

## THREE DISTRICTS, FOUR SCHOOLS, ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

By REBEKEH PACKER

On September 2nd, the bright colors of fresh paint welcomed students as they stepped off their busses into Mt. Greylock. Many doorways were labeled to make the school easier to navigate, the previously paint-spattered auditorium stage was now a single color, and the superintendent's office was repainted a cheerful yellow.

The fresh paint job was not the only change awaiting returning students. This year, Mount Greylock merged with Union 71, the union of Williamstown and Lanesboro Elementary Schools.

Dr. Rose Ellis, now superintendent of both Greylock and Union 71, says the new Tri-District Central Office near the auditorium represents "three districts and four schools." Dr. Ellis has been superintendent at WES for ten years, and she took over at LES when its superintendent retired three years ago. When Greylock superintendent Dr. Travis retired last year, the Mt. Greylock School Committee

voted to merge with Union 71, and Dr. Ellis's position expanded yet again.

section of communities" in Massachusetts and New York. She has been a teacher, a science coordinator, an assistant principal, a principal, and a superintendent-business manager.

As part of the tri-district office, Union 71 and Mt. Greylock now share a business manager, Jennifer Coscia, and an administrative assistant, Lynne Sadlowski. The Union 71 and MG School Committees also voted to hire two other tri-district administrators: Kimberly Grady as Director of Pupil Personnel Services (DPPS), and Lauren Allembert as Special Education Coordinator. The Greylock DPPS and the Union 71 Special Education Coordinator were dismissed at the end of August.

Dr. Ellis moved into the Greylock Superintendent's office on July 1st. Since then, she has met with the SEE Committee, School Governance Council, Friends of the Arts, Greylock Garden Squad, and Peer Team. In

**Dr. Ellis, Continued on Page 2**

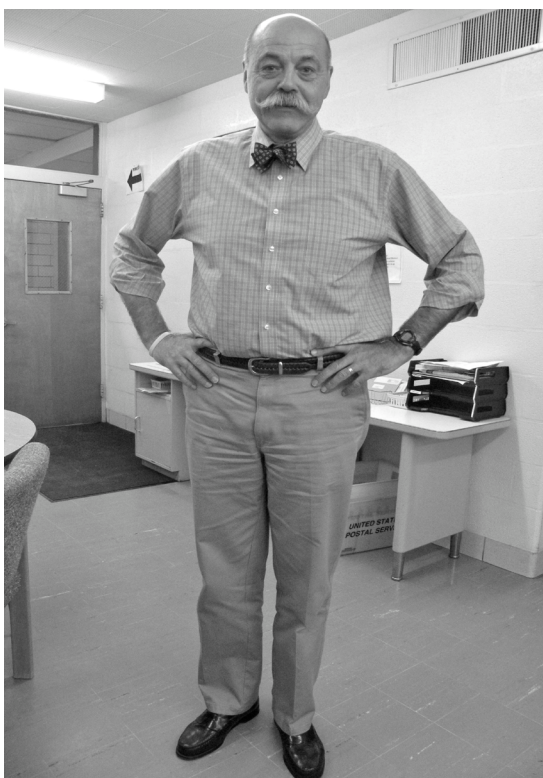


Photo: Tamara Hitchcock

Dr. Ellis has worked in education for over thirty years "in a cross-

## Teacher Contract Nearing Resolution

By NED KLEINER

Any football fans who tuned in for the first game of the season on September 5 would have noticed an unusual demonstration by the players: after the national anthem, the players from both the Vikings and the Saints raised their right hands into the air, index fingers extended. The rationale for this exhibition? Contract negotiations. The Collective Bargaining Agreement is set to expire in 2011, and many analysts are predicting a lockout, meaning no football for the fans, whom the players are trying to recruit as their instrumental allies. The players' fingers, meant to indicate that they were all on one team, could just as well have been pointed up at the owners' skyboxes: If you want football to happen next year, talk to them.

At Mt. Greylock, a similar drama seems to be drawing to a close. At the end of last year, stories were circulating about the possibility of a "job action" or "work to rule," wherein the teachers perform only those duties that they were being paid to perform, which would not include staying after school with students or sponsoring extracurricular organizations for which they were not receiving stipends. Dr. Burdick, the lead negotiator for the Teachers' Association, explains the job action as "one way to bring pressure" to get the School Committee to agree to some of the teachers' demands. On Tuesday, September 14, the two sides reached a tentative agreement. If the agreement becomes a contract, the teachers will have achieved what the football play-

ers are hoping to: merely threaten collateral damage to the students, and the administration has to hesitate before it rejects your demands.

While all of the teachers have been given the information about the agreement in preparation for a discussion on October 5, Mr. Blackman, the president of the Teachers' Association, says that he would like the faculty "to have a chance to look it over – and ask questions – before I start talking about the details of the content" of the agreement. He was willing to say that there were "some increases, which are reasonable for the times that we're in." He also stated that there were some changes to contract language, which he did not consider "major," but he acknowledged that "what's minor to one person may be major to another." The new agreement also includes changes to the stipend structure, which has been in place for a long time. The teachers have been working without a contract for the past year, and what little information there is suggests that this contract will be retroactive for one year, as well as extending until the end of the 2011-12 school year.

