‘64, has similar sentiments, saying, “I’m not exactly sure why athletic teams from Mount Greylock were referred to as the Mounties. Even in my youth when the sky was much clearer, I could not see Canada from my former house in Lanesborough.” So in early February, Dils proposed a new option to his English classes: the White Whales. “It would just be fun to have a mascot that represents local history,” he said.

The White Whales refer to the novel Moby Dick by Herman Melville. Melville could see Mount Greylock from his Pittsfield home and thought it looked like the back of a white whale, and supposedly, was thus inspired to write the esteemed novel. Moby Dick is about a whaling ship captain obsessed with the pursuit of a white sperm whale called—go figure—Moby Dick. While some may argue that Melville’s alleged inspiration is nothing but an urban legend, Melville described Moby as “(l)ike a snow hill” and dedicated a later novel, Pierre, to “Greylock’s most excellent majesty.”

Dils says he hears “more positive than negative” feedback among his students. “The White Whales is at least original and has a story,” said sophomore Hannah Paul. Yet some worry about the change. “The White Whales makes it sound like everyone at our school is overweight and white,” said sophomore Hayden Barber. His classmate Grace Singleton agreed, saying, “It’s not the most attractive image when describing our school.” “If it gets changed to the Mt. Greylock White Whales,” posted one former student on Facebook, “I’ll kill somebody,”

When Phil Paul, who teaches gym and

of the school.” He also raised the question, “Is a label really that important?”

The effort to change the mascot to the White Whales even has a following on Facebook. The group, called, ‘MG White Whales’ has over one hundred members. While the majority of members are current Mount Greylock students, there is also a handful of alumni and community members. “Of course, Mounties are a wonderful mascot,” quips the group’s description. “Almost as good as oh, say, double-stick tape or a pile of sand or the millionaires. Perhaps we owe ourselves and good ol’ Melville a little bit more.”

In response to the campaign, another has begun. There is a Facebook group entitled, ‘Mt. Greylock’s New Mascot: Cooper’ and has over two hundred members, the majority of which, like the ‘MG White Whales,’ are current Mount Greylock students. Cooper is in reference to Cooper Gangemi, a Mount Greylock sophomore.

“Due to inevitable change of the Mt. Greylock Regional High School Mascot,” reads the group’s description, “we propose that the new mascot be that of Cooper Gangemi. Henceforth, we will become the ‘Mount Greylock Coopers.’” The group’s creator, Iwasikwa, said, “It’s a joke, but it would be awesome. It makes sense because white whales are in the northern area [geographically] and Coopers are right here.” Many are entertained by the idea. “I like Coopers because it’s funny,” said Barber, “and it never goes out of date. Every generation will have a Cooper.” Some, however, see the idea differently. “The Coopers is an absolute disgrace,” said Dils with a smile.

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1 in 650: An Interview with Laura Nolan

By NATE NURMI



Photo: Haley Mahar

In this issue’s 1 in 650, The Echo interviews Laura Nolan, who is homeschooled, but is still a part of the Greylock community. Laura runs cross-country in the fall, Nordic skis in the winter, and will play tennis in the spring. She has also spent time in England, where she attended school with Emma Watson! Here, she reflects on the homeschool lifestyle and living internationally.

Q: How do you spend your days as a homeschooler?

A: I wake up at 7:45 and eat breakfast. Then I look at my assignments and do each subject in any order I want. I do piano and French outside of home. At 2:30, I go to sports practice, leaving some school to do afterwards.

Q: As a homeschooler, do you feel more family-oriented?

A: Yes, I do.

Q: Do you prefer life in England or in the States?

A: They are very different lives, and I enjoyed both, but different aspects of each. The weather and the sports here are much better.

Q: Do you see yourself following in the footsteps of your older siblings David and Amy and attending Williams College?

A: Not necessarily. I’m keeping my options open.

Q: Do you enjoy running or skiing more?

A: I really enjoy both, but right now, in the midst of ski season, skiing is more fun. I have suffered from injury in running recently.

Q: Do your parents assign a lot of work?

A: Yes, but not more than I can handle.

Q: Rumor has it that you are planning on coming to Greylock next year. Excited?

A: I am planning to go next year.... excited? Ultimately, yes.

The Echo is RECYCLABLE! Please do NOT throw it in the trash when done reading.

THE BOOK WORM

This month, Cleo Levin provides the Echo with a book/movie review.

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News and Events

Get the latest on happenings in the Greylock community

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Upcoming Course Selection

Haley Mahar gets the details on what will be offered next year in terms of courses.

Read about it on page 2.

The SEE Fund

The Fund for Sustaining Educational Excellence is encouraging students to get involved and submit grants.

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Exclusive!

Josh Harrington gives an insider’s account on the Italy Trip.

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Season Wrap-Ups

Our Sports writers reflect on the ups and downs of the winter season.

