

## YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL SQUAD TO EVALUATE STREET-LIGHT EFFICIENCY

By KATELIN MARCHAND

The Youth Environmental Squad, better known within the school as Y.E.S., is undertaking a huge new project. It is helping the town of Lanesborough become more energy efficient by evaluating the energy used by the town's 305 streetlights.

Recently, members of the Lanesborough Energy Futures Committee approached Y.E.S. requesting their help with the project. Members of Y.E.S. will be going down each street in Lanesborough to evaluate the lights. Some of the problems these students will be looking for are bro-

ken, yellow or flickering bulbs and broken solar protectors. "If the solar protector on a street lamp is broken it will turn the light on, which costs the town of Lanesborough a lot of money, and wastes energy," said co-president of Y.E.S. Aaron Ziemer.

As Y.E.S. members systematically review the streetlights, they will also be determining the necessity of each light. The only places where they are absolutely necessary are at intersections, curves in the road and highly populated areas; lights that are not necessary could potentially be removed. Y.E.S. members will also be on the lookout for streetlights that people have turned toward their yards.

Y.E.S. is working with electrical engineer Gordan Zaks, technician Aaron Williams, and former Mt. Greylock School Committee Chairman Robert Ericson, a

presented to Mark Bashara, the chief of police, and the Lanesborough town selectmen. If they approve the project, it will then be proposed at a Lanesborough town meeting where it will be voted on. A date has not been set for students to start working on the project, but Y.E.S. members hope that evaluation will begin within a few months.

Currently, Lanesborough's 305 streetlights cost \$30,000 annually, which works out to \$82 every day. This yearly cost would be greatly reduced by the removal of some of the streetlights, but could be reduced even more if the town of Lanesborough decided to use energy-efficient light bulbs. Broken street lights are going to be fixed and removed, but energy efficient bulbs will not be installed. A similar project is not taking place in Williamstown or Hancock, but Y.E.S. members from all towns are participating in this project. "It's nice to help out the community," said freshman Rose Shuker-Haines.

Y.E.S. has had a very productive year with Aaron Ziemer and Evelyn Mahon as co-presidents, from the Harvest Party in October, to the streetlight project. Throughout the year, the club has also teamed up with special education teacher Rachel Slocik's students to collect recyclables from classrooms. In the Spring, biology and environmental science teacher Rebecca Greene's classes and Y.E.S. members will maintain the school garden. Finally, Y.E.S. has looked into investing with a green energy company, as well as into the fundraising possibilities that would accompany that investment. ■



File Photo

An example of a streetlight that Y.E.S. will be evaluating.

ken, yellow or flickering bulbs and broken solar protectors. "If the solar protector on a street lamp is broken it will turn the light on, which costs the town of Lanesborough a lot of money, and wastes energy," said co-president of Y.E.S. Aaron Ziemer.

## TRI-DISTRICT CONSIDERS REGIONALIZATION

By MIRANDA DILS

On January 10, the Tri-District, which consists of the Mt. Greylock Regional, Williamstown, and Lanesborough public school districts, received a major grant that could change the future of these three schools. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has awarded the Tri-District \$50,000 to study the pros and cons of expanding the Mt. Greylock Regional School District to include the Williamstown and Lanesborough Elementary schools.

The Mt. Greylock district currently serves students in grades 7 through 12 and if the regionalization occurred, the new district would include pre-kindergarten through 12. The money granted by the DESE will be used to hire a group of professionals to help the Williamstown-Lanesborough Public Schools examine the feasibility of combining the school districts.

A financial specialist, legal counsel and communication consultants are part of this group and will join with the recently formed Regional District Agreement Committee. The committee includes volunteer members from the Mt. Greylock, Williamstown and Lanesborough School Committees, as well as volunteers from the towns' select boards and finance com-

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## BIOLOGY CLASSES BEGIN COMMUNITY PROJECTS

By EMILY RUDD



Photo courtesy of DiscoverPittsfield.com

Students will work to improve conditions at local sites, such as Lake Pontoosuc.

In lieu of independent projects, biology teacher Larry Bell's three junior biology classes are doing group projects within the Lanesborough and Williamstown communities. These projects include: improving the quality of Pontoosuc Lake, maximizing the use of school property along the Green River and mending bird habitats around the area.

He initially thought of the idea when he was involved in helping the Pontoosuc Lake Association attempt to eradicate invasive species. Soon, this turned into more than just a weekend volunteer mission. With the help of librarians Kathy Share and

Sarah Henry and resource room teacher Christine Mastendino, the idea of involving Bell's 11th grade biology students became a reality.

The founders divided each class into subgroups and a tech team, which documents important findings. On top of this, they have a class leader who creates a schedule to make sure that the project is completed by the end of the year. These leaders have the opportunity to step down at any time so that other students can give the role a try. Bell said that, "leadership is a valuable

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## 1 in 650: An Interview with Ric Donati

By EMILY KAEGI



Photo courtesy of Aaron Ziemer

The Rubik's Cube has quickly become a classic children's gift. Many pick up the cube, turn it a couple times, maybe getting one side, and then throw it in a drawer in complete frustration, never to look at it again. Seventh grader Ric Donati is one of the few exceptions. When we heard the rumors surrounding his talent, we were astonished and wanted to know more. We sat down to learn more about his incredible talent and other interests.

Echo: When did you first learn how to solve a Rubik's Cube?

Ric: About a year ago.

Echo: Who taught you to solve a Rubik's Cube?

Ric: I found a video on YouTube. There was one video tutorial on how to do it and that's how I got started.

Echo: What made you want to learn?

Ric: I got one for Christmas. My dad was looking at it and then he left to go to work so I just kept watching it.

Echo: So, I've heard you compete in competitions?

Ric: Yeah, sometimes.

Echo: When did you start competing?

Ric: Probably about a year ago. A couple months after I started to learn.

Echo: Where are competitions?

Ric: That really depends. Usually colleges like MIT, Harvard and Princeton.

Echo: What ages are the competitors?

Ric: It's all ages. It could be a fifty-year-old, it could be a seven-year-old.

Echo: How do competitions work?

Ric: This part's really complicated, but there are different rounds. Each round you do five solves. Then they take an average of your times for each solve. The top twenty-four people there move on to the next round. And then you do it again.

