

THE HANGAR: A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE YEARS

By SAM SWOAP ('16), MATTHEW KLEINER ('17), AARON KLEINER ('17)



Photo courtesy of Mountgreylockecho.com

Greylock students could look out the windows in mid-October to see the hangar's demolition.

Although it stood for nearly 80 years, the hangar that lay to the east side of Mt. Greylock puzzled many students until the day of its destruction on October 16, 2015. Mysterious graffiti dating from 1963 to 2013 sprawled across its sides. Its battle-ship gray metal walls seemed to be from a different time period than the red brick architecture of the school building, outdating any other edifice on campus by 50 years. In fact, the hangar's origins stretch back to before the school's construction to the

days of the Fairview Airport.

In the 1930s, a small private airport occupied the grounds--then called Cole's Field--with a single runway running from the base of Appletree Hill to the baseball field, and the hangar was erected to store the small planes. At first, only local pilots used the airfield to fly their privately owned aircrafts, and there were no commercial flights out of Cole's Field. However, a few years after the opening of the airport,

Williams College began using it as a base for its flying club. The club gave Williams men the opportunity to learn to fly for recreation, as well as prepare for possible military futures in the looming war. When the United States entered World War II in the early 1940s, the government closed all private airfields unless armed personnel were present at all times to secure the location. The flying club attempted to continue the use of Cole's Field by camping out on the grounds 24 hours a day. Unfortunately, the airfield was not properly licensed, and so the club was forced to shift to another small airport in Cheshire to continue operations with the hope that they could return to the Fairview airport in the future.

The airfield did not reopen until 1944, the earliest it could get licensed for use again. A few years later, the newly-formed Mohawk Valley Aviation Corp., directed by George West, began operations out of the Fairview Airport. In 1948, Mohawk Aviation moved to the recently constructed and larger Harriman Airport in North Adams. The use of the Fairview Airport declined and eventually stopped altogether in the 1950s. After the old hangar ceased holding airplanes, community members used it as storage space.

The hangar continued to serve this function for many years, housing the school's athletic equipment, theater sets and even the catapults belonging to the Junior Classical League (JCL). Some of the most striking sights in the capacious building included the Romanesque ballista and trebuchet

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1 in 650: An Interview with Collin McBride

By IAN CULNANE ('16)



Photo courtesy of Ian Culnane ('16)

While over 70% of Mt. Greylock students are on a school sports team, some pursue their talents elsewhere. Junior Collin McBride takes his talent to the slopes not in the winter, but in the summer. After a prolific wrestling career and winning the 125 lbs category in the Middle School Ohio State Championship, Collin gave up traditional sports and a life in Ohio to pursue his dreams of mountain biking. The sport consists of racing from the top to the bottom of a mountain over treacherous terrain. Since his switch, Collin has had an enormous amount of success, so we decided to sit down with him to learn more.

Echo: Can you talk about your background in motocross?

Collin: I started racing motocross when I was nine. I won my first national race, held at my home track in Western Reserve, Ohio, when I was eleven, which was not only convenient because of the proximity of the race to me, but also because I knew the track well.

That means you were number one in the nation?

Collin: Yes, for eleven and under.

Why did you change sports?

Collin: Growing up, I was surrounded by bikes, and I always loved the simplicity of riding my pedal bike, which I rode a lot more than my dirtbike. My dad had a background in mountain bike racing, and I thought it would be cool to attempt to follow in his footsteps. But I never thought I would take it this far and try to make a career out of it. And I haven't looked back since.

When and why did you move to Williamstown?

Collin: I moved to Williamstown in the summer of eighth grade. My dad lived here for ten years while I lived in Ohio. During the summer I came out to visit and rode almost everyday. Williamstown is probably one of the best areas to live for mountain biking on the East Coast. Mountains with lift access and chairlifts to shuttle you up the mountain aren't easy to come by, and

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DISTRICT SEPARATION PROPOSAL REJECTED

By ECHO STAFF

On October 15, the Lanesborough School Council summarily rejected a proposal for the town of Lanesborough to tuition its students to Hoosac Valley High School, a concept that Hoosac Valley put forth this August.

