

MT. GREYLOCK LOSING TWO TOP ADMINISTRATORS

By ZAVI SHELDON

On April 9th, Superintendent Dr. Rose Ellis announced to the school community that Principal Dr. Jack Kurty will be taking a paid leave of absence until the end of the 2012-2013 school year. At that time he will formally resign. Dr. Ellis explained in a press release, which was read to students by their teachers, that he is addressing "pressing family concerns." Assistant principal Christopher Barnes has assumed the role and duties of principal, while middle school guidance counselor PJ Pannesco will assist Barnes with his responsibilities.

In a letter to Dr. Ellis, Dr. Kurty wrote that he felt he could no longer fulfill his duties as principal to the extent to which he is accustomed. Though his absence was "unanticipated," according to Dr. Ellis, the reason for it did not surprise her. Dr. Kurty, after spending more than a decade working at a school in London, England as Dean of Academics, had decided to move back to the U.S. this year to be closer to his family. Shortly into this academic year, his father passed away unexpectedly.

Kurty's departure was made public just days after Barnes informed staff that he will not be returning to Mt. Greylock for the 2013-2014 school year. He announced that he has accepted a job as principal of Arlington Memorial Middle/High School in Vermont. Dr. Ellis said that Barnes, who was a top candidate for principalship of Mt. Greylock last year, had indicated to her and others his interest in finding a job as principal. She said that "he holds wonderful promise as an administrator." Though he is welcome to stay, her under-



File Photo

Assistant principal Christopher Barnes is acting principal during Kurty's absence.

standing is that he has committed to the school.

On the morning of April 8th, before news of Dr. Kurty's leave was made public, Dr. Ellis assembled a group of administrators to plan for how to deal with the transition. The meeting included Barnes, Curriculum Coordinator Mary MacDonald, Tri-District office staff member Nancy Rauscher, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Kimberly Grady, School Psychologist Geri O'Brien, Guidance Counselor PJ Pannesco and office staff member Nancy McMullen. They formulated a plan for how to share responsibilities previously shouldered by Kurty.

Pannesco will assume many of Barnes'

duties, while still performing all of his duties as middle school guidance counselor and advisor to the senior class. He has been a Mt. Greylock staff member since 1977, previously working with students at risk of dropping out as an outreach counselor and then as Dean of Students for eight years. Although he enjoys his current position as guidance counselor, Pannesco said that he would consider it carefully if the administration asked him to take on more permanent responsibilities as an administrator.

Dr. Ellis is already thinking about how to fill the two positions, but her primary focus is that none of the administrative changes are allowed to affect students as they finish the school year. They are not likely to see any changes that influence their daily lives during this transition. Looking ahead to hiring, she said that she has yet to decide how to go about finding replacements. Although one option is to do a large-scale search, as was done last year, involving student, parent and faculty advisement panels, she and her team have yet to announce a concrete plan.

Kurty and Barnes spent one and two years, respectively, at Mt. Greylock. The longest serving prominent member of the administration they will be leaving is Dr. Ellis, who has been at the school three years. The rate of administrative turnover at Mt. Greylock has been high in recent years. Upperclassmen have seen two superintendents and two principals, in addition to the departure of a dean of stu-

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1 in 650: An Interview with Alex White

By EMILY KAEGI



Photo courtesy of Aaron Ziemer

Alex White is a senior at Mt. Greylock, who is involved with many different aspects of the school. He is a three sport, varsity athlete and one of the top boy Nordic skiers in the state. He is also a member of the National Honor Society and the Vice President of the Student Council. This year, Alex has taken on learning the art of transcendental meditation as an independent study. The Echo sat down with Alex to talk about his new study and his time at Mt. Greylock.

Echo: What is transcendental meditation?

Alex: Pretty much you just sit in a room twice a day for twenty minutes with your eyes closed and think a mantra, which is just a sound that doesn't have any meaning and is just supposed to help you relax and melt away the stress in your life.

Echo: How did you learn about transcendental meditation?

Alex: [Superintendent] Dr. [Rose] Ellis is really into it and she had a workshop that a lot of teachers went to, and my mom went because she's in and out of the school a lot. My mom came back and we were just talking about it at dinner and I was like "oh that would be a cool idea for an independent study."

Echo: Do you always find time to meditate twice a day?

Alex: During the week I normally get it in twice a day because I just wake up earlier in the morning. And then I have a free period in school. It's actually a really nice break during school to just relax.

Echo: How did you learn how to do this special meditation?

Alex: I had to go down to West Housatonic for four days and meet with this TM [Transcendental Meditation] teacher who taught me. And now I meet with him every two or three weeks just to check in.

Echo: You mentioned you think a sound, what do you use?

Alex: I'm not allowed to say. I'm not even supposed to say it out loud; it's supposed to be an abstract thing. So I said it to the

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ATTENDANCE POLICY REVISED

By ROSE SHUCKER-HAINES

Recently, the school council has been talking about making changes to the attendance system at Mt. Greylock. The school council is a collection of teachers, students, administrators, parents and community members whose main job is to review and make changes to the student handbook and also to propose new policies to the school committee. The council is headed by Mt. Greylock's principal.

One of the main issues the council has been talking about is the school's handling of absences. Senior Miranda Park, a member of the school council said, "Many of the former rules were either outdated or just ignored." In addition, many students are not aware of what rules are already in place, which can lead to them breaking rules without knowing it.

To figure out how the attendance system could be improved, each member of the school committee was assigned a nearby school to look at. They each examined the attendance policies at their assigned school and saw what Mt. Greylock could learn from it. Some key areas of their study focused on how to create differences between excused and unexcused absences and how to impose harsher punishments on students who missed a lot of school. School council member Marjorie Keeley said that with the current system, "kids can miss 70 days of school and still pass. That shows there's a messed-up system." The new system will penalize students who miss too much school more directly than the current policy.

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FY14 BUDGET APPROVED

By JAKE FOEHL

The end of the fiscal year has once again fallen on Mt. Greylock Regional High School and the beginning of the next already promises to bring changes to the way the school and the entire district deals with its finances.