Echo: What made you decide to start competing?

Ric: I didn't even know about competitions until I found the World Cubing Association website, which had a section on competi-

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## EXTENDED LEARNING

Kelsey Hebert reports on independent learning opportunities

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## JAE'S ASIAN BISTRO

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## THE BEST AND WORST MOVIES OF 2012

Nate Taskin shares his opinions of the film industry's 2012 offerings.

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## WINTER SPORTS

Emily Kaegi compiled the highlights of the winter sports season.

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Photo courtesy of Amalia Leamon

The Super Sophs (winners of the best costume prize) congratulate eventual overall winners Tribal Lovin' after a game at the Sixth Annual Dodgeball Tournament. Read Evelyn Mahon's recap of the event on page 6.

## YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD HOLDS MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE

By JAKE FOEHL

On Thursday March 7, the Mount Greylock Regional Middle School sent a delegation of eight students to the STRIVE conference, a gathering of 200 Berkshire County middle schoolers from every school in the county. There, seventh and eighth graders took part in several workshops that were organized in order to better prepare the future high schoolers for problems they might face in the coming years. Coordinating this conference was the Youth Advisory Board, which includes only one member of the Mount Greylock student body, junior Emily Kaegi. She attended the conference along with seventh graders Sam Culver, Bella Bote and Dimaggio Paris, and eighth graders Najla Nassar, Kyle Alvarez and Grace Dodig. All Mountie representatives came back with a better understanding of issues that they might face in a high school environment, such as drugs and alcohol.

"They repeated their message a lot but overall I learned that [situations] may seem harmless but sometimes they can get out of hand and bad things can happen" said seventh grader Sam Culver, talking about the presentation given by the husband and wife duo of Chris and Kathy Sullivan about the dangers of alcohol. The couple told the story of their only daughter who, on the night of homecoming, was drinking with a group of friends. Her family began to worry that the night had gotten out of hand when she did not return home the next morning. A search followed and her body was eventually found. It was concluded that she had drowned, likely as a result of her intoxication. The heart-wrenching story brought many in the audience to tears.

Then, Chris, a former super bowl champion with the New England Patriots, recited a personal narrative about his addiction to drugs and alcohol, and how he is now dealing with the problem. Also there to discuss banned substances was detective John LeClair, who was accompanied by a person addicted to oxycontin, a highly addictive prescription drug. The detective's

presentation taught students that oxycontin is also absurdly expensive; individual pills run around \$80 to \$100 on the street. The addict's habit cost him about \$1000 per day, landing him in a state of financial disrepair. The students learned that although a substance may not prove fatal, there are multiple ways in which it can destroy a life.

Not all workshops were about substance abuse, however. "The Deana's Fund acting group put on a play about cyber bullying and sexting, which to be honest was a little awkward," said Kaegi with a laugh, but she continued: "Overall though I think we learned a lot as a group."

The students are now challenged with the task of educating their peers on the topics discussed at the conference. This is just one of many steps that Mt. Greylock is taking to build a more comfortable environment for the current middle schoolers and future high schoolers. A key component in making every student feel welcome in the Mt. Greylock community is understanding the issue of diversity. This topic was touched upon at the conference by Kim Boland, a teacher from Miss Hall's school for girls. She led a discussion on this issue and students from all over the county volunteered to stand up in front of everyone to tell their story of how they were stereotyped. "It was really cool to watch these seventh and eighth graders stand up and just be so open about their own personal experiences," Kaegi remarked.

The Youth Advisory Board also played games with students about bullying to supplement the conference. Much like the Peer team, the Youth Advisory Board is an organization that strives to help every student feel integrated into the school community and to prepare them for the challenges they will face in the future. So far, successful gatherings such as the Berkshire County STRIVE conference have them well on their way to achieving those goals. ■■

## BIOLOGY COMMUNITY PROJECTS

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experience and I would like everyone who wants to, to step up to this responsibility."

Students in the lake project will support the habitats in the lake by having events such as a clean up day. The Green River group has the goal of making it a safer place for swimming and also for the fish living in the river. The third group has the job of decreasing the number of endangered birds by providing food and bird houses.

Each of Bell's biology classes chose which project they would be working on by picking out of a hat. Julia Vlahopoulos, in the bird group, recalled that, "our class got the one everyone put last on their list, but I think in the end it will be a lot more fun than expected." Vlahopoulos added, "I

think it's cool to do something outside of school and the textbook, and to make a difference in the community. With these projects we get hands on experience with nature and the biology we read about, which are both important."

Heather Tomkowicz, in the Green River project, agrees. "It's an important way to both learn about biology and the community around us," she said.

Bell said that he wants, "each student to gain some interest in local environmental concerns and have some fun along way. I also hope they see how biology is relevant in our local communities, something that they can actively affect." ■■

## 1 in 650: Ric Donati

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tions. Once I found that, I started competing mostly because I wanted to meet other people that did the same thing as me, but also because I thought it would help and motivate me to improve.

Echo: What is your fastest time?

Ric: Ever, it's 8.4 seconds.

Echo: Wow, that's really impressive. Are you ranked?

Ric: Yeah, seven-hundred something in the world, I think.

Echo: Are there different strategies for solving a Rubik's Cube?

Ric: One main strategy that most people use is called the Fridrich Method. There are others, but people can't solve them as fast with those.

Echo: How do you solve a Rubik's Cube?

Ric: There are four steps that I use. It's kind of hard to describe, but one of them is making a cross on one side. And then you have to get the first two layers. Then there are two steps for the last layer, the top one. You orient the pieces and then you permute the pieces. I don't even know what that means, it's just what people say so I go with it. That's all it is; it's kind of hard to explain in more detail than that.

Echo: How can you solve it so fast?

Ric: I started out by learning the "beginners method," which has seven steps. I used that for a couple of months until I averaged around 1:20 (to solve a 3x3x3 cube). Then I realized that there were different ways to solve it which were much faster than the one I knew. It condensed the seven steps into only four. Because of that, I had to learn more algorithms. Algorithms are series of moves (usually 6-15) that do a

specific thing to the cube. The new method required me to learn around 100 new algorithms which took a while but definitely paid off. When I finally learned all of them I just practiced a lot and learned little tricks to get to where I am now.