When asked, senior and Lanesborough resident Lilly Crolius said "[Lanesborough staying in the district] makes me really happy because I know what Greylock can offer students and what it can help people achieve. I feel that if I attended Hoosac, I wouldn't be immersed in as strong of a learning environment as I am right now." Other Lanesborough students echoed Crolius's sentiments, citing Greylock's academic superiority. The State of Massachusetts classifies Greylock as a Level 1 school, due to its high levels of academic growth among all categories of students. In contrast, Hoosac Valley is a Level 3 school, reflecting its low graduation rates and standardized test scores.

The Mt. Greylock School Council issued an FAQ report that contrasted the academic difference between Mt. Greylock and Hoosac Valley. Mt. Greylock outperforms the state average in every category on the School Report Card, which lists items such as standardized test scores, graduation rates, and senior

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BUILDING PROJECT IN SCHEMATIC DESIGN PHASE

By MELISSA SWANN ('16)



Photo courtesy of Design Partnership

The schematic design for the new school building.

The Mt. Greylock Building Committee met with the School Committee on October 29 in the Meeting Room to select a construction manager for the renovation of the school building. After interviewing the three finalists for construction management, the members of the committees voted on the options, electing Turner.

A month prior, on September 30, the Massachusetts School Board Authority (MSBA) approved Mt. Greylock to move into the schematic design phase. Building Committee

co-chair Paula Consolini explained that during this phase, "the committee must prepare a project scope, budget and schedule for the MSBA by early December. This means we have to make enough of the basic design decisions about aspects like room layouts and materials choices for the project in order for cost estimators to responsibly estimate the cost of the project by the third week of November." To design the renovated school, the Building Committee has been working closely with a

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CHEATING

Sam Swoap and Grace Dodig discuss cheating at Mt. Greylock.

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DEAR NICOLE...

Nicole Jones debuts her student advice column.

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NARCOS REVIEW

Jesse Cohen reviews the gritty Netflix TV series *Narcos*.

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THE BEST ALBUMS OF 2015

Jasper Rosenheim discusses his picks.

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GREYLOCK TALKS AND PLAYS TO RESUME

By MATTHEW KLEINER ('17)



Photo courtesy of Ian Culnane ('16)

Williams professor Michael MacDonald addresses a large crowd of students during a Greylock Talk last year.

After two successful years of Greylock Talks and Plays that consistently drew large crowds for both presentations and performances, senior student leaders Gray Kaegi and Nicole Jones are looking to quickly restart their respective programs. On Thursday, November 12, Greylock Plays launched their 2015-16 season with a preview of this year's Shakespeare production, *Macbeth*. Greylock Talks will return on November 19 with speaker Rick Spalding, the chaplain of Williams, giving a presentation entitled "A Wider Sense of 'We': Living with Real Religious Diversity in the 21st Century."

Greylock Talks is a speaker series that brings community members to the school to give half-hour presentations during directed study about once a month. According to Kaegi, the goal of Greylock Talks has remained the same since it was conceived by founder and then senior Aaron Ziemer in 2013: "to give students at Greylock an opportunity to learn about topics they are

not typically offered in class." Many of the speakers are Williams professors, but local authors and even Greylock faculty members, such as history teacher Andrew Gibson, have also spoken. Kaegi hopes that students can learn about subjects that could interest them but that they would never have contact with in normal high school curricula. "For example, there is no class at Greylock about epigenetics or the fourth dimension," he pointed out, referring to last year's talks by biology professor Ben Carone and math professor Satyan Devadoss. By bringing in community members from all kinds of fields and areas of expertise, Kaegi would also like students to be exposed to diversity, both in possible opportunities after high school and the individuals that make up a larger community. "There are incredibly talented people all around us," he said, "and I hope that Greylock Talks helps students become more active in learning about what their communities have to offer and enables students to feel comfortable learning from

experts at a personal level."

Greylock Plays is a series of quarterly events that gives Greylock musicians the opportunity to perform for the school community. Similar in structure to Greylock Talks, Greylock Plays invites students to attend half-hour performances during directed study. However, unlike the speaker series that focuses on outside community members, Greylock Plays' ideology centers around exhibiting students and faculty members' musical talents to their peers. "The beauty of Greylock Plays is that it showcases people who might not have otherwise been given a chance to perform," Jones said. She was very pleased with last year's series and is optimistic about the upcoming year: "Last year, [student leader] Colby Masse did a great job expanding the program and welcoming new student and faculty performers. I hope that I will have a similar impact on Greylock Plays." ♦

1 in 650: Collin McBride

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they revolutionize the sport. The town is in the center of the best East Coast mountains—Mt. Snow, Berkshire East, Jiminy Peak—all of which are only a few hours away, at most. My "go to" mountain is Berkshire East in Charlemont, Massachusetts. It is one of the best mountain bike parks in America. **Aside from biking for fun, you also race. Can you tell me a little about that?**

Collin: I started racing mountain bikes when I was thirteen years old. After my second year of mountain biking I had four state championships in Massachusetts. I came out to Williamstown in the summer to race. I would do two races a year and win both of them. These wins gave me the idea that I should consider taking racing more seriously and maximize my potential. My dad gave me the opportunity to come out to live with him and I took it.

