

## FIRE CURTAIN RULED UNSUITABLE FOR USE

By KELSEY HEBERT



Photo courtesy of Aaron Ziemer

*The Greylock auditorium has been closed to theater productions until the fire curtain is replaced.*

*Editors' Note: In the course of writing this story, answers to questions asked by the Echo circulated at a school committee meeting and were picked up by other local news outlets. As this is an ongoing story, look to the Echo for further information in future issues.*

Just before winter break, building commissioner Michael Card deemed the asbestos-filled fire curtain in Mt. Greylock's

auditorium not up to code and unusable for future theatrical productions.

Asbestos, a material that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts considers hazardous and toxic, is prevalent throughout the entire auditorium fire curtain. Tests of the curtain revealed that an extremely hazardous amount of the friable and carcinogenic material was present, prompting the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to order the curtain inef-

fective for proper safety precautions until the asbestos was removed and the curtain replaced.

A fire curtain is used in theatres as a precautionary safety measure in case of an on-stage fire. If a fire were to occur, the curtain would drop and hopefully contain the fire to one area, allowing the audience members and performers to get out of the building safely. "The curtain can no longer perform its life safety function of separating the stage from the audience in the event of a fire," said Card in a January 16 email to the Echo, "I deemed this to be a hazardous condition and have directed the school not to use the stage for theatrical purposes until this condition is corrected."

Since the curtain is no longer safe, all theatrical performances must happen elsewhere. The auditorium may be used for musical concerts, lectures, class meetings and other presentations because of the low-risk fire hazard. However, theatrical productions are at a high risk for fire because of the many lights used and highly flammable costumes and props. Since the school also doesn't have an overhead sprinkler system, the safety risk for performers and audience members is too great to hold performances.

"The basic fire prevention and containment strategy for theaters is to do the following: limit combustibles, provide good ventilation especially in difficult to access

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## 1 in 650: An Interview with Mercer Greenwald

By EMILY KAEGI



Photo courtesy of Aaron Ziemer

*Many students at Mt. Greylock are involved in a variety of activities. Some students seem like they are involved with everything. Freshman Mercer Greenwald is one such student that is very involved in many activities. Mercer is a member of student council, athlete on the alpine ski team and a key component of the Orchestra. Mercer however takes her passion's outside of Mt. Greylock's walls. Many people recommended Mercer as a candidate for 1 in 650 so this month we decided to learn about her musical passion and interest in studying German.*

Echo: What instruments do you play?

Mercer: I play viola. I am the only one in the orchestra. I also play bass clarinet and clarinet, but viola is my main instrument. Echo: Where did you learn how to play?

Mercer: I started in 2nd grade with Ms. Sanger at Williamstown Elementary School. At the end of seventh grade I switched to Jimmy Bergin. This year, I'm starting to study with Al Ling who is the principal violist in the Berkshire Symphony.

Echo: I've heard that you play with different groups besides the Mt. Greylock Orchestra, could you tell us about that?

Mercer: I play with the Empire State Youth Orchestra in Schenectady, NY. Schuyler and Taylor Forhaltz-Burbank play as well and Harrison Dilthey played in the past.

Echo: How did you discover this group?

Mercer: Well it's really the only good orchestra around here besides BYSO and places in Boston which are 3 hours away. Harrison did it and then Schuyler and Taylor did it.

Echo: How often do you play there?

Mercer: We practice on Tuesdays. It's in Schenectady so I leave at 5 to be there for 6:30 and practice ends around 10 and then it's an hour and a half to get home.

Echo: Does this group perform at concerts?

Mercer: Last year, when I was in the second to top orchestra, we had 4 concerts, 5 with Play-a-thon. This year we have a lot.

Echo: Do you play at any famous venues?

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## FIELD TRIP PRACTICES CHANGED

By MIRANDA DILS

This past semester, students embarked on many field trips to locations beyond the walls of Mt. Greylock. These trips tested the possibility of grouping several together on one day and reevaluated the balance between academic time and off-campus endeavors.

Teachers saw a revised procedure in requesting a field trip. Principal Mary MacDonald said, "The procedure for requesting and arranging [a field trip] has been arranged to limit conflicts and encourage more advanced notice to faculty." Field trips are now referred to as "Field Studies," and the new request form includes spaces for departure time, return time and a teacher checklist.

As a way of testing a new scheduling idea, on one occasion, more than one field study left the Greylock campus at a time. On December 10, anatomy and biology students made the trek to Hartford, CT to visit the "Bodies Revealed" exhibit at the Connecticut Science Center; two Advanced Placement Chemistry classes went to Williams College for a science lab; and stained glass classes traveled to 413 Glassworks in Cheshire, MA to look at glass artist Britany Gabel's work. Other field trips also happened during that week.

MacDonald said the bundling of trips was an experiment to try to minimize the impact on other classes. Although this may seem counterintuitive, as a large percentage of students were out of the building, MacDonald said, "It's hard for a teacher to keep the momentum of instruction if [the teacher] is missing sections of his class." This way, the impact on classes may be limited to one day, rather than many.

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## LARGE BLEACHERS DECOMMISSIONED

By MATTHEW KLEINER

Any student that has attended a Mt. Greylock pep rally has probably been surprised by the contrast between the small tightly packed side bleachers for seventh through tenth graders and the massive half-filled back bleachers for juniors and seniors. Fans attending Mt. Greylock home basketball games have also probably been struck by the size of the bleachers in the back, some games crowded, other games less. Principal Mary MacDonald reports that these large bleachers had been a source of worry for a long time before they were

decommissioned this past month.

"Those bleachers have always been difficult to open and close," MacDonald said, "the brackets under the seats do not slide smoothly, so every time we open them, the possibility of an accident increases." She also made clear that the bleachers have been decommissioned, not condemned by the building inspector. "It's a semantics issue, but if the bleachers were 'condemned', that would mean they would have to be removed," she points out. "As it is, there is

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## STUDENTS ASSEMBLE 3D PRINTER

By OLIVIA GRAVEL

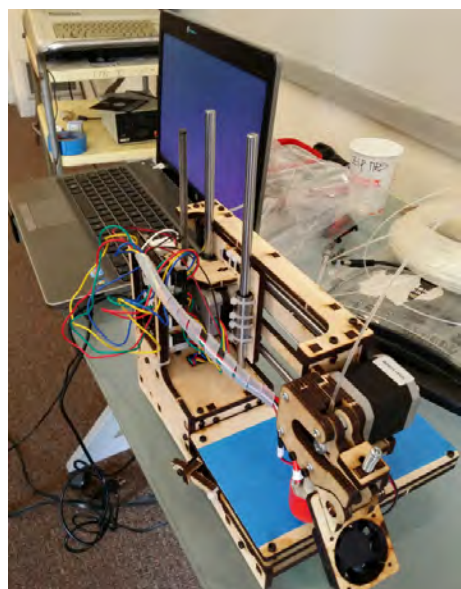


Photo courtesy of Harrison Dilthey

*The printer as it continues to be assembled.*

One month ago, Mt. Greylock received its first 3D printer. The printer can print up to about 10 centimeters in plastic or wood. When digital media instructor, Richard Scullin, received a grant from the National Writing Project, he talked to freshman Ethan Roach about his interest in 3D printing and their conversation convinced Scullin to do further research on the costs and benefits of a 3D printer. An unassembled 3D printer was ordered and arrived at Mt. Greylock ready to be put together by a group of freshmen students including Ethan Roach, Tim and Dan Schiek, Darrien Smith and Darren Bonneville.

Instead of two axis, X and Y, on a regular printer, the 3D printer has three axis, X, Y and Z. They are controlled by a microcontroller that produces plastic to build a layered object. You can scan an object with a smartphone, import it into the program on a computer and print a copy of that object. You could print anything from shoes

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## DEAR EVI...

Evi Mahon suggests how to deal with senioritis and a lonely Valentine's Day.

See Page 5.

## THE GUERRILLA POET REVEALED!

Sam Swoap interviews the man behind the art.

See Page 5.

## PIZZA!

Our restaurant reviewers take on the frozen foods aisle.

See Page 5.

## 18 IN AMERICA

Emily Kaegi writes about the journey that turned alum Dylan Dethier into an author.

See Page 8





Mercer rides in horse shows over the summer vacation. Photo courtesy of Mercer Greenwald.

## BLEACHERS DECOMISSIONED

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nothing dangerous in them sitting there, pulled in and unused.”

For the rest of the year, only basketball games and graduation will have to adjust their seating arrangements to compensate for the lack of seating space previously offered by the back bleachers. According to MacDonald, for both, chairs will be added to where the bleachers usually slide out to, and at graduation, the band may be moved up closer to the graduates so that seats can extend all the way back.

