

STUDENT COUNCIL REWRITES CONSTITUTION

By ELIAS SEKKAL AND KATELIN MARCHAND



Photo courtesy of Kiara Garofolo.

The Student Council poses after the successful lock-in.

At 10:53 am on Thursday, January 30, the Mt. Greylock Student Council shut themselves into the Meeting Room and began editing their Constitution. All of the members stayed until the end of the school day rewriting their constitution, and some even stayed until five to finish making the changes.

Mt. Greylock School Committee members were the ones that requested the changes in the policy. Some of the committee members

felt that the old constitution did not give enough representation to the other student government groups, such as the class officers, and there was hope that the change in policy would expand the knowledge of civics at Mt. Greylock. In the afterschool hours of the editing, some class officers from various grades came to review the role that was written for them in the revised constitution.

David Langston, a member of the School

Committee in support of the new constitution stated, "There have been discussions about improving civics education and making student government more central at Mt. Greylock for over twenty years, and the current policy is simply one more part of the larger, long-term effort."

Currently, the constitution is still in a rough draft phase as both the Student Council and the School Committee debate and try to make compromises about what it should contain. The School Committee feels that the way the constitution elects members and represents Mt. Greylock's student body needs improvement. For example, the School Committee wants the constitution to require that the entire student body votes for the ratification of the Student Government Constitution. The final policy changes that were requested for the constitution were to include a method for periodic editing and to state that the Student Council will relay to the School Committee the needs and opinions of the student body.

Since the first meeting with Langston on January 16, the issue has been hotly debated, not only by Student Council members, but also throughout the school. Many Student Council members felt that the constitution did not need be rewritten, so they made the decision to edit the constitution as opposed to creating a new one. Student Council president Caleb Raymond commented, "The

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1 in 650: An Interview with Ryan Wadsworth

By IAN CULNANE

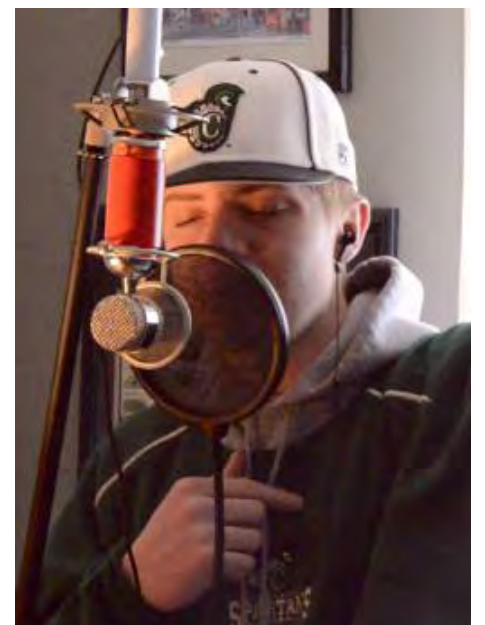


Photo courtesy of Ian Culnane.

Mt. Greylock is home to many talented students, some of whom are emerging musicians. The very first 1 in 650 back in 2011 featured Greylock rapper Harris MacDonald. Last year, senior Ryan Wadsworth emerged onto the Greylock music scene at a time when it was being revitalized by many passionate upperclassmen. His most recent song, "Teenage Dreamer," was shared all over social media and has received a lot of positive feedback. We sat down with Ryan to learn what goes into his music and to hear about his other passions.

Echo: What do you like about rapping?

Ryan: I like rapping because it gives me a way to express myself. It's a good way for me to get things off my mind.

Echo: What made you interested in rap initially?

Ryan: Ever since I was little, I have always loved music. And for the past few years, I always kind of sang and rapped but always kept it to myself. I then found out that my friend Mark Messina enjoyed the same hobby, so we decided to write a song together. And now the more I write music, the more I fall in love with it, and its something I always have to do. I've been getting so much support from all my friends and family which has been giving me so much motivation to help improve my songs.

Echo: Who do you look to for inspiration?

Ryan: Some of my biggest inspirations have always been Jake Miller for the messages he gives in his songs and Hoodie Allen for his awesome flow.

Echo: What goes into producing a song?

Ryan: Well before anything, I try to figure out what I'm gonna want to rap about in my song. I start listing out ideas and topics. Once I find a topic, I try to find the right beat that would match my topic. Some decisions I make are if I want my song to have a fast or slow flow to it. Once I have a beat and a general idea of how the song will flow, the fun part begins, and I begin to write. I really try to make sure that ev-

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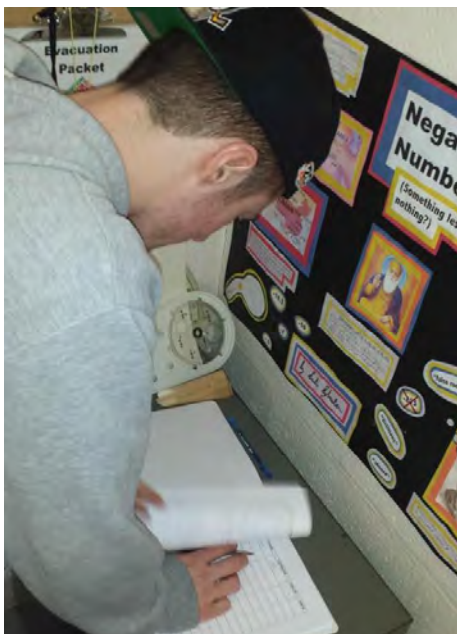
SIGN-IN BOOKS

By KATELIN MARCHAND

On January 27, the first day of the second semester, sign-in books were introduced into every classroom. Students are required to sign-in and out of class if they have to go to their locker, use the bathroom, get a drink of water or do any other activity that requires them to leave the room. Also, if a student is late, besides needing a pass they also have to sign-in. The initial reactions of the student body were of disdain, but as students settled into third quarter the dislike has somewhat dissipated.

"We are looking to keep students accountable," said Assistant Principal, Jacob Schutz, "These books were introduced in light of the recent iPhone and money thefts in the gym locker room." Sign-in books

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Senior Matt Malloy signs out under the new policy. Photo courtesy of Liz Wall.

NEW PIPELINE SPEEDS INTERNET ACCESS

By ANDREW WHITAKER

Over February break, the internet at Mt. Greylock quadrupled in speed. This change will benefit the school community greatly, as it allows more people to be online and it saves the school money.