How do the series of races work?

Collin: With each race, you gain points that contribute to an end-of-the-season total. Points are awarded for the top five places. For example, if you get fifth, you get three points; if you get first place, you get ten points. In a season, the person with the best results and the most points will take the overall title of the Junior Pro Series.

What is it like racing with your dad?

Collin: Racing with my dad is special, to say the least. He is easily my favorite person to ride with. He always pushes me to go faster and become a better rider. I can attribute my success to my amazing dad who has been my number one sponsor and supporter since day one. He tells me that I have a huge opportunity because I am racing when I am young. Many people don't start until they're twenty years old. And he encourages me to get a good start because I could eventually make a living off of this.

You are also sponsored, correct?

Collin: Yes, by Giant.

How does a sponsorship work?

Collin: They pay you to race and to travel to the races. A sponsor also hooks you up with a free bike, which can cost thousands of dollars. Getting a free bike is really nice, especially when they will immediately replace any parts of the bike that may break. It's a brutal sport for the bike.

That's awesome, how did you get the sponsorship?

Collin: I got third in Nationals two years ago. Giant emailed me afterwards and offered me a spot on the team.

Aside from all the free gear, you can also win money, right?

Collin: Correct. You can win money if you have a top three result. Third place can be \$500, and first place can be \$1,200. You pay about \$200 to get into a race. If you do not get on the podium, which is top five, you do not get any money. In a good year a junior pro could make \$30,000. After you turn 18, a national championship would have a payout of \$200,000, not including money from sponsorships.

That's a lot of money! Why do you stay in school if you can make money biking?

Collin: Injury. If I get injured, I won't make any money. In mountain biking, there isn't a salary. You get paid for results. This matters less when you turn 18, which is the age when sponsors give you a salary. By staying in school, I have the option of continuing to race in college, hopefully in California or Colorado, and I have a backup plan if I get injured.

Speaking of college, where do you see yourself in two years?

Collin: Hopefully, once I am eighteen, I pretty much won't be spending my time in America. I will be living in Great Britain, which has the best mountain biking in the world and hosts World Cup Series, where there are five races each of which is out

of the country, [for example] in Europe or South Africa. Right now I am limited to racing in the country despite the fact that biking has taken me all over to Washington, Utah, California, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York.

To meet your goal, how do you train for biking?

Collin: I go to a personal trainer in Albany four days a week, during which I do crossfit workouts and a good amount of running. I bike three days a week because the rest of my week is busy.

What are your expectations for this upcoming year?

Collin: Pulling off the National Championship win, which would result in getting moved to the factory team. The National Series, which begins in May, is ten races that are spread across the country. You get points for top finishes, and at the end of the season the person with the most points wins. As for the factory team, I am currently on the co-factory team. To get money and to race along with extra perks, you need to be on the factory team.

What is the most impressive finish you have had to date?

Collin: When I was fifteen, I got first in the junior pro National race. I was in the 18 and under category and won by four seconds. My 2013 season was my best season overall. I had seven first place finishes and also won the Nationals. It was my best season so far.

Lastly, if you were to eat 10,000 calories of the same food, what would it be?

Collin: Chicken nuggets, especially the ones from Wendy's.

That would be 173 chicken nuggets...

Collin: That's weak.

This interview has been edited and condensed. ♦

DISTRICT SEPARATION

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AP course rate. Statistically, Hoosac Valley underperforms the state average in all categories, with the exception of senior AP course rate.

Under the current system, individual students can elect to attend Hoosac, Taconic or Pittsfield through the School Choice program. Governed by Massachusetts state law, School Choice allows students to attend public schools outside of the district in which they reside. A school will receive \$5,000 from the state to accommodate each School Choice student, but that payment does not fully cover the costs of the student.