Mt. Greylock basketball coach Bob Thistle feels the absence of the enormous

bleachers is certainly a loss for both the team and its fans. “The bleachers were packed last year for the playoff games,” he recalled, “and we were really lucky to have such great fan support.” Thistle is sure that the additional seats would, as they have in past years, help the team immensely. “It was also a really neat experience for the fans,” he said. It is clear that the back bleachers that used to serve as a congregating point for students will no longer be pulled out, ushering in the aura of a major school event. “But if they’re dangerous, they’re dangerous,” Thistle stated. ■■

## CURTAIN

Continued from Page 1.

spaces (e.g. lighting loft), separate the stage and auditorium with a fire curtain to prevent spread of smoke and combustion, provide excellent means of egress, and most importantly, protect the building with a sprinkler system,” said Card. Mt. Greylock’s 50-year-old auditorium does not meet some of these basic safety standards.

Theatre members are currently practicing in the Chorus and Band rooms. Winter musical director Jeffrey Welch, in conjunction with Principal Mary MacDonald, is working to come up with some way to at least simulate on-stage rehearsal. “It is going to be very difficult to make the transition from rehearsal on a flat surface without a void in front, curtains on the side, and different measurements to an actual stage,” said Welch. “The floor materials, the acoustics and the spacing are all different from where we are practicing now which could provide difficulties when we start rehearsing our singing and dance choreography.”

The winter musical, *Guys and Dolls*, will be performed at Williams College on the college’s main stage at the ‘62 Center. Welch recently met with the Williams theatre department about the stage and lighting. The group was open to the possibility of students doing the majority of the tech work, like they do at Mt. Greylock. “It was very generous of Williams to allow us to use their stage and all of their equipment. I think it is a good opportunity, especially for the tech kids who will get to use very high level equipment,” said Welch.

“I’m very grateful that Jeffrey Welch said that he will do anything he can to make this process run smoothly,” said MacDonald in regards to the “on-the-road” winter musical. She stated that transporting theatre members by bus, practicing on a new stage with different equipment and transporting props and costumes will provide some difficulties for the students and staff, but she believes it is feasible as a short-term solution.

The school committee voted Tuesday, January 21 that they would find money within the budget to replace the curtain over the summer. The cost of the project is approximately \$68,000. School Committee members weighed the costs of transporting the theatre productions elsewhere versus the cost of a new fire curtain and ultimately decided it would be best to replace the curtain as soon as the means are found. Parts of the new curtain can be transported into a new building if need be, but approximately \$15,000 would be lost in installation and mechanical structure that is not portable.

Last year, administration was given a one year stay of execution by the building inspector that stated the fire curtain was not up to code but could be used for one year in order to do tests and find a solution. Due to lack of financial excess, the school was unable to fix the problem before the one year came to a close.

MacDonald expressed that this problem is yet another event that will play into getting voters of Lanesborough and Williamstown to approve a feasibility study for the school. This study would allow administration in conjunction with engineers, architects and other building professionals to look at the entire picture and decide whether a new school or a renovation project would be best for our current situation.

“I’m hoping this, along with other elements of the building that have recently failed, will finally get voters to realize that our school is in need of some help,” said MacDonald, “I also hope our theatre program will not suffer because of this setback.”

Welch encourages all students, faculty and families to go to the ‘62 Center on Friday March 7 or Saturday March 8 to enjoy the theatrical performance. “The kids are all committed and the adults are all working hard to make this show the best it can be, even with the circumstances,” said Welch. ■■

## 1 in 650: Mercer Greenwald

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Mercer: Yeah! We’ve played at Troy Music hall. This year we are also playing at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Every four years the group goes on tour, so we play at some famous places around the world.

Echo: Do you have any upcoming concerts?

Mercer: If anyone happens to be at Crossgates Mall on Saturday, February 8th we have Play-a-thon where we play to raise money and people throw money at us while we play. So if anyone wants to go shopping it would be great if they stopped by. It’s raising money for our next tour which will hopefully be in the Netherlands.

Echo: I know college is a long way off for you, but are you thinking about continuing your music career past high school?

Mercer: I actually recently thought about getting into a music school. I might not go, but I want to start preparing for it incase I want to. Maybe I will minor in music or something. I probably won’t be a performance major because that would be very competitive.

Echo: So besides being a talented musician, we also heard you are learning German in an independent study. Why did you decide to study German?

Mercer: Well, I’m going abroad second semester of next year to Austria. My mom is a German professor and my dad wants to go with her on sabbatical so our whole family is going. I’m going to go to some kind of school there. Hopefully, if my German is good enough, I’ll go to a regular public school. But, I might go to a bilingual school where it’s taught in German and English.

Echo: Isn’t Austria thought of as the capital of Classical Music?

Mercer: Yeah! I actually go there every other year with my mom, so I’ve been there about 5 times. When I’ve gone there I’ve had a few lessons with this woman

named Tamara. She’s really really good. It’s so cool because wherever you go you hear classical music.

Echo: So are you trying to become fluent before your trip?

Mercer: Yeah, I used to understand German pretty well, but I don’t remember how fluent I actually was before kindergarten. Once I started kindergarten everyone spoke English so I stopped understanding German as much as I used to.

Echo: Since you already knew German, how much easier is it to learn it again?

Mercer: Well, it’s not a questions of how much I pick back up, it is how easily I pick it back up. If I didn’t know German before I started kindergarten than it would probably be a longer process.

Echo: Besides music what else are you involved in?

Mercer: I downhill ski. I also ride horses about five times a week. Right now I’m not going to a lot of shows, but in the summer, that’s all I do.

Echo: Wow, how do you have time for all of it?

Mercer: Yeah, I don’t really have time for all of it, but I try my best.

Echo: Anything else you want to add about your music or your German?

Mercer: Well when I’m in Vienna, I will not be able to bring my bunny Willy or my two ducks Elvis and Milly, so I will need to find them a temporary and loving (or at least a vegetarian) home.

Echo: Finally, if you could create a class at Greylock, what would it focus on?

Mercer: Carpentry, just because it would be cool to be able to do stuff myself.

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

## FIELD TRIPS

Continued from Page 1.

As this experiment has only happened once, MacDonald said, “we can’t determine whether [it] was a success until we try it a few more times.” Additionally, this new set-up could cause problems for students who are in several classes that each send out a field trip on one day. Students must then make decisions regarding multiple field trips and have the pressure of obligations to certain classes.

Biology teacher Larry Bell, who led the trip to Connecticut, helped MacDonald to make the decision to cluster the trips. He feels that grouping field studies can both minimize impact and conflict with other classes and could be a solution to limit disruption to the daily academic schedule. Bell supports the idea of field studies and believes they can be valuable learning experiences. The key, he says, is to find “a balance” between the trips and academic

class time so that the trips don’t become an “excuse to miss school.”

MacDonald agrees with Bell, stating that, “Learning in action can have many benefits,” including making “learning feel more relevant and purposeful.” Missing school comes with a set of issues, however, and “teachers and administrators have to be thoughtful about planning and scheduling field studies.” ■■

## 3D PRINTER

Continued from Page 1.

to screws and even a face. A USB cord connects the printer to the computer where you load the file and print it or you could load the file onto an SD card instead of connecting it to the computer. “There are designs that exist on the internet through Autodesk, Thingiverse and Blender, places like that where there are people that have a design for a coffee cup or the screw or a funny robot widget to print,” says Scullin. A design can be sent from the internet and then through the computer to the printer.

The group of students organized each session by assigning who was doing what and what task should be completed by the end of the day. “We’re starting to learn other technology aspects, some other things that we’ve been doing other than the 3D printer is going on to a website called Hour of Code,” says Tim Schiek, “I was playing with it for a few classes and they do have several things about JavaScript and basic coding.” Students have now begun test printing and hope to try to print screws or bolts, and they are excited to see how their first prints come out. ■■

*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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## GUYS AND DOLLS

By NAJLA NASSAR

As the everlasting wintery days slowly fade out and the second semester proceeds, the annual spring musical returns. This year, Mt. Greylock will be performing the romantic comedy *Guys and Dolls*. It is a musical set in the mythological mid-twentieth century in New York City where a group of Christian missionaries go to Times Square to reform the “evildoers.” One of these missionaries is the uptight mission “doll” Sarah Brown, who falls in love with a high-rolling gambler. The gambler, who initially pursues Sarah as a bet, returns her feelings, falling in love with her.