"The network is like a public water pipe," said webmaster Peter Niemeyer, who is also a member of Mt. Greylock's technology committee. "If fire hydrants are being used down the street, you won't be able to use your tap." With the large number of students now using the network to watch videos, download updates and stay connected, it has become a struggle for teachers to load educational content, especially YouTube videos. Rob Wnuk, the school's Network Administrator, is able to monitor how much of the network is used at any given time, and the results show that this

change is necessary. The school's internet bandwidth is maxed out for most of the school day, making it much more difficult to access the Internet than after hours.

"This is the perfect time to make this change: our contract with Time Warner Cable just expired, we can get four times our current speed, and we will be saving \$100 every month," Wnuk added, excited for the change.

The school's current speed is 25 MBps (the average speed in Massachusetts is approximately 9MBps) after the change in provider, it will increase to 100MBps, requiring a larger SonicWall and a new switch. The new plan is a result of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, an initiative to bring faster internet speeds to rural parts of Western Massachusetts. ■■

MG CHORUS ON LOCAL TV

By NICOLE JONES

This year, the Mt. Greylock choir has been selected to perform in WGBY-TV's fourth annual "Together in Song" competition. Each November, various regional choral groups submit audition videos with hopes of being selected to participate. The top fifty groups then go to Springfield to record their four-minute songs, which will be broadcast in March. Viewers will vote for their favorites, and the top groups will move on to the finals, where the winner will be selected. The winning choir will receive a free thirty minute TV performance.

Chorus teacher Kate Caton first heard about the competition through a mass email sent out by WGBY to stimulate interest in the program. The school choir chose to audition with the song "Jerusalem" by Michael McGlynn because of its obscurity and uniqueness. "It is a contemporary spiritual song that uses traditional Celtic melodies,"

said Caton. "The song is sung a capella in a round, so it all comes together in this comprehensive harmonic chaos. People who have heard it either love it or hate it, but everyone remembers it."

WGBY must have loved it, because the Mt. Greylock choir was the only choir in the Berkshires chosen to participate in "Together in Song." The choir elected to use their audition song again when they filmed their performance for the show on February 8th.

The school choir is a serious competitor for this event because of its strong performers. Each singer is expected to be able to sing any voice part. "This builds more flexibility within the group. You're not just an alto or a soprano. We put you where you're needed. This makes the group more

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AMERICAN IDIOT

Read Will Walter's story on Green Day's rock opera American Idiot.

See Page 3.

THE LEGO MOVIE

Jacob Rossiter reviews the movie which has become a breakout success.

See Page 3.

DEAR EVI

Evi Mahon once again offers sage advice to her fellow Mounties.

See Page 4.

CHEF'S HAT

Hannah Fein and Anya Sheldon tell us about their visit to the breakfast joint.

See Page 4.

A Note From the Editors:

This is our last issue as the editors of the Echo and marks the beginning of the paper's annual leadership transition. We have the utmost confidence in Miranda Dils and Jake Foehl, who will be filling our roles as editor-in-chief and associate editor, respectively. It will be a pleasure to watch the paper grow and improve under their watch.

We would like to thank our printer, Eugene Michalenko of Adams Specialty & Printing, our photographers, our writers and our editorial staff for their contributions to the success of this paper. Our adviser, Peter Niemeyer, deserves all of our gratitude for his guidance and support. Additionally, we owe all of you thanks for your interest in and enthusiasm for the paper. Keep reading!

*Best Wishes,
Zavi Sheldon and Caleb Raymond*

1 in 650: Ryan Wadsworth

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everything I say people can understand. Once my lyrics are done, I record it and put it on Facebook for everyone to see.

Echo: How long does it take you to produce a song?

Ryan: It all depends. Sometimes I have so much in my head that I can write almost a whole song in one night. But sometimes it can take a week to write a song. I try not to rush anything because that's when things start to sound bad. Taking your time and having patience is the most important factor in writing a song and producing it.

Echo: You were part of the group T.I.K. but you have been rapping mostly by yourself recently. Can you explain that evolution?

Ryan: Of course. Mark and I wrote music together for about a year. And we both had so much fun with it! But we realized that we are two completely different artists, and it was so hard to really show what each of us were capable of. I think we both do better when we have our separate songs for right now. I'm sure down the road we will do a song again together.

Echo: How do you get your music "out there"?

Ryan: Everytime I write a new song I always put it up on Youtube. I feel like that is the best way to get started because it's open to everyone. I actually just got my 1,000th subscriber about a week ago, which was a huge accomplishment for me. I have such amazing friends and fans that have been sharing my music all over social media which is awesome, and I couldn't thank all of them enough for their support.

Echo: Are most of your subscribers local or are they from all over?

Ryan: A big chunk of them are from the area, but I have received messages from people from all over the U.S. saying that they love my music. It's amazing.

Echo: That's incredible! What are your goals? Or is it just for fun?

Ryan: It all started as fun and games, but the more I write music, the more I want to make something out of this. It's definitely something I can see myself doing for the rest of my life. I have connections with Sony Music and have actually had the VP of Sony Music listen to my music. I might be going out to Cali this summer for a few weeks to possibly meet up with them.

Echo: Who is the guy singing in your most recent song?

Ryan: I found this guy on the internet who produces beats and hooks for songs. He has a group of friends who sing the hooks. It's pretty cool, they are called "SimBeats"

Echo: What message do you try to get across to your listeners?

Ryan: It all depends on the song I am doing. In my last song, "Teenage Dreamer," I was trying to give the message that anything is possible if you set your mind to it. If you have a dream, then go out and chase it and don't let the haters or doubters stop you. I try to be inspirational to everyone while having a fun and chill vibe to my songs.

Echo: How does the song reflect on your life, if at all?

Ryan: It completely reflects my life. I'm the kind of guy that's always grinding for success no matter how hard or challenging it might be. And, in the song, I really try to express how hard I'm always working.

Echo: Besides music, what else do you work at?

Ryan: Well, baseball has always been my passion and has had a huge impact in my life. When it's the offseason I am always having withdrawals from not being on the baseball diamond. It's pretty much like my drug. I'm always trying to get bigger, faster and stronger to help improve my game. And right now I'm excited to play at Castleton State next year, where I am verbally committed. I was also selected to represent Western Mass, play in the Bay State Games and our team won the gold medal. I was also invited to the Summer Rival Classic which was put on by the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees.

Echo: Is there anything else you want to add?

Ryan: One last thing, I just want to say thank you to everyone that has helped support me with my music. And for those who have not heard me yet you can check me out on youtube at "RyanWadsworth Music."