Soon after the discussion on October 5, the teachers will all vote on whether or not to accept the contract. If the teachers approve the contract, then the School Committee gets the final say in whether or not the contract is adopted for this year. Mr. Blackman does not predict unanimity from either side, but he is hopeful that the teachers, after a year of working without one, will finally have a contract.

## 2 in 650: "The Swedish Connection" An Interview with Olof and Ture Bodstrom

By LUKE COSTLEY



Photos: Tom Costley

*Unless you have been living in a cave for the past month, it's likely you know, or at least know of, Swedish exchange students Olof and Ture Bodstrom. The two brothers are attending Mount Greylock this year while their family takes a sabbatical living in Williamstown, and they have taken the school by storm. Stars on the soccer field and in the hallways, the Bodstroms conducted an exclusive interview with the Echo this month to shed light on living in United States, attending and playing at Greylock, and life back home in Sweden.*

**Echo:** What were your initial reactions when you came to Williamstown and entered Mount Greylock? First-day impressions?

**Olof:** Too much homework, school too early in the morning, too much soccer training.

**Ture:** Bad food, compared to Sweden.

**Echo:** Well, okay. What are your favorite parts about life so far in the States?

**Olof:** We get to learn English very well, which is one of the main reasons we came here. I like playing for the school team and the spirit that playing for the school has. Back in Sweden, there was nothing like that, only club teams.

**Ture:** Also the weather is much better here, because in Sweden, it rains all the time.

**Echo:** Compare and contrast school here at Greylock and at home. What are the biggest differences?

**Olof:** Well, we are not used to having seven classes, one after the other. For me, it was more like, one class that might be three hours long one day and that was all.

**Echo:** What brought your family to Williamstown?

**Ture:** Our father got a job at the college, mainly.

**Olof:** Yeah, so he came here with his family when he was about twenty and lived in the house that we are living in now, so he wanted to bring us here. He will work at the school and he also hopes to write a book.

**Echo:** How do you feel about the soccer team and playing for Greylock?

**Ture:** Very cool.

**Olof:** The spirit at the games and the cheering is fun.

**Echo:** Do you guys have any other plans for the rest of the year? Will you travel or go sightseeing? Will you play other sports?

**Olof:** We have never been to New York City or California so we might go there during the winter if we have the chance. I will also try to find a job.

**Ture:** And we might go downhill skiing and play some tennis, but

*2 in 650, Continued on Page 2*

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

### New Faces @ MG

Hannah Paul conducts interviews with Greylock's new faculty.

See Page 3.

### News and Events in Brief

See page 2 for a quick update on what's going on at the school.

### Check Out the Expanded Sports Section!

*A new column, more pictures, statistics, and feature articles keep you up-to-date on Greylock sports.*

Turn to pages 5 and 6.

### The Trip of a Lifetime: Exploring Israel

*Naomi LaChance reports on her trip to Israel over the summer, offering a unique global perspective to Greylock students.*

See page 4.

### CROSSWORD

Mr. Dils is back at with an especially tricky crossword to start off the year.

See page 6.

### CARTOON

Mary Laidlaw fills the space of resident cartoonmaster in this edition of the Echo.

See Page 3.

## NEWS AND EVENTS IN BRIEF

### Junior Class Fundraisers

*This fall, the junior class is working the concession booth for boys' and girls' Mounties soccer games, as well as all four Williams home football games. Hot dogs, grilled cheeses, candy, drinks, and more, are available. Proceeds bring the class ever closer toward earning money for senior week and prom. For those interested in volunteering in the booth or in need of more information, please email mgrhs2012@gmail.com.*

### Peer Team Committed to Increasing Unity and Acceptance in School

*On September 23rd, the Peer Team held a breakfast for all new students. About 25 new students joined the 17 members of Peer Team to spend the two periods chatting, eating donuts and cider, and playing team-building games. The event was widely regarded as a huge success, as it introduced new students to each other, school administrators and guidance counselors, and Peer Team. Peer Team, which meets every day second period, is planning similar events to take place throughout the school year, aiming to increase unity and acceptance in the student body.*

### Mount Greylock to Host JCL Kickoff Event

*On October 23rd, Mount Greylock will play host to one of the most anticipated statewide Junior Classical League events! Kickoff Day is an all day event jam-packed full of the most popular and exciting JCL contests. About fifteen schools from across the state bring hoards of students, yielding their impressive classical knowledge and homemade Roman death machines. The day begins with a welcome assembly and classical performance. Previously, Mount Greylock English and History teacher, Mr. Gibson, has delighted the crowds with his storytelling. The rest of the day is spent with trips to the Clark Art Museum, certamen, essentially Latin jeopardy, matches, worm and hula hoop scrimmages, and the marshmallow catapult contest. Many Greylock students enter the aforementioned catapult contest, often winning the top prize. The most exciting and much-awaited part of the day occurs after all the classicists have played their certamen and launched their miniature catapults. All the JCLers and various community members that come for the main event gather outside by the softball field to watch the firing of the large ballistae and catapults. Eight-pound shot-puts and arrows are launched across the softball fields, some soaring the length of a football field! Mount Greylock has won first place in both categories for the past three years. All are encouraged to come out and support the Mount Greylock JCL as they try to increase their winning streak to four years!*