Since 1999, history teacher Jeffrey Welch has been directing the school musical. Chorus teacher Kate Caton is the vocal director, band teacher Lyndon Moors directs the pit orchestra, and Anne Marie Rodriguez, a Spanish teacher at Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, is the choreographer. Every year, the directors chose the musical by drawing upon the performance experience of potential cast members. They consider their resources, the talent that might be returning, the types of shows that would fit that given cast, and their time frame when picking the show.

Auditions were held on January 6th and 7th, and the cast list was posted the following day. However, auditions were held later than usual this year. “There were a lot of unanswered questions about the status of the show due to the closure of the auditorium to theatrical productions,” says director Jeff Welch in answer to the productions’ auditions delay. Similarly, the issue surrounding the fire curtain has affected the production of *Guys and Dolls*. The curtain is outdated and needs to be replaced according to the building code. Rehearsals and production of the musical therefore must be held in a different place until the status of the fire curtain resolved.

*Guys and Dolls* will be performed by Mt. Greylock on March 7th and 8th at 7 p.m. at the ‘62 center at Williams College. “This is a great show...a classic. Audiences of all ages will love the show. We have a talented and dedicated cast, and they’ll put on a great performance in any venue,” said Welch. This year’s musical has a spectacular cast, an intriguing plot, and is destined to be a hit. ■

## AFTER SCHOOL ART OPPORTUNITY

By SOPHIE LEAMON

Art teacher Lisa Mendel is hosting After School Art every Tuesday for Middle and High schoolers. So far, the students have made picture frames using a variety of materials including shells, sequins and buttons. The next two Tuesdays, the students will get the opportunity to work on personal projects with glass before they begin to plan for the project.

They have spent time studying mosaic patterning and intend to plan a mosaic project for the school, a project which Ms. Mendel is leaving up to the members. There are brand new iridized glasses in several colors meant for the collaborative piece, and Mendel has purchased brand new red and black glass to be used around the school. All the new supplies for After School Art are purchased through a grant from the Pittsfield College Club, a foundation that awards Middle and High School teachers in Berkshire County money for innovative and educational projects.

Seventh and eighth grade members Chloe Hughes, Morgan Nottke, Kristen Aliberti, Kelly Egan and Madison Vandeuren spend their Tuesday afternoons in E502 working closely with Mendel. Especially for the Middle School, with enrichment no longer offering art, After School Art students get to work on personal projects and receive instruction. For any grade and any ability, After School Art is an opportunity to try your hand at glass, mosaics, and design, even if you have never taken art, couldn’t fit an art class into your schedules, or just want to try something new. ■

## ASVAB SUGGESTS MILITARY FUTURES

By JESSE COHEN

On Wednesday December 11, students took the ASVAB, or Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, an optional exam available to sophomores, juniors and seniors. Although it is administered by the United States Military, it can be taken by anyone who wishes to take it. The test is a requirement for those who wish to join the military, but is also taken by others who are interested in exploring possible career opportunities based on their skill sets.

Introduced in 1968 as a requirement for enlistment in the Armed Forces, it has since been improved in many areas based on students’ results as well as a recent initiative to improve its relevance to careers besides the military. The exam has 8 categories: general science, arithmetic reasoning, word knowledge, paragraph comprehension, mathematics knowledge, electronics information, automotive and shop information, and mechanical comprehension. There are also additional sections and tests required for certain military occupations. The test is not graded in the traditional sense, however, and merely examines what strengths and weaknesses an individual student has in the different categories.

The ASVAB is an entirely multiple-choice exam and lasts approximately three hours. It is free for students as well as for the schools that administer it. Members of multiple branches of the US Military come

to assist in the administration of the exam. Jessica Casalinova, coordinator of the ASVAB at Mt. Greylock, reports that the test gives students a sense of their strengths and weaknesses and some students even discover new talents and opportunities for themselves. Approximately twenty-five to thirty students from Mt. Greylock take the ASVAB each year, with twenty-seven students who signed up for this year’s exam. The majority of the students at Mt. Greylock who take the exam do so to learn about possible careers for their future.

In addition to the ASVAB, Mt. Greylock offers other career exploration opportunities for students who may be interested. Guidance counselors meet with juniors to administer the “Do What You Are Exam,” an online program that tests students’ personalities and suggests relevant career possibilities. There is also a class, available to seniors, called “Career As Student” that, according to the school’s course handbook, “explores different careers and the educational background needed in specific fields... and how to be successful at the college level,” according to the course of studies. It is taught by Lisa. Mendel. Juniors also take the Accuplacer exam which is the same exam taken for college entry to determine which level of math and English a student will be placed in. ■

## WHOSE FAULT WAS IT ANYWAY?



Mr. Gibson’s World History class held a conference to determine where the blame for World War II should lie. Photo courtesy of Aaron Ziemer.

## GREYLOCK MUSICIANS ATTEND WESTERN DISTRICTS

By JACOB ROSSITER

Mt. Greylock is home to many talented musicians. For a number of students, the annual “Massachusetts Music Educator’s Association Western District Festival” is an opportunity to showcase that talent. Hosted at UMASS Amherst, the festival is a great way to pursue musical passion.

Eric Hirsch, one of the school’s finest trumpet players and member of the festival’s senior district division, praised the challenging nature of the auditions. “The pieces they have you perform are quite challenging” Hirsch remarked, “You really have to prepare, meaning you can’t just show up and expect to get in.” This was Hirsch’s second year attending.

Orchestra teacher Ouisa Fohrhaltz confirmed Hirsch’s sentiment. “[The festival]

is really hard to get into,” she said. Fohrhaltz described the audition process. Two judges critique the students’ performance based off of a scoring rubric. One judge is in charge of scoring the musician’s scales, while the other judges the sight reading. The two judges later combine the scores and decide whether a student is eligible to participate in the performance.

Hirsch recalls his trumpet piece as being particularly challenging this year, but described the experience as both rewarding and enjoyable. Fohrhaltz also praised the festival for other reasons. “Friendships are made at these festivals...It really is a comfort zone for students, because all of them share a love for music.”

“It’s also a great opportunity to perform

## CANDY CANE TRADITION SEES CHANGES

By MOLLY WILSON

Over the past few years, the selling of candy canes with an attached message has become a much anticipated tradition at Mt. Greylock. However, with the implementation in 2012 of new nutritional laws in Massachusetts, the sale of these treats had to be revised and rethought.

The fundraiser last year was the first to be restricted by the new laws. According to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s revised guidelines, the nutritional measures apply “to competitive foods and beverages sold or provided to students 30 minutes before the school day until 30 minutes after the school day ends.” The guide also forbids the sale of food that would compete with the cafeteria’s business.

The candy cane fundraiser had change or risk being forbidden. Last year, the fundraiser was billed as selling messages with a complimentary candy cane. The messages and candy canes were handed out during the last minutes of the school day. However, the system was not ideal, and the details were reconsidered for this year.

Principal Mary McDonald, who was present at one of the brainstorming meetings for the fundraiser, observed that the situation presented a “good example of compromising with the state laws” and she was pleased to see how the students handled the need for creativity.

The solution to the problem was found in selling snowflakes. They were used as a vehicle to present the sale in a way that did not violate the terms set out in the school’s nutritional standard. Still, the sale was not quite as popular and the Student Council had numerous leftover candy canes at the end of the holiday period.

The solution to this problem came from Student Council members junior Jake Foehl and sophomore Ian Culnane, suggested handing out the candy canes to students at the end of the last day before break, when the candy canes would normally have been delivered to students who had received them. Because of the guidelines, the candy could not be distributed during school hours and so, though it was a slight stretch of the rules, McDonald approved their plan.

The fundraiser’s details may still be revised, but students can still look forward to a festive and sweet holiday season next year courtesy of the Student Council. ■

## ADMINISTRATION RULES AGAINST CHRISTMAS CAROLS

By AARON KLEINER

Last December, during middle and high school lunches in the week before break, it may have seemed that something was missing. The cafeteria lacked some of the usual holiday spirit. It turns out that something was missing. This year, the high school brass ensemble couldn’t play Christmas carols at lunch, a tradition that has been going for many years.

The primary reason for the administration’s decision was the non-secularity of the carols. According to principal Mary McDonald, “the carols were a great idea. However, they were exclusively Christmas carols. With the exception of ‘Jingle Bells’

and possibly ‘Deck the Halls,’ the rest of the songs were all non-secular.” MacDonald also stated that, “recognizing the separation of church and state, as well as the plurality of the community, the songs were too heavily biased on Christmas.”