Despite Hoosac's tuition proposal, Greylock will continue to exist as a School District for the foreseeable future. ♦

Contributors: Sam Swoap ('16), Zach Armet ('17), Sean Nemtzow ('17).

BUILDING PROJECT

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design team, including the architecture firm Design Partnership of Cambridge and the Owner's Project Management team from Dore & Whittier. Consolini added that they have been discussing "room locations and major heating, ventilation and air cooling systems, exterior and interior finishes and exterior landscaping designs."

Mt. Greylock principal Mary MacDonald said, "We are finalizing the floorplan and looking at materials for interior and exterior finishes. We'll work on colors with a larger group, one that includes students, after the schematic design is finalized."

From an economic standpoint, Consolini added, "The Building Committee will review the cost estimates and, if necessary, revise the design to bring the estimated cost down." She continued, "The project scope, budget and schedule are submitted to the MSBA in early December to give them time to review the plans for a vote by the MSBA Board in late January on whether to approve the project to move to the next phase, which is Module 5: Funding the Project. At that point, the District will have 120 days to secure the required town meeting and ballot question votes in Lanesborough and Williamstown approving the project and its financing."

Building Committee meetings are open to the public. The next meeting will be held on November 16. ♦

The Greylock Echo is the student newspaper of Mt. Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown, Mass. Published periodically during the academic year, each issue is developed and edited by a team of student writers, photographers, artists and editors from grades 9 through 12. Any Mt. Greylock High School student is welcome to join the Echo staff.

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WILLIAMS COLLEGE SUMMER WORK

By MADISON VANDEURZEN ('18)

Over the summer, several Mt. Greylock students worked with professors at Williams College. Among them are seniors Hannah Fein, Ian Culnane and Adly Templeton.

The three students each worked in separate departments doing different forms of work. Fein's job arose when her father, a psychology professor, heard one of his colleagues was looking for a data entry assistant. Under psychology professor Phebe Cramer, Fein's job was to enter data from a study into a computer statistics software. "The study took place earlier, and I wasn't involved, but my job only took about a week," Fein said. "The study that the data was from measured how much people project or deny their own life experiences when they are told to come up with a story based on a picture or image."

Culnane spent two months working under the guidance of biology professor Matt Carter, who was researching optogenetics, or the use of light to control living cells. Culnane's research, which used mice as subjects, focused on the hypothalamus structure of the brain. He explained, "after the mice were killed and their brain was preserved, I cut the brain into extremely small slices, did an immunohistochemistry on the slide and then looked at the slide under a microscope to record observations."

Templeton, along with a Williams student, studied a mathematical problem called curling numbers for the majority

of his summer. He worked with computer science professor Duane Bailey, whom Templeton had met through a college class he took the previous year. "Curling numbers are sequences of numbers which have complex recursive properties," he said. "I was working on original research."

The chance to participate in summer work with Williams professors, which allowed the students to learn from experts and receive an introduction to college-level research and work, was an invaluable experience for the seniors, all of whom plan to attend college. Fein appreciated the experience, saying, "I've always been very interested in psychology and I'm thinking about studying it in college... It was really cool to be able to spend time at Williams in the psych department and get a better understanding of how research works." She further valued the newfound mastery of a statistics software and addition to college applications.

Culnane found the exploratory nature of his experience beneficial. "Doing scientific research definitely adjusted my interests," he said. "By spending the summer the way I did, I was able to test out a field that I potentially could be interested in...you never know what you like until you can try everything out."

Templeton explained that studying curling numbers was "really neat," even though it probably has nothing to do with his future or college plans. ♦

Interviews with New Teachers

By NIKU DARAFSHI ('17)

Michelle Boire: Special Education Teacher



Photo courtesy of Judy Dias

Echo: Tell us about yourself.

Boire: I am from Westfield, MA but relocated here a year ago. I spend all my free time with my boyfriend at our Cape House, in the greenhouse or out biking with him. I love to be outdoors, and even before moving here, I had a green thumb and had written a cookbook with my

mother.

Which recipe is your favorite?

Boire: Chicken enchiladas!

How long have you been in your profession?

Boire: I have been teaching for 11 years. It varied between public schools and private special education in schools and hospitals.

What got you interested in this work?

Boire: I was over in Germany playing soccer and came back with a torn ACL. I couldn't participate in gym class, so I started volunteering for my mother, who was a paraprofessional in a resource room. I fell in love with it. That summer I was working for my father in Simsbury, CT, and the principal at Simsbury High offered me a summer position in the autism classroom as a paraprofessional, and from that day forward I found my passion.