### College Representative Visits Have Started in the Guidance Office

*Calling all seniors and interested juniors! The Guidance Office provides the valuable resource of bringing many college and university representatives to Mount Greylock every week; take advantage of this opportunity! A full calendar of representative visits can be found online in the Guidance section of mgrhs.org. If you're interested in attending a session, follow the procedure outlined below:*

1. Take a College Representative Visit Attendance Form
2. Have it signed by the teacher/subject you will miss
3. Return it to the Guidance Office

### Williams Center at Mount Greylock Gets Involved through Writng Fellows and Tutoring

*Close to thirty Williams College students are coming to Mount Greylock every week to offer assistance in a variety of ways. The Writing Fellows program returns this year, with eighteen Fellows in all eighth, ninth, and tenth grade English classes. The Fellows conference with students and comment on drafts, with the goal of enhancing writing at Greylock. For more information, contact coordinator Liz Costley at lizcostley@gmail.com. Other Williams College students are available to tutor seventh, eighth, and ninth grade students. After-school tutoring occurs every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 2:30 to 4:00 PM. For more information, contact Mrs. Barrett or Mrs. Strizzi.*

### Dr. Ellis, Continued from Page 1

September, she visited classrooms and had informal conversations with teachers and administrators. Dr. Ellis wants to "understand what [Greylock staff members] need or want to make them more successful." Staff members appreciate Dr. Ellis's interest. "She's very enthusiastic," says history teacher Tom Murray. "She really does promote education, and really encourages [teachers]."

Middle school principal Ellen Kaiser agrees that Rose Ellis offers "positive reinforcement for her employees."

High school principal Tim Payne says Dr. Ellis has "a lot of questions about the high school, which is good." Mr. Payne encourages the community to "give [Dr. Ellis] the chance to really get in, understand the building, and lay out her goals for the district."

Dr. Ellis is in charge of three districts, and resulting changes are already apparent. Mr. Payne says the wider focus of the new Central Office will give him "the opportunity to be more independent as a principal."

In the math curriculum, WES and LES students have been entering the school system on completely different levels. Mr. Murray hopes the merge between Greylock and Union 71 will encourage better cooperation between the elementary schools' curricula.

In fact, under the new administration, part-time middle school principal Ms. Kaiser will also become a part-time tri-district Curriculum Coordinator. "I'm really excited about the new position," she says, "because it gets me back into education, which is obviously where my passion is." Ms. Kaiser will be working on "aligning the frameworks" of LES and WES, starting with the math program.

In addition to the changes that stem from the switch to a tri-district office, Mt. Greylock is experiencing the changes of focus that come from any new administration. "[Dr Ellis] is really dedicated to changing the climate of the building," says Ms. Kaiser. Mr. Payne says the freshly-painted walls and doors make Greylock "easier to get around [and] more inviting for students and their families." Friends of the Arts (the parent organization that supports Greylock performing arts) is raising money to replace the dilapidated chairs in the auditorium, and Dr. Ellis was the first to buy the renovation of a seat in early September.

Dr. Ellis says, "We should start thinking of ourselves as a world-class school." Although Greylock is relatively small, she believes it should offer its students a "future-focused" education that will prepare them for the technological modern world. Ms. Kaiser says Dr. Ellis is "especially supporting the eighth grade team, which is trying to look at mobile technology... in the classroom."

Another goal is to highlight the middle school, which Dr. Ellis says "sometimes gets lost" or overpowered by the high school. Ms. Kaiser says, "We're a school within a school, which sometimes can be difficult. [Dr. Ellis] is really helping us figure out how we can form our own middle school identity."

Dr. Ellis knows being an effective administrator is difficult. "Being a good leader requires you to know when to lead," she says. "Given the economic climate we're in, everything might seem important, but it's up to me to decide what's critical." She is hopeful, however, at the prospect of the three districts working together: "In the economic downturn, it's very hard for small districts to go it alone. So certainly, by working together, [the schools] all benefit."

Dr. Ellis has been delighted to find the Greylock community "friendly and welcoming." She says, "This community cares tremendously about education and supporting teachers and students."

Mr. Payne agrees: "We have great kids. We have families that support us very strongly. That we're a small school should just make us more responsive to students." As part of her adjustment to the school community, Dr. Ellis talked to the staff about her leadership style. In an interview, she explains, "I'm collaborative. I like working with staff and parents and students... My success really depends on my ability to build relationships."

With a little help from the Greylock community, Dr. Ellis is hoping to build those relationships. Ms. Kaiser urges, "Everyone needs to allow the new people to get to know them, and get to understand how Greylock functions."