Over the past few years, the Mt. Greylock school budget has fluctuated, mirroring the nation's up-and-down economy. During the recession, the outdated building added an extra element to an already strained budget. The administration even considered cutting a sports program or two to free up budget space for the daily operations of the school. Flash-forward to 2013, and it appears that Mt. Greylock, as well as the United States as a whole, has landed on firmer financial ground.

Overall, this year's budget will increase by about 2% from last year's, to around \$10

million, with each town giving an amount of money proportional to the number of students they enroll. Lanesborough will see around a 1.3% increase in their share due to a slightly higher number of Lanesborough students attending the school, bringing their total to \$2,551,864. Across the border, Williamstown is being asked to pay \$4,559,872, a 1% decrease. Williamstown is being asked to pay less this year than they have in years past, and a request by the school for the town to give a little extra was denied.

In addition to a larger budget, the school has put in motion steps toward the construction of a new building. Last fall, with the support of the Mt. Greylock School Committee, Superintendent Dr. Rose Ellis applied for a grant from the state which would provide sufficient funds for a new

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TRI-DISTRICT ART CURRICULUM

By KATELIN MARCHAND

Recently, visual and performing arts teachers from Mt. Greylock, Williamstown and Lanesborough Elementary Schools came together to discuss a K-12 curriculum for the arts program. Their first meeting was in Lanesborough on the February in-service day. The teachers shared ideas and lesson plans and discussed how to implement the Massachusetts Arts Frameworks, which state that all students, starting in preschool, should be taught dance, music, theater and visual arts as another form of communication. By working together, the

teachers in the tri-district hope to form a cohesive curriculum that will equally prepare both Lanesborough and Williamstown Elementary students for the band, orchestra and art programs at Mt. Greylock and increase students' ability to communicate through various medias.

There are currently differences in the arts programs at the Williamstown and Lanesborough Elementary schools which mean that the students arrive in middle

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SPRING DRAMA

Miranda Dils previews
the alumni-directed play
Twelve Angry Jurors.

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TERRA CAFE

Hannah Fein and Anya Sheldon introduce a new addition to
Colonial Plaza in Williamstown.

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THE HOST

Miranda Park and Nate Taskin on why they were not impressed.

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PROM?

Evelyn Mahon advises
seniors how to ask that
special someone to prom.

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FY14 BUDGET APPROVED

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building. Unfortunately, Mt. Greylock was rejected, but the school is still preparing for the construction of a new building in the near future.

This year, as part of the budget, the School Committee is asking the town of Lanesborough to set aside \$60,000 for a feasibility study in the event that Mt. Greylock is accepted this time around by the Massachusetts School Building Authority program.

"We asked for a little extra this year because if the time comes when we are in the process of constructing a new building that requires us to get a bond from the state, it helps our case if the state looks at our school and sees that we have everything in order financially," said Dr. Ellis, who attended both town meetings along with Greylock Business Manager David Donaghue and School Committee Chairwoman Carolyn Greene. The cost of the study, which is required for the school to potentially move on to the eligibility phase of the program, is estimated at \$600,000. This cost would be divided between the state, the school district and the two towns.

A new building would bring a change to the Mt. Greylock community as a whole, but plans for an idea known as regionalization could impact the way the way the school conducts its business financially. Regionalization would mean that the Mt. Greylock Regional School District, which is currently made up of seventh through twelfth graders, would expand to include elementary school students in both Williamstown and Lanesborough. This would allow both towns to share resources and faculty and potentially operate and spend money more efficiently.

"As superintendent I feel as though it is my responsibility to enhance collabora-

tion and a sense of community and regionalization would help us do that," Dr. Ellis commented when asked about the benefit of regionalization.

At the Lanesborough Selectmen meeting, an idea was presented that the school set aside, and possibly make an entire new fund for, money going towards preventive maintenance. The selectmen went so far as to say that the school should be asking for more from the towns if that meant more maintenance would be done.

This year's proposed budget has already increased the money going to interior maintenance from \$48,000 to \$63,000. This money will go toward covering the basic costs of building maintenance such as heating, ventilation and air conditioning. It will also be used for some of the more advanced systems such as the school's complex electrical system. The system that most recently drew upon the maintenance fund was the plumbing system. Pipes in the boys' locker room froze this winter, causing a pipe to burst. It required the back end of the locker room to be shut down for several weeks as workers repaired the \$35,000 worth of damage.

In the grand scheme of things, the FY14 budget is not by any means a dramatic change from recent years. The budget does ask for money to be spent on new faculty positions but that is to be expected in a high school where new teachers are hired almost every year. The budget is also allowing for new classes next year, but this is more a question of spending decisions than anything else. Unlike during the recession, nothing has been ignored in this year's budget, with every necessary facet in the school system receiving sufficient funds to sustain them. ■■

MASS JCL CONVENTION NEARS

By EMILY RUDD



Photo courtesy of Emily Chang

JCL members from across Massachusetts compete in chariot races at the state convention last year.

From May 10th through 12th, 33 members of the Mt. Greylock Junior Classical League will head to Barnstable High School in Hyannis, Cape Cod for the 57th Annual State Convention. Once there, they will face off against rival schools such as Boston Latin Academy and Boston Latin School in events like Latin jeopardy, chariot races and athletic events like swimming and track and field. In addition, there will be sight reading challenges, costume contests, art judging, spirit competitions and a talent show.

According to this year's Massachusetts JCL treasurer, junior Aaron Ziemer, Greylock dominates in certain and also some of the Olympika, or athletic, events. His favorite parts about convention are, "the talent show and the certamen matches - they're just so much fun to watch!"

According to Ziemer, his role as treasurer allows him to, "balance funds that go from \$8,000 to \$200,000 in the course of a single year." Some of these funds are put into making the state convention as great as it is. Roughly six hundred people from schools all across Massachusetts attend the

event.

Katelin Marchand, a junior and in her fifth year of going to the convention, also has a position of leadership. Her job is Second Vice President and it is, in her opinion, "arguably the most fun." This year she got to put together props for the spirit competition at the National Convention, host a dance in Boston and organize the dance for State Convention.

Dan Schiek, an eighth grader going for a second time, expects that the convention will be similar to last year. He adds that, "it was a lot of fun with barely any time to relax because you were running around trying to see each event or were participating in it."

Seventh grader Zephie Gollin, a first year JCL member, anticipates that the state convention will be similar to the kickoff event last October and "full of people who are enthusiastic and love Latin."