In the future, however, there will be other options for the brass ensemble to play carols. To be able to perform next year, band teacher Lyndon Moors, the director of the ensemble, must change the repertoire of the songs to at least 40% secular, meaning he must either add songs or change them. However, MacDonald also stated that, “adding a few songs from other

faiths to a majority of Christmas carols is almost worse.” This means that Moors will have to add some secular carols, such as ‘White Christmas’ or ‘Frosty the Snowman.’ Moors reported that he was a bit surprised by the decision, saying, “My first impression was that the songs were quite diverse, however when I looked at the list again, I realized that the almost every song was religious. Band directors have had it easy for many years because there are no words in the brass ensemble carols, but this year a line was crossed.” In future years, he said he will arrange secular holiday tunes to play with the Christmas carols. ■



# OPINION

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

## 2013: The Year in Pop Culture

### THE TOP TEN ALBUMS

By WILL WALTER

10. Pearl Jam *Lightning Bolt*  
When I first listened to *Lightning Bolt*, it sounded like Eddie Vedder had started to lose his voice, but this album has started to grow on me. Mike McCready's guitar playing has only gotten better, and Matt Cameron sounds like he turned back the clock to the Soundgarden days.

9. Queens of the Stone Age *...Like Clockwork*  
The best part of *...Like Clockwork* is the work of lead guitarist Josh Homme. His riffs make the entire album worth listening to and bring a Texas Rock, ZZ Top feel.

8. Jay Z *Magna Carta Holy Grail*  
Jay Z is back, and though *Magna Carta Holy Grail* is not his best album, he certainly makes an impression. The rhythm is sublime, and while he opens up by making Nirvana references on "Holy Grail," (Kurt Cobain/ I did it to myself") *MCHG* is vintage Jay Z.

7. Lorde *Pure Heroine*  
Her first album is one of the top grossing debut albums this decade and rightfully deserves all of its accolades. At just 17 years of age, the New Zelandeer may develop into one of the top performers of her era.

6. Arcade Fire *Reflektor*  
On *Reflektor*, the Montreal-based indie pop group accomplishes what no musicians since The Talking Heads and David Bowie have; they manage to combine glam rock and dance music into a popular fusion.

5. Daft Punk *Random Access Memories*  
In a year ruled by techno music, the duo that calls themselves Daft Punk ruled them all. Headlined by radio epic "Get Lucky," you just want to "Lose Yourself to Dance."

4. Drake *Nothing Was The Same*  
While *Nothing Was The Same* may not be considered Drake's best album (that award goes to *Take Care*), it certainly is fun to listen to. Jay Z makes a surprise visit in "Poundcake," but while the music is a little more pop-y, Drake steals the show again.

3. The Arctic Monkeys *AM*  
Indie rock thrived in 2013. Arcade Fire (mentioned above) and The Strokes both had big album successes, but it was the Arctic Monkeys that blew the competition away. Lead singer and guitarist Alex Turner made this album a success thanks to his wicked riffs and Dan Auerbach's sounding wails. Yes, it sounds similar to the Black Keys' *El Camino*, but with the help of drummer Matt Helders' nasty fills, The Arctic Monkeys made the resounding *AM* their own.

2. Kanye West *Yeezus*  
Kanye West continues to set the standard in the rap world. With intriguing lyrics, a fast pace and worthy feature artists (the up-and-coming Frank Ocean, for example), *Yeezus* is easily the rap/hip hop album of the year.

1. Vampire Weekend *Modern Vampires of the City*  
What Vampire Weekend did on *Modern Vampires of the City* deserves credit. They made the best alternative pop album of 2013 (and maybe best all-around album), while inventing a completely different sound. Gone are the bush league lyrical references and the peppy rhythms. Instead, lead singer Ezra Koenig and Co. created the most beautiful album they ever have, threaded with killer stutter step beats (see "Finger Back") and epic riffs. ■■

### THE BEST MOVIES

By NATE TASKIN



A scene from *12 Years a Slave*, which stars Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michael Fassbender, Lupita Nyong'o and Brad Pitt.

2013 has concluded and, as is tradition of movie critics, I must go over the past year and name my favorite films. Here are my favorites of 2013. Not the greatest. Not the objectively best. Just the six movies that I enjoyed the most (and didn't already review. Sorry World's End.)

#### *12 Years a Slave*

Easily one of the most unrelentingly brutal movies in recent memory, the admirably true story of Solomon Northup never slips into cheap sentimentality (there are no "GIVE US FREE!" scenes here) or lazy demonization, though there certainly exists much unrepentant cruelty on display. Director Steve McQueen unflinchingly and unapologetically examines the multi-faceted evil surrounding slavery. What makes Michael Fassbender's sociopathic slaveowner, for example, so vile is that his despicableness is thoroughly entrenched and rooted into a system held as the norm. Likewise, the slaves are not all stock victims. They each have different strategies for survival and, in turn, have different breaking points. Chiwetel Ejiofor is dynamite in his performance, portraying a man suspended between two universes: too "black" to fit into white society, too "white" (meaning, in this context, too educated) to feel one with his fellow slaves. He's a man always in-between, and his only means of surviving is to stay forever on tiptoe, perfectly balanced, and tragically, perfectly stuck. Because Northup fits no easy category, he remains, first and foremost, a human being, which is ultimately the film's final message.

#### *Computer Chess*

One of the most original and downright, wonderfully bizarrest films of the last few years, *Computer Chess* sets itself up with an exquisitely sophisticated narrative. It opens as a mockumentary, transforms into a comedy, and concludes as an avant-garde science-fiction film. The passive-aggressive relationships and awkwardness of "mumblecore" director Andrew Bujalski's earlier movies are present and accounted for, but they've been shifted into an angry chimera that's one part *The Shining*, one part Thomas Pynchon and one part Monty Python. One scene entails computer nerds collide with a cult-like group of swingers at a hotel, while various suspicious characters (who may or may not be working for the U.S. government... I think?) watch from afar. Self-absorption is pitted against connectedness and base urges against technology. Like *Holy Motors* last year, not much can be said about *Computer Chess* without ruining the experience, partly because its unapologetic weirdness makes itself so difficult to discuss in the first place. The result feels disturbingly like a creation myth,

the past imagines our present and responds with fear and anxiety.

#### *Her*

My favorite film of the year is basically... a romantic comedy. Granted, it's a romantic comedy with an incredibly fresh and provocative twist: in the not-too-distant future, a sad-sack writer falls for his operating system, lovingly cooing into the speaker of his smart phone. The object of his affection is a literal object. If the Turing test states that a machine can only become a true artificial intelligence if interaction with it becomes indistinguishable from human conversation, then as we delve deeper into the relationship Theodore (played by Joaquin Phoenix, who seems to secrete longing and heartache from his pores) and Samantha (huskily voiced Scarlett Johansson) we feel uneasy with the questions it provokes. If Samantha's a computer, does that mean their relationship is false? But if their relationship is false, how is Ted's happiness so genuine? But can that form of love be genuine? Isn't Samantha literally made for Ted? Samantha expresses desires, feelings and inhibitions. Are those even real? And even if they are not, does that invalidate Ted's feelings? Isn't Ted technically still alone? If one can fall in love with a fake human, what in the world is love anyway? Like all great science fiction, *Her*'s beauty lies in what it says about today, trying live in the here and now, dealing with isolation in a technological era where one is never really alone. Spike Jonze needs to

make more movies.

#### *Inside Llewyn Davis*

The Coens are at their Coeniest here, and there's never anything wrong with that. Particularly like Barton Fink, *Llewyn Davis* tells the tale of an artist utterly stripped of romanticism or glory. The film could have taken the "poor, poor misunderstood artistic genius" route (Incidentally, those movies are typically by artists who fancy themselves geniuses, go figure.), but *Llewyn Davis* isn't misunderstood at all. Played soulfully, profoundly pitiful by the excellent Oscar Isaac, *Llewyn* is a selfish, self-destructive leech who manipulates the good intentions of his loved ones. In the greatest of all tragedies, he is not a genius. At its heart, *Llewyn Davis* is an equal parts funny and sad reminder of mediocrity.

#### *NO*

Movies matching the smart political commentary and acerbic wit of *NO* are about as rare as a UFO sighting. The plot is disarming in its cynical absurdity: Set in Pinochet-era Chile, an adman is tasked with rallying support for an anti-Pinochet plebiscite. In the end, he finds himself selling anti-totalitarianism as if it's a soda. After all, rehashing the dictatorship's atrocities just bums people out, so why not go positive? A cynical and frightening portrayal of politics as a vicious pinwheel, *NO* offers the chance to laugh at a world without a sense of humor. And yes, it's foreign, guys. Stop being lazy.