What do you do here at Mount Greylock?

Boire: I am a 7th grade Resource teacher. I stay on top of and modify curriculum along with other things.

What has been your favorite part of the job?

Boire: The students I get to work with.

What do you hope to accomplish by working here?

Boire: I hope I help the students even just a little each day, and they look back someday and remember "Ms. B taught me that."

Between the two: Waffles or pancakes?

Boire: Waffles.

Taylor Swift or Miley Cyrus?

Boire: Neither. Darius Rucker, sorry. He's my favorite country singer.

HANGAR

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siege weapons, which the JCL members rolled out every October for their annual state-wide catapult contest. The theater tech crew also utilized the space to store old sets, while the nordic ski team frequently used the hangar throughout the winter, both as storage space for skis and other equipment and additionally as a wax room. Many ski members enjoyed the tradition of Friday ski waxing in the hangar. Senior skier Matt Wiseman said: "What I love most about the hangar is that it fits almost all of the team, and that makes for a great atmosphere."

In the spring of 2015, Jesse Wirtes, the facilities supervisor at Greylock, deemed the hangar unsafe due to structural problems, holes and leaks. Earlier this October, the Mt. Greylock facilities staff scheduled the hangar for demolition during the week of October 19, after deciding to take down the hangar at the beginning of the year, because a renovation would be too pricey. A renovation of the building, which lost part of its roof due to snow buildup this past winter, would have initially cost almost \$145,000 and required additional expensive tune-ups every few years. To keep the building up, the school needed to replace the current roof with a new one of a much sturdier material. According to Wirtes, "[It would be] nice to try to keep the hangar, but that kind of money [needed for a renovation] could buy us a good, solid building for equipment."

The demolition has affected the ski team's waxing tradition. Senior teammate Ellie Williams commented on the change of venue: "It will be sad since we've been in the hangar for so long, but we have to make do with what we have." For the 2014-2015 ski season, the ski team was restricted to only using the waxing space on predetermined days prior to races. Nordic Ski Coach Hilary Greene plans to use the old greenhouse as a new waxing space for the 2015-2016 season.

In recent years, the facilities staff had utilized the hangar space for storing lawn equipment and athletic nets and goals. Wirtes points out that since the school is in the middle of a renovation project, the facilities staff is in a "sort of limbo" after the building's destruction. The equipment will likely be stored in tents and under tarps in the interim between the demolition of the hangar and the construction of a new storage space.

Although the hangar's original purpose was far from educational, Mt. Greylock students appreciated its presence on campus. Without really knowing it, they were constantly in contact with a piece of local history. The Mt. Greylock grounds certainly look like a typical post-war New England high school campus, but the hangar was a constant reminder of a fascinating history lying beneath the surface. ♦

Noelle Sullivan: Occupational Therapist



Photo courtesy of Judy Dias

Echo: Tell us about yourself.

Sullivan: I recently moved to the area in June of this year. I am married and have three children. I spend most of my time at soccer games. In addition to my children playing the sport, my husband is the coach at Williams College--go Ephs! I enjoy spending time with friends and family, camping and hiking, and binge-watching Modern Family in my free time (which is quite limited with three kids).

Where are you from?

Sullivan: I grew up in a small town outside of Albany, NY called Voorheesville. It's not far from the Crossgates Mall. After college, I lived in New Jersey, Manhattan, Springfield, MA, Wilbraham, MA and now Williamstown!

How long have you been in your profession?

Sullivan: I have been a physical therapist for 19 years. I have worked in a variety of settings including inpatient care at major medical centers in New Jersey and New York City, outpatient sports therapy, inpatient and outpatient neurological rehabilitation and school-based pediatric therapy.

What got you interested in this work?

Sullivan: When I was a junior in high school, I tore my ACL while playing basketball. I needed surgery and spent months in physical therapy. I realized that a career in PT would allow me to help others and further my knowledge of science and medicine.

What do you do here at Mount Greylock?

Sullivan: I share my work time between Mount Greylock, Williamstown Elementary and Lanesborough Elementary Schools. At Mount Greylock, I work directly with students or provide consultation to staff regarding students with physical disabilities.

What has been your favorite part of the job?