Echo: When you first pick up a Rubik's Cube what do you do to solve it?

Ric: Basically you look at it. And look at it while you're doing it and think of what you are doing next. It's kind of like looking ahead and trying not to solve in the middle. That's what makes you fast.

Q: Anything else I should know about the Rubik's Cube?

Ric: It is really not as hard as it seems!

Echo: I'm assuming Rubik's Cube isn't your whole life. What else are you involved in?

Ric: Oh yeah definitely not. I do sports and other things. It's not really that big a part of my life anymore. I still go to competitions and stuff, but it's not the only thing. Homework, hanging out with friends, playing videos games. It's just something on the side.

Echo: A lot of people we interview are seniors, so as a seventh grader what are you looking forward to in your time at Mt. Greylock?

Ric: I really like it so far. I can't wait to see some new teachers when I get older and new classes. But yeah, I really like Greylock.

Interview has been edited and condensed. To nominate a student for 1 in 650, contact the editors at mountgreylockecho@gmail.com. ■■



Photo courtesy of mgrhs.org

Community members and athletes from Berkshire County nordic ski teams gathered in the Mt. Greylock cafeteria after the Mathias J. Barteles Scholarship Race on Feb. 17.

The 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, photographers, artists, and editors. Any Mt. Greylock High School student is welcome to join the Echo staff.

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## NEW EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TO BE CONSIDERED

By KELSEY HEBERT

Early in the school year, Barbara Robertson was hired to help Mt. Greylock strengthen its offerings of extended learning activities. Robertson, in coordination with Principal Jack Kurty and the Williams Center at Mt. Greylock, has developed several recommendations, the goals of which are to: allow more students to participate in independent learning opportunities, promote greater faculty involvement in extended learning and introduce a system of assessments and goals that will enable students to enjoy a more meaningful and fun school experience. Mt. Greylock was able to hire Robertson thanks to the Jeffery Family Donor Grant.

A couple of the proposed changes include increased options for community service and increased transportation to college classes. A new title for the program, Independent and Experiential Learning (IEL), has been suggested, and a part-time IEL coordinator may be hired. Certificates of achievement for students who complete a field of study in learning will also be an addition under consideration.

Currently, students in 11th and 12th grade are offered several independent learning opportunities that include peer tutoring, college classes, virtual high school classes, work-based learning, senior internships, teacher assistantships and independent studies. Although these opportunities are extensive in proportion to the small student body at Mt. Greylock, Superintendent Rose Ellis stated that more are needed because, "involvement in independent academic and experiential learning has the potential to be exceptionally meaningful and can even be life-changing for students." Research was conducted to find ways to increase student exposure to learning opportunities that allow them to explore their areas of interest.

116 juniors and seniors helped the research by completing extended learn-

ing surveys about what they know, enjoy and wish to change about the opportunities currently in place. Faculty and staff provided their input through interviews by Robertson. Online surveys were also provided for parents of students in grades 7-12. Many of those who gave feedback said that although they thought the programs were good for students, some were improperly structured or hidden in the course of studies.

One of Robertson's proposals was that certificates of achievement should be awarded to students who have completed several courses and activities in a certain area of study. It would be similar to the already available Business Pathway Certificate that presents students who have completed several computer or business classes with a certificate of achievement. Other categories such as an Arts and Culture Certificate, Healthy Living and Learning Certificate, and Global Citizen Certificate would be added.

Several other ideas were proposed. One of these includes the endorsement of the Positive Options Program, which is a dropout prevention program connected to Berkshire Community College and three other Northern Berkshire High Schools. Other ideas were new clubs, such as a mock trial club, involvement in the new IS183 Art Center, first aid/CPR, cooking, outdoor and wilderness skills and a more structured school government.

It is important to note that these changes are not permanent and will not necessarily be implemented in the next school year. The administration is still trying to determine what will work best for our school's budget, schedule and students. The changes mentioned here are those proposed by the IEL advisor and team who are working to strengthen the extended learning programs at Mt. Greylock. ■■

## WILLIAMS CENTER PROGRAMS AT MT. GREYLOCK

By SAM KLASS & ECHO STAFF

Through the Williams center, a pair of programs will be taking place this Spring. The programs will be on both local authors and Civic Education.

In the civic education program, a couple of Williams students and their professor, Justin Crowe, will be coming to Mt. Greylock to lead model U.N. conferences. A few English and history classes will be taking part in this program, which will run from April 8th to April 12th. History teacher Tom Ostheimer said that a civics student from Williams also came last year, but ran a slightly different program. It involved surveys about student involvement and knowledge about government and related topics.

English teacher Matthew Fisher will be participating in the civic education program and feels that is an important event. He said, "It's basically teaching the responsibility of living in a community in a democratic society. So, they are 'giving back' to students while teaching them the lessons

they themselves are learning in their own classes." He continued, saying, "the best way to learn is to teach, which I believe strongly, and they are basically learning by teaching you."

The second program organized by the Williams Center will bring local authors to English teacher Kelli Houle's classroom. One visiting author will be Cassandra Cleghorn, an English professor at Williams College. She will teach the class about ekphrastic poems. The subject of this type of poem is a painting or other visual image, so classes will go to the Clark Art Institute to look art and do writing exercises about some of what they see there.

Mt. Greylock graduate and Williams student Dylan Dethier will also visit classes later this Spring. He will talk about his memoir, *18 in America*, which chronicles his post-high school gap year. Other authors with visits scheduled include Jana Laiz, Jim Shepard and Jane Smith. ■■

## MOBY-DICK READ-A-THON

By ZAVI SHELDON

From April 4th to 5th, the two AP 11 English classes will be conducting a 21-hour, continuous reading of Herman Melville's classic novel of more than 600 pages, Moby-Dick. After preliminary scheduling difficulties, it is now official that the event will take place in the meeting room beginning at the end of the school day on the 4th until the end of the following day.

Students will read in half-hour shifts, eating, sleeping and playing games with friends in between their scheduled readings. They will each read for two half-hour blocks. The read-a-thon will be led by English teacher Trudy Ames, a three-time vet-

eran of Moby-Dick read-a-thons.