#### *Pacific Rim*

There's nothing wrong with just being awesome. I always cringed whenever I read of reviews of *Pacific Rim* stating that it "knew how dumb it was." Wrong. The movie excels because it is blissfully lacking in self-awareness. Nobody makes a wink aside at its premise, no one groans when somebody named Stacker Pentecost tells people to "GET TO THE SHATTER-DOME!!!" It is nothing but a beacon of sincerity. Guillermo Del Toro is no dummy. He lovingly injects his film with slick, pulpy, neon beauty as tribute to a bygone genre. (Though apparently its special effects couldn't measure up to *The Lone Ranger*. Nice going, Academy.) Even with that said, it still manages to triumph in story. The characters may be born out of archetype, yet humanized to the point that they subvert cliché. If one could take off the snob hat for a moment, then maybe one could recognize the innate beauty of robots punching giant monsters. ■■

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

## The Greenhouse

By JOSIE VERTER

Ever wonder why Mt. Greylock has a greenhouse? It is a hand-me-down from Williams College. In 2000, Williams College renovated their Science Center, removed the greenhouse and offered it (in deconstructed form), to Mt. Greylock. Biology and Anatomy teacher Larry Bell re-constructed it and got it up and running, along with other members of the Greylock community. He even developed a course that would use the greenhouse, called "School Grounds."

The goal of the greenhouse project was to bring agricultural ideas taught in science classes into practice so students could "learn by doing." Experiential education became popular in the 1980s and is based on the idea that people learn best through hands-on experience and through reflection on their experience. Think about it: if you want to learn to bake a soufflé, would you read a book about how to do it, or would you just follow the recipe and experiment? Research has shown that people learn more from concrete experience than by reading or listening to a lecture about it.

Most classes at Mt. Greylock are taught in a traditional style in which students are more passive recipients of information from the teacher. The greenhouse, if it had been integrated into science classes, would have provided an opportunity for active, hands-on learning to supplement class time. The idea was that students would work in the greenhouse and also visit local farms to investigate the potential for gardening to be used as a tool for teaching in the science classrooms. The hope was that in later years science students would take more initiative in the growing process and even design and plant gardens on school grounds. Bell envisioned that the project would teach students responsibility and that they would develop a sense of ownership over the greenhouse.

Despite these high hopes and lofty goals, the greenhouse is just being used for storage. It holds materials for clubs and after school activities and is currently not being used to grow plants. According to Mr. Bell, a greenhouse requires a serious time commitment and daily tending of plants. "A course would be needed in order for the greenhouse to be maintained," he said. Unfortunately the plan never came into action given the full schedules of the teachers who expressed interest.

The un-green greenhouse is a sad reminder that the "School Ground" project never got off the ground. It would have brought these progressive educational ideas to Mt. Greylock and would have enriched our curriculum. ■■

## The Guerilla Poet: Eric Forsberg

By SAM SWOAP



Photo courtesy of Aaron Ziemer

*After keeping the school in suspense for a few months, our Guerilla Poet has agreed to be unmasked. We sat down with paraprofessional Eric Forsberg to talk about what he has been up to.*

Echo: What was your inspiration for this?

Forsberg: In the teacher workroom, there were a whole stack of books that were going to be thrown away by the library. Among these books was an Ed Ruscha book with modern art inside of it. I thought it would have been a shame if it was thrown away, so I rescued it. I wanted to see what would

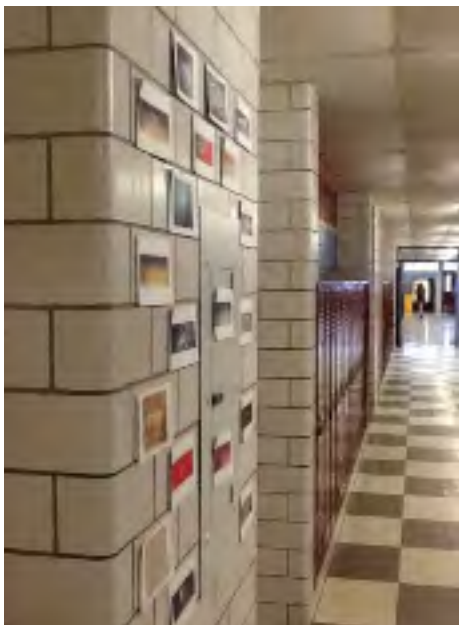


Photo courtesy of Peter Niemeyer

happen if I put them up. I'm not much of an artist, but I do know art is about reaction, not the piece itself.

Echo: When were you putting up these pieces?

Forsberg: I started in late November, sometime after Thanksgiving.

Echo: Were you ever caught doing it?

Forsberg: I was never actually caught. At the beginning I decided to only put them up during school hours, to add to the thrill. I was kind of surprised that I was never actu-

ally caught.

Echo: How would you put them up?

Forsberg: At any time during the day if I saw one missing, I would head back to my office and go grab another. I would put some tape on it and hide it under my sweater or whatever I happened to be wearing. I would look around and make sure no one was looking, and then put it up against the wall. I would try and put extras up during the day, but other people were taking them down. It became sort of a cat-and-mouse game.

Echo: What was your response to people taking them down?

Forsberg: At first I was a little bit annoyed. But as I said before, art is to elicit a reaction. So this reaction, although this was negative, was not inappropriate. So I just let it go. After a while, it just became a game.

Echo: They were put up in patterns the last time around. Was there any significance to those patterns?

Forsberg: There was no significance at all. It was completely random.

Echo: There has been a strong positive reaction from the students. What are your thoughts on this?

Forsberg: I thought it was awesome, if a bit unexpected. There was a very broad spectrum of responses, so it achieved the intended goal. So many people had an opinion. It elicited a response which I had hoped to generate. ■■

## DEAR EVI...

By EVI MAHON

Dear Evi,

I got into college and sent in my mid-year report, but now I find that I'm not interested in school any more. I never thought I'd get senioritis because I really do like to learn. How do I get through the next semester?

Accepted and Apathetic

Dear Accepted,

As an upstanding member of the Mt. Greylock Community, I would advise to you continue being diligent in your studies and try your hardest in all subjects. Luckily, I'm not an upstanding member of anything, so we can skip that jargon. In all seriousness though, you do have to keep up in school (colleges have been known to

withdraw acceptance letters when students' grades drop too low), but take the second semester slump to learn about something interesting. Get a decent grade in English, but experiment with that baklava recipe you've always wanted to try. You've been accepted into college because you're interesting and motivated. All you need to do to stop the lethargy is shift the focus from a seven hour school day to experimental and experiential learning.

Dear Evi,

All of my friends have dates for Valentine's day, and I'm stuck at home marathoning Star Wars. What can I do to stop feeling lonely?

Dateless and Depressed

Dear Dateless,

First of all, I'd take a marathon of Star Wars over a date any day of the week, but that's just me. Even though you might think dates with mildly attractive acquaintances are where the party is at, once you're stuck at dinner with an absolute terror, you'll repent. So instead of sitting in your room watching Star Wars and crying into a tub of Ben and Jerry's alone, sit in your room watching Star Wars and crying into a tub of Ben and Jerry's with friends! They say companionship is the best cure for loneliness (I don't know if they actually say that, it sounds vaguely science-y), and a room full of like-minded friends pigging out on food and sci-fi sounds like a great way to spend Valentine's Day. ■■

## The Perfect Frozen Pizza?

By HANNAH FEIN AND ANYA SHELDON

Ah, frozen pizza. So convenient, so cheap-- what's not to love?

Well, for one thing, it's usually not too healthy. Because the pizza already has been prepared and needs to last in its frozen state for a significant period of time, it can usually be found stuffed with preservatives, additives and chemicals. The process of freezing and cooking also strips it of many nutrients found in the tomato sauce, veggie toppings and other ingredients. Another con of consuming frozen pizza? Sometimes it doesn't taste great. The manufacturers of these lower-quality products, however, can still easily succeed thanks to America's craving of salt and fat. Amid the unhealthy, mediocre pizzas out there, though, we had faith that we could find a perfect frozen pizza.

After embarking upon a trip to the local grocery store, we gathered some friends and returned home with three boxes. The first was the cheapest full-size pizza in the store-- Tony's Original Crust Cheese Pizza. Second was the BBQ chicken flavor from California Pizza Kitchen. Our third hopeful contender was Ristorante's Pizza Vegetale, a thin crust pizza brimming with

colorful vegetables. We would critique these options in three areas: convenience, healthfulness and taste.