Marjorie Keeley, the Latin teacher and a dedicated member of the convention, defines JCL as, "about making new friends. Latin is always the common denominator." ■■

1 in 650: Alex White

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teacher out loud, originally just to get it. I said it to him, but from then on I'm just supposed to think it. It's pretty out there.

Echo: Do you enjoy it?

Alex: Yeah! Sometimes I'm definitely not really looking forward to it because I'd rather be doing other things. But especially during the day, it's a really nice way to relax and take twenty minutes just to get out of the regular flow of school.

Echo: Has doing it affected you in any way?

Alex: Yeah. I had to talk to some health classes and I think with hearing about colleges admissions I was never too stressed about that. I don't know if that has to do with TM, it might just be my nature not to get as worked up about those kinds of things, but if it had to do with TM it was nice because a lot of my friends were stressing about it.

Echo: As you go off to college at Williams College next year, do you think you will continue to meditate?

Alex: For a lot of people it is the type of thing they would continue. For me it hasn't had a life changing effect on me so I think it's the type of thing that if I do feel over worked or have a lot of stuff to do I can sit down, whether it's for five minutes of twenty minutes and just relax and refresh myself to take on whatever I have to do next.

Echo: So now I have some questions about

your experience at Greylock since it's the end of your senior year. What would you say is your favorite memory of Mt. Greylock?

Alex: I'd say beating Monument junior year in soccer in overtime during the semi-finals of Western Mass. That's probably the highlight of my Greylock career.

Echo: Do you think senioritis actually exists?

Alex: Yeah, it does exist.

Echo: Do you think you will come back to Greylock after you graduate?

Alex: I think I will definitely come back, especially being so close at Williams. Hopefully I can come back for a couple soccer games and ski races next year.

Echo: As your senior superlative there was much talk about you winning "most aesthetically pleasing." What are your thoughts on that?

Alex: Well, it's more just annoying because all my friends just bug me about it. So I've definitely taken a lot of grief for that. For the record, I think Nathan Majumder probably should've won it.

Echo: If you could replace your arm or hand with anything, what would you pick?

Alex: A fork, so I could eat.

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

ATTENDANCE

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The school council is also trying to make it so that the penalties for things like lateness to class are more consistent from teacher to teacher. With the current rules, individual teachers can decide whether or not to take points away from students if they are late to class. This can be confusing for students, so with the new rules, the penalties for being tardy to class will be more uniform.

However, don't expect these changes to go into effect soon. The school council is still in the initial stages of formulating these new rules. None of the proposed changes are definite. Principal Dr. Jack Kurty's leave of absence has possibly changed the fate of the attendance policy reforms. As head of the school council, he was the driving force behind these new changes to the absence policy. Now that he is not returning to the school, the fate of the new policies remains unclear. It is likely that they will continue now that Assistant Principal Christopher Barnes is in the role of acting principal. ■■

BARNES, KURTY DEPARTING

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dents and middle school principal and the introduction of an assistant principal, the results of administrative restructuring.

According to research collected by the Center for Public Education, however, this turnover might not be unusual. The average tenure of a principal, in an average school, is three to four years. This suggests that our situation might represent a larger problem faced nationwide.

The problem with short tenures is that it has been shown that it takes about five years for the positive impacts of new policies and practices to become apparent within a school. If turnover occurs at an average rate and new administrators do not continue the policies of their predecessors, progress will theoretically be more difficult to achieve.

Both Pannesco and Dr. Ellis said that the mark of any good organization is that it remains strong during a transition and that they believe Greylock has that stability. ■■

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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LOCAL ARTIST FEATURED IN GALLERY

By KELSEY HEBERT

Recently, the work of local artist Joan Kiley was featured in Mt. Greylock's "Half Dozen or So..." gallery. Kiley is an impressionistic artist who uses multimedia images as the basis for her paintings. Previously, her work has been featured in galleries throughout Massachusetts and New York, including the Waltham Mills open studios, the Eclipse Mill and the Athens Cultural Center. Photos of her work have been featured in the Boston Globe. Kiley attended the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston, where she



Photo courtesy of Joan Kiley

A work of Kiley's called "My Pow."

studied painting with a focus on color and collage.

Kiley's process is a unique one, as she integrates technology into the artistic process. She produces a sketch and then uses the computer program Photoshop to create a working sketch and collage. After this, Kiley uses a large computer print to redraw the picture onto wood or canvas. Lastly, she paints, usually with oil paints. "Because I synthesize one painting so many times, the final version often comes out much different than the computer version," said Kiley. "I thrive on the act of painting and the surprise that comes from making this visual poetry."

Kiley became interested in art at a young age and began painting seriously around the age of eight. "My mother used to take my siblings and I to see artwork at the Addison Gallery of American Art in Andover, Massachusetts. It was very exciting and inspiring for a young artist like myself," said Kiley. As a kid, she did sketches using pastels and oil paints. In college, however, she recreated collages on larger scales with oils on canvas or wood. "I admire the abstract expressionists of the 1950s and 60s and also the cubists of the early 20th century," said Kiley. "I learn from artists like Kurt Schwitters, Picasso, Frida Kahlo, Frankenthaler, and Andy Warhol. I also admire artists from antiquity such as Michelangelo, Raphael, and Leonardo da Vinci."

Kiley encourages aspiring artists with a quote of Picasso's: "Inspiration exists, but it must find you working." She says that going to galleries and museums inspires and encourages learning. As a final note, Kiley said, "My advice is to read about art, look at as many artists as you can, work hard, have fun, learn and create." ■

SPRING DRAMA: TWELVE ANGRY JURORS

By MIRANDA DILS

The audience arriving at this year's spring drama can expect a different atmosphere than previous years. The play, *Twelve Angry Jurors*, directed by recent Greylock alum, Patrick Madden, will be presented by a close-knit cast of characters who remain on stage for the entirety of the performance. The script has few scenic elements and set changes, allowing the cast to focus primarily on their acting skills, paving the way for a unique and enticing drama.