Ames loves the event and said that "the rhythmic qualities of Melville's prose make it seem like we're rocking in a boat." She said that any student or teacher is welcome to stop in for a few minutes to listen when they have free time during the day.

The read-a-thon concludes the classes' study, which lasted nearly two months, of Melville's most famous work. Moby-Dick continues to be, 150 years after its publication, one of the most influential novels in American history. Melville wrote it in the Berkshires, at his home in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. ■■

## TRI-DISTRICT CONSIDERS REGIONALIZATION

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mittees. Rose Ellis, superintendent of the Tri-District, and teachers from the schools are also serving on the new committee.

The three schools already share a superintendent, business director, curriculum coordinator and director of pupil services, whose offices are located in the District Office at Mt. Greylock. Each school district, however, has its own school committee and budget. By bringing the elementary schools into the Mt. Greylock School District, one school committee and budget would be established.

Possible benefits of the unification are savings in the towns and schools and a greater reimbursement from the Massachusetts State Building Authority for renovation projects at Mt. Greylock. Before any funds are awarded, though, the high school must be accepted into the MSBA's program.

Members of the Regional District Agreement Committee decided in their first meeting on February 26th that possible monetary savings should not be the main motive for regionalization. The educational and administrative benefits are tangible, as Ellis and her staff would have to fill out a third of the amount of forms required by the DESE every year; with the time that would save,

the focus could turn to better educating a wide range of students. Efficiency would greatly increase, and Ellis believes regionalization could provide future advantages. Concerns have been expressed about losing the individuality of the schools by combining into one pre-kindergarten through 12th grade system.

At the first meeting, the executive director of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools, Steven Hemman, presented the necessary steps for the proposed regionalization of the districts. The committee is simply exploring the feasibility of expanding the Mt. Greylock Regional School District to include the elementary schools, which means that it can still decide not to go ahead with the regionalization.

If the committee does pursue the idea, they then must complete a series of reviews, changes and approvals before residents in Williamstown and Lanesborough can vote on the decision. This spring, community forums in the two towns will give people a chance to view the analyses and findings on the situation. Hopefully, by the end of the summer, the regionalization committee will present a recommendation to the School Committee. ■■



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# OPINION

Editor’s Note: The views expressed in opinion pieces do not reflect the collective views of this newspaper, but of the individual authors.

## Jae’s Asian Bistro

By HANNAH FEIN AND ANYA SHELTON

Although Williamstown and Lanesborough offer several delicious dining options, we can all agree that sometimes it’s nice to get out of town. So, for this month’s restaurant review, we journeyed beyond our town lines to Jae’s Asian Bistro in Lenox, MA, which is in a small plaza on the left as you travel toward Pittsfield. In the past, Jae’s Asian Bistro, previously known as Jae’s Inn, has been located by Sheep Hill in Williamstown and also in North Adams on State Street. Don’t be led astray by this restaurant’s frequent relocations!

Walking into Jae’s with our party of four, we were struck by the restaurant’s size, which was accentuated by the lack of other guests. The rooms, painted dark green and red, displayed a diverse collection of ornate vases, sculptures, figurines and intricate calligraphy framed on the walls. We were amused when we spotted a carousel horse attached to the ceiling. The combination of the restaurant’s emptiness and abundance of abstract cultural decorations created a slightly disconcerting atmosphere. The rose placed at each table, however, added a pleasant final touch, and the quietness made the expansive space seem private and personal.

After being shown to a booth near a window by a polite, quiet waitress, we began looking through the extensive lunch menu. It contained a wide range of Thai, Korean, Chinese and Japanese dishes, including soups, noodles, sushi and more. We browsed through the variety of options before finally making our decisions. We ordered edamame beans and chicken satay for appetizers. For entrees we ordered Bulgoki, Chow Fun noodles with chicken, Asian-style chicken noodle soup, and Chicken Teriyaki.

We did not have to wait long before our appetizers arrived. The edamame, soybeans still in the pod, were excessively salted, yet were still gone in a flash, as they were the perfect pre-meal snack. The chicken satay, which came as a kabob with a creamy peanut sauce, was tender and flavorful. We were pleased to receive our meals not long after, each beautifully adorned with herbs, greens and other vegetables.

The Bulgoki, a Korean dish of marinated, thinly sliced beef with vegetables, was delicious for the most part. While it was rich and flavorful, the meat had a bit too much fat on it for our liking, which slightly detracted from the dish’s appeal.

The next dish, Chow Fun noodles with chicken, was a surprise. The dish was served in an angled bowl. Instead of typical lo mein

noodles, which are long and skinny, Chow Fun noodles are wide, short and flat. The array of wide rice noodles mixed with small chicken pieces and an abundance of Chinese broccoli was delicious and very satisfying. Although there was no sauce, this meal proved very flavorful-- the unique noodles, juicy chicken, and tasty broccoli combined to win the Chow Fun an overall positive rating.

The chicken noodle soup was a vibrant sea of small pieces of chicken, thin noodles, lettuce, cabbage, snow peas and a variety of other vegetables. Although this soup was brimming with unique ingredients, the broth itself proved to be slightly bland. Despite this, the soup’s Asian twist and high nutritional value added pizzazz to a usually plain dish.

With the first bite of the Chicken Teriyaki came a burst of flavor. The large dish was exceptional-- juicy, slightly salty, dotted with scallions and dripping in a rich “house-made balsamic teriyaki sauce” with a strong, distinct taste. The two large pieces of chicken, abundance of vegetables, and small side of rice were filling and made a satisfying meal.

Although it had its quirks, our experience at Jae’s was very pleasant, and we left feeling content with the quality of our meal despite the fact that the price tag was a bit high. With unique decorations, friendly service and authentic Asian cuisine, the restaurant was an excellent choice for lunch. If you would like to get out of town for an enjoyable meal, Jae’s is a good choice. ■■



Chicken Teriyaki



Chicken Noodle Soup



Chow Fun Noodles

Photos courtesy of Anya Sheldon

## The Best and Worst Movies of 2012

By NATE TASKIN

**Hollywood thinks that, just because Oscar season is over, they** can wash their hands clean of the offerings of yesteryear. They can’t do that quite yet, though. The first three movies on this list have proven my aspirations for the growth of film as an art form. The bottom three, meanwhile, proceed to crush that misplaced idealism.