NEWS AND EVENTS IN BRIEF

MLK Speech Contest Results

On the morning of February 26, most of the high school gathered in the auditorium for the Martin Luther King speech contest. This year's topic was how the participant would achieve greatness through service. Crystal Haynes, Naomi LaChance, Greg Karabinos and Nate Nurmi were the four student speakers chosen to present their speeches to a panel of judges and their fellow classmates. After each gave a speech, the judges consulted as the chorus treated everyone to a performance of "We Shall Overcome." In the end, Karabinos and LaChance were awarded honorable mention, Nurmi received second place and Haynes took home the top prize.

Quilt Raffle to Benefit 8th Grade Trip to Gettysburg

The 8th grade will be holding a raffle to win a quilt. The proceeds will go towards providing scholarships to insure that all 8th graders are able to participate in the trip to Gettysburg. Tickets are one for \$2 or three for \$5. Mail a check payable to MGRHS to:
Odette Klass
296 Stratton Rd.
Williamstown, MA 01267

Mount Greylock JCL Wins T-shirt Contest

The Mount Greylock JCL has been awarded first prize in the Massachusetts JCL T-shirt contest. Ninth grader Sky Jones came up with the idea for the shirt and tenth grader Hallie Walker drew the final design. The t-shirt will be worn and sold at the National JCL Convention this summer in North Dakota. This is only the second time the MGJCL has won the t-shirt contest in the last ten years. Debate was hot at the state board meeting as Mount Greylock and Boston Latin Academy were once again pitted against each other for the prestigious honor. But in the end Mount Greylock edged out BLA with a 6-5 final vote by the board.

MGRHS Euro Stickers For Sale



To Benefit the 8th Grade Trip to Gettysburg in
June
1 for \$4.00 or 3 for \$10.00

They will be for sale during lunch in the cafeteria the week of March 8th or can be purchased by mailing a check (made payable to MGRHS) to:

Stephanie Dastoli
1310 Churchill Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

The money raised will first be used for scholarships so that all 8th graders can participate in this wonderful opportunity. Any funds left over will be used to benefit all attendees!

Budget, Continued From Page 1

the agreement between the towns, if Lanesborough "level-funds" the high school, Williamstown is allowed to decrease funding by about 4%. Williamstown has tentatively agreed to increase funding by a quarter of a percent, but this would require Lanesborough to increase by about 5%, an unlikely proposition.

Mt. Greylock is not the only piece of the towns' budgets taking a hit. Many other public services are threatened by deficits, and people have begun to talk about an "override" as an answer to some of Mt. Greylock's problems. Due to Proposition 2½, passed by a Massachusetts ballot initiative in 1980, in order for a Massachusetts town to increase property taxes by more than 2.5%, the town government must request that its constituents vote for an "operational override."

Back in 2004, a similar override failed at the ballot boxes by a small margin, and some of the School Committee members who support an override worry that this is the wrong moment to ask voters to increase their own taxes. It's not even clear that a unilateral override would help the school, since any increase in the funding from one town would have to be accompanied by a corresponding increase from the other. Lanesborough's town meeting is a month after Williamstown's, so if Williamstown passes an override, it's quite possible that the budgets of the towns

will be wildly different. If this is the case, the School Committee will arrange a joint town meeting at the high school over the summer, which could create a lot of antipathy between the towns.

When the School Committee went in front of the Williamstown Finance Committee on Thursday February 25, their pleas seem to be heard. All of the Finance Committee members agreed that as it now stands, the situation is untenable. They can't help much, however, without assistance from Lanesborough.

Ultimately, layoffs might be the only way for the school to open next September. There is no way to escape paying the oil bills, (not without things becoming very chilly come January) or providing benefits to retirees, so the only item left that's large enough to make a real impact on the budget seems to be salaries. No one wants to cut teachers, Archibald acknowledged, but "there are a series of ugly options that [the School Committee's] going to have to choose from."

Before the School Committee even begins the nasty process of laying teachers off, however, they want all the data in front of them. How much larger will classes become if two teachers are laid off? How about five? Or ten? Using the school's numbers, two pink slips would cause classes to grow from 19.8 students, on average, to 20.7. Another three would mean an additional 1.6 students per class. Five more layoffs would bring the average to 25.5.

Upcoming Course Selection

By HALEY MAHAR

Although it hardly seems like it, the school year is already halfway completed. For those suffering from senioritis, this news will come as a beacon of hope in the middle of winter. For others, the fleetingness of high school is only magnified, and for the non-senior portion of the school, it means that summer is not quite as far away as it may appear. But with the start of a new school year on the distant horizon, some attention must be shifted away from summer vacation and focus on the reason we all come to school in the first place: the classes.

For the 2010-2011 school year, the course selection and schedule will remain virtually the same as the 2009-2010 school year. The day will begin with three unchanging classes in the morning followed by four rotating classes in the afternoon.

While there will be no brand new courses added to the myriad of options offered by the school, but there will be some slight course changes in several departments. The



The philosophy class was a new addition this year. Photo: Editorial Staff

2010 school year will offer AP Physics and AP Biology, opposed to the current choices of AP Chemistry and AP Biology. The options are expected to alternate each year, with the 2011 school year once again hosting AP Chemistry and AP Biology. Also offered amongst the Advanced Placement classes will be AP Latin. With the offering of AP in Spanish and French as well, offering an AP level will keep all the languages in sync, beginning with level one and ending with AP. While the progression is logical and easily coordinated, not everyone approves of an AP option. Mrs. Keeley, a Latin teacher at Greylock, says "If a student takes AP Latin as a junior, then the school has nothing to offer for senior year. Students who want to continue studies have to be inconvenienced and go to Williams College for what they need. AP Latin is not the pinnacle of the study of Latin literature. The AP Latin Literature exam right now consists of only one author, and one author does not Latin literature make."