New this year is the return of a student from college to direct aspiring actresses and actors at Greylock. Madden, who graduated from Mt. Greylock in 2010 and spent two years at Brown University, is currently taking a mid-college gap year. His gap year has included many segments including traveling, farming, and teaching. While at Greylock, Madden participated in and contributed greatly to the Shakespeare & Company Fall Festivals, Winter Musicals and Spring Dramas. While Madden was hoping for an acting job on the west coast for the upcoming spring and summer, it did not work out for him as planned. Looking for work, he returned home to Williamstown where Barbara Robertson, evaluator of Independent and Experiential Learning (IEL) at Mt. Greylock, contacted him to ask if he was interested in the job of directing the Spring Drama.

Madden, who accepted the position, said, "It's fun to be back at Mt. Greylock because returning to such a familiar place makes you realize all of the ways you have changed since being there." He is excited to direct a show, especially *Twelve Angry Jurors*.

The storyline of the play is simple, says Madden, but depicts a realistic situation. *Twelve Angry Jurors* is actually called *Twelve Angry Men*; American film writer

Reginald Rose created the screenplay in 1957 and produced the film in conjunction with actor Henry Fonda later that year. Since then, Rose and others have adapted the screenplay into the format of a play, which Greylock students will perform, although the title has been changed to reflect the mixed genders of the actors.

The plot follows the deliberations of twelve men debating the verdict of a man charged of first-degree murder. The debate centers on whether there is reasonable doubt he committed the crime. The time frame of the play is in accordance with real time, as the jurors enter the courtroom at the beginning of the drama and leave once they reach a unanimous verdict. Also, the jurors do not have names; they are simply named by numbers, such as "Juror #3." Madden says the script is compelling, attributed to the high stakes trial and real people with believable passions and emotions.

As for rehearsals, both Madden and the cast seem to be enjoying themselves. Sophomore Connor Hadley, who plays a German juror, says that Madden either calls the full cast to run Act I or II or a few specific people to work on their respective parts. He said rehearsals include lots of "different, cool exercises focusing on one [aspect] of acting." Hadley says it has been great having a former Greylock actor as the director because he can relate to the cast and "connects to everybody in a different way." Madden has many years of acting under his belt and has a wealth of knowledge in the arts, so he is able to share many of his exercises with the students. Hadley also added that he knows the culture of acting at Greylock well since he was a part of the community only several years ago. Although the cast still has plenty of work ahead of them, Madden is confident in his



Photo courtesy of Aaron Ziemer

Cast member Steven O'Brien rehearses a scene from *Twelve Angry Jurors* as Rose Shucker-Haines and Kate Parks look on.

cast. He said, "Having twelve people on stage for an entire play is incredibly difficult to pull off well, but I've got a great group of actors, and I'm excited to see what shape it takes in the end."

The performances will take place on Friday, May 17th and Saturday, May 18th at 7:00 in the Greylock auditorium. Mixing comedy, drama, and a focus on acting, *Twelve Angry Jurors* is sure to be a success under Madden's direction. ■

TRI-DISTRICT ART CURRICULUM

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school with a variety of backgrounds and skills. The Massachusetts Arts Framework will change the face of the arts education program. The core concept is that in dance, music, theatre and the visual arts, people express ideas and emotions that they cannot express in language alone. In order to understand the range and depth of the human imagination, one must have knowledge of the arts (MA Arts Frameworks, 1999).

A few ideas that are being considered are a K-12 art show, a K-12 music festival and the creation of a handbook that lists the visual and performing arts opportunities at

the schools. Currently Lanesborough does not have a chorus, but Williamstown does; Mt. Greylock chorus teacher Kate Caton hopes that through these meetings a chorus can be created.

"Our goal is to make the young people as prepared as possible," said Fohrhaltz. The development of this new curriculum will take about two or three years. During that time, both visual and performing arts teachers will visit other schools and observe their constituents' classes. The next meeting will take place near the end of the school year. ■

STUDENTS HONORED AT MASS MOCA

By KELSEY HEBERT

Recently, several students from Mt. Greylock submitted their artwork to the Massachusetts Museum of Modern Art (Mass MoCA) to be reviewed for a student art gallery. Winners of the competition were awarded cash prizes, with the grand prize winner being awarded a class credit at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) in North Adams. Among the winners from Mt. Greylock were Lucius Park for honorable mention, Emily Kaegi, Julia Whitney and Alexandra Deveaux for the silver prize, and Kristina Fisk, Cheyanne Alcombright, Anya Sheldon and Ian Culnane for the gold prize. Alex Delano won the grand prize. The winning pieces were displayed April 13-15 at Mass MoCA and were then moved to the Eclipse Mills

in North Adams where they will be displayed for view several weekends in April and May.

This year, several area schools including Drury, Buxton, Pine Cobble, Mt. Greylock, BART and Hoosac Valley were invited to submit their work. Anyone was eligible to submit, even those who did not have formal art training in or outside of school. All artwork was judged by several Mass MoCA staff members, local artists, and teachers.

This is the third year of the competition. The high school invitational was initiated by an artist at Mass MoCA, Stephen Hannon, while the Eclipse Mill Gallery portion was curated by Gail and Phil Sellers, founders of the non-profit organization, "Art About Town." ■

CLASS ELECTIONS APPROACH

By EDWARD GEBARA

It's that time of year again, when every class's ambitious few hand in their nomination forms to the main office in order to run for a position on the student government. Class meetings will be held on April 24th and 25th, during which students who are interested in running as candidates for student council and student government will give their speeches. There are several positions open to students: five positions on the student council for each class and class officer positions which consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer for each grade.

Elections will be held on Friday, April 26, with the results of the elections to be announced the following Monday, April 29. All students have to do to run is submit a short speech and a sheet of at least twenty-five signatures from their grade, which can be picked up at the main office. There will also be a short question and answer session for each candidate after all the speeches are given.

Being part of the student government is a lot of work, but it's an important job that includes a lot of decision making and cooperation. All prospective candidates are encouraged to run for their desired office, but be aware that this is not a job that you can campaign for and then just forget about. A real level of commitment and decision making are essential. If you are interested in making a difference then go for it and run! ■

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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.

Close to a Cure?

By EVELYN MAHON AND ECHO STAFF

HIV is a ubiquitous issue in modern society. It's also fairly recent. Ask your parents if they remember when HIV/AIDS first came into public light, and they most likely will.