Dr. Ellis hopes students and teachers are responding positively to the signs around the school. "If people have recommendations about what else we need to do," she says, "we welcome them!"



### The Grand Opening Approaches...

Photo: Naomi LaChance

### 2 in 650, Continued from Page 1

maybe not.

**Echo:** When you go back home, what is still in store for the two of you?

**Ture:** I still have most of high school left to do, about three more years and then I will move on to other things.

**Olof:** For me, I have one more year of high school, then I will take a year off, as most people in Sweden do. I will spend the year working and experiencing what it is like to be an adult. From there, I will go on to college.

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 photographers, writers, and editors. Any Mt. Greylock student is welcome to submit articles, come to meetings, or join the Echo staff. Meetings are held in the Echo Office at the back of the library, typically during early lunch on Mondays.

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The views expressed in opinion or editorial pieces do not reflect the collective views of this newspaper or the administration, but those of the individual authors.

NEW FACES AT MOUNT GREYLOCK

By HANNAH PAUL

MRS. KIRBY



Photo: Tamara Hitchcock

This year, Berkshire County native Mrs. Kirby has returned to Mount Greylock to after a stint at Pittsfield High School. She is the new middle school Spanish teacher.

**Echo:** Where did you grow up?  
**Mrs. Kirby:** I grew up in Pittsfield and attended high school at PHS.

**Echo:** Where did you go to college?  
**Mrs. Kirby:** I went to UMass Amherst and then to the Universidad de Sevilla, in Spain!

**Echo:** What where your previous teaching jobs?  
**Mrs. Kirby:** I had always thought I'd like to be a teacher, but I originally went into business. After 9/11, though, I knew it was time for a change. I actually taught here at Mount Grelock from 2002-2004 but I then left to travel Central America. I traveled across Mexico and then drove through Costa Rica and Panama. When I came back, PHS was hiring so I taught there until coming back here.

**Echo:** Do you remember what your first job ever was?  
**Mrs. Kirby:** I worked as a waitress and taught swimming lessons as well in high school.

**Echo:** Red Sox or Yankees?  
**Mrs. Kirby:** Red Sox!

COACH "A."



Photo: Tamara Hitchcock

Coach Asplundh, or Coach "A." as he's more commonly known, has made the Berkshires his new home this year. He is replacing Coach Paul as the new Physical Education teacher.

**Echo:** Where did you grow up?  
**Coach A:** I lived around Philadelphia all through elementary and high school.

**Echo:** Where did you go to college?  
**Coach A:** I went to Springfield College and majored in Physical Education and Athletic Administration.

**Echo:** What where your previous teaching jobs?  
**Coach A:** I taught as a Phys. Ed teacher at a middle school in Springfield.

**Echo:** Do you remember what your first job ever was?  
**Coach A:** My freshman year in high school I worked as a bus boy.

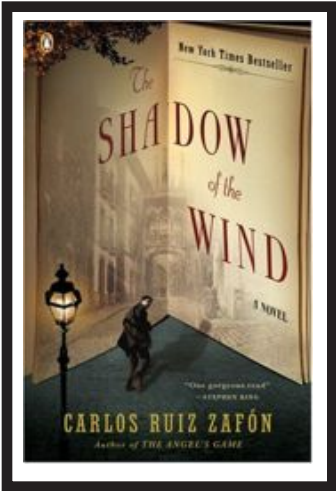
**Echo:** Do you have a favorite musical artist or genre?  
**Coach A:** Lots. I like a lot of singer-songwriters, particularly Mason Jennings.

**Echo:**Red Sox or Yankees?  
**Coach A:** The Phillies! If I had to pick one...I guess I'd say I hate the Yankees more.

THE BOOK WORM

By CATE COSTLEY

**Title:**  
*The Shadow of the Wind*  
**Written By:**  
Carlos Ruiz Zafon  
**Price:**  
\$16.47 (hardcover)



Reading *The Shadow of the Wind*, by Carlos Ruiz Zafon, is like walking through an ornate Gothic cathedral: it is filled with sumptuous detail, slanting shadows, haunting silences, and timeless beauty. It is a pleasure to lose yourself in the intricacies of the circuitous novel, to journey into a dark world of mystery, love, violence, and storytelling. Gorgeous in its language and gripping in its plot, *The Shadow of the Wind* transports the reader to the cobbled streets of Barcelona and holds him there spellbound.

The year is 1945, and Daniel is a young man in Barcelona, coming of age in the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War. The son of a book dealer, Daniel has always known the incredible power of literature, but it is not until he finds a single, certain book that he knows the full extent of that power. "I still remember the day my father took me to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books for the first time," are the opening words of the novel, and they set the story in motion. In the Cemetery of Forgotten Books, Daniel finds a tome entitled *The Shadow of the Wind* (the old book-within-a-book trick), by one Julian Carax. After being completely enthralled by the book, young Daniel sets out to discover more about the book's author, only to be sucked into a swirling mystery that has plagued Barcelona for decades.