We were slightly alarmed after removing the pizzas from their boxes. Their hard, plastic-looking facades looked nothing like the photos on the containers, but really, do they ever? We could only hope for the best as we placed these suspicious-looking pizzas in the oven.

Once the pizzas had cooked for their respective times (cheese took 12 min., vegetable took 14 min., BBQ took 18 min.), we eagerly began to cut them up. Dividing into only a few slices, each pizza served about three people. For a large gathering like the one we were hosting, multiple pizzas were the way to go.

We began with the cheese pizza. Judging by its plain appearance and impressively low cost, we admit we were not expecting a culinary miracle. It turned out we were mostly right-- the taste was mildly bland and certainly could have benefitted from herbs or a richer sauce. Once we applied a generous serving of oregano, however, the pizza's flavor was greatly improved, and the steaming slices quickly disappeared.

Afterward, we agreed that this low-budget, classic option was charming, if only a little dull. Convenience: 10/10--Cheapest option and quickest to make. Healthfulness: 4/10--no extra nutrients, just cheese, sauce, and dough. Taste: 6/10--boring, but not bad.

Our next dish was a BBQ chicken pizza, featuring a doughy crust, a thick layer of barbecue sauce and sprinkles of chicken, onion and cheese. After one bite, our taste buds were overwhelmed by the strength of the barbecue. Despite the variety of toppings, the tangy barbecue flavor was all-encompassing and eliminated all other tastes. The continual bursts of flavor, however, nicely contrasted the previous pizza. Overall, we were pleased, although we would have enjoyed this option more if it had tasted a tad more like pizza and a tad less like BBQ sauce. Convenience: 5/10--longest cooking time and most expensive. Healthfulness: 4/10--lots of fat, sugar, and sodium. Taste: 7/10

The vegetable pizza was the most aesthetically pleasing of the bunch, with a myriad of red, yellow and green veggies. Topped with bell and banana peppers, tomatoes and onions, the first bite tasted like

an explosion of bell pepper...and so did the second bite. And third. Really, the pizza's flavor never changed or fluctuated with different bites. It was like each of the vegetables' unique flavors had bled together into one underlying mono-veg-- but despite this, the crust's delicate, yet crispy texture was spot-on and a pleasant surprise. Even though the pizza's flavor did not hold our attention with every bite like we had hoped, the veggies added something different to a classic dish and provided an extra oomph that we liked. Convenience: 7/10--right in the middle of the three on cooking time and cost. Healthfulness: 7/10--veggies add considerably to nutritional value. Taste: 6/10--mono-veggie flavor.

When the points were totaled in the end, we found ourselves with a tie. Cheese and veggie were neck and neck with 20 points, while BBQ had 16. For all we knew, though, any of them could have been victorious. As long as it's in moderation, frozen pizza serves as a perfect meal for anything from a gathering of friends to a late night study session, and we hope our insight into the ups and downs of this delicacy can help in your future selections. ■■



# SPORTS

## An Interview with Evan Gurek

By IAN CULNANE



Photos courtesy of Evan Gurek

Junior Evan Gurek spends his winter on many east coast ski mountains freestyle skiing. Freestyle skiing is a sport where competitors ski down a mountain and show off different tricks and routines on features

like jumps, half-pipes, boxes and rails. Through his own drive and talent, he has excelled at his sport and even made the cover of freestyle skiing website, *newschoolers.com*, multiple times. You won't see Evan around the halls for some time because he is spending second semester at Windells Academy to further improve his freestyle abilities. Before he left, we sat down with Evan to talk about how he spends his winter:

Echo: What winter sport do you do and can you tell us about it?  
Evan: In the winter I freestyle ski. When I go skiing I spend the majority of my time in the terrain park, hitting jumps, rails and boxes, learning and perfecting tricks.

Echo: How do you train for Freestyle skiing?  
Evan: First off you have to be in shape, so I usually hit the gym everyday. This helps me to do tricks and stay away from injury. Also, I go skiing almost every day of the week where I spend 95% of my time in the park.

Echo: Who are your skiing mentors?

Evan: For the past few summers, I have been out to Oregon to ski on Mt. Hood, a glacier that has snow year round. My coach has been professional skier Max Goram who I am pretty tight with and has helped me improve a ton. On the East Coast, I ski with my dad every weekend, because he did the same things when he was younger. He makes me improve my skiing all around. When I ski with friends, we all push each other to learn new tricks and constantly improve.

Echo: So where are you going for next semester?  
Evan: Next semester, I am heading off to Windells Academy in Oregon. Windells is a summer camp, but also a intensive training ski school, focusing on both skiing and school work. You have the best coaches in the world training you every day. On campus, they have trampolines, multiple skate parks, dry slope ski runs and many other things to improve your skiing and let you have fun.  
Echo: What would school be like? How will you keep up with school work?  
Evan: If you don't do all your school work you can't go on the hill, so obviously school work is my first priority and a necessary at Windells. It will be interesting to try all online classes.

Echo: What are your focuses for Win-

dells?  
Evan: I definitely want to stay in shape, work hard in school and skiing and trying to make nationals in USASA, which is the most prestigious skiing competitions in the US. I want to do more competitions in general and thats what I'm going to Windells for.

Echo: What made you decide to go?  
Evan: I had thought about it for a few years now, and I hadn't really had the opportunity until this year. Jeff Curry, the head of the Academy, is pretty good friends with my dad. My dad told him that I had been looking into it. Jeff said there weren't too many students up there this time of the year and told my dad that I should come up for a semester.

Echo: Why did you choose freestyle skiing?  
Evan: It's what I love. Like it's my drug. It's where I can be myself and be with the people I love. Im surrounded by people who actually know what I'm talking about and share the same passion as me. People who can pump me up before I go try a sick trick. It's an amazing environment. The people I ski with on the mountain are my second family. To me, nothing is more satisfying. ■■■

## BOYS' BASKETBALL

By NYEIN SOE

The Mount Greylock boys' basketball team has not had their ideal start to the 2013-14 season with a 4-5 record, which include losses to Wahconah, Lee, Pittsfield, Turner's Falls, and Hoosac Valley in the opening game. Despite the slow start, the team remains optimistic. According to junior guard Taylor Carlough, "We just happened to lose [the initial games] because we had a pretty difficult schedule due to challenging opponents. Though, the second half of the season is supposed to get easier." Many team members, including head coach Robert Thistle, also attribute the losses to the amount of travelling involved. In fact, four of the five losses occurred at away games, but given that the majority of the upcoming games will take place at home, the Mounties have a good chance to pull ahead in the win-loss record. When asked about what he thinks of the beginning of the season, Thistle said, "We're not completely satisfied with the current record, but its not like we are playing badly. The team gives their all in every game and that is what really matters."

As for goals for this season, the team, like in every other year, is keen on making the Western Mass playoffs. To qualify, they have to win ten games in the regular season. Junior point guard Eric Hirsh

mentioned, "We'll be happy just to make Western Mass since we're still unsure of whether we will qualify. Actually, winning the whole thing is currently out of the question. The field is really competitive so

we would have to have an amazing season." Thistle agrees, "The primary goal is to qualify for playoffs and then make it as far as possible... we're going to take it one game and try our best." ■■■



Photo courtesy of Ian Culnane

Cole Jackson shoots a free throw at a recent home game.

## BOYS' NORDIC

By ERIC HIRSCH

The Nordic Ski Team consistently has the most members of any sport offered at Mt. Greylock. As one would presume, year after year, the program sports many talented seniors. However, regardless of the previous year's senior class, the Nordic Ski team looks to do the same thing every year: reload. And reload is what they have down in 2014. The Mounties have cruised past their opponents in the first three races of the season.

In the first race of the season at Notchview, junior Jake Foehl crossed the finish line in 26:07 which was fast enough for the first victory of his varsity career. Sophomore Ian Culnane, junior Will Nolan, and sophomore Matt Wiseman came in the next three places respectively. Although the weather conditions made for a slow race, the Mounties' relentless preparation allowed them to pull through in the end.

Will Nolan took race number two at Mohawk High School. Once again the Mounties claimed most of the top finishers as Culnane finished second and Foehl came in third. Foehl came out on top in the third race of the season at Berkshire East, with Nolan and Wiseman finishing second and third. "On any given day, anyone of our top four could win the race," said Foehl. The top four are so close in ability, that they will push each other to work that much harder. Especially since they are all eyeing a spot on the coveted Eastern High Schools Ski team. Only twenty four boys from Massachusetts qualify for the team, which competes against the rest of New England.