The first AIDS deaths began in 1977. Some people began contracting uncommon diseases and dying of things that should not have killed them. Patients were receiving diagnoses and dying of, among other things, a rare form of skin cancer, called Kaposi's Sarcoma. It had previously only been found in older Italian men and was not often their ultimate cause of death. Scientists now know what was going on-- that the HIV virus was destroying the immune system, allowing opportunistic infections to take advantage

of body's disabled defenses.

Although HIV used to be considered a "death sentence," modern medicine has made startling progress in the past few months.

This March, a baby in Mississippi was diagnosed with HIV and within 31 hours, cured using a "cocktail" of antiretroviral drugs injected almost immediately after birth. Later in March, a French Hospital reported the "functional cure" of 14 patients who were given antiviral medicine within weeks of diagnosis (for most of them, sometime in the late 1990s or early 2000s) and then treated. Years later they showed no signs of disease activity, even after stopping medication.

Although there is still no single vaccine or cure for HIV, scientists have recently discovered that a chemical in bee venom, melittin, actually targets the HIV virus without harming the cells around it. The scientists fixed the Melittin onto nanoparticles with "bumpers," allowing them to bounce off of large, healthy cells. The HIV can fit through the "bumpers" (which also act as filters), and the melittin fuses with the viral envelope, shattering it and stripping the virus' shell.

We're all thinking the same thing. If this drug is used too much, won't HIV evolve to work its way around it? We've seen it with practically every antibiotic out there. If it's over prescribed, the bacteria just get worse and more life threatening. This is where we find some good news. Most drugs try to stop the HIV from replicating (which is very easy to evolve around), but the process using Melittin attacks the very structure of the HIV. This makes it virtually impossible for the HIV to evolve in an evasive manner. Since the nanoparticles are relatively easy and inexpensive to make, scientists are hoping to begin clinical trials of the Melittin very soon.

Even though a complete cure or a vaccine is still a ways down the road, we can almost see the solution. After more than thirty years and 25 million deaths, it's about time. ■■



File Photo

The AIDS ribbon.

The Host

By MIRANDA PARK AND NATE TASKIN

This was one of the last films legendary critic Roger Ebert reviewed before his death. It did not deserve the honor. The Host has no redeemable qualities. The film is a mess of wooden acting, poor writing and weird chrome colored cars. Author Stephanie Meyer has no concept of realistic characters or dialogue, and the audience is forced to endure two hours of her warped psyche and damaged values.

One of the most infuriating things about this film is that it could have been good in the hands of a competent author. As a result of human cruelty and warfare, Earth is taken over by parasitic aliens a la Invasion of the Body Snatchers. Melanie Stryder (Stephanie Meyer?) is a survivor who is taken over by the Soul, called Wanderer--or Wanda, because the extra syllable is too difficult to say. While Wanda is in control of Melanie's body, Melanie remains in her consciousness through obnoxious voice overs. Literally. She never shuts up. Ever.

This plot could have been interesting, if not for the classic Stephanie Meyer love triangle. Jared is in love with Melanie, and Ian is in love with Wanda. Rut Ro! Not even their attractiveness can cover up their bad acting. They never talk about anything other than being in love. Meanwhile, Inspector Javert's alien cousin, played by Diane Kruger, is hell-bent on tracking Wanda down. What is her M.O.? Why is she so obsessed with killing the remaining humans? No one really knows or cares.

In our review of Warm Bodies we commented on the use of "the power of love" to solve all problems. At the very least, Warm Bodies did not take itself seriously, so the cop out was overlooked. Unfortunately, The Host takes itself incredibly seriously. It's "conflict" is resolved through the exact

same method as in Warm Bodies: the villain is defeated by kindness and the added bonus of a good massage.

The Host is a travesty on every level, including those not yet discovered by science. The only reason to see this film is to laugh at the greatest line of all time: "The world is so large." Given the world's vastness, we would not cry if The Host had not been a part of it.

Verdict: 0 parasitic girlfriends out of 4. ■■

Terra Cafe

By HANNAH FEIN AND ANYA SHELDON



Photo courtesy of Anya Sheldon

Newly established Terra Cafe.

Neighbored by classic Williamstown favorites Desperados and Colonial Pizza lies the newly-established Terra Cafe. Some may have noticed the unfamiliar sign in Colonial Plaza (240 Main Street), but it can easily be overlooked. For this month's review, we set out to explore and expand awareness of this latest addition to our area's growing collection of charming restaurants.

Terra Cafe is open Monday through Saturday from 6:30am-8pm and on Sundays 8am-6pm. We opted to have lunch there on a pleasant Sunday afternoon. After glancing in through the window at the vacant room, we entered, anticipating potential awkwardness. The two women working at the counter, however, greeted us with friendly smiles and invited us to sit where we liked. The seating options were limited, consisting of four small tables and a window-side counter. Although the view from this area was nothing special, it was sunny, so we took our seats there as we browsed through the menu.

We found the menu to have few choices, although this was no surprise at the small cafe. There was a variety of beverages including many types of coffee, tea and hot cocoa, ranging in cost from \$2.00-4.00. We browsed the appealing breakfast menu with about ten dishes such as a toasted bagel (\$3.00), quiche (\$5.00) and "breakfast burrito" containing eggs, vegetables, cheese and a choice of meat (\$6.00). As enticing as this was, however, we turned to explore the lunch menu instead. This consisted of several choices of sandwiches and salads, as well as the "soup du jour." For a few minutes, we were unsure if a waitress would take our

orders or if we should approach the counter. Eventually, we figured it was the latter, ordering small hot cocoas (\$2.87 each), a chicken salad sandwich (\$8.00) and a Caesar salad (\$9.00).

As we waited for our food, we looked around the small room a bit more. The dark purple walls featured an assortment of miniature watercolor paintings depicting farm landscapes, while the window-side counter where we were seated displayed coffee-themed books and information. We also spotted a cheerful-looking ice cream cart in the corner, apparently closed for the season. Soft music played in the background. We noticed, to our delight, that free wifi (with a passcode lock available upon request) was offered to customers.

A little later, our hot chocolates were placed in front of us. Covered in a layer of beautiful, swirling foam and small chocolate chips, they were works of art. They also were comfortingly warm and extraordinarily rich, proving to be very satisfying. They are certainly recommended!