Every single copy of every single book ever written by the mysterious Julian Carax has been systematically burned by a nameless, devil-like figure... except the one Daniel holds in his hands. Inevitably, it falls to Daniel to both preserve the book and unravel its troubled past.

Daniel is a likeable narrator; he is the prototypical teenager: witty, rash, confused, and ultimately well meaning. He gets caught up in secrets and mysteries that are far beyond his ability to handle, and yet he rises to the challenge, and we as readers root wholeheartedly for him. It is, however, the other characters in *The Shadow of the Wind* that add such wonderful richness to its plot and dialogue. At the top of this list is Daniel's partner in crime and caring best friend, Fermin Romero de Torres. In this character, Zafon outdoes himself as a wordsmith, for Fermin is one of the cleverest smooth-talkers I have ever encoun-

tered. Eccentric, brave, humorous, loyal and insightful, Fermin is unforgettable. But while Fermin provides light comic relief, Zafon is also a master when it comes to creating the deeply evil, conscienceless character. I freely admit that I woke up two nights in a row with images of the cruel Inspector Fumero lurking in my peripheral vision. In *Fumero*, Zafon exposes the scars that the bloody Spanish Civil War has left on Spain, a legacy of police corruption and unwarranted torture. Whether it's the memorable antics of Fermin or the wickedness of *Fumero*, Zafon has undoubtedly succeeded in creating a host of characters that remain with the reader long after the final page has been turned.

And, oh, there are many pages to be turned! The greatest shortcoming of this many-layered, intricate novel is its degree of intricacy. The comparison that comes to mind is that of Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. Although far more plot-driven than that masterpiece, *The Shadow of the Wind* is also a mosaic of interconnected stories, told from all points in time, with dashes of the supernatural and the unbelievable. As the stories all began to weave together in the later part of the novel, I found myself making notes on scrap pieces of paper, trying to keep it all straight.

But, for me, it was pure enjoyment to try to follow this story as it twists and turns through Barcelona's narrow streets. For me, it was fantastic to be pulled wholly into Daniel's magical world of yellowed paper, unexplained deaths, and doomed love. I became lost in Zafon's lyrical power, and I loved it. More than just a thrilling plot, this book is beautifully written, and it was that experience – of reading beautiful writing – that made this one special. So, even if unsolved mysteries and winding European streets do not appeal to you, still open up *The Shadow of the Wind* to the first page. Still let the language wash over you; lose yourself in a Gothic cathedral of words.

Cartoon  
BY MARY LAIDLAW



# Global Perspective

## ISRAEL'S DIVERSITY A MIXED BLESSING

By NAOMI LACHANCE

Israel sure seems to have more than its fair share of news coverage lately. An aid flotilla disaster in Gaza, fragile Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, and nuclear threats from Iran can all make a person question whether visiting the tiny Middle Eastern country is really preferable to spending all summer scooping ice cream.

Yet to Israel I went. Right away, Israel's struggle to compromise between past and present was strikingly apparent. Fresh off the plane and fighting a jet-lagged stupor, twenty-three other teens and I visited a nature reserve that attempted to recreate the landscape of the Old Testament. The place was so authentic I half expected Abraham to jump out from behind a bush and yell, "surprise!", except that I kept hearing gunshots. I asked the tour guide about the noise, and he turned around and pointed to a hill in the distance. "That's the West Bank," he told me. "There's a sniper training camp over there. But don't worry, it's far enough away." I couldn't help remembering what a friend had told me right before I left: "don't get shot."

But I didn't come anywhere close to being shot, and despite its political turmoil, I fell in love with Israel this summer. Although the country is about the size of New Jersey, encompasses an incredible amount of diversity. There are Jews, Druze, Baha'i, Bedouins, Muslims, Christians. Even among the Jews, there are the secular, modern Jews that seem to be the majority of Israelis and the ultra-Orthodox Hassidim, who wear black hats and beards and follow Judaism, well, religiously.

Israel's landscape is also diverse. In the North, there are lush mountains and winding cobblestone towns. In the South, there is a vast desert, with interspersed villages and wandering ibex. In between, there is the world's lowest point, the Dead Sea, which is so easy to float in that people bring newspapers to read in the water. There is also the Sea of Galilee (or Kinneret), which is a beautiful freshwater lake precious because it supplies Israel with its dwindling water supply.

There are kibbutzim, the communities that have been called an example of communism working out, although most kibbutz inhabitants prefer to avoid labels. There are the Palestinian settlements, distinguishable by their flat roofs and destitute appearances. On the coast of the Mediterranean, there is the modern, cosmopolitan city of Tel Aviv. Next-door is its old city, Jaffa, which is no less bustling than its neighbor, with flea markets and artists' shops.