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

A SEASON FOR THE RECORD BOOKS



Photo Courtesy of Amalia Leamon.

The girls' basketball team is pictured above during an early season practice. They finished the season with a record of 15-5, which earned them a home Western Mass game. Read about their season and captain Lucy Barrett's landmark season on page 6.

SEE FUND TELETHON AND QUIZ BOWL



Photo Courtesy of the SEE Fund

On March 13, the SEE Fund will hold its annual telethon and English teacher Blair Dils, pictured above, will host the second annual Quiz Bowl. Come to Greylock to watch your classmates compete or tune in on Willinet.

GSD ENJOYS SNOWY SEASON

By AMALIA LEAMON AND ECHO STAFF

Mt. Greylock's very own snow day blog is up and running again for the winter season. Greylock Snow Day is a real-time blogspace dedicated to predicting snow days, delays and early releases.

English teacher Blair Dils started it as a way for people to stay up-to-date with alerts about weather forecasts in the area. Originally the main focus of the blog had been Mt. Greylock, but as readership has grown across Berkshire County, so has the focus of the blog.

Dils synthesizes information from many weather services and interprets it for his readership so that they understand the implications of upcoming weather patterns. Dils said, "I use a lot of different sources--expert opinions and local knowledge of the weather patterns over the years-- to call it down to something I'm content to put into readership." He adds, "People love getting snow days so it's tapping into their excitement."

Dils launched the blog in December of 2010 and since then the popularity of the website has grown exponentially. So far this season, the page views are closing in on the 100,000 mark thanks to all different kinds of readers: students, teachers and members of the community--dubbed "faithful followers of the flake." Overall, the page is nearing 300,000 views.

Dils posts about twice a week, and considerably more if there is dangerous weather expected. Accompanying the posts are extras, like a history of snow inch totals, links to weather reports, a confidence meter to gauge the possibility of snow days and links to the GSD Facebook page and Twitter account. Beginning last year, Dils has given his readers the chance to name the storm through a poll.

He has since expanded the offerings to include other things. The second annual GSD Writing Contest was announced early last month and the deadline was February 23. Prize money for the contest was sponsored by True North Bank. Dils also recently began selling GSD bumper stickers.

An increasing number of students frequent the site during the winter months. When a storm is looming, people are often heard updating their peers on the latest predictions on GSD. Senior Jenna Phelps says, "I check GSD whenever there is a big weather advisory because it takes the best and most specific information and puts it all in one place."

Sophomore Molly Wilson agrees, "It is a reliable source and it's nice to check to see whether we have a snow day or not." ■■

SIGN-IN BOOKS

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have also been introduced in the library and guidance. Teachers have a similar sign-out system if they need to leave the building early, so the administration wanted to set that as a school wide standard. Because of the recent thefts, the administration looked at models in other schools of how they keep students accountable and this was a method that was utilized in other schools. There is also hope among the administration that coming and going from class will be less disruptive with the sign-in books. Instead of interrupting class to ask their teacher for permission to leave, students can get up, sign-out and return. Schutz plans to look at the sign-in books at the end of every quarter, or check them if there is another theft. Some teachers have been turning the books in periodically to Schutz.

Math teacher Lucas Polidoro commented on the sign-in books saying, "They can be time consuming, but overall they are a good idea." When Polidoro worked at Pittsfield High School there was a similar system in place, but with color coordinated hall passes. Some teachers are strict about enforcing students signing-in or out, while others do not enforce it as much. Orchestra teacher Ouisa Forhaltz also believes that the sign-in books are helpful to maintaining accountability in the Mt. Greylock community. She said, "The sign-in books are effective in case of emergencies, so that teachers can know who is out of the room if one occurs." Forhaltz really believes that the sign-in books are, "for the safety of the students," not to invade anyone's privacy. Overall, the student body have been vocal about their dislike of the sign-in books, but hopefully as people get used to them they will be able to see both the positives and negatives of the signing-in and out. ■■

CHORUS

Continued from Page 1.

vocally well-rounded," said Caton. Another one of the group's strengths is the overall dedication of the students to the choir. "The level of commitment is different from last year. I'm challenging them and they're taking the challenge. It took a year to build that trust."

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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Printed by Adams Specialty & Printing

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PLANNING BEGINS FOR NEW WEBSITE

By KELSEY HEBERT

Mt. Greylock’s school website will encounter several changes as the website content provider, hosted by PowerIT, that has been used for several years is going offline; a new website under a new provider will be in place soon, hopefully by the end of the school year. Principal Mary MacDonald along with the Mt. Greylock Tech Committee, Webmaster Peter Niemeyer and Digital Media and Learning Director Richard Scullin are working to find a suitable solution that gives the outreaching Mt. Greylock community an easy and accessible means for accessing information. The tech committee will work with students, faculty and community members in order to find out what the Mt. Greylock community needs from a website, how to organize it and how to improve the new website from the current one.

The school is currently looking at two options: building a new site from scratch or investing in a pre-packaged site from

a hosting site. By building a new site, the school would have more freedom in aesthetics, organization and input while a pre-packaged site would still have options in these areas but would be more limited. On the other hand, perks of the hosted site include its being less expensive than building a site from scratch and having the host maintain troubleshooting and information storage.

MacDonald says that the goal for the new site is to use it as a type of portfolio to highlight student and faculty accomplishments as well as give the community members information about the happenings of the school. “I think the website has improved a lot since last year,” said MacDonald, “We make a conscious effort to get as much information about Mt. Greylock on the website as possible. I hope to continue that in the new website as we celebrate Mt. Greylock and share our unique school personality through our online source.” ■■

Green Day’s American Idiot

By WILL WALTER

Ten years ago this spring, Billie Joe Armstrong, Mike Dimt, Jason White and Tre Cool, the Californian rock band known as Green Day, released the album American Idiot, their most successful recording since 1994’s Dookie. American Idiot is now Green Day’s second best selling album of all time, having sold over fifteen million copies, and topped out at number one on the Billboard 200 in 2004. The album also won a Grammy in 2005 for the best rock album.

What makes American Idiot different from other Green Day albums is that it was written as a rock opera and has seen big commercial success as a play on Broadway. Billie Joe and Co. were inspired by the famous Who rock opera Tommy and started to record 30 second clips individually, trying to outdo one another, until they had created a masterpiece. Their story follows an anti-hero named Jesus of Suburbia, who takes to the city after leaving the hometown he hates. Along the way he meets a punk rocker named St. Jimmy, and they become friends. Throughout the entire story, the theme of love versus rage is weaved into different scenes, until St. Jimmy commits suicide. In the end of the story, it is revealed that Jesus of Suburbia is actually St. Jimmy, so that part of him dies.