Philosophy is another relatively new class that is being examined for the course catalog in 2010. The course was funded by a grant for the '09-'10 school year, and renewal of that grant is not yet determined for next year. Guidance counselor Ms. Maselli says, "We are waiting to hear if [philosophy] will be repeated next year. I think we are anticipating it but it is not a definite."

With the wide array of classes available to students, there are undeniably difficult decisions to be made regarding sign-ups. Classes need to both fit into each student's

schedule and be appropriate to what each student is ready to learn. High school guidance counselors Ms. Maselli and Ms. Casalino both stress the importance of planning ahead. As Ms. Maselli says, "Students should be aware of prerequisites before choosing a course, and look ahead to what they want to take in twelfth grade so they get the courses in." The guidance counselors also recommend having multiple conversations with teachers, parents, and the counselors themselves regarding the right class to take. Says Maselli, "The more you talk the more the plan solidifies, and the more intelligent choices can be made."

Both counselors recommend that students challenge themselves academically while remaining smart about choices. "Always challenge yourself with the courses, thinking you can get at least a B. A B is generally the benchmark for college, and a solid average."

While academic classes clearly

take priority, the scheduling inevitably becomes tangled around electives. With hundreds of schedules to prepare, flexibility makes life easier all around. "Having a second and third choice for electives is ideal," says Ms. Casalino. A large component of scheduling revolves around the mathematics, meaning the number of students enrolled in each class. Electives are the hardest to balance out, but the classes are also necessary to offer as they round out transcripts. Setting a class number of students and targeting it generally solves the difficult scheduling task. Although over-enrollment is a danger, so is under-enrollment. With the current school budget, classes that do not have enough students signed up will be cut. While there are specific guidelines for a minimum, the rules for class maximum are more flexible. A class of 30 students is considered to be very large, and it is about at this range that guidance decides to split a class in two. As Ms. Maselli said, "No one wants a class over 20. The optimal number is around 25."

Undeniably, the 2010 school year is still far away. Students, teachers, and staff still have several months of school that include finals and graduation left to attend to. The school year is then followed by a much anticipated summer break. So while it may seem like a while, it is never too early to start thinking about which classes spark an interest. Informed class decisions make the process of choosing courses easier on everyone, leaving room to enter the new school year relaxed and ready.

Mascot, Continued From Page 1

In lieu of campaigning for a specific mascot to usurp the Mounties, Udel has suggested that students be given a variety of options for a new mascot. To make a mascot change, according to a visibly amused and incredulous Mr. Payne, one would need to “start with gaining student and faculty support,” he said. Then a replacement mascot would have to be agreed upon, and paraphernalia would need to be replaced.

The origin of the Mountie at Mount Greylock seems to be lost to history. Many have suggested that a Mountie refers to the name of the school, but no records have been found confirming such a hypothesis, nor could any be found indicating who had the idea, when the mascot was made official, or how such a decision was made. Yet the mascot has become an undeniably integral part of the Mount Greylock community. There is a Mountie painted on the

wall of the gymnasium, the word ‘Mounties’ proclaimed in stained glass above the gym’s entrance. Many uniforms and gear showing support for the Mt. Greylock athletic teams also sport a reference to the Mounties.

Dils is well aware. “It would have to be a transitional period,” he said, referring to the abundance of paraphernalia and uniforms that would need to be replaced. “Money is tight as it is.” He suggested that both nicknames could exist for a time, or that the White Whales could become more of a secondary nickname such as at Williams College: their official mascot is a purple cow, but the athletics teams are known as the Ephs.

Perhaps the school mascot will be changed to the White Whales. Perhaps it will be changed to the Coopers. Perhaps an entirely new figurehead will gain popularity. Perhaps it will remain as it is. Yet regardless of ultimate outcome, Dils is forcing the school community to rethink their

The Mt. 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 student writers, cartoonists, photographers, and editors. Any Mt. Greylock student is welcome to submit articles, come to meetings, or join the Echo staff. Meetings are typically held during early lunch on Mondays, but contact an editor if you’d like to attend.

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The Book Worm

By CLEO LEVIN



Title:
The Importance of Being Earnest

Written By:
Oscar Wilde

Price:
\$19.95 (hardcover)

I first experienced *The Importance of Being Earnest*, both in print and on stage, when attending a CTY (Center for Precocious Brats With Over-Indulgent Parents) summer camp. Concurrently, we performed *Antigone*, a play of which I understood very little but found the small amount I did manage to absorb to be quite sufficient. *Antigone*, a girl who, following her impossibly precise moral compass, leaves in her wake a suffocating cloud of pietas, seemed to me to be completely inaccessible. I gained infinitely more pleasure from the fiendish, foolish, and flawed characters of *Earnest*. Playing off his characters’ delicious imperfections, Wilde created a timeless comic masterpiece that, thankfully, does not instruct or inspire but simply entertains.