### THE BEST

#### Django Unchained:

All of Quentin Tarantino’s movies since 9/11 have been revenge-themed, specifically in the form of a revenge fantasy. This isn’t a criticism or a compliment, it’s just an observation.

I spent the entire two and a half hours of this movie grinning like an idiot. Tarantino’s homage to spaghetti westerns is everything I was hoping for and more. Furthermore,

this film has the best cast players of the year. Christoph Waltz is equal parts hilarious and charismatic. On the same coin, Leonardo DiCaprio expertly juggles the goofy and terrifying aspects of his character. Samuel L. Jackson, in turn, steals the show as one of the most unnerving and unique villains in recent memory. One final note is that the movie makes a comment on racism that hasn’t really been touched upon in film. Even when it is not reprehensible or vindictive, bigotry is mind-numbingly stupid.

#### Holy Motors:

What makes Holy Motors so magnificently unique is that there’s no real way to talk about the film without ruining it. Wonderfully bizarre, fascinating and engaging, Holy Motors reminded me of the reason why I love movies so much in the first place. Ingenuity has no limits. In all honesty, I rec-

ommend running to your nearest theater to appreciate this freak of nature for yourself.

#### Perks of Being a Wallflower:

For many people, high school is a painful time. Given the unalterable fact that it is a period during which no one has the faintest idea of what’s going on, and leads to such intense social anxiety that adolescent heads collapse in upon themselves, here comes this movie to remind you why you kept going. Why you keep going.

Because nobody thinks the ones they love will have enough. Because all humans are afraid of their own lives. Because sadness feeds on you like a disease. Because sometimes it really is just about finding that perfect song. Because Ringo was right when he said he would get by with a little help from his friends.

### THE WORST

#### Prometheus:

What was that black gunk? Was the black gunk different from the shiny, green gunk?

Why would Holloway assume that the air inside the alien spaceship was okay to breathe just because they detected an oxygen atmosphere, without taking into account alien diseases or deadly microbes?

Why did they bring along a biologist who, rather than getting curious when they discover an alien body, just freaks out and runs away? Why doesn’t the biologist run away when he meets a Freudian-inspired snake alien? When they selected this biologist for a four year space mission, didn’t they do a psychological profile on him?

Why did Holloway complain that the mission was a disappointment when it was only the first day? Wouldn’t finding extraterrestrial life be a substantial discovery?

Why does everyone seem to hate Fassbender when he’s the only one who does anything useful? How did they get lost in the caves when the ship had an elaborate 3D map that was tracking their every move?

Why do Theron and Rapace run in a straight line if they are trying to escape a circular ship rolling after them? If the En-

gineers were running from the black gunk, why did one of them run into the room where the vases of black gunk were stored? Did he forget his keys or something?

What kind of futuristic birthing machine uses staples to close up a C-section?

Is this one of the finest examples of hackneyed and rushed Hollywood storytelling? I’ll let you decide.

But the answer is yes.

#### That’s My Boy:

Every waking moment is sheer agony. The end.

#### Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 2:

Entire novels could be written as to why Twilight is one of the worst pieces of media to be excreted in the last few years. The fact of the matter is that Twilight has dreadful characters, insipid dialogue, lifeless writing and disdain for engaging storytelling. It seems to glorify abusive relationships.

Going into this, I expected the only plus of this moviegoing experience would be that I could take solace in the fact that five years of misery and anguish were finally coming to a close. Instead, something intriguing occurred. There is this part in the film where a final battle is about to take place. While it was possibly the goofiest nonsense that I have seen, I was shockingly enjoying myself at the same time.

Characters are dying left and right, the earth is caving in on itself, Bella and Edward rip a guy’s head off, there is madness in every direction, and yet it is beautiful. It was as if all of the horror and atrociousness of this series was building up to one cathartic breaking point... And then they cop out by flashing back to the prelude of the battle, hammering it home that none of what was just seen will ever happen. Twilight had one chance to look cool, and the series utterly blew it.

In a just world, Stephanie Meyer would be brought up for crimes against humanity. But alas, we do not live in a just world. So in the meantime, go watch Holy Motors. ■■

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Greylock Echo



## GIRLS' TENNIS

By DAN FINNEGAN

Spring sports are finally here, and with their arrival comes a very motivated Girls' Mountie Tennis Team. Junior Tyra Nurmi and senior Margot Besnard are the captains, and last year, they helped the team reach a solid record of 13-2. This year, twenty-two players signed up for the team, the best turn out in the past five years for the Mounties. Though they are the only returning varsity players, Nurmi and Besnard are hoping to

pull together a solid top seven squad to beat tenacious teams like Lenox and Lee. Everyone is hoping to improve a lot, have some fun, and play great tennis. Besnard, the only senior on the team, commented, "I'm looking forward to improving my game as a singles player and I would especially like to beat Lenox. We have a lot of potential and a lot of positive energy on the team." ■■

## BOYS' TRACK

By IAN CULNANE

Captains Will Kirby and Blake Sherman of the boys' track team have a great season to look forward to with many new and returning runners. The sprint and distance teams make up one of the best track teams Greylock has seen in years. The team will be supported by long distance runners, including Will Kirby, the only returning Western Mass qualifier from last year, Thomas Kirby and Thomas Schoorlemmer. The team is also picking up three new runners: Carter Stripp, Jake Kobrin and Sam Kobrin. With the returning runners and the new ones, the boys track team has high hopes for their distance runners.

The sprint team also has a fast group of runners, including Ryan Benoit, Mark Messina and Richard Astle. The team hopes to perform well in relays like the 4x100 and the 4x800. To top it off, all these incredible runners also compete in the field events. Last year the track team was one win away from a 50/50 season. This year the team is looking even better, and they hope to improve their record. Will Kirby says "I don't see any reason why we shouldn't be able to improve." In the last 6 years, Greylock has not had a single boy qualify for States, but they look to change that this year with many strong candidates, all on the brink of the qualifying times. The team looks better than ever this year and hopes to improve for years to come. ■■

## GIRLS' TRACK

Last week, the girls' track team hit the track for their first official practice of the season. On Friday, April 12th at the Williams track, they will kick off their competitive season with their first meet. For the last five years, the girls' team has dominated Western Mass. competition. The seniors want to finish with win in their last year. With a key group of runners, the win looks promising. Leading the pack are senior captains Kat Chenail, Stephanie Adamczyk, Alex Majetich and Sophia Dastoli. Chenail said, "The seniors have been undefeated since 7th grade, so we'd like to continue that and win Western Mass." Other top runners include Emily Kaegi and Jenna Phelps.