The concept is complicated, and Broadway couldn’t figure it out so they adapted the musical into their own story, which is about two characters, Johnny and Tunny,

who leave their homes in the country and travel to the city.

Here’s my opinion on the Green Day album, American Idiot. Whether you are a fan of Green Day or not, this album is a must have. Even though their foundation is rooted in the punk scene, this is not a punk album, it is something more. It tells a story. It has variation. The lyrics are fantastic. If you like punk, you’ll like this album. If you don’t like punk, you’ll like this album. And even though the new century marked the end of Green Day punk, some of the songs have that punk vibe to them (not the nineties vibe, more like a 70’s and 80’s vibe). Listen to The Clash or The Ramones, and then listen to American Idiot’s “Holiday.” You will notice some resemblances. Now let’s say you want to listen to something more mellow: you can turn on “Wake Me Up When September Ends,” a song that sounds eerily similar to anything off of the U2 album All That You Can’t Leave Behind.

What I’m trying to say here is American Idiot has something for everyone. If you don’t have the album, go out and buy it, like, right now. I don’t care if you are currently living in Nepal, and the nearest music store is on the other side of the Himalayas. Get your snowshoes on and climb those mountains. If you already have the album, good for you; go listen to it. I’m not saying American Idiot is the greatest creation of all time, I’m just saying it’s good. ■■

ABC PROGRAM

By EMILY RUDD

The ABC program, which stands for “A Better Chance,” is a nation-wide project that began in 1963. This successful program found its way to Mt. Greylock in 1968 and since then has sent over eighty high school graduates to college.

Principal Mary MacDonald, who was on the ABC board for seven years and previously taught ABC students, says that the program is “designed to take students from economically disadvantaged areas giving them preparation for college and making them good leaders.”

The current ABC students are freshman Chloe Kissoon, sophomores Roy Malone and Melany Francisco, junior Nico Clarke, and seniors Kathy Ho and Josh Kissoon.

Malone says that, “this school has helped me socially and academically.” Clarke adds that, “the program has made the effort to bring together bright scholars into a benign setting and exposed them to an amazing academic experience, which I am privileged to be a part of.”

Students that are interested in the program apply when they are in middle school. The eighteen month process is not only long but competitive. Ho explained that the process consisted of many phases before she became an ABC student at Mt. Greylock. Applications are reviewed nationally as well as on the local level. Following the initial application, she had to pass the Secondary Schools Admissions Test (SSAT) to see if she qualified for the program, then she moved on to the next phase where she was interviewed several times, and later was referred to the Mt. Greylock chapter.

The Mt. Greylock program started when members of the First Congregational Church in Williamstown thought it would be beneficial to bring students to the academically challenging Mt. Greylock. In the beginning, the students lived with families, then the funds grew enough to support them at their current house. Now it is one of the oldest ABC public school programs in the country.

The program is running based on donations as well as fundraisers. The most successful is the ABC clothing sale.

Williams added, “The fact that we are approaching our 50th anniversary is evidence enough of our success. In all those years, countless ABC Scholars have graduated from college and gone on to great careers, enriching their communities as they enriched ours during the years at MGRHS.”

Josh Kissoon agrees, stating, “I find the combination of community, culture and scholastics truly what makes Greylock ABC not only successful but an honor to be a part of.” ■■

NEW SEMESTER COURSES

By CHARLOTTE RAND AND DULCE REINHARDT

The new semester is an ideal time to try different classes and explore new opportunities. This year, a variety of new courses are being offered to high school students in the second term. They are given the opportunity to choose a class that sparks an interest. This allows students to be more excited about going to class and interested in learning. Among plenty of others, two of the most intriguing are Climate Science and The Listening Journey.

Climate Science, taught by Shawn Burdick, explores trends in the earth’s climate. Students learn about what it essentially is and how it changes. At times, the focus is also on how the climate and the changes that it goes through impacts civilization. The majority of the class is discussion based so far, said sophomore Noah Savage, and they spend time looking at graphs and data. He said that, “It’s relaxed, it’s not a stressful class, though it is informative.” In addition, students watch and discuss videos and visual presentations in class. While the workload isn’t the heaviest, the course provides useful insight into our world’s climate and what it does.

The Listening Journey, taught by Blair Dils, has allowed students to work closely with Andrew Forsthoefel, a man who, in 2011 and 2012, walked from Pennsylvania to California simply searching for stories. Now, students have been given the opportunity to explore other people’s stories, and the chance to retell and put their own twist on them. Sophomore Gray Kaegi said they had the chance to Skype with Andrew and ask questions about interviewing and they enjoy keeping in touch and being able to share stories with him. Students have also worked with Audacity, a downloadable audio editor, to create a short introduction to the class complete with background music, sound effects and voice recordings. In the future, even more technology will be incorporated into the class, allowing students to express their ideas and tell stories in creative ways.

This semester, the variety of new courses offered has given students the opportunity to pursue their outside interests in school, as well as explore new and interesting subjects. Climate Science and The Listening Journey give students the chance learn in a more discussion-based, nontraditional environment. Hopefully, Mt. Greylock will continue expanding its range of offered classes, but at this rate, students will be set for a while. ■■

The Lego Movie

By JACOB ROSSITER

“The Lego Movie” is one of the most surprising successes so far this year; a film sure to please both critics and audiences alike. The plot of the film centers around Emmet Brickowski (Chris Pratt), a seemingly ordinary construction worker who for as long as he can remember, has been content to simply fit in. Emmet lives in a world where creativity and thinking outside the box is forbidden, and conformity is encouraged. As a result, he is all but invisible to everyone around him. Of course, it is soon revealed to him that he is in fact at the center of an ancient prophecy that names him the “Special”, who is destined to defeat the evil “Lord Business” (Will Ferrell) with the so called “Piece of Resistance” as predicted by the wizard Vitruvius, played hilariously by Morgan Freeman. If this plot sounds familiar to you, it is for good reason, and the filmmakers waste no time in acknowledging this fact. I would certainly divulge more about the plot if not for fear of ruining some truly hilarious plot twists. One in particular deserved a standing ovation.