A 45-minute's drive to the west is Jerusalem, the holy city to Jews, Muslims, and Christians, a city so complex it is a microcosm of all that is happening in Israel. There is an old city with cobblestone streets and little shops where the vendor smokes a hookah and tells you your eyes are beautiful, now buy this candy. It is also the politi-



*In Jerusalem, the close proximity of the Western Wall and Dome of the Rock, holy spots for Jews and Muslims respectively, creates conflict.*

*Photo: Naomi LaChance*



*Past and present converge in Israel as a Bedouin leads a camel while texting on his cell phone.*

*Photo: Naomi LaChance*

cal capital, home of Israel's Parliament and Supreme Court, where the country tries to find a balance in calling itself a religious democracy. There is the Western Wall (or Kotel), which is the last remaining wall of the destroyed Jewish Second Temple, right next to the Dome of the Rock (or Masjid Qubbat As-Sakhrah), the spot where Muhammad was inspired to become a Muslim, right next to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the place where Jesus was resurrected. Between Jews, Muslims, Chris-

tians, and everyone else, Jerusalem can't seem to find a compromise. There is a wall dividing East and West Jerusalem, the Palestinian and Jewish sides, respectively. The man who drove our tour bus was forced to find a new house when negotiations rendered his old one on the wrong side of the city.

If Jerusalem can't find the right compromise, can Israel? Israel was founded in 1948, 31 years after the Balfour Dec-

laration, in which the British promised the Jews a homeland there that would not "prejudice the civil and religious rights" of the Palestine's non-Jewish inhabitants, and three years after the Holocaust reminded Jews of their history of persecution and exile. Since then, a fierce rivalry between the Jews and Palestinians has emerged.

In Sderot, a town directly north of Gaza, bus stops are fortified to protect the Israelis from Qassam rockets coming from the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, a territory controlled by terrorist group Hamas. We visited a hospital in nearby Ashkelon, where a woman presented to us a PowerPoint of a world in which Palestinians are entirely at fault and Israelis are innocent victims, telling us that the only way to solve the conflict would be for one side to disappear. We visited the children's ward, armed with presents. I was delighted to find a toddler whose eyes lit up when I gave her a small plastic ball. She was instinctually struggling to find normality in her life of conflict, despite the IV bandaged into her hand and the bags under her mother's eyes.

One afternoon, we met with Israelis our age. One, Stav, told us he didn't have anything against Palestinians, but that he wasn't really friends with any. He said Israelis generally prefer Bush to Obama, and that he tries not to think about the future because he's not sure if he will even be alive after service in the army.

When we spent a day in Israeli army training camp, our commanders were not allowed to discuss politics. We were told about the pamphlet of values each soldier receives, and the most important value of purity of the weapon, or the idea that a weapon is only used when absolutely needed. The army, which takes all eighteen-year-old Israelis, unifies citizens and does social work and maintenance in addition to fighting.

Our last night in Israel, we went to a concert in the middle of Jerusalem. The band was Hadag Nahash, a hip-hop group, and we were probably the only non-Israelis there. Hadag Nahash has a song called Shirat HaSticker (or The Sticker Song), whose lyrics list different bumper stickers seen on cars in Israel. They represent an incredible range of political ideas, and the crowd new the song so well that the singer didn't even sing the first verse; he just stuck his microphone into the audience. The crowd around me screamed, "No peace with the Arabs/ Don't give them guns/Combat's where it's at, bro," and that's when I finally realized how immutably intertwined Israeli culture and politics are.

Israel is on the cusp of some inevitable change, and the current peace talks orchestrated by the Obama administration will only work if everyone is willing. I hope that next time I visit Israel a comfortable peace is established, but I also hope that the rich, diverse country I met this summer will be somehow maintained.

### QUICK FACTS ON ISRAEL

**POPULATION:** 7,233,701      **POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE:** 23.7%      **RELIGIONS:** Jewish 75.5%, Muslim 16.8%, Christian 2.1%, Druze 1.7%, other 3.9%

**NUMBER OF INTERNATIONALLY DISPLACED PERSONS:** 150,000 - 240,000 (compared to 65,000 in the United States)      **LITERACY RATE:** 97.1%



# OVERLAND

summer & semester programs for 10-19 year olds

# FOOTBALL

By ALEX WHITE

Two games, two wins for the Mount Greylock football team. A high-power attack led by senior running back Jason Pilot and junior quarterback Kent Hanson has the team firing on all cylinders. Out of the gate the Mounties crushed Monument Mountain in an away game on Friday, September 10. The following week the defending Super Bowl champions, Hoosac Valley, came to Greylock to try and silence the home crowd. Greylock came out throwing with a few short passes, and on the sixth play of the drive Hanson darted into the end zone for the 6-0 lead. On the next offensive drive, Greylock took the ball and went 59 yards on seven plays, with Pilot rushing for 25 yards, including a nine-yard dash into the end zone and a successful two point conversion. Greylock ate up most of the clock during the third quarter with a 13 play drive that took 7:16 off the clock. Pilot finished off the drive



Photo: Tamara Hitchcock

with a 25-yard sprint for six more points. After a successful two point conversion, Greylock took the lead 22-0, and the game ended with a 22-6 Greylock victory. Pilot rushed for a total of 106 yards on 19 rushes. Hanson, meanwhile, added 64 yards on the ground and 34 in the air. Captains for this year's team are Pilot, Mike Greb, Kevin Agostini, and Zach Hanson. Zach Hanson, who was expected to be a key contributor at fullback and linebacker, is out with a broken foot he suffered during the Monument game. Junior Kurt Schultheis has stepped in for the injured Hanson at fullback and is doing damage both running and creating holes in the defense for Pilot. At wide receiver, seniors Tommy Nowlan and Kyle Byrnes are both deep threats, and the return of Greb will only improve the Mounties' passing game.