These individuals cover almost everything on the track: Majetich the sprints, Phelps and Dastoli the hurdles and Chenail, Adamczyk and Kaegi the long distance. All of these track runners, however, can only wage half of the battle. The other half is the field portion, where Greylock is stretched thin after graduating many athletes in the past few years. The girls will rely heavily on Majetich for long jump, junior Celestine Lockhart for high jump and freshman Elizabeth Bernardy for discus. To keep their winning streak alive, more Mt. Greylock athletes will need to step up in field events. After a long winter of training, the girls are ready to claim another Western Mass win. ■■

## BOYS' TENNIS

By ERIC HIRSCH

If the Mt. Greylock Boys' tennis team accomplishes its goals for the upcoming season, they will end with a win. The only way to do that is win the State Championship. Three years ago, Greylock almost did not have a team. The makeshift team included mostly inexperienced middle schoolers. Seeing that they needed a coach, cross-country running coach Scott Burdick stepped up. Although the team was not incredibly successful, the transition period was necessary and the team managed to attract some talented players to the squad. Slowly, the Mounties gained the personnel and the necessary skills to succeed. After two years of reasonable success, culminating in a Western Massachusetts semi-final berth last year, the Greylock team has high hopes for the 2013 season.

Under a new coach, Stephen Bryant, and with a new attitude, Greylock is poised to handle the county competition. At the start of the season, the match lineups will look something like this: seniors Nathan Majumder and Alex White return from last year's squad expected to play in high spots, while sophomores Jake Foehl, Will Nolan, and Nyein Chen-Soe will likely cover a doubles team as well as third singles. Last year's first singles player, senior, Jonah Majumder, will probably move down to second doubles where he hopes to win most of his matches throughout the year. The big new addition to this year's squad is nationally ranked senior Rohan Shastri. Many younger players including sophomores Judah Devadoss and Patrick Archibald and freshmen Gray Kaegi and Josh Narey have been participating in tennis clinics throughout the winter, so the team is sure to have a very deep lineup. The Mounties however, cannot win a single tennis match on paper. They will have to go out and get the job down on the court.

If the Mounties want to add some ink to this year's banner, the team will have come full circle. Although many players might move down the ladder because of the addi-



Photo courtesy of Rohan Shastri

Senior Rohan Shastri is expected to be a key player for the team this year.

tion of Shastri, the team is thrilled to have him. One of Greylock's assets is the loose, unselfish nature of the team; no one minds taking a backseat to anyone else, because in reality, every match is equally important. As long as the Mounties can take the season one match at a time, they will be able to end the year on a positive note. ■■



## BASEBALL

By WILL WALTER



Photos courtesy of iBerkshires.com

With many returning players from last year's team, pictured above, the baseball team is poised to have a successful season.

After being upset in the semifinals of the division two Western Mass championships last year by South Hadley, the Mt. Greylock baseball team is as determined as ever to finish the job. With a promising lineup, and an extremely deep pitching rotation, the Mounties appear to be the pre-season favorites to win the title. Senior captains Andrew Leitch and Eric Leitch will hold down the left part of the infield at 3rd base and shortstop, respectively, and fellow senior captain Sean Houston will be supporting the outfield at centerfield. The pitching rotation may be the strongest asset for Greylock. The Mounties'

ace may be Andrew Leitch, but junior Robby Buffis and sophomore Ian Brink, provide an outstanding supporting cast, thrown in with the occasional appearance of crafty southpaw sophomore, Andrew Rickus. Also, with Nick Disanti behind the plate, very few wild balls will pass by.

Even though losing last year's seniors Mike Munzer, Nick Zimmerman, Avery Cunningham, Josh Fortier and Billy Pulasky is a blow to the team, look for weathered veterans and upcoming players to step up this year and hopefully send the Mounties to a Western Mass title. ■■

## WINTER SPORTS RECAPS

By EMILY KAEGI

### GIRLS' NORDIC SKIING

Regular Season Record: Undefeated  
League Finish: Berkshire County Champs  
Playoff Finish: 2nd place at States, 10 girls qualified for state EHS and J2 Championship teams  
Captains: Stephanie Adamczyk, Alexa Adams, Chloe Anderson, Kat Chenail, Sophia Dastoli  
"This was the perfect senior season with the best group of girls. Out of everything I will miss next year, I will miss the Nordic ski team the most." -Chenail

### BOYS' NORDIC SKIING

Regular Season Record: Undefeated  
League Finish: Berkshire County Champs  
Playoff Finish: State Champs, 11 boys qualified for state EHS and J2 Championship teams  
Captains: Sean Houston, Will Kirby, Jonah Majumder, Alex White  
"We had an excellent combination of camaraderie and passion that enabled us to have fun, push each other and ultimately reach our goal of a state championship." -Houston

### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Regular Season Record: 6-12  
League Finish: 3rd in Southern Division  
Captains: Lucy Barrett, Margot Besnard, Mackenzie Flynn  
"As a young, inexperienced team, our inconsistency kept us from playing to our full potential. We made huge improvements, but were disappointed not to make Western Mass." -Besnard

### BOYS' BASKETBALL

Regular Season Record: 17-3  
League Finish: Berkshire County Champs  
Playoff Finish: W. Mass quarter-finalists  
Captains: Hank Barrett, Nathan Majumder, Tyler Picard  
"While we didn't achieve our ultimate goal, we are still proud of the season we've had and the strides we've made. We have our Greylock basketball back on the map and it's here to stay and that's a great feeling." -Barrett

### WRESTLING

Overall Record: 24-4-1  
League Finish: Berkshire County Champs  
Playoff Finish: 3rd at W. Mass, 8 wrestlers

qualified for States

Captains: Allison Crews, Mitch Graves, Ross Jackson  
"It was a great season for such a young team. There is a lot of young talent and potential to become a great team in upcoming years." -Graves