Speaking of the filmmakers, “The Lego Movie” was co-written and directed by Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, both responsible for 2012’s widely successful “21 Jump Street” and the 2009 animated film, “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs.” These two filmmakers have proven that they have a clear understanding of how to adapt simple concept into something much more complex and clever. Here, in the “Lego Movie,” they have once again succeeded. This film is extremely funny and never once

slows down in its pacing. The chief reason for this, I suspect, is how the film was made. Despite being made entirely with computer animation, the animators made the brilliant decision to stimulate stop motion-- making the figures appear as if they were manipulated by hand. The movements of the characters and world are just jolty enough to achieve a look that gives the film its own unique style, flavor and flow. Couple this with the fact that nearly every frame is packed with detail and humor, and the result is one of the most charming animated films of recent memory.

No Hollywood animated film would be complete without at least one or two A-list actors. “The Lego Movie” may well have the most star-studded cast of the year. The cast of characters boast the talents of Not only Pratt and Freeman, but Liam Neeson, Will Ferrell, Jonah Hill, Elizabeth Banks and many more. Everybody does a fine job, though I suspect at this point in their careers both Freeman and Ferrell are content with playing Freeman and Ferrell, respectively. There are a great deal of cameo appearances by characters that Lego has licensed over the years, mostly those belonging to DC comics and Warner Brothers such as Batman and Superman.

The film is incredibly entertaining and perfect for any age group. There are things to enjoy both for the kids that will inevitably see it anyway in addition to the parents that are probably dreading taking their kids to see “The Lego Movie”. Go see it and have a great time doing so. ■■



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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.

The Breakfast Scene: Chef’s Hat

By HANNAH FEIN AND ANYA SHELTON



Photo courtesy of Anya Sheldon.

Chef’s Hat in Williamstown.

Located at 905 Simonds Road in Williamstown, the bright yellow exterior of Chef’s Hat is hard to miss. As we arrived on a freezing February morning, the building almost seemed to radiate warmth and comfort-- an appealing sight to cold, hungry souls like ourselves. We entered the restaurant to find it was furnished with several booths, tables and a small bar, the very picture of a quint-

essential New England breakfast diner. The large windows offered natural light and a view of the road. A few friendly waitresses greeted us with smiles and encouraged us to take a seat anywhere.

Not long after sliding into a booth against the windows, we began to peruse the menu. Unique egg, buttermilk pancake, french toast and waffle dishes were among the de-

lights that met our eyes, ranging anywhere from \$2.00 to \$11.00. We took a peek at the varied lunch offerings as well, which included soups, grilled and deli sandwiches, salads, burgers and desserts. Chef’s Hat also features a kids’ menu as well as the “Ripper Dandy Challenge,” a proposition for anyone hungry and courageous enough to down a 12-egg omelet complete with 5 veggie and 3 meat fillings, 4 cheeses, several sides and a small beverage. Successful consumption of the meal is rewarded with a free t-shirt or hat and a celebratory photo on the wall-- and the omelet is free!

We figured that route wasn’t for us, though, so instead we ordered a hot chocolate and orange juice (after being steered away from the intense grapefruit juice by a considerate waitress). The beverages arrived very soon after and did not disappoint. Topped with a fluffy dollop of whipped cream and chocolate sauce, the hot drink’s rich and chocolately warmth was the perfect remedy for cold hands and a sweet tooth.

After placing our orders for breakfast, we were stunned at the speed at which they were prepared. Within five to ten minutes, in front of us sat a large plate of waffles topped with strawberries and whipped cream (\$7.25) and a Chicken Fajita Omelet with grilled chicken, tomatoes, green pepper, salsa and

cheese (\$8.25).

The waffles were certain to put anyone in a good mood. Covered in strawberries and adorned with a big smiley face of whipped cream, the serving was large, but not overwhelming. The only downside to this charming dish was its soggy-- a result of being smothered under an excessive amount of strawberry juice.

The Chicken Fajita Omelet was satisfying too, though did not go without fault. The fluffy egg had exquisite texture, while the cheese and various vegetables added special bursts of flavor in every bite. On top of the omelet lay a thick spread of salsa which, combined with the tomato chunks within, ended up feeling like excess. However, the overly powerful tomato flavor detracted only a bit from the quality of this delicious dish.

After our meal was over, we both agreed that Chef’s Hat is a wonderful little place for breakfast or lunch. The friendly staff and simple, homey environment allow for a relaxing experience, while the feel-good food, although not perfect, is reasonably priced and clearly made with love. So whether it’s a special occasion, you feel up for the perilous “Ripper Dandy Challenge,” or you just want to catch up with a friend, Chef’s Hat is the place for you. ■■

Dear Evi...

By EVI MAHON

Dear Evi,

All of my friends are starting to get into college (or already did in December), and I’m still awaiting the letter from my dream school. I’m worried that I might get rejected and won’t go to college! How can I manage the stress?
College Crazed

Dear College Crazed,

First let me assure you that any worries about not going to college just because your top school rejects you are totally and completely bogus. I promise that some college somewhere would accept you, even if you couldn’t spell or filled out the extracurricular boxes on the common app with “lighting cats on fire” and “recreational knife throwing.” If you filled out your application and wrote your essay truthfully, then you should be fine. The college admissions officers are paid to help determine if you’re a good fit for their school and, more importantly, if their

school is a good fit for you.

If you do get rejected, know that the decision wasn’t personal. Many competitive schools are forced to reject hundreds of qualified applicants. Going to a school that was not your top choice is not the end of the world because you will find “your people” at any college. But for now, it’s out of your control, so just try to focus on something positive. If you can’t de-stress that easily, grab a pint of Ben and Jerry’s, a spoon, and our friend Netflix and call me in a month.

Dear Evi,

I finally got a girlfriend, but I realized that I don’t think I’m ready to be in a relationship. I guess I liked the idea of dating more than the reality. What should I do?
Losing the Romance

Dear Losing the Romance,

First, you should try to find out why you aren’t ready. If it’s a matter of timing and

schedules, then I’d say to just suck it up and quit being a micro-managing, excuse-giving twerp (in a nice way, of course). Of course, that’s rarely the true problem behind these issues. You may discover that you’re not emotionally available enough to handle being with someone. And therein lies the “eureka” moment you’ll have at some point in your life. The wonderful (and really understated, in my opinion) part of relationships is that there’s someone else that can help you figure out what exactly is going on in that screwed-up brain of yours (no offense, everyone is messed up in one way or another) and can help you fix it, or at least learn to deal with it. You also have someone to see movies with, so you’ll never be caught alone at the sunday matinee of Frozen while you cry into a bucket of popcorn during “Do You Want to Build a Snowman?” Not that I would know, or anything. ■■

WRESTLING

By CAL FILSON

The Mt. Greylock wrestling team has been, for the most part, dominant as usual. The Mounties have enjoyed much success over the years with Coach Ray Miro at the helm. Senior captains CJ Lillie and Johnny Colon, junior captain Travis Hilchey and sophomore captain Dave O’Brien have wrestled exceptionally well so far this year. In particular, Hilchey has climbed all the way to the number seven ranking in Massachusetts at 132 lbs according to masswrestling.com. Other key players on the team include freshman Devin Pelletier, sophomore Maurice Nemtzw and eighth grader Jude Rorke.