Sullivan: I am so fortunate to get to know really great students and help them become more independent in their school environment. Also, it is very rewarding working with staff to help students to reach their fullest potential.

What do you hope to accomplish by working here?

Sullivan: I hope that I can help students with physical disabilities participate to the best of their abilities in their school environment and with their peers. I also look forward to getting to know more of the staff and students in the future.

Is there anything you want to say to kids who might want to go into this profession?

Sullivan: Physical therapy is a wonderful profession. There are so many different areas of specialty and you can explore and change areas as your professional interests change. You can help others in a variety of settings including hospitals, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation centers, sports and orthopedic clinics, schools and the patient's own home. And because people are living longer, the need for physical therapists to help our aging population will continue to grow all over the United States.

Between the two: Waffles or pancakes?

Sullivan: Waffles--homemade, not frozen.

Taylor Swift or Miley Cyrus?

Sullivan: I have a 10 year old daughter, so, obviously, Taylor Swift. I've already seen her twice in concert! ♦

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COMMUNITY

Mt. Greylock Talks Cheating

By SAM SWOAP ('16) AND GRACE DODIG ('17)

The School Council plans to release a honor code in January, which was brought to the attention of the Student Council. The Student Council then weighed the benefits and drawbacks of an honor code to prevent cheating. This discussion was just the latest response to a perennial problem that plagues the vast majority of schools, with Mt. Greylock as no exception.

Recently, many Greylock students and teachers have reported high levels of cheating; however, what kind of activity constitutes as cheating varies from person to person. The school is a host to a variety of opinions on the topic, with students explaining that the term "cheating" encompasses a range of infractions. Junior Niku Darafshi said, "Cheating is a very broad term that ranges from telling a fellow student about the test you just took to a more extreme case of blatantly copying from someone next to you." Sophomore Sam Culver agreed, noting, "Cheating takes many forms, some of which are more severe. If you just copy someone's homework, that is cheating, but not nearly as bad as copying on a test or asking about a test."

Student definitions are generally in concordance with the official definition of cheating in the school's handbook, which additionally classifies "knowledge or tolerance of cheating" as a punishable offense. The handbook lists a number of possible consequences that fit the severity of the act of academic dishonesty, ranging from parental notification to notification of the student's prospective colleges, and disqualification from National Honors Society to a formal hearing with the administration.

Most cheating at Greylock, however, is on the less punishable end of the spectrum. English teacher Blair Dils said that the more casual manifestation of cheating comprises the majority of what he sees among his students, noting the liberal sharing of nightly homework in class or in the hallway in addition to the usual sideways glancing during quizzes. He experiences fewer "major violations," though, and only a couple serious acts of plagia-

rism a year, generally occurring when "students get very stressed and make a bad decision."

Many members of the school community acknowledge the role that academic pressure plays in the motivation to cheat. Senior Tyler Rathbun said about the cause of cheating: "I think for students today, the pressure to succeed is a huge factor. Also that cloud of fear of failure is always looming." Culver admitted that students

are at fault but attributed cheating to the stress of a grades-driven environment, explaining that "the pressure to get into top colleges and the 'race to the top' system is creating that environment where kids feel the need to get every grade perfect and resort to cheating." Biology teacher Larry Bell, who took measures to combat cheating in his class last year,

said, "Part of the problem is Williams College's shadow. Although cheating happens everywhere, it is more pronounced here because of the homogenous community. The community pressures kids to get the best grades so they go to their reach schools." Senior Lilly Crolus agreed: "I think cheating wouldn't be as big of a problem if grades weren't considered the goal of schooling. Maybe then students would focus more on education."

Some students foster doubts as to the effectiveness of the honor code approach for prevention. Junior Devin Buda said, "I think an honor system would work with the 'good' students and only give leeway for cheating to 'bad' students." Rathbun agreed that students would not change habits: "I think there's a few things Greylock can do to prevent it, but I think students wouldn't be fazed by consequences. If they're given the opportunity to cheat and feel the need to do so, they're going to cheat." On academic

consequences, Culver said, "I think that it should be frowned upon but not met with serious consequences if you do a 'small cheat.' Just a zero on that assignment."

Some, like Dils, are more optimistic about the implementation of an honor code at Mt. Greylock. "Lots of students see [cheating] going on but don't know what to do about it," he said. Although he acknowledged the

difficulty of asking students to call each other out through an honor code system, he said, "if [students] had a proper pathway or avenue to voice their concerns about people cheating, that would be great."