The play is the epitome of English wit, so full of famous little adages that, if one were not aware that Wilde were their better, would make the play seem largely clichéd. It takes a very talented cast to correctly deliver the snappy, oft-heard lines and ensure that they do not possess the same rehearsed expression as my fourth grade rendition of “is this a dagger that I see before me?” Inevitably, there have been many inferior productions of the play over the past century. More successful ones include (of course) the brilliant rendition offered up by Greylock students— and also the 2002 motion picture, directed by Oliver Parker.

This film featured a group of actors who were largely effective in their portrayals, an estimable task seeing how these characters require just the right amount of wit and conviction to make their faulty morals truly comic. Rupert Everett, alluringly nefarious and clever, plays Algernon Moncrieff, a debt-ridden dandy from London who escapes the company of his severely opinionated Aunt Augusta by paying visits to an imagined invalid friend Mr. Bunbury. Colin Firth portrays Algy’s friend, Jack Worthing, who passes himself off as his non-existent brother Earnest in order to escape to the city and visit Gwendolyn Bracknell, portrayed in a rather breathy, coquettish manner by Frances O’Connor. Rounding out the quartet is Reese Witherspoon, who with her long, flaxen locks and several frilly costume changes is Cecily Cardew, Jack’s naïve young ward who catches Algernon’s

eye.

The play is equal parts homage to and criticism of English society, and most of the actors acknowledge this, giving their performances just the right degree of caricature. Yet, Judi Dench, in her portrayal of Aunt Augusta, offered a somewhat overly realistic performance. As always, she was the utter embodiment of poise and restraint, introducing a Lady Bracknell who, with one disapproving glance, could shrivel you into one of the tiny capers she enjoys on her cucumber sandwiches. Yet, Lady’s B’s ridiculous values and assertions are meant to be recognized as so. When she makes such audacious proclamations as, “to lose both [parents] looks like carelessness,” the audience could do with a little wink.

Even if the text had been performed perfectly, that alone would, regrettably, not be enough to hold the attention of a modern audience. Today’s moviegoers like throttling car chases, hot sex, and big explosions, and they like them done fast. Lamentable as it may be, a crowd accustomed to five-second shots and fifty-person body counts would grow impatient with a mere conversation, regardless of its quality. Considering, Mr. Parker does an excellent job of creating an interesting but unobtrusive background to complement what many believe to be an inviolable script.

The play was written as a drawing-room comedy, meant to be set in interiors and Parker’s interiors are fabulous: the walls bear pounds of gilded wood and velvet and the tables drip with silken fringe and luxuriant blossoms. Yet, feeling stifled within his elaborate yet somewhat musty sitting-rooms, Parker gives us an airing in the 19th-century English countryside. The play breezes through a variety of distinctly English locations: a flat boat, an archery field, and a number of expansive gardens, guided along by a delightful batch of jaunty piano melodies composed by Charlie Mole.

Parker did not offer me a perfect reenactment of the *Earnest* with which I first fell in love. Yet, as Wilde once said, “Consistency is the last refuge of the unimaginative.” Parker’s film is boldly original and decidedly presents us with ninety minutes of wit and genuine entertainment, nothing more than Wilde himself would have asked for.