Nemtzw has been wrestling since seventh grade and has enjoyed being part of a Western Massachusetts tournament team in every year of his career. Of the tournament, he said, “I like watching good matches and I like the feeling of being in the tournament.”

The Mounties came out on top in some tough matches this year. They squeaked out a crucial victory against Colgate (RI) back in January at the Franklin Tech meet. One team that proved to be a formidable opponent this year for Greylock was Monument Mountain. They beat the Mounties in all but one of their matchups this year, paving the way to their eventual Western Massachusetts title.

Six Mt. Greylock wrestlers qualified for the state meet: seniors Johnny Colon and CJ Lillie, junior Travis Hilchey, sophomore David Obrien, freshman Devin Pelletier and eighth grader Jude Rorke. The most successful Mounties were Colon, the Western Massachusetts champion at 182 pounds and Hilchey, the Western Massachusetts runner-up at 132 pounds. Both Colon and Hilchey wrestled their way to the semifinals.

The Mounties look to continue their success, both individually and as a team, in years to come. ■■

INDEPENDENT STUDIES

By SAM SWOAP

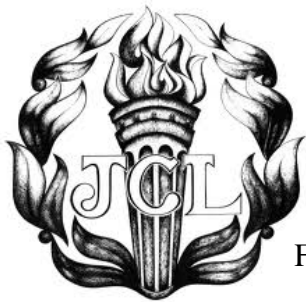
When a student wants to learn about something that is not offered in the Course of Studies, they can always take an Independent Study. The Course of Studies is a list of all the courses available at Mt. Greylock that a student can take. An Independent Study is a class that a student wishes to take, but is not offered in the Course of Studies. A hopeful student must find a teacher in that field who has a prep period when the student has an open period. Some topics in the past have included an accelerated Spanish course for students wishful of taking a gap year in South America, an analysis of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and many others.

Another reason for a student to take an Independent Study is if they can’t find another class to fit into their schedule. This used to be much more prevalent than it is today, but it still happens now.

Another way to learn topics that are not in the Course of Studies is to take a Virtual High School (VHS) course. VHS courses are classes taken online covering a variety of subjects including Art History, Biochemistry, Computer Science and a variety of nontraditional languages such as Italian, Portuguese and Russian. Junior Tom Schoollemmer, who took German Language and Culture this year, presents both sides of the

coin. “In small doses it is preferable to a small class because I can work at my own pace, in my own way. It was a nice break from the rigor of normal classes. But on the down side, I didn’t get to know my classmates like a real class, so if i had to take several VHS classes, it would have seemed less enjoyable,” he said.

Independent studies require a strong work ethic to succeed, as they happen without much oversight by faculty or other outside sources. A lot of planning is required to achieve one’s goal, but Independent Studies can be very rewarding if done properly. ■■



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BOYS' NORDIC

By BENNI MCCOMMISH



Photo courtesy of John Culnane.

The girls' and boys' varsity Nordic teams pose with their trophies after the State race.

Winning the state championship is a massive and impressive achievement for a team at any level. Repeating such a victory is even more difficult. It is therefore quite a feat that the Mt. Greylock Boys' Nordic Ski team has won seven state championships in the last eight years.

Unlike previous years, when the team had many seniors, this year's team is not senior heavy. There are only two varsity seniors on the team, Caleb Raymond and Derek Wood. Because of this lack of seniors, all grades were expected to contribute and step up their game. Key skiers this year include juniors Will Nolan, Jake Foehl, and Jake

Kobrin and sophomores Matthew Wiseman and Ian Culnane.

"This year we were the underdogs for the first time in years, which was really nerve-racking," stated Kobrin, "We've had a streak going for such a long time now and we didn't want to be the ones to break it." The Nordic Ski team proved that they were up to the task, finishing the season undefeated.

With the regular season over, Greylock's top skiers are training for the Eastern High School Championships where they will be racing on the Massachusetts team against the best skiers from New England. ■■

BOYS' BASKETBALL

By JAKE KOBRIN

The Mt. Greylock boys basketball team has had a challenging season this year. Of finishing the season with a 8-12 record, junior Eric Hirsch said, "As a team we have struggled to score this year." However, they also leave the season with no regrets.

Junior forward Ian Brink said, "We treated every game with high intensity and always played hard." Many members of the team did not get much in-game experience until this year. "Last year we lost our whole starting lineup, so this year was all about experience and getting comfortable with the pace and style of play," Brink continued. "However, Coach Thistle has said throughout the year that this is not a rebuilding year."

Coach Bob Thistle's intensity has groomed the team members into tenacious, disciplined players with a true passion for the game. That is something that no statistic can show. "The basketball team is a fun group of guys who care more about having fun and competing than wins and losses," said junior Eric Hirsch, "Although we strive to win every game, we do not put too much pressure on ourselves and we make sure to have fun along the way."

The Mounties' game against Mt. Everett characterized the way the season went. They faced a tough opponent, but played well and kept Mt. Everett from running away with the game until the very end. "It was bittersweet because of the loss [63-64] but it was such a fun game to play in because of how intense it was the whole way through," Brink said. Hirsch cited a 76-50 win against Lenox as the team's best game of the season. "Against Lenox, we finally put it all together. Our offense and our defense just clicked. We came out with a competitive fire, and sent the seniors off on a good note," said Hirsch.

All eyes are now on the juniors for next year. The junior class includes Jake Benzinger, Brink, Hirsch, Michael McCormack, Taylor Carlough, Emmett Shepard, David Majetich and Jesse Dilego. They already fill a majority of the varsity spots, so the hope is that they will be able to return stronger than ever. Next year they are determined to be serious contenders in the Western Mass playoffs. The goal as always is for the team to make it to the legendary court, "The Cage," a feat last accomplished by the Mounties in the 2011-2012 season. "If we play with a certain amount of confidence and looseness out on the court, then we are a hard team to beat," said Brink. "We just have to get to that point, which again comes from experience." ■■

ALPINE

By ERIC HIRSCH

The Alpine Ski team has struggled with numbers in recent years. A recruitment attempt failed to attract enough kids to provide the depth that is apparent with their skiing counterparts on the Nordic team. Although downhill skiing is popular in the Berkshires, most kids opt to hit the slopes on their own time. However, almost every year, a few skilled athletes join the team and represent the Mounties well.