Our lunches came next. The Caesar salad, a large plate of crispy Romaine lettuce drizzled with rich dressing and topped with Parmesan cheese and house-made croutons, was an excellent meal. The chicken salad sandwich, with "herb roasted chicken seasoned to perfection, lettuce, tomato and onion," was a pleasing, hearty dish. The vegetables tasted fresh and the meat was flavorful. To complete our lunch, we selected a chewy chocolate chip cookie and a sweet raspberry-filled cookie. They cost seventy-five cents each and were available at a pastry stand that held many other alluring options.

Striding out of Terra Cafe, we agreed the place deserves more exposure and notoriety in the community. Friendly service, charming decor and delicious beverage and food choices give the cafe an organic, pleasant feel. As a low-key place to relax, get work done or socialize with friends, Terra Cafe is a wonderful addition to Colonial Plaza. ■■



Photo courtesy of Anya Sheldon

Hot Chocolate (\$2.87)

IMAGES CINEMA

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Free cake with purchase of ticket on Fridays in April!

Spaghetti Dinner

Monday, April 29
5:30pm: Spaghetti dinner at the First Congo Church, Williamstown. 7pm: *The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly*, on the big screen at Images Cinema.
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Greylack Echo

GIRLS' LACROSSE FIGHT TO 2-1 RECORD

By WILL WALTER



Photo courtesy of Stephanie Zollshan/ Berkshire Eagle Staff

Junior Alex Delano (center) and senior Chloe Anderson (right) guard an opponent in a recent game.

After losing in the Western Mass tournament last year, the Mt. Greylock girls' lacrosse team has stormed out of the gates to start the season. Led by senior captains, Emily Greb and Chloe Anderson, solid goaltending from junior Paige Willis and fiery play from top goal scorers, sophomores Lucy Barrett and Emily Sabin, the Mounties have jumped out to a 2-1 record.

This year's Mt. Greylock girls' lacrosse team has a different feel than last year's. Not just because 2012 was the first year of existence of the team, although that has something to do with it. Nor is the reason that last year's team graduated many top players, but that also holds a substantial reason in the difference of the two teams. No, the difference is in the vibe that the team gives off, the mood felt from the players.

The 2013 Mounties seem more laid back, relaxed, and closer as a team. It is not uncommon that a new team enters into a league feeling disoriented, and overwhelmed. And it is also common to see teams carry that same feeling into the next 3 or 4 seasons with them, as a constant reminder imprinting itself in their heads as if to say "You're new, you don't belong here". But not this team, not at all. Even after they graduated Berkshire County top goal scorer Annie Flynn, this Mountie team didn't flinch. Knowing it is extremely hard to replace a top caliber player, and knowing they will have to use a much more team oriented attack this year,

the Mounties have welcomed the challenge with open arms.

To make this year's task easier, Greylock has incredible depth, and a relatively equal spread of younger players to go along with the seasoned veterans, all of whom have made large contributions to the team so far.

On opening day, the Mounties pulled off an upset of Chicopee, in what was a great back and forth battle, with Greylock finally pulling away in the second half. Three days later, Mt. Greylock was able to cut a big deficit to 13-11 in the second half from 3 goals from sophomore Lucy Barrett, but were hampered by penalties for the last 8 minutes, falling to Lee 20-11. However they redeemed themselves in a big way on April 10th, defeating Hoosac 12-5 from a sophomore scoring spree in which Barrett had another hat trick, and Sabin tacked on two goals of her own. The Mounties were also helped from solid goaltending from Paige Willis, as she allowed just 5 goals.

The Mounties should be satisfied with their performances so far. Junior goaltender Paige Willis is excited for the season, and so is the rest of the team. "I think that we look great", said Willis. "I'm so pumped to play with these girls this season!". You can expect the rest of the team to agree with that statement, and as long as they keep that attitude throughout the season, Greylock will be a force to be reckoned with. ■■

JUNIOR LED SOFTBALL STARTS STRONG

By ERIC HIRSCH

Not often in Berkshire County sports do relatives compete against each other. It is even less common when two relatives pitch against each other. It only took one game for star Greylock pitcher, junior Heather Tomkowicz to face off against her cousin Caroline Tomkowicz, also a junior, of Hoosac Valley. "My cousin is like a sister to me, so playing against her in the first game made it fun but also intense," said Tomkowicz. The pitcher's duel went Heather's way in a 3-1 victory for Mt. Greylock, though when they met again on April 15th, Hoosac took the game, 2-1. Only a few days after the first matchup, the squad improved their record to 2-0 with an 8-2 victory over Taconic. The girls hope to continue their flawless start to the season in upcoming games against Waconah and Lee.

The junior-heavy team will look to build on last year's success and try to make a run in the Western Massachusetts tournament.

Last year, the team qualified for the tournament as the number four seed. This early in the season however, they only focus on one game at a time. The team has a talented lineup, though have already suffered the loss of third basemen Markell Shea to a broken wrist in the first game of the season. Despite the team having only one senior, captain Anna Penna, Tomkowicz feels that the team has enough experience to make a deep post-season run. Sophomore Miranda Voller said that, "having only one senior does not affect us. Our other captains have great leadership, so it makes no difference." The other captains are juniors Meredith Dzieck and Kendal Frye. Already the young Mounties have opened eyes around the county. Coach June Blake has the team heading in the right direction. Watch out for the Greylock softball team this spring; they could be very dangerous come the end of May and early June. ■■

BASEBALL VICTORIOUS IN EARLY GAMES

By DAN FINNEGAN



Photo courtesy of iBerkshires.com

Senior Andrew Leitch pitching during Greylock's 11-7 win over Hoosac.

Mt. Greylock varsity baseball is looking fantastic for this upcoming season, equipped with a roster of new faces and old. So far, has Greylock played one out of league scrimmage against St. Mary's in Westfield and two games against Berkshire County competitors. After pushing through

nine cold innings, the Mounties lost a hard fought battle 5-2 against St. Mary's. However, the Mounties came out ready on Tuesday, April 8th. The Mounties crushed Lenox 14-0, a great way to start the season. Junior Robby Buffis started and did an excellent job pitching. Ben Alley hit a home run and senior captain Eric Leitch hit an inspiring inside the park home run. On April 10th, in their second league game, they beat Hoosac Valley 11-7.