### GIRLS' ALPINE SKIING

Regular Season Record: N/A for lack of numbers  
Playoff Finish: Abby Wiseman was first alternate for the state team  
Members: Olivia D'Agostino, Mercer Greenwald, Carly Munzer, Gabby Orpin, Abby Wiseman  
"Since it was such a small team, you got to know who everyone was and that everyone wanted you to do well." -Wiseman

### BOYS' ALPINE SKIING

Regular Season Record: 2-3  
League Finish: 2nd Place in Berkshire County  
Playoff Finish: Ryan Kuhn and Nick Disanti qualified for States  
Captains: Ryan Kuhn and Frank Rickus  
"It was a rebuilding year, but we pulled together as a team and got the finishes we needed to win races and luckily enough Ryan and I made states." -Disanti

### SWIMMING

Regular Season Record: 9-4  
League Finish: 2nd Place North Division  
Playoff Finish: 3 girls qualified for W. Mass and States  
Captains: Maria Mazzu, Allison Tremblay, Jordan Vanuni  
"I believe our swim team gave it their all this season. I could not have been more proud of the team this year and I cannot wait to see how well they will do in the future." -Tremblay

### HOCKEY

Regular Season Record: 10-7-2  
League Finish: 2nd Place in Berkshire County  
Playoff Finish: W. Mass Semi-finalists  
Captains: Eric Leitch, Luke Perry  
"We struggled in the beginning part of the season, but picked it up the second half of the season and finished a much stronger team, which showed in the playoffs." -Andrew Leitch. ■■



SOFTBALL

By WILL WALTER

After an exciting season last year, which came to an end in the Western Mass quarterfinals at the hands of rival Waconah, the Mt. Greylock girls' softball team is determined to come out on the right end of the stick this year. Some might consider this year a rebuilding season for the Mounties after losing three important seniors, Caitie Benoit, Michaela DiNicola and Sierra Holland, to graduation. This Greylock team, however, has such a young core that they should be contenders for a long time. Juniors Meredith Dezieck, Randi Rocca, Michelle Gingras, Markell Shea, Kendall Frye, Sam Joy and Heather Tomkowicz will lead the team, while sophomore Miranda Voller hopes to add pop to the lineup as well.

In 2011, the Mounties had a 5-13 record, and did not make the playoffs. Last year, Tomkowicz led them to a 15-6 record while pitching virtually every game, posting a 1.83 ERA (earned run average), and striking out 179 batters. Tomkowicz will have to be key again this year if the Mounties want to make a deep playoff run. With the core they have now, that seems entirely possible. As long as they stay loose and stick together, Mt. Greylock may see another banner being hung up in the Mountie Dome. ■■



Photo courtesy of iBerkshires.com

Junior Heather Tomkowicz throws out a pitch at a 2012 game against Hoosac

Editor's Note: The author's interpretation of events should not be relied upon to offer a historically accurate account of the tournament.

THE 2013 DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT:  
A Satirical View of Greylock's Greatest Tradition

By EVELYN MAHON



Photo courtesy of Amalia Leamon

The winning team poses after the tournament. From left to right: Nathan Majumder, Rohan Shastri, Alex White, Ben Krant, Carlos Ames, Jonah Majumder

This March, spectators and athletes alike rallied in the famed Mt. Greylock Gymnasium for a tournament testing the bravery, loyalty, camaraderie and ball-dodging skills of many a hopeful competitor. Only one team would make it out alive... well, all the teams made it out alive, but only one would win. Okay, so there wasn't just one prize. But the winning team would get glory! Okay, so not glory per se, but bragging rights. Well, bragging rights might be an overstatement. They could say, "Oh cool. We won the dodgeball tournament," and then get over it because no one actually cares if you won a dodgeball tournament in high school. But that was glory enough!

As Tribal Lovin' faced off against Scared Hitless in the final game, tensions rose. While some dudes with bandannas and face paint stared down some other dudes in loincloths and women's tank tops, the crowd hushed. As the whistle blew, Scared Hitless players whipped balls left and right

while Tribal Lovin' did their best to protect a previously injured teammate who was, "really hurt. Like, seriously."

In the end, Tribal Lovin' won the game, and the tournament, and celebrated with a Roman-style banquet in the locker room. As they ate stuffed doormice, one team member is quoted as saying "Sirs, this is indubitably the pinnacle of our lives. We may gain fabulous success and wealth later in life, even find the meaning of life and the secret of happiness, but all of that shall pale in comparison to our deeds performed on this day. This day, this holy day, shall be forever in our hearts."

Who will achieve the greatest honor a high schooler can possibly obtain next year? Will it be the team of Sophomore Supermen? Or perhaps a middle school team will take the tournament by storm, surprising and enraging upperclassmen? Until next spring, we shall not know. ■■

BOYS' LACROSSE

By GRAY KAEGI

After a solid 17-2 season last year, the Mt. Greylock boys' lacrosse team is ready for their second year as a varsity team. They will be led by senior captains Hank Barrett, Ethan Ryan and Brett McCormack, and be coached by Jeff Stripp and Brandon Asplundh.

They have a formidable attack line that includes Brett McCormack, junior Matt Malloy, and sophomores Cole Hughes and Michael McCormack. Midfielders include seniors Ethan Ryan, Ben Krant and Hank Barrett and junior Cole Jackson, all returning players with plenty of experience. Juniors Daivon Clement and Niko Santore and sophomores Matt Hogan and Carter Cummings will keep the back line. The starting goalie this year is freshman Cal Filson.