Although the skiers that cross the line first get all the attention, it is actually the next few skiers that win the races for the team. Luckily for Greylock, the second pack is not too far back. Seniors Caleb Raymond and Derek Wood and juniors Tom Schoorlemmer, Jake Kobrin and Joseph Gais would likely be top skiers most other schools in the league. Also, do not sleep on the possible emergence of cross country running sensation junior Carter Stripp.

The tremendous depth of the squad will give the team a shot for another state title. They will not let any obstacles provided by the weather slow them down. "The weather deals us the hand, and we just have to work with whatever mother nature throws our way," said Foehl. So far, so good for the Mounties. ■■■

## Trouble at the Olympics

By KATELIN MARCHAND

The 2014 Winter Olympics will soon begin in Sochi, Russia, lasting from February 7 until February 23. Over 2500 Olympians will gather in the Olympic park to participate in activities from speed skating to bobsleighbing. As the world assembles to watch this joyous event, there is a great concern about security. Because of the large number of people that attend the games and are concentrated in one area, terrorism is a concern for both the host country, which has to protect all those involved, and the participants, who could be targets. After several terrorist attacks in late December and early January, the Russian hosts ramped up security; they have employed over 30,000 soldiers and policemen to protect the city of Sochi and its perimeter. The security of the games has received a lot of media coverage due to these numerous terrorist attacks that took place in Russia on December 27, 29, and 30. In Pyatigorsk, on December 27,

there was a trolley explosion that started a string of terrorist attacks, which aren't necessarily linked. The attacks on December 29 and 30 took place at a train station in Volgograd. These three attacks specifically heightened fears of possible terrorist attacks on the Olympic games because of how close they were together in time.

Another factor that has led to fears is that Chechen terrorist, Doku Umarov, has already publicly announced that he wishes to disrupt the Olympic games. Although in the past Umarov has claimed responsibility for "successful" terrorist attacks, neither he nor any other specific terrorist group has claimed responsibility for the recent attacks. Russian president Vladimir Putin was forced to drastically increase security in and around Sochi. Putin also personally inspected Olympic grounds, and then, in an attempt to subdue fears, went skiing in Sochi to prove its safety. Not only will

there be soldiers in Sochi there will also be patrol boats in the Black Sea and drones at the ready. All phone communication in the city will be collected and monitored.

Besides the security fears there have been other controversies that have shrouded the Olympic games in a dark cloud. Human rights issues, specifically gay marriage, have arisen as a concern. Ever since this past summer, when Russia passed legislation to prevent gay "propaganda," the rights of openly gay athletes from other countries have been a topic of discussion between international leaders and have gained the media's attention. Putin recently stated that gay athletes will be safe in Russia, as long as they "leave children alone." Although his comments were meant to be reassuring, they have only sparked more controversy. As the Olympics quickly approach, hopefully Russia can resolve all humanitarian and security issues. ■■■



# SPORTS

## WRESTLING

By SAM KOBRIN

The wrestling team has been pleasantly surprised this season as they progress in another powerhouse year. The co-op team, led by Wrestling Hall of Fame inductee coach Miro, has battled their way to a record of 21-5. Greylock eighth grader Jude Rorke has emerged as a key part of the team and was ranked in the top three last year for Western Mass in his weight class. Sophomore Ray Malone is a secret weapon for the greylock team. "He's a real wild card on the mat," states Sophomore Ben Hynes "he'll be falling behind in a match and the get a pin seconds before the match is over." The wrestling team also welcomed many new members that have "learned real fast and filled in the places of graduated teammates very nicely," said

Hynes. Top-notch physical fitness is one of the areas that separates Greylock from the competition. This edge helps the team overpower opponents on the mat. Hoosac wrestler and senior captain Travis Hilchey has accumulated over 100 pins in his career and continues to be an anchor for the team. Other wrestlers such as Ben Hynes and Cj Lille continue to play a major part in the teams success. Devin Pelletier has become a rising star on the team wrestling off captain CJ Lillie. Ben Hynes said "he's rarely pinned because of his undefeatable spirit." Superior coaching, training, and athletes help the wrestling teams dominate on the mat. They look forward to a successful season ahead. ■■



Photo Courtesy of Iberkshires.com.

A Mt. Greylock wrestler gains the upper hand on an opponent.

## GIRLS' NORDIC

By LUCY BARRETT

Mount Greylock girls' Nordic ski team is off to a great start, winning its first four league races. as of January 24th. Sophomore Grace Smith has come in first for the Mounties in all three skate races and finished third in the one classical race. The team's other top skiers include senior Zavi Sheldon, junior Christina Butcher, sophomores Smith, Sophie Gerry, Greta Savitsky, Ellie Williams and Holly Fisher as well as freshman Niku Darafshi and 8th grader Abby Wiseman.

Smith is finding her toughest competition from Mohawk's Allison Lull and Lenox's Josie Marshall; they consistently join her in the top three spots. She noted that, "It's always a great feeling knowing all of your hard work in the weeks before and during

the season paid off." The Mounties have a positive outlook on the rest of the season, hoping for some snow and to keep the winning streak alive.

Although the winter's weather has been far from ideal for the ski team, it has clearly not affected its success. The weather is very inconsistent, but the team is making adjustments. From dry land workouts to skiing around the bottom of Jiminy at seven in the morning, the girls are working very hard to prepare the best they can. Their work has paid off as the season has progressed, with the race results showing that they are clearly the county's dominant team. As the season winds down, they are looking to the state race on February 11th and working to ensure a good result. ■■

## SWIMMING

By JAKE KOBRIN

The Greylock co-op swim team's season has been going swimmingly. "Our biggest competition in the county is Monument Mountain," said junior Julia Whitney, "and we've already beat them by ten points." With no losses so far and their hardest opponent in the county behind them, it looks like Greylock swimming could swim away with another undefeated season in the county.

But many of the girls are looking past the county meets. "As a team, our goal is to do exceptionally well in the western Mass meet," Whitney said, "but as you can tell, our team is pretty small, so it is really important to place well individually in the

state meet as well." Although there may be only seven swimmers walking through the halls of Greylock, when combined with eleven swimmers from Drury and six swimmers from Hoosac, they are a force to be reckoned with.

Whitney says that her favorite part of the team is "how the team is made up of so many different schools. You get to meet new people every year." When asked whether they still like to play sharks and minnows in the pool, Whitney said that the team prefers a tougher game. "We always look forward to water polo days." "Sadly," said swimmer Elizabeth Bernardy, "we only get a few of those a season." ■■

## HOCKEY CO-OP

By CAL FILSON

If you are unfamiliar with Berkshire County hockey, don't feel alone. The one thing you need to know is that Mt. Greylock hockey players actually play for the Wahconah Warriors. This Wahconah team is a co-op consisting of players from McCann Technical School, St. Joseph's, Wahconah and Mt. Greylock. Players from Mt. Greylock make up only a fraction of this team as there are only two students that play: junior Dan Flynn and freshman Kyle Bazonski. Both Flynn and Bazonski are long-time hockey players originating from the prestigious Berkshire Bruins youth hockey establishment. In years past, when the Hennessy League was still in place, Mt. Greylock hockey players played for St. Joseph's, along with others from McCann High School.

Berkshire County hockey made one major change for this season. After last year, the long-running Hennessy League was discontinued. MIAA hockey regulations state that for a league to exist, it must have at least four teams. In Berkshire County there are only three teams this year, meaning there is no Berkshire County League.

Nine games into the season, the Warriors are 3-5-1 with key wins coming against Mt. Everett, Amherst and Taconic. The Wahconah hockey team has potential for success. However, the junior winger Flynn made it clear that "we won't be successful until we start playing like a team. There's no doubt that we have the talent. Then, and only then will be playing to our true potential."

Mountie hockey players competed in the playoffs with St. Joseph's and they hope make it there again with their new team. ■■

## GIRLS' BASKETBALL

By GRAY KAEGI

The girls' basketball team has had a great start to the season and looks to stay successful as it progresses. The team has had key victories against skilled teams like Monument and Drury and a thrilling win over Wahconah, taking the lead by one point with 2.6 seconds left on the clock. The starting five-- senior Mackenzie Flynn, junior Lucy Barrett, sophomore Arianah Walden and freshman Jenna Benzinger and Sarah Stripp-- have all performed well, getting the wins they need.

But what exactly about this team is helping them toward success? When asked, Lucy Barrett stated, "Our team has great chemistry off the court which translates to great chemistry on the court. Also, we have a very athletic team, which helps our second half when we run the floor and make the other team tired." Another key aspect of the team could be their depth of players. Take for example the starting five. There is a player from each high school class which gives the team experience and new young players with bright futures ahead of them.