Whether or not the school pursues an honor code, the notion of cheating ever being completely eliminated is not plausible. At this point, teachers take small steps they can

to prevent cheating in their classes. Dils tries to impede students' ability to cheat through administering different forms of quizzes and looking out for "wandering eyeballs." Bell physically separates students during tests by spacing them out in the large room across the hall, but he noted, "I'm lucky. Not everyone has the dead cat room across the hall." Many teachers have also opted to use *turnitin*, a website that checks submitted student work for plagiarism.

The reality of the situation is that no matter what steps teachers, administrators and students take to reduce cheating, the issue will persist, albeit reduced, in some form or another, as long as the motivation for students remains. Students and teachers alike agree that cheating is a result of the overpowering nature of the school system's value of grades, and unless everyone involved can prioritize learning the material over grades for the sake of grades, cheating will likely never be eradicated fully. ♦

"The pressure to get into top colleges and the 'race to the top' system is creating that environment where kids feel the need to get every grade perfect and resort to cheating."

NEXT STEPS AFTER FACULTY CUTS

By SEAN NEMTZOW ('17)

In the transition from last year, the school let go several faculty members. According to Principal Mary MacDonald, the teachers cut included business teacher Rebecca Tattersall, Scott Walter in target services, health teacher Rachelle Smith, chorus teacher Kate Caton, woodshop teacher Jeff Parkman and technology advisor Richard Scullin. MacDonald explained that the teacher losses were unfortunate but necessary choices, designed to accommodate a shifting budget with the intent of minimizing the effect on the school community.

Superintendent Dr. Douglas Dias explained the difficult process of reducing the staff's numbers. According to Dias, the biggest concern was maintaining the quality of the students' experience. "School is the students' world," Dr. Dias explained. "There are extracurricular activities, friends and other learning opportunities outside the classroom." In order to avoid tossing features like after school transportation, sometimes the school must resort to cutting teaching positions. The state has a list of certain classes that Mt. Greylock is required to offer, so the school uses several factors to evaluate the importance of the other classes outside of the essentials. The school looks at enrollment growth or decline, but Dr. Dias pointed out that students "are moving targets," with enrollment in each class differing each year. To form a well-rounded assessment of specific class importance, the school also considers the balance of staff and student needs. For example, Dr. Dias pointed out, "Is it worth it to have four or five math teachers if it means a more one-on-one experience?"

When it does come down to making changes, the goal is to reduce the cost of programs without eliminating them. Dr. Dias noted that he has learned lessons about cuts from his experiences working at other schools. He called to mind a computer drafting class that was completely scraped. When the budget allowed for more room in the future, it was difficult to bring that class back because the lab was outdated, and the school needed a full time teacher. The lesson, Dr. Dias explained, is that if they only reduced the number of computers and paid the teacher part time, it would have been easier to reinstate the program.

The school is taking measures to accommodate for the job cuts, utilizing teaching resources alternative to full-time teachers. MacDonald explained that after the school was forced to cut Scullin's position of helping to incorporate technology in the classroom, the staff opted to train teachers by sending them to technology workshops instead, which are overall cheaper than holding on to a full-time teacher. MacDonald also noted that nearby colleges such as MCLA, Williams and BCC allow students to take introductory classes that are not taught at Mt. Greylock. Students can also use online resources if they wish to pursue other unique courses. Both options only require a teacher on record to check in with the students. MacDonald said of sustaining possible paths, "All of these have allowed us to give students their core requests and at least the tertiary elective choice." By making use of alternatives to teaching positions, MacDonald explained, the school hopes to adjust quickly to a staff reduction. ♦

DA'S OFFICE EDUCATES STUDENTS ABOUT HEALTHY DATING

By GRETA SAVITSKY ('16)

For the past several weeks, representatives from the Berkshire County District Attorney's Office visited grades seven to ten at Mt. Greylock. Institutions around the county request this team of highly trained reps to work with students, and schools must therefore book them a year in advance. Last year, their routine focused on internet safety and appropriate use of communication, which included issues such as cyberbullying and catfishing, the deception of innocent victims over the internet. This year, they came to talk about safe and healthy relationships.

Each grade broke into separate sessions of girls and boys in which they listened

to the District Attorney representatives talk about maintaining healthy relationships with friends and family. Eighth grader Miriam Bakija noted that they showed a slideshow about safe relationships with a focus on dating relationships. According to eighth grader Nima Darafshi, the slideshow portrayed pictures of couples and healthy displays of love, and gave advice of how to maintain relationships.