When asked about the team's season goals Barrett said, "We want to go undefeated in the county, win some quality out-of-county games, make a run in the Western Mass tournament and have a lot of fun along the way." This is going to be a great team that will be thrilling to watch throughout the season. ■■

GIRLS' LACROSSE

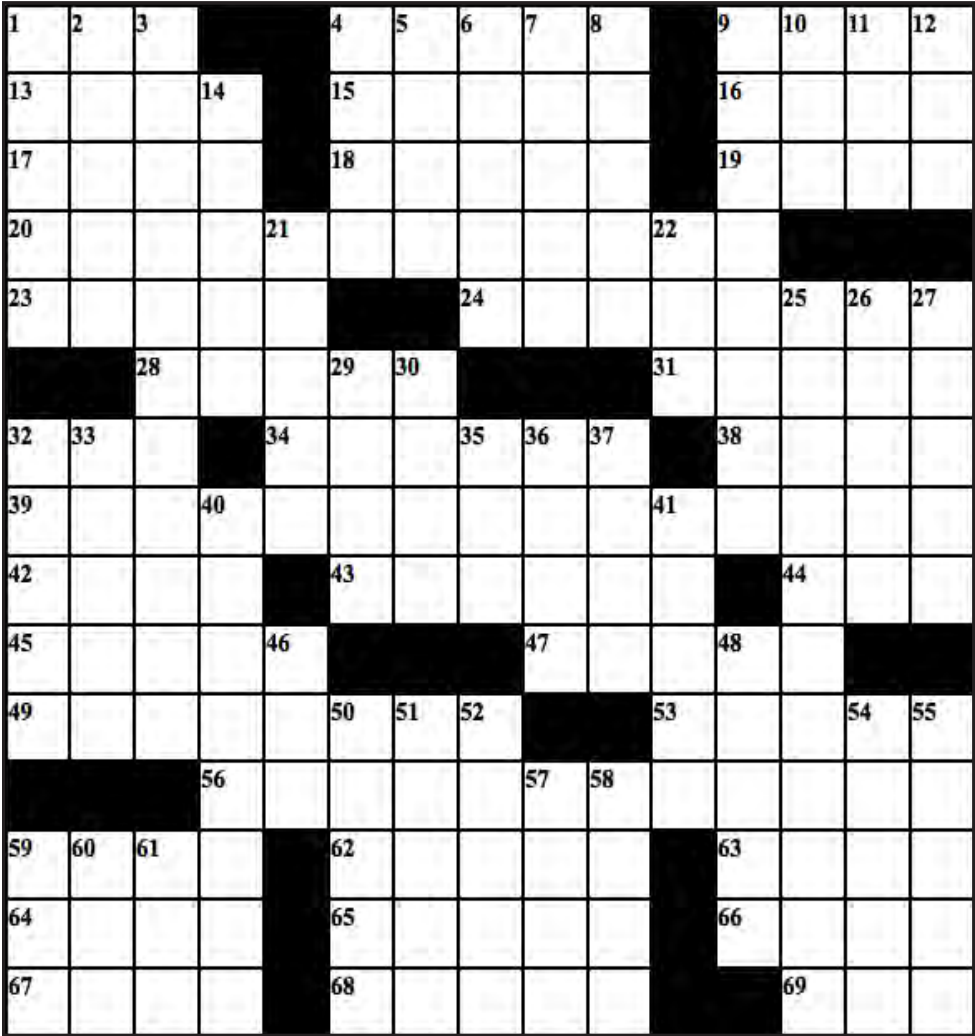
By GRAY KAEGI

This season, after losing key seniors, the Mt. Greylock girls' lacrosse team is hoping to rebuild. Now that last year's Berkshire County Top Scorer, Annie Flynn, has graduated, other girls on the team are ready to step up. Seniors Chloe Anderson and Emily Greb will lead this year's team as captains. The team is coached by athletic director Lindsey Von Holtz. Among new players this year will be many middle schoolers, along with senior Alexa Adams.

After losing in the Western Mass tournament last season, the team is ready to rebuild and make it to the tournament again. "Since it is going to be a new team I think that we are going to try working together as one and try to win as many games as we can," said Anderson. In their second year as a varsity team, they are sure to have many new breakout players and be a strong contender in the league. ■■

CROSSWORD

By BLAIR DILS



Across

1. Trip est.
4. Indigestion aid, informally
9. With 59-down, result of 20-, 39- and 56-across
13. DEA agent
15. Influenza type
16. \_\_\_\_\_ fruit
17. First part of a stage magician's word
18. " | | "
19. Downhill Miller
20. Low on the Atlantic seaboard?
23. "The Lone Ranger and \_\_\_\_\_ Fistfight in Heaven," Alexie story collection
24. Coleridge and Keats, for example
28. 50s French playwright who wrote "The Balcony"
31. Hip hop's A \_\_\_\_\_ Called Quest
32. Cain and Abel's mother
34. Portfolio expectation
38. Chew (on)
39. Young part-time workers?
42. Leftward, on a boat
43. Borgia featured in Machiavelli's "The Prince"
44. Place for a 787 or DC-10
45. Testis or ovary
47. At this very moment, with "up"
49. Vladimir's pal in "Waiting for Godot"
53. When "SNL" ends, in New York
56. Good plowing conditions?
59. Comedian Cook
62. French city that was part of the Roman Empire
63. Mimicked
64. Burn soother
65. "I \_\_\_\_ Hero" – Bonnie Tyler song in "Shrek"
66. Late night host who replaced Carson
67. .9144 meters
68. The " \_\_\_\_\_ Rebellion," 1918 Budapest protest
69. QB protectors

Down

1. Perform
2. Pictionary rival
3. Funeral or flower follower
4. Hemingway's nickname
5. Performance assessment, for short
6. Pope who helped standardize the Holy Mass in the 1560s
7. Mouthful
8. " \_\_\_\_\_ the other"
9. Drown
10. Oxfam or Doctors Without Borders, for example
11. "My \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment," Barenaked Ladies song
12. Fourth woman to play a men's professional golf event
14. Social stratification
21. Forceps
22. Alphabetic trio
25. Computer time-waster
26. ING Direct, for ex.
27. Of interest
29. Guitarist Clapton
30. \_\_\_\_\_ deaf
32. Premiere or deuxieme in a maison
33. Tour de France racers' needs
35. Ozs. and lbs.
36. E!'s " \_\_\_\_\_ Morning Show"
37. Grinder
40. Bartlett starter
41. Singer of "Nessun Dorma"
46. Carrell title role (2007)
48. James's new teammate in Cleveland
50. " \_\_\_\_\_ Fly Now" – theme from "Rocky"
51. Cut and scrapes, to a tot
52. NY baseball player
54. Pitch \_\_\_\_\_
55. Linux alternative
57. Super ending
58. \_\_\_\_\_ Bomba, Soviet nuclear weapon detonated in 1961
59. See 9-across
60. In the style of
61. Easter preceder