Under head coach Lisa Friday, several individual skiers have made giant strides on the slopes. Senior Ryan Kuhn has stepped forward as the frontrunner for the Mounties. Kuhn frequently placed in the top ten all season. Juniors Ross Burnham, Sam Kobrin and Andrew Rickus also enjoyed success during the season. Kuhn, who competed in the competitive tri-state league, qualified for the state race, while Burnham and Rickus were alternates. In the state race, which took place on February 25th, Kuhn came in 35th place in slalom, good enough for the second best finish of a county skier.

"I've been racing for 10 years and it's been my favorite thing to do in my life. I loved being on the high school team. I sure have a lot of good memories," said Kuhn. Looking forward to next season, almost the entire Mountie squad will return to the slope, since Kuhn is the only senior. ■■

STUDENT COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1.

constitution was working perfectly fine before. Some changes were good, but, in my opinion, most were unnecessary." Among the changes that the Student Council felt improved the constitution was the addition of allowing class officers to have more of a say in student government. The main goal that the School Committee wanted the Student Council to achieve was to have their constitution be written so that it functions more democratically. At the last Educational Policy Subcommittee meeting, representatives of the Student Council agreed to organize forums and debates for the entire high school relating to civics. One of these debates was held in high school directed study by Magnus Bernhardtsson, a Williams professor, and the feedback, overall, was positive. There is a plan among Student Council members to continue with these school wide talks and continue educating students about civics and democracy. ■■

GIRLS' NORDIC

By GRAY KAEGI

After an undefeated regular season, the Mt. Greylock Girls' Nordic Ski team headed to Notchview Reservation on Tuesday, February 11 to compete in the 2014 Massachusetts Nordic State Championship.

The skiers lined up along the starting line prepared to face the brutally hilly Notchview course in freezing temperatures and blustering winds. Wave by wave, the skiers began the race, zooming along the trails. As expected, the team performed exceptionally well, capping off its season with a repeat second place finish, adding to the Nordic team's extensive trophy collection. The whole team had notable times and finishes; the best included 5th place from sophomore Grace Smith, 17th place from sophomore Sophie Gerry and 20th place from eighth grader Abby Wiseman.

When asked about a key to the team's

success, Smith said, "We have always been a really positive and cohesive team. This year we have been closer than ever. We not only spend time together during workouts, but also outside of practice and training. We encourage each other and help each other become the best athletes and friends we can be."

This is an extremely young team, with six of the eight top skiers sophomores or younger. With such a successful young team, the girls should be able to continue their dominance for many years to come. "It will be really sad losing our seniors. Our team is young though, so our momentum from this season can definitely be carried over to next year," said Gerry. Winning continues to be a tradition for the Nordic Ski team and Greylock could not be more proud of the team. ■■

SWIMMING

By NYEIN SOE



Photo courtesy of

A close look at the Hoosac swim team reveals a few familiar faces.

Mt. Greylock's co-op swim team with McCann, Drury and Hoosac has had an amazing 2013-2014 season. They won the League Title, which is a major improvement from last year. The team remained undefeated in the regular season, overcoming tough competition from rival schools such as Mt. Anthony and Monument Mountain.

Three of Greylock's swimmers, sophomores Julia Whitney, Emma Whitney and Elizabeth Bernardy, are integral members of the team. According to Julia, the increased depth of the team allowed for success this season. "Our biggest contributing factor would be having a core of six really good girls: Cori Ghidotti, Alyssa Bush, Ellie Field, Elizabeth Bernardy, Emma Whitney and myself. In swimming, it's like track-- the deeper your team, the better. Last year there were only three really fast girls," said Whitney.

The team's depth truly showed when

eight girls from the co-op, four of whom were from Greylock, attended the Western Mass meet in Springfield and came in fifth place, securing a spot in the State Championships at MIT. According to Whitney, "Earning the number five spot was amazing considering we are division one since we are a co-op team, meaning that we compete with a lot of big schools [at Western Mass]." She also attributed the outstanding results to her coach Eryn Brewer: "We have the same coach who used to swim for UMass Amherst, which is Division I... She's really good and her dedication to the team made [our success] possible."

Given its current status, the team has a lot to look forward to; most of the key swimmers are still underclassmen, which means the co-op will remain strong and only continue to improve in future seasons. ■■

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Greylock Echo

1,000: An Interview with Lucy Barrett

By EMILY KAEGI



Photo courtesy of Lucy Barrett



Photo courtesy of iBerkshires.com

Junior Lucy Barrett scored her 1,000th career point this year.

On January 28th in the Lenox Memorial High School gym, junior Lucy Barrett became the third Mountie to ever score 1,000 career points. The two other athletes to accomplish this feat were Mark Bubriski in 1969 and Karen Rice in 1995. Another student scored 1,000 at Williamstown High School before Mt. Greylock existed. According to the Berkshire Eagle, there have only been a total of 60 people all time in Berkshire county to hit 1,000.

Scoring 1,000 points might not seem that impressive at first. But putting it in terms of baskets, if you only shoot 2 pointers,

that's 500 baskets. With less than 20 games a season, to accomplish this by senior year, one would have to average at least seven baskets a game for all four years on varsity. Lucy is only a junior, which means she scored many more than that. This season she has averaged around 20 points a game and has lead the Mounties to one of their best basketball seasons in a while. They finished the regular season with a 15-5 record. We sat down with Lucy to talk about her accomplishment and her hopes for the future.

Echo: What was it like to get your 1,000th point?

Lucy: It was pretty crazy. Almost unreal. I woke up the next day and I was like, "Wow, I actually just got this." It was just a really big milestone to accomplish that, and it felt amazing.

Echo: Did you feel a lot of pressure going into the game?

Lucy: Going into Lenox I had to get 22 and I had been averaging 20, so I was like you never know what can happen. I wasn't worried about if I was going to get it. But then, all my uncles and aunts and cousins were all there, and my next game was at Mt. Everett. I'm not going to force anything, but I hope I can get it at this game so that my family doesn't have to go to Mt. Everett.

Echo: Your whole family was there, did they come down especially for that?