OVERLAND

summer & semester programs for 10–19 year olds

COMMUNITY

Mounties Explore Italia

By JOSH HARRINGTON

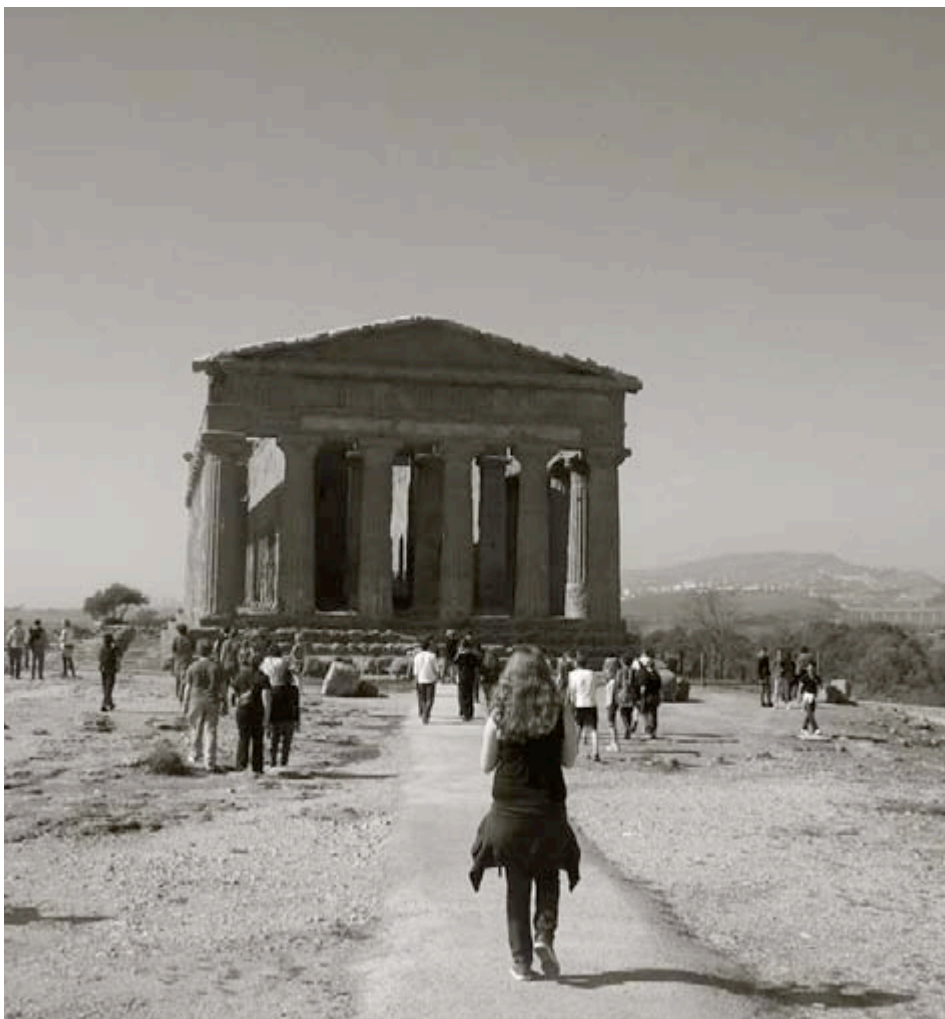
Over February vacation, a group of Mount Greylock students and faculty traveled to Italy and Sicily. Here, Josh Harrington gives a first-hand account.

Weather in Massachusetts this winter has been grey and fairly wet. Italy seems like a perfect place to ride out the cold, wet weather. Boarding the plane to Italy, forty Greylock students were confident that they were escaping the chill temperatures. While they were airborne however, snow fell in Rome for the first time in twenty-five years. Setting down in Rome, after a grueling nine hour flight, the group descended into a land of tiny cars and far-off snow covered mountains. Temperatures seemed worryingly low for those who hoped to sunbathed, but were perfect for touring the countryside and cities of Italy.

Rome is an eclectic and stunning mix of old and new architecture. Roman ruins sit comfortably alongside concerts and green-energy rallies. The Coliseum rises majestically just blocks away from modern hotels, and a McDonald's sits across the street from the Roman Parthenon. The ancient and imposing architectural marvels of the city drive home the relative youth of the United States. The group spent the evening of their first day in Rome walking the streets and getting acclimated to the foreign streets clogged with small cars and scooters. The following day was spent touring the Vatican and the Coliseum. The tour of the Vatican showcased the art collected by the papal state and ends in the famous Saint Peter's Basilica. The Coliseum is an ancient arena on a titanic scale. Standing on the stone balconies of the Coliseum was a shining highpoint of the groups visit to Rome.

From Rome, the students traveled to the ruins of Pompeii at the foot of the dormant volcano, Mount Vesuvius. Buried in ash during an eruption of Vesuvius, Pompeii is one of the best preserved sites of Roman habitation. Pompeii is sixty acres of crumbling walls, intact mosaics, and stone streets interspersed with examples of Pompeii's plaster casts of petrified people. After exploring the ruins of Pompeii on foot the group continued on to Sorrento along the rugged coast of Italy.

Sorrento and Capri, which the group visited the next day, are a very different experience than bustling Rome. Sorrento has a population of approximately 16,500 people and Capri Town, the larger town on the island of Capri, has a population of only about 4,000 people (think Williamstown sized). There was also an increase in temperature from Rome to Sorrento. This warmth allows for the growth of oranges and lemons in picturesque terraced gardens along the narrow winding streets. On the group's first night in



The Temple of Concordia at Agrigento

Photo: Dr. Petruzella



Part of the group enjoys the sites at Palermo.

Photo: Josh Harrington

Sorrento the city was in the midst of Carnevale. This holiday manifests itself as a large open air bazaar along the city's main street and small children dressed up in costumes. This loud, jostling crush of humanity was disconcerting in a city that seemed so much sleepier than Rome. The next day, the Greylock students pushed through leftover confetti on their way to the ferry to Capri. Capri is simply stunning. The Island rises up from the sea with cliffs tumbling hundreds of feet to the water and towns built up along the steep slopes with terraced buildings and citrus groves. The Island of Capri has historically relied completely on the tourist trade for prosperity and until the late twentieth century was completely reliant on water carried in tanks by the ferry. Today Capri's water is supplied by an undersea aqueduct, but its beautiful vistas still draw tourists.

From Sorrento, the group traveled to Sicily, a large island off of the coast of Italy. The trip from the tip of Italy to Sicily across the strait of Messina is short, and Sicily is actually very close to "The Continent", as the Sicilians call Italy. Rain poured from the sky when the group arrived in Taormina, a small Sicilian town, but the sun came out in time for the group to enjoy a walking tour of Taormina and, for some, a trip to Mt. Aetna the next day. Mt. Aetna is a snow-covered active volcano rising high above the Sicilian countryside. The students enjoyed the sunshine and warmer weather to fully explore both the seaside town of Taormina and the mountain.