## FACES IN THE CROWD:

### JOSH HARRINGTON



Photo: Tamara Hitchcock

Josh Harrington is a recent cross-country running convert, switching from soccer for the 2010 fall season. A top skier in Berkshire County, Josh has followed suit in his newest sport, racing to third fastest on Greylock and tops in the county as well.

**Echo:** Why did you choose to make the switch from soccer to cross country running?

**Josh:** I have nordic skied since seventh grade and through cross training for skiing I began to enjoy running more as I have improved. It's been a struggle for me to choose between soccer and running. Trying out for soccer this year I realized that the standout part was the 2.5 mile time trial. My desire to try something new along with my growing enjoyment of running led to my switch.

**Echo:** What has helped you the most in your quick transition into a top Greylock runner?

**Josh:** I knew a lot of the team already and everyone accepted me right away. I look forward to hanging out at practice every day. Another helpful factor was that I was in good endurance shape coming into running because of summer ski training.

**Echo:** What is the most memorable moment from the season so far?

**Josh:** The most memorable moment of the season this far was finishing my first race. I crossed the line and just felt this great sense of accomplishment. I was like, "OK, this is something I can do."

**Echo:** What is your post-race meal?

**Josh:** I don't really care what I eat post race as long as there's a lot of it.

**Echo:** What is you favorite Coach Burdick quotation?

**Josh:** He ran into my mom in the RMV and was talking to her about how it was too bad that I was trying out for soccer instead of running. He said, "We're all hoping he gets cut."

# GIRLS' SOCCER

By ALEX WHITE

The Greylock girls' soccer team kicked off the season with a bang—a 4-2 win over Hoosac Valley. A 3-0 win over Mt. Anthony followed close behind to put the girls at 2-0 to start the year. The seniors played a big part in the wins, with goals coming off the feet of Sarah Brink, Bree Flynn-Kasuba, and Kim Houston. After forcing a tie from a physical Drury team, the girls fell to Wachonah in a tough afternoon game. On Wednesday, September 22, the girls took on a team from Rutland that had beaten them 4-0 last year. This year was a different story as Greylock took it to them for a hard fought 1-0 win. Senior Rachel Down tapped the ball in off a cross to give the Mounties all the cushion they needed, with the defense shutting down the Rutland attack. Sophomore goalkeeper Margot



Photo: Tamara Hitchcock

Besnard recorded her second shutout of the year. Leading the team this year are senior captains Brink, Houston, and Siri Mason. Midfielders Flynn-Kasuba and Brink top the scoring charts with three goals apiece, while sophomore Alexa Adams and junior Annie Flynn have also been key contributors up front. In the back, junior Kristina Wadsworth and senior Hayley Flynn hold down the line with Mason and Houston. Brink says of the team, "It's awesome to see that everyone is working hard this year and that we are really coming together. Hopefully, we can build off our early season success and carry it with us throughout the rest of the season."

## STATS

The following statistics are current through September 27th, 2010.

TEAM	WIN	LOSS	TIE
BOYS' SOCCER	6	0	0
GIRLS' SOCCER	3	1	2
BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY	6	0	—
GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY	6	0	—
FOOTBALL	2	0	0
VOLLEYBALL	5	1	0
GOLF	5	3	0

GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY FOCUSED ON IMPROVEMENT

By TOM DILS

When the Mt. Greylock girls' cross-country team finished fourth at the 2009 state championship meet, the team knew that 2010 could be their breakthrough season. Not to diminish their accomplishments—it's no easy feat to go undefeated in Berkshire County and win Western Mass—but the girls knew that they could raise their level one notch higher in 2010. So, with basically the same top ten or eleven runners returning for the fall season, the Mounties committed themselves to working harder than they ever have, in hopes of a legitimate chance to win states. As Coach Bell said, "ideally you'd like to win, but we want to improve enough to have our scores matter."

The 2010 season is perfect as always for the cross-country team, notching victories over many county rivals including Taconic and Lenox. They have had to push themselves for victories every race, but the real results come from the training hours that everyone logged in the summer. So far it's paid off. Senior captain Cate Costley, probably the hardest worker on the team, has blown away every runner she has faced so far. Sophomore Stephanie Adamzyck and freshmen Emily Kaegi and Amalia Leamon have also improved, moving from just outside the scoring top five into runners that factor in nearly every race. And there is always room for new talent. Eighth grader Rebecca Silva is the youngest member of the top ten, and she

has only been in a few races. According to Coach Bell, "the final three spots [behind Cate and Mackenzie] can come from any of seven or eight girls."