As the team gets closer and closer to the postseason, the question of making Western Mass gets thrown into the air. The girls' basketball team has not been to the Western Mass tournament in 4 years. However this team is different than the teams in the past years. Last year the team went 6-13, but already, barely ten games into the season, this year's team is doing tremendously well. This is a team that has the drive to get them far. They want to get to that Western Mass tournament, and if they continue with the season they have been having, there is no doubt that they will be there ready to go for a Western Mass title. ■■

## ALPINE SKIING

By BENNI MCCOMISH



Photo courtesy of Mercer Greenwald

Mercer Greenwald, one of two female skiers, competes in a slalom league race.

Mount Greylock only has nine skiers who are members of the alpine ski team. In the regular season, they compete in eight races at Bosquet Ski Resort throughout January and February. They began the season with an 0-2 record. Key members of the boy's team include junior Sam Kobrin, senior Niko Santore, junior Andrew Rickus, senior captain Ryan Kuhn, and junior Ross Burnham. The boys and girls Alpine ski have the the second least amount of varsity athletes for a sport at Mount Greylock. Mercer Greenwald and Miranda Voller are the sole skiers for the girls team.

To have a varsity alpine ski team you have to have at least 6 skiers competing in races. "The boys team is officially a varsity team, while the girls are not because of the lack of skiers," said Athletic Director Ms. von Holtz, "The girls won't be able to ski in states because they are an individual team. Not having enough skiers is very common in Berkshire County so we aren't the only ones." Schools in Berkshire county that have alpine ski teams include Pittsfield High School, Taconic, St. Joe, Wahconah and Monument Mountain.

Although mother nature hasn't been providing very much snow this winter for skiers, Kuhn is focusing on the positive. "So far the season has been great. We have been able to practice more than other schools because Jiminy had good coverage, while Bosque couldn't really hold." Hopefully with this advantage, the alpine ski team is ready for success on the slopes this season. ■■



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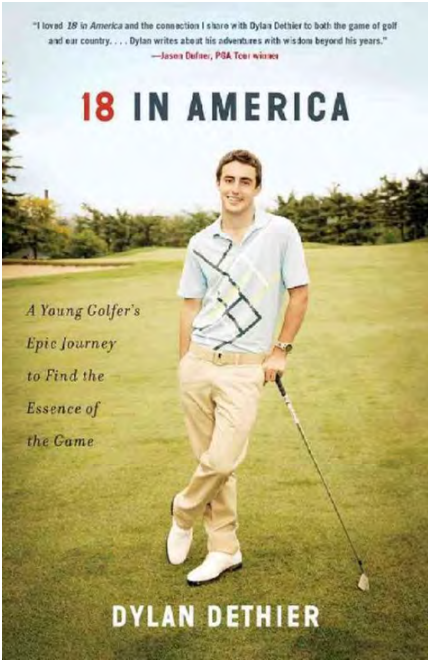


# 18 in America: Dylan Dethier

By EMILY KAEGI



After Dylan Dethier graduated from Mt. Greylock in 2009, he didn't go straight to college. Instead, he set off on a year-long road trip across the US to play golf in all 48 continental states. Dethier started the trip with his Subaru (named "Subi") packed with clothes and food and less than \$5,000. Without much of a plan, Dethier spent the first couple months trying to figure out



where to sleep, how to eat and how to play golf for free. Dethier spent many nights sleeping in the back of his car with an axe and sneaking into hotels to eat the continental breakfasts.

His trip would inspire envy in any avid golfer. He teed off on many different courses: from broken down greens in the Midwest to some of the most famous courses of

the PGA tour. However, Dethier's journey wasn't just about the golf. He set out to find himself and grow up before returning to his hometown to go to Williams College.

At Greylock, Dethier was the top golfer for the high school team and placed 3rd at States his senior year. Since he was accepted to Williams College, he decided he needed to leave town and learn how to make new friends and take care of himself in new environments.

Along his trip, Dethier networked and connected with many different people. With the help of friends and family, he managed to find warm houses to stay in. He reached out to many golf clubs, and by the middle of the journey, famous courses were sending him invites.

Dethier kept a blog for the entire trip documenting where he had been. A loyal following built up. "I think the idea of an enthusiastic kid on a journey to see America really appealed to a wide range of people," said Dethier. "Whether they were jealous of the freedom or the youth or just the ability to wake up every day and be able to go anywhere." With encouragement, he decided to write a book while still in college.

Dethier published *18 in America* with Scribner Publishing. "I told myself that all I could do was write something that I would be proud of," he said. "Everything else--the positive reaction, the good reviews, the fact that people are actually buying it--that

stuff is very flattering and so exciting."

Since his trip, Dethier has not gone back to visit many of stops along his road trip. However, he still keeps in touch with many of the people he met. "It's exciting to realize that you can have an effect on someone's life even after just spending a few days with them."

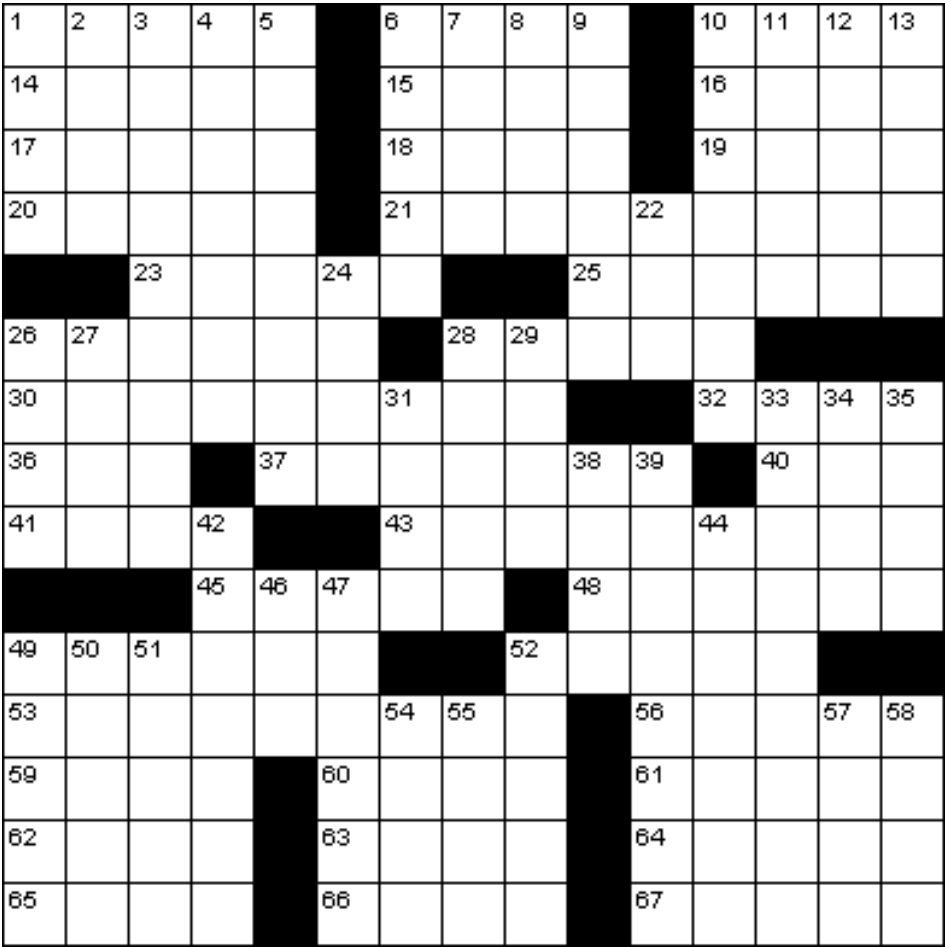
Readers see Dylan grow up throughout the novel. "I'm a golfer so I appreciated all he had to say about the great courses he played and how well or badly he played. I can relate to that, but the book was about so much more than just golf and that's why I think I liked it so much," said junior Jake Foehl.

While golf is prevalent, the reader doesn't need to know anything about it to enjoy the book. Dethier portrays different elements from his trip with a unique voice. He does not shy away from expressing the doubts he experienced or the truth behind some of his thinking. He also finds a way to capture the different spirits of America, showing what a diverse country we live in.

Rumors fly around whether the novel might be adapted into a film. One such rumor includes Josh Hutcherson playing Dethier. While Dethier said he hasn't reached out to Hutcherson, movie talks are in early stages.

Dethier's book is a great read for anyone. His journey is truly inspiring and he encourages all people to take a chance at trying something new. ■

## CROSSWORD



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62 Victories  
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65 "Smooth Operator" singer  
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