Chaperone Dr. Petruzella summed up his personal experience in Sicily: "Not only were the ancient ruins beautiful, but the countryside was beautiful, the people were friendly, and I enjoyed being in the land of my ancestors."

The remaining days of the trip were spent in Palermo, one of the largest cities in Sicily. Palermo is a grittier, more modern city than Rome. Still, it has many beautiful churches and monuments among the taller contemporary buildings. The juxtaposition of ancient and modern buildings visible in Italy was showcased in the contrast of Palermo's old and new neighborhoods.

Upon departing from Italy, the group was weighed down by souvenirs and regrets not to be staying another week. The trip was a great experience in the form of exploration of ruins, immersion in foreign culture, and exploration of the beautiful Italian countryside. Mrs. Keeley, the trip's organizer and head chaperone says, "Traveling with a group of well-educated, open-minded, and zealous adults and young adults is an absolute pleasure every time I go. The highlights of the trip are their reactions and stories afterwards and having everyone come home safe."

TUNNEL

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WILLIAMSTOWN
100 SPRING STREET

The SEE Fund Offers Exciting Possibilities

By REBEKEH PACKER

On their way around the building, visitors to Mt. Greylock can admire over 25 beautiful stained glass windows—the product of a specialized art class teaching students how to cut and solder glass designs. This high-quality décor would not have been possible without the help of the SEE Fund, the fund for Sustaining Educational Excellence at Mt. Greylock. In 2000, the SEE Fund issued a \$1,039 grant for the purchase of supplies to set up the advanced stained glass class.

This class is one of many programs sponsored by the Fund. The mission of the SEE Fund is “to sustain educational excellence by providing financial support for superior educational initiatives at Mt. Greylock Regional School.”

Each year, two student representatives work on the board of the SEE Fund, one new junior and one returning senior. This year, the student reps are junior Cate Costley and senior Spencer Rioux. The board also includes school administrators, teachers, community members, and a number of parents.

The SEE Fund sponsors a wide variety of programs at Greylock, from the Latin Club to the cross-country ski team. Since its conception in 1996, the Fund has given out grants for sports equipment, interscholastic programs, visiting speakers in various subjects, field trips, and more.

In 1998, \$2,500 purchased materials for the installation of the greenhouse in the southwest corner of Mt. Greylock. In 2000 and 2001, the Fund provided \$5,000—in

two grants—to support the construction of the Japanese Peace Garden in the large courtyard of the school. The cross-country ski team, the lacrosse team (which is not supported by the school budget), and the wrestling team have all received SEE Fund grants. The Fund also helps build the Greylock community by sponsoring projects such as the World of Difference peer-training program in 2001 and a community program in 2003 that enabled Greylock students with and without disabilities to work with nursing home residents. Last year, the SEE Fund paid for a kiln in the art room.

Superintendent Dr. William Travis says that the SEE Fund provides “that little extra” push towards a challenging and engaging educational environment.

The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, which provides services to strengthen communities in four northeastern counties, administers the SEE Fund, dealing with the investment and the interest on the account. The board of the SEE Fund handles everything else, from fundraisers to grant distribution.

“The overarching goal,” says Dr. Nicole Harrington, the chair of the SEE Fund board, “is to develop a sustainable fund that’s an endowment for the school [providing] supplemental programs, supplemental trips, supplemental equipment—things that can’t be funded out of the regular school budget.” Dr. Harrington has been on the SEE Fund board for four years (since her children started attending Greylock) and

became the chair in November of 2009. She serves on the Fund’s distribution committee, which decides which applications receive grants from the SEE Fund.

The distribution committee uses five criteria to assess grant proposals. The review points are the extent of impact, or the number of Greylock students the proposal would benefit; relevance to the school program and the Mt. Greylock mission; feasibility of success in the project’s goals; the degree to which the project fills a gap in the curriculum; and cost-effectiveness. Proposals should be designed to fit these criteria.

Anyone can apply, but the SEE Fund especially seeks proposals from Greylock students. “We get very few student grants,” Dr. Harrington says. “We’ve gotten maybe one or two in the whole time I’ve been on the board.” She encourages students “who are working, for example, on their senior project, and want to see a program implemented at the school” to fill out a grant application.

Cate Costley calls the money available in the SEE Fund “an exciting opportunity” for Greylock students with projects in mind, and hopes that “getting the word out” will help them take advantage of it.

Since 1997, the SEE Fund has given out almost \$130,000 in grants. Depending on a project’s nature, it might be granted money every year or receive a single grant. Currently, the SEE Fund account contains \$350,000. A probable \$10,000 – \$15,000 of interest will be available for grants this

year.

Dr. Harrington calls the SEE fund “a tremendous program that’s been able to offer so many things that the school cannot afford, the kinds of things that when I was a kid were part of the school, but—because of financial concerns—over time have been eroded.”