"Our biggest competition is our own teammates and that's how everyone pushes themselves," said Marissa Ericson. With

teammates. This is where they get their motivation. They are committed to focusing all their energy on getting better every race.

Aside from the results and times, there is one aspect of the Greylock cross-country running program that cannot be over-

that creates an atmosphere focused on improvement and pushing yourself and your teammates," Costley said. Having talent in every grade is important, and even if 2010 is Greylock's best chance to win a title, there is no stopping the Mounties in the future either.

As the Mounties push deeper into the season the looming focus falls on the state championship meet. Individually, Costley and Hitchcock both have a chance to make the all-state team, which is the top fifteen at states. Right now, Coach Bell is looking for a few girls to step forward and narrow the gap between second and third on the team. "Every second can make the difference between places in the middle of the pack," said Coach Bell, so the Mounties need to push for good results from

the third, fourth, and fifth spots. A state championship, although it would be the first since 1995 for Greylock, is not out of the question. The Greylock girls just need to remain injury-free and continue to improve their fitness.

"The emphasis this year has been on more intense training, but still an enjoyment of the sport," said Cate Costley. Win or lose at states, the Greylock program will continue to succeed because of the openness and fun that it brings to the sport. Running is never easy, but Greylock's focus on teamwork makes it all worth it.



With a large group of talented runners this year, the girls' cross country team is focused on teamwork, improvement, and, of course, fun.

Photo: Tamara Hitchcock

Greylock facing another probable perfect regular season, the girls have to find opposition in something other than the team they are scoring against. The Mounties look to each other for competition as well as individual runners from Berkshire County. Take Chandler Tyson, Taconic's number one, who Mackenzie Hitchcock has been battling with for years. On the team, the times are always tight within the top ten. The Greylock girls look to improve on their own previous times and beat their

looked: the size of the team, which stems from a general enthusiasm about running. This year's team is gigantic, but more importantly, there is a balance of young talent and veteran leadership. Ranging from a seemingly endless pack of middle schoolers to the likes of captains Amy Santella, Costley, and Ericson, as well as juniors such as Hitchcock, Kaylene Lemme, and Susie Shanley, the girls find strength in their depth. "We are incredibly deep, and

CROSSWORD

By BLAIR DILS



ACROSS

- 1. NASCAR competitor
- 4. Where Lichtensteins hang?
- 8. Frosh intro course
- 13. Day-glo
- 15. Kind of mitt
- 16. "You can \_\_\_\_\_ horse..."
- 17. (for one)
- 19. FDA concern
- 20. WASP part
- 21. Renault-AMC model (1976-1986)
- 23. Don Ho accessory
- 24. (often)
- 30. Mandelbrot set, for example
- 32. Knots a second time
- 33. Denounce vehemently
- 36. Post-operation signs
- 37. Hip-hop's \_\_\_\_\_ Soul
- 40. Specialty
- 42. Butter alternative
- 43. Edit
- 45. Trickle(d) (through)
- 47. Line follower, after hook
- 49. Excites
- 53. (in a way)
- 56. For
- 57. Holden's brother in "Catcher in the

- Rye"
- 58. Former Yankee pitcher Hideki
- 60. Screenplay beat
- 63. (once)
- 66. Attentive one
- 67. Vermicious \_\_\_\_\_, Roald Dahl alien
- 68. Cell phone button
- 69. Where to hide your spirit?
- 70. Slaughter and Pepper: abbr.
- 71. \_\_\_\_\_ Plaines, Ill.

DOWN

- 1. Divided equally
- 2. "The Bucket List" director
- 3. Actor Robert of "Big" and "Jagged Edge"
- 4. Stooge, for one
- 5. Sperm targets
- 6. Country singer Haggard
- 7. Made the pot right
- 8. Magic words
- 9. Encryption, for example
- 10. Chinese Rocket?
- 11. Truck or bus driver's DMV requirement
- 12. "Bali \_\_\_\_\_"
- 14. Blue Jackets' org.
- 18. Popular shade lover
- 22. France's Saint-\_\_\_\_\_ l'Ecole
- 25. Ibuprofen target

- 26. \_\_\_\_\_ Island National Monument
- 27. Yemeni cabbage
- 28. Billy Budd's captain
- 29. Gas station north of the border
- 31. Most hold 5 quarts of oil
- 34. Clue for 17-, 24-, 53- and 63-across
- 35. \_\_\_\_\_-Flu
- 37. Fam. tree member
- 38. Arabian bigwig
- 39. Traveling pants wearer
- 41. Gilgamesh's story, for example
- 44. Last president of apartheid-era South Africa
- 46. "The MacGuffin" novelist Stanley
- 48. Faith: abbr.
- 50. Not able to produce puppies
- 51. Suave
- 52. Tenderizes
- 54. Places for salchows
- 55. Ken who played Mr. Chow in "The Hangover"
- 59. Monopoly acquisitions: abbr.
- 60. Shareable comp. file
- 61. MSN competitor
- 62. Actress Hagen
- 64. Drunk
- 65. Coll. sports administrators