Lucy: Yeah! And some friends, like Miranda Dils, came down. People that I didn't expect were there. It was great seeing so many people come down for it. All people who were supporting Greylock Basketball.

Echo: When in the game did you realize that you were one basket away?

Lucy: Well I started off the game not scoring for the first five minutes. My mom was getting worried. Okay, all these people are here. She hasn't even scored yet. I made a basket, but then I got a charge so I had my first foul early in the game. Then I had some layups; I hit some threes. I had something like 18 points in a span of 10 minutes. All the points kind of happened. I don't keep track when I'm playing. I hit another basket, and people were getting pretty crazy. So, I looked up, and Grant Raphael was

holding a sign, and it said 998. I was like wow! Crazy!

Echo: What was it like not being at home for that game?

Lucy: I was kind of sad that I wasn't going to be at home because not only that game was away, but our next one was too. But, everyone at Lenox was so nice. All the parents and the team wanted me to get it, so it kind of felt like it was a home game just because they were all so proud. Everyone was cheering for me so it was awesome.

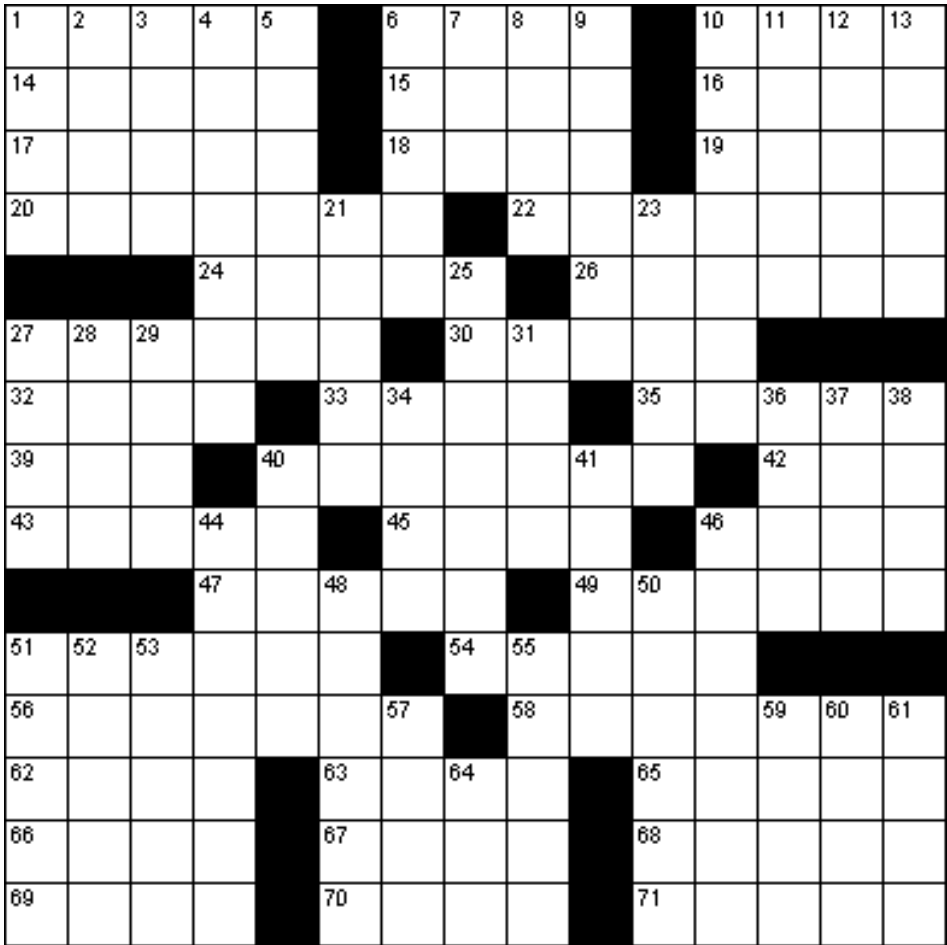
Echo: So what comes next now that you've hit 1,000?

Lucy: We have five games left, and if we win out or just lose one game, we are 15-5 or 16-4 which would mean a home game. My goal is for the team to get a home Western Mass game. Definitely to make it to the cage, that's more ahead. [After this interview took place, the Mounties finished the regular season with a record of 15-5 and earned a home game for the first round of the Western Mass tournament. On February 24th, Barrett scored 30 points to lead the Mounties past Mahar 56-53.] But taking it game by game. Being in the playoff was my first goal. Just making it, because I haven't made it any of my years on varsity. Now it's like, okay, we made it, now I want to get a home round game. I want to, hopefully, make it to the Cage.

Echo: Looking toward the future, do you want to play basketball in college?

Lucy: My goal is to play at Bentley College, which is Division II. I would love to go Division I but I'm not quite sure if that can happen. So my goal is to be able to play Division II. ■■

CROSSWORD



Across
1 Temporary exemption
6 Dread
10 Unwanted e-mail

14 Mature
15 Gun shop purchase
16 It can go to blazes
17 "___ the body electric"

18 Police
19 "___ Misbehavin'"
20 Tooth tissue
22 Colonist
24 Positive pole
26 Conductor Toscanini
27 Shrewd
30 Danny DeVito's "Taxi" role
32 Flight prefix
33 Box
35 Comedian Richard
39 Adult males
40 Celtic May Day
42 What I may mean
43 Investigate
45 Unctuous
46 1963 Shirley MacLaine role
47 Totaled
49 Joined
51 Narrow steep-sided valley
54 Peter of Herman's Hermits
56 Accumulated
58 Lie
62 Delta deposit
63 Grime
65 Sgt. Bilko
66 Break the news
67 Caf   additive
68 Short letters
69 "I cannot tell ___"
70 One of the Muppets
71 Worthless stuff

Down
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5 Locomotive

6 Confronted
7 Comic Philips
8 Sound boosters
9 Dominica's capital
10 Break to bits
11 French soldier
12 "Lou Grant" star
13 Subway
21 Scandinavian
23 Nonsense
25 Great joy
27 Bivouac
28 Lecherous look
29 Cube inventor Rubik
31 Unwritten
34 It may be hatched
36 Richard III's house
37 At my expense
38 Scan
40 Campfire chow
41 Parachute material
44 Prickly hair
46 Wrong
48 Narrow pointed rock
50 Mean
51 Dreadlocks wearer
52 Film director Jon
53 "Grease" singer Frankie
55 ___ lunch
57 Clock face
59 "Do ___ others ..."
60 Affiliations
61 Pianist Myra
64 Outer edge

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