The roster has a long list of talented seniors which includes: captain Sean Houston at center field, captain Eric Leitch at shortstop, captain Andrew Leitch on the pitcher's mound and at third base, Eddie Dufur at second base, Ben Alley at first base and Derek Romejko in left field. Despite the roster being well fortified by seniors, stars such as sophomore Ian Brink are making their mark. Ian is playing third base and is a strong batter, and will also pitch. Also, newcomer Jack Thistle, a junior, straight out of Pittsfield High School, is a key player to the Mountie's roster; he is hitting second and starting right field.

Senior captain Eric Leitch said, "these first couple of weeks we have looked good and we are getting better each game. Andrew Leitch, Robby Buffis and Ian Brink are three really strong pitchers and the season is looking good." The Mounties have a strong desire to do well in the Western Massachusetts tournament, and at this rate their chances of doing just that are quite high. ■■

AJAX OFFERS SPRING SOCCER

By GRAY KAEGI

During the spring, Mt. Greylock provides many sports teams for students to be a part of or cheer for. One sport, however, that isn't offered by Greylock in the spring is soccer. Instead of taking the season off from playing soccer, a lot of players on the team use the spring to play for the Berkshire Ajax Club.

The team is named after a Dutch Amsterdam soccer club. Like the professional club, Berkshire Ajax is a skilled team. Some players from Greylock who play for Ajax include Benni McComish, Grant Raphael, Amalia Leamon, and Melissa Swann. The Ajax teams include players from across Berkshire county and some even from Vermont and New York. The teams are coached by Mike Russo, Blair Dills, Scott Botto, Tom Demeo and Tom Husser.

Players on the team participate for many reasons. Raphael said, "Soccer is the sport I love to play and Ajax is the best place to play in the Berkshires in the spring. Coach Russo is an amazing coach. He's the head coach of Williams and even brought them to the final four of the NCAA tournament this year. I mean I would play soccer anywhere just to play, but its great having a program like Ajax around." Raphael said he benefits a lot from playing: "My skills are getting better and my positioning is improving on the field. The Coaches work us pretty hard and we get in pretty good shape as well."

Like Raphael, McComish benefits greatly from being on the team: "It keeps me playing, which is good. My skills will hopefully improve while I keep playing on the team." McComish also said that playing with other athletes from different places is valuable.

"It's the perfect way to get to know new kids, you can bond on the field, and make new friends much easier."

Swann also enjoys being a part of the team and meeting new people: "I play for Berkshire Ajax because I love to play soccer and I don't play a spring sport for Mt. Greylock. During my first season, I had so much fun playing for Ajax, and I was better prepared for the fall soccer season. I met so many new people and improved so much after just one season that I knew I wanted to continue playing with Ajax."

Leamon is another fan of Ajax and its unique set of qualities. "I have met some amazing people and I am really looking forward to being part of the team in both home and away games. I have really enjoyed practicing with great coaches and going to the Nordic and Needham tournaments."

Ajax is a great program with many benefits. It allows players to play soccer competitively almost year long. It also serves as a link between players from different states and enables them to play together. Players are able to play the game they love while maintaining and improving their skills for seasons to come. ■■



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Prom?

By EVELYN MAHON

Ah, Spring. The time of year when flowers bloom, trees regain their leaves, girls show more and more skin, and, of course, prom proposals begin. Across this great nation, teenagers are skipping class and dropping homework to focus on a much more important endeavor: asking a classmate to prom. Even if you've got it covered, here are some tips for you awkward guys out there with no idea how to talk to women (and no, D&D characters do not count as women) and you impatient girls sick of waiting for a guy to ask.

1. Make it a big deal.

If you ask her or him in front of a lot of people and make it as elaborate as possible, chances are she (or he) will be too surprised to say no. If you are rejected, you're humiliated in front of all your peers, but hey, isn't that what high school is all about?

2. Be cool about it.

There's nothing a girl or guy likes better than to hear someone special whisper the words "yeah, so, you should go to prom with me. Or not. Whatever." Ah, L'amour.

3. Find out what the answer will be ahead of time.

Rejection sucks, so you'll need to go mission impossible on this. Try wiretapping his or her house or hack into a friend's email. Nothing says "romantic" like a surveillance van.

4. Dress classy.

Sweatpants are the bane of society. Don't wear them when you're asking your hopeful date to prom. A three-piece tweed suit and a monocle will do perfectly. Indubitably.

5. Be original.

If someone else sent flowers and a cute card, don't do the same thing. Go for the bold, the unique. We're talking a full-scale elephant stampede while you ride in on a lion. Think Hannibal crossing the Alps--although, if you get that reference, you're going to need a lot more than a satirical article in the school paper to get a date. ■■

Editor's Note: In this new occasional segment, the Echo will interview a standout of the nearly 400 student athletes at Mt. Greylock.

1 in 400: An Interview with Cal Filson

By IAN CULNANE



Photo courtesy of Aaron Ziemer

Cal Filson is a freshman at Mount Greylock and the lacrosse team's starting goalie. Cal has been on the varsity team for two years, 8th and 9th grade. We sat down with him to get insight on what its like being a freshman starting goalie.

Echo: When did you begin lacrosse? What got you interested?

Cal: I started playing lacrosse in 3rd grade. I believe Coach [Jeff] Stripp talked to my dad because they were friends. He told me to go to a Williams clinic. I did it, and liked it right off the bat. I liked the sport, and right there I decided to play the following year.

Echo: When did you start playing goalie? Why?

Cal: Believe it or not, I played goalie in the first game I ever played. I chose to on my own because no one else wanted to, which ended up turning out well.

Echo: Is goalie ever boring?

Cal: I suppose it can be, in an uncompetitive game where my team is the one that's winning by a lot. That can be boring at times.

Echo: Do you have any personal goals?

Cal: Obviously I would like to win a Western Mass Championship, and I would hope

to be first team All County.

Echo: Do you feel a lot of pressure as a younger player who is crucial to Greylock's newest varsity sport?

Cal: There is pressure but I don't think it will phase me.

Echo: You play goalie in soccer as well. Do you think being a lacrosse goalie helps with that? Visa versa?