Dr. Travis agrees that the SEE Fund helps Greylock keep up its educational quality in the struggling economy, but says, “Unfortunately...usually, when things are tight, they’re also tight in how much we can give out [because the economy affects the interest rate on the investment].” Fundraisers help keep the SEE Fund providing for Mt. Greylock when the interest is low. Cate Costley is on the fundraising committee for the SEE Fund. Costley says the telethon in December of 2009, in which board members called potential donors and offered them information about the SEE Fund, was an easy, effective way to raise money. “We also [are planning] a more community-oriented fundraiser,” she says, such as a Fun Run or a table at a school sporting event, “to get our name out in the community.”

The deadline for applications to the SEE Fund is 5:00 pm on May 1st. The 2010 grant application form can be found on the “For Parents” tab at the Mt. Greylock website or through the Berkshire Taconic Foundation at <http://www.berkshiretaconic.org/sharedpdf/GrantApps/SEEapp.pdf>. Students, teachers, administrators, parents, and community members can all apply.

SPORTS

Girls’ Hoops

By TOM DILS

On Monday, February 22, the Mountie girls’ basketball team lost to the Belchertown Orioles in an opening-round playoff game, ending a successful and eventful season. The girls had clinched a playoff spot by winning their last three regular season matchups, but as the 10-seed in the DII Western Mass. tournament, they fell to the higher ranked Belchertown. After an excellent first half in which the Mounties played outstanding defense, the score stood 20-19 in favor of the Orioles. Big shots from captains Erin Manners and Annabel Barrett kept the girls in contention, but as the intensity picked up in the second half, so did the turnovers. Belchertown implemented a full-court press that they hadn’t shown in the first half, forcing the girls into traps and limiting the offensive chances. On the defensive end, the Mounties struggled to contain the dribble-drive offense and were dominated on the boards. Although Greylock was able to cut the lead to 11 in the fourth quarter, they could not stop the Orioles’ offense, and the final score ended at 51-35. Barrett led the

Mounties with 18 points, followed by Sara Brinks and Manners. Although they could not capture “the elusive first-round victory,” as Coach Barrett had mentioned previously this season, the girls did not end without outstanding performances.

Mounties’ biggest victory came against Drury, for the third time the two met. Where as the previous two resulted in definitive wins for the Blue Devils, Greylock was able to contain Drury’s offense and put more points on the board. With under a minute left to play and the score tied at 41, Annabel Barrett hit a runner in the lane to give Greylock the final lead. Brink made two free-throws to ice the victory. Overall, the season was a success. Barrett and Brink led in scoring, but all eight players really made every victory possible. Next season they return three starters—Brink, Siri Mason, and Kim Houston—as well as four contributing bench players. These Mounties will look to build on their Southern division success and playoff experience to do even better next season.

Photo: Katie Rathbun



Photo: Katie Rathbun

Boys’ Hoops

By LUKE COSTLEY

The Mount Greylock boys’ basketball season ended ever so abruptly recently, bringing some closure to an otherwise topsy-turvy year. Throughout the course of the winter, the team rode a bumpy path that included everything you can imagine in a season. Following losses to Wahconah and Lee at the end of the year, the Mounties were sadly left out of the playoffs. Despite this slight disappointment, this year’s overall showing marked a drastic turn around from last season and promises a bright future.

Firstly, the team regularly receives scoring from a variety of sources, and while not having a single super-star to lead the charge may be a curse at points, it was clearly a blessing by year’s end. Senior Will Alimonos was likely the

most feared of the Greylock roster, but this opened the door for youngster Hank Barrett and Mike Geannelis and occasionally big men Tyler Picard and Spencer Rioux. All five recorded at least one team high in scoring and provided heroics to power their squad to victory.

Most notably, Barrett sank four free throws as time expired late in the year against Monument Mountain, providing Mountie faithful and basketball fans alike with something to look forward to for the next three years and a high point to remember the year by.

Going into the offseason, the players will continue to refine their skill and train with the hope of carrying on the rebuilding project of Mount Greylock’s program.



Girls' Nordic

By LUKE COSTLEY

As of press time for the Echo's previous issue, the Massachusetts State Championship race was looming for the Greylock ski teams. For this month's deadline, a similar story can be told. Due to "weather" conditions, the race was postponed a full three weeks from the original date, meaning that the girls on the Nordic team are still waiting in nervous anticipation for their culminating event.

In the meantime, preparations for the J2 and Eastern High School Championships have been in full swing. At these championship weekends, the Greylock contingent of skiers join forces with teammates from around the state



Photo: Tamara Hitchcock

to compete against the likes of Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire and New York. At J2s, Mackenzie Hitchcock will lead the pack and be joined by up to nine other Greylock girls. At EHS, Hitchcock and Cate Costley will hope to have an impact and compete well at the higher level of skiing.

Within the next several weeks, all of the questions surrounding the team will be answered and we hope for the very best for these girls who have already proved their prowess in Berkshire County. Now, though, their task is to prove it to all of New England.

Boys' Nordic

By ALEX WHITE

The boys' cross country ski team finished the regular season on a high note and hope to carry their momentum into the postseason. Greg Karabinos earned his first career win on February 6 in the 5 kilometer race at Notchview Ski Touring Center in Windsor.