Cal: Yeah I think they do. Most of the communication I do is the same, but slightly different in lacrosse. I guess raw talent wise, it helps for both using your hands and there's a lot of the same movement.

Echo: What do you do to further your career as a varsity goalie?

Cal: Well, I do play summer lacrosse; that really helps. I get a lot better during the

summer, considering the high level tournaments I go to. The amount of time I end up playing in the summer is actually more time than I play in the spring.

Echo: If possible, would you want to play lacrosse in college?

Cal: I would love to play lacrosse in college, hopefully for a NESCAC school, because I believe that's my skill level.

Echo: What is your most special moment playing lacrosse?

Cal: I think it's yet to come.

Interview has been edited and condensed. To nominate an athlete for 1 in 400, contact the editors at mountgreylockecho@gmail.com. ■■

PARENTS: Teenagers report prescription pain relievers are easy to get from the medicine cabinet at home. Massachusetts is ranked 16th in misuse of pain relievers by youth 12 years old and older. Please recycle your unwanted and unused medications.

ACCEPTED:

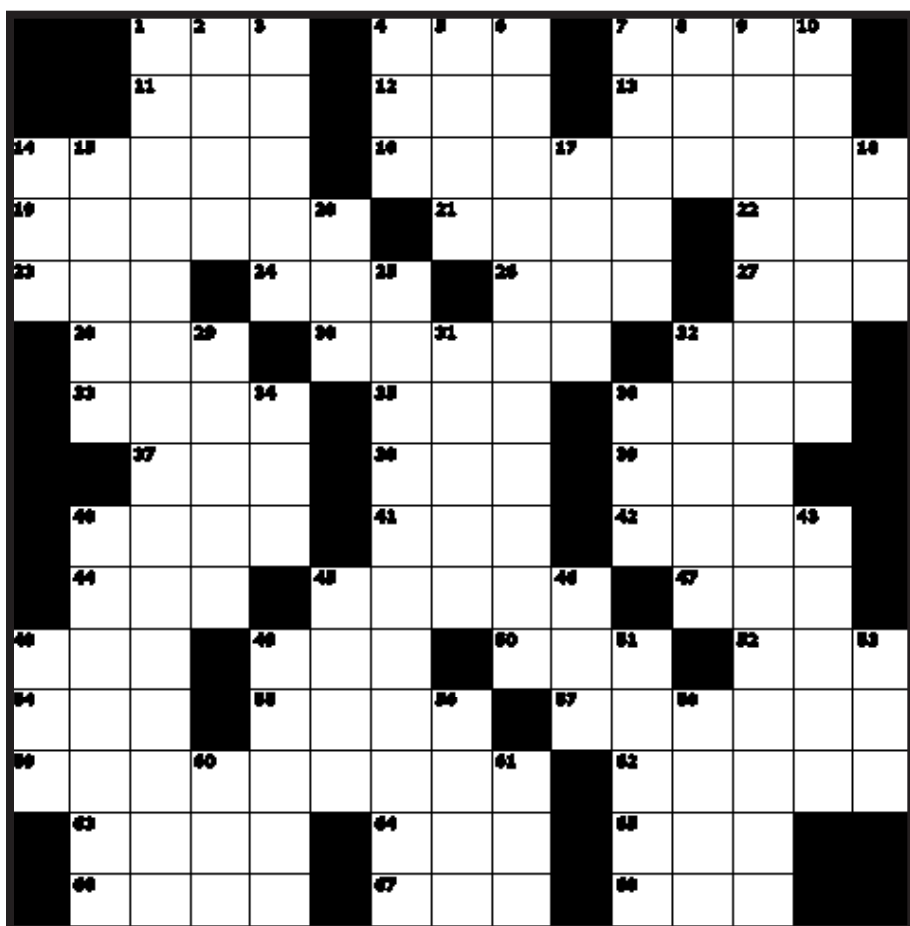
- Prescription Medications
- Over the Counter Medications
- Pet Medications
- Tablets/Pills/Capsules
- Patches
- Vitamins & Supplements
- Inhalers
- Suppositories
- Homeopathic Remedies
- Liquid Medications in Leak-Proof Containers
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Berkshire County Rx Round Up
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 www.nbcoalition.org

CROSSWORD



Across

1. They're fed to a computer
4. Buffoon
7. E Pluribus
11. Lion of the Zodiac

12. Oregon running legend
13. El of the South
14. Period
16. Reaches out
19. Go over

21. Nautical cry "Hard ___!"
22. Canine waste
23. Rage
24. Declare
26. Safety stat (abbrev.)
27. Had lunch
28. Sort
30. Stones hit, "I can't ___ satisfaction"
32. Human part easily bruised
33. Cambodian neighbor
35. Clothing choice, for short
36. Broadcaster Albert
37. Grab forty winks
38. Potion place
39. It's under 18, for minors
40. Acting without focus
41. Loosen up
42. Equal
44. Home to Bulls, Bucks, and Bobcats
45. Come clean
47. Enzyme partner
48. "Love and Memories" artist
49. Canine cry
50. Stay aware—keep it to the ground
52. Knoxville-based New Deal program
54. Poofy 'do
55. Rank
57. Passes
59. Pampers
62. Sentence needs
63. Pesky critter
64. Tolkien talking tree
65. Tough to swallow
66. Psychic abilities
67. American alternative
68. Globe

Down

1. Ohioan football team
2. Lunch meat locale
3. Trodden upon with every step
4. "Special" Army branch
5. Geometry 101
6. Down
7. Good for the underdogs
8. Casually express disagreement
9. Gardened, successfully
10. Spicy cocktail
14. ___ Lanka
15. Jeopardy
17. Game of numbers
18. Dark poet of 19th century fame
20. Canine sign of contentment
25. Colorful ailment of the S. Hemisphere
29. Australian herbivore
31. Moves on a track
32. Keen
34. Mole
36. Plot
40. Hot and bothered
43. Baltimore helmet-wearer
45. Milk supplement
46. Crib
48. Switch option
49. They work under someone (abbrev.)
51. Fourth with John, Paul, and George
53. Horse cousin
56. Claim no part
58. Some candies
60. Hit the hay, quickly
61. Big road, for short