Starting in the second wave, Karabinos caught all but two of the skiers in the wave ahead of him. Senior Jordan Tuboly followed Karabinos on the team with a fourth place finish as sophomore Luke Costly did not race. Freshman Sean Houston continued the team's winning ways with a dominant performance in the JV race. With the win, the boys' team finished with

an unblemished 6-0 record.



Photo: Tamara Hitchcock

Unfortunately, an untimely snow storm caused the Massachusetts State Championships to be postponed from its original February 10 date until March 2. With the State meet now only a week away the boys have been hard at work in order to be a contender with the stiff Eastern Massachusetts competition. They have been enjoying the pristine conditions at Prospect Mountain and look for this to be an advantage over the teams.

Hockey

By TOM DILS

The St. Joe's-Mt. Greylock co-op hockey team relied on last-second magic to close out the season, but could not find enough to overcome a two-goal Wahconah lead last Tuesday night. St. Joe's scored a goal in the last minute of each of their final three regular-season games to steal victories. First, Ryan Koudana of St. Joe's scored with 51 seconds remaining to propel the Crusaders over rival Wahconah 5-4, sending them into first place in Berkshire County's Hennessy League. A few days later, Andy Budz scored with only 11 seconds left following Jesse Foehl's two-goal performance to push St. Joe's over Drury 3-2. Although they only needed a tie, the

victory gave St. Joe's the Hennessy League crown for the first time in Greylock-St. Joe co-op history.

The next night, Eric Leitch was the third to enter the late-game heroics club, scoring off of a rebound with 51 seconds remaining to beat West Springfield 2-1. In all three games and in previous county play, St. Joe's goalie, Andrew Leitch, kept the Crusaders in the games, tallying 36 saves in two of the last three games. Through-

out the season, Budz, Koudana, and Foehl have carried much of the offensive burden but timely plays such as Eric Leitch's goal was what separated St. Joe's from the rest of Berkshire County.

Sadly, all winning streaks have to be broken at some point, and the time for St. Joe's came unexpectedly in the first round of the Western Mass. playoffs. Entering as the 2-seed with a 12-3-3 record, the Crusaders met Wahconah for the fourth time of

the season. Although they outshot the Warriors 11-5 in the first period, they trailed 1-0. Marston Albert scored early in the second to tie the score at 1-1, but it was all Wahconah from there. Untimely penalties and a solid Warrior defense kept Andrew Leitch busy in goal, and Wahconah scored twice within two minutes late in the second to take the lead for good. St. Joe's was outshot 34-10 in the final two periods, and never had the offense firing well enough to mount a comeback.

Still, the 2009-10 season was the most successful for Greylock players in the past years, and the newfound success marks a rebound for Greylock hockey.

CROSSWORD: DARWIN'S SCALE

By BLAIR DILS

ACROSS

- Stays home (from school)
- Like some causes
- Txt soul mate
- Kowalski's cry
- Its _____ out there...
- Abbrev. on music scores
- Mother's words of comfort
- ____-hoo
- Match subsection
- Title beverage in a book about Afghanistan girls' schools
- Waste
- Subject of many of Shakespeare sonnets
- "Or _____!"
- High IQ Org.
- Elec. bill unit
- Essential
- Follow
- Lexicographer's ref. source
- Theme of 17-, 24-, 52-, 68-across...with a wink to Darwin
- 401k income recipient: abbr.
- Grab (onto)
- Late 90s Fiat
- Weeks in an annus
- Nincompoops
- Hydrocarbon suffixes
- "Young" main character of a Hawthorne story

- Daddy's little girl
- Wool producer
- Doze
- Strange/Couples' org.?
- Wayne Gretzky
- Musket end
- _____ Disney
- Josef Stalin, Lev Kamenev, and Grigoriy Zinov'yev, once
- Type of ice
- Team from Madrid seen on 64-down
- Fish-eating bird

DOWN

- Ideological beliefs
- Eyelid pain
- End of summer mo.
- UN workers' grp.
- Textile
- Laker of sky-hook fame
- Rastafarian god
- Automatic weapon in many action films
- Sun in Cabo
- Hot rum drink
- Kate Chopin, for example
- Spring road woe, in New England
- Seniors often become them, informally
- Cannes coffee shop
- Soeul G.I.
- Marlins and Sharks color

- Legislation against Cosa Nostra, say
- _____ Aoki, formerly of 60-across
- Fat Joe's "Make It _____"
- What or which ending
- Health nut's desire
- Still
- Kind of nut
- Defense against the serve-and-volley
- Geneticists' interests
- Jessica of "Valentine's Day"
- Tom and Jerry episode
- Kukla and Ollie's pal
- First name in dictatorship
- _____ Rabbit
- Part of Johannesburg
- Stared open-mouthed
- Dactylic hexameter, for example
- Grates (on)
- Garrison Keillor character Guy
- Tennis pro Huber
- Tennessee university Austin _____
- Shade
- Paleozoic _____
- 24-hour soccer channel, _____ TV
- Type of hat