The program was not a response to any particular events. Instead, the sessions served as proactive tools to avoid problems as students move from middle school to high school. "Even though no one really wants to talk about safe rela-

tionships," said sophomore Bella Bote, "it's a good thing to do. A lot of the talk with the girls defined what is and isn't okay for how people treat you, which I think is really important in a world where most of the sexual abuse clients of the representatives are young women." Eighth grader Owen Tucker-Smith advocated for the educational purpose of the program, saying, "I thought it was very informational. They taught us a lot about sexual harassment and what it really is, because people throw the term around a lot, not actually knowing what it really means." The DA visits play a role in the schoolwide effort to increase learning and knowledge about safety and adult life. ♦

nb21 love you, stay safe
not before 21...
not in northern berkshire
mobilizing for change on alcohol - northern berkshire community coalition

nbCC

School Spirit: A Week in Pictures

In honor of the annual school spirit week during October, students and teachers came to school dressed in a colorful array of strange outfits. Photo credits to Ian Culnane ('16) and Maeve Shine ('16).

Tuesday: Matchy-Matchy Day

Wednesday: Dress like your Favorite Teacher Day

Thursday: Grease Day

Friday: Red and White Day



Senior Superlatives

At beginning of the month, the Class of 2016 voted on senior superlatives. Congratulations to the winners!

Most Likely to Climb Mt. Everest

George Hedreen & Sophie Gerry

Best Eyes

Cayman Mead & Maeve Shine

Most Theatrical

Luc Park & Nicole Jones

Most Likely to Win an Argument

Sam Swoap & Julia Whitney

Best Dressed

Benni McComish & Emma Whitney

Most Likely to Put Others First

Alex Ciskowski & Petrea Mannello

Best Laugh

Noah Savage & Haley Reinhardt

Most Likely to be an Olympian

Matt Wiseman & Grace Smith

Stand Out Comic

Jasper Rosenheim & Hope Willis

Most Likely to be a Hacker for the CIA

Adly Templeton & Melissa Swann

Biggest Diva

Ian Culnane & Holly Fisher

Best to Bring Home to Mom and Dad

Gray Kaegi & Greta Savitsky

Most Likely to Rule the World

Adam Hall & Molly Wilson

Most Likely to Brighten Your Day

Tyler Rathbun & Lilly Crolus

Most Likely to Rock a Flannel and Work Boots

Ben Hynes & Amanda Quinn

Most Creative

Nattanon Philuk & Anya Sheldon

Most Likely to Travel the World

Adam Petricca, Megan Shulse & Sofia Lopez

Worst Case of Senioritis

Brodie Altieri & Isa Hagstrom

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

A Visit to the Blue Benn Diner

By ZACH ARMET ('17)



Photo courtesy of Blue Benn Diner

The Blue Benn Diner in Bennington, Vermont is set in a circa-1945 railcar.

As I walked into the small waiting room of The Blue Benn Diner, I was enveloped by the heavenly smells of hashbrowns and pancakes on a griddle. The Blue Benn, located on North Street in Bennington, is the quintessential diner: a long counter of vinyl-upholstered stools that faces the kitchen and a few small booths behind them, each with their own little jukebox. Personally, I am a counter man, so I took a seat on a stool and rested my elbows in the grooves on the countertop carved out

by past customers. A friendly waitress greeted me with a smile and asked for a drink order. As I waited for my hot chocolate, I listened to the din of the kitchen and watched as plate after plate of divine smelling breakfast burritos, patty melts and chocolate chip pancakes appeared in the window with a yell from the chef. When the waitress returned with my hot beverage hidden beneath a mountain of whipped cream, I ordered myself a hearty breakfast that I was sure to enjoy.

The first item to arrive in front of me was the grilled doughnut, a Blue Benn classic, and a side of bacon. Before I delve into the wonders of this breakfast utopia, I would like to warn dieters that this is not a restaurant for them, unless, of course, they are going for high caloric intake and massive portions. The apple cider doughnut, sliced in half like a bagel and thrown on the grill with a generous amount of butter, was no less than a beautiful creation. Its crunchy yet fluffy texture and buttery sweetness filled the mouth with doughnutty goodness. The bacon, which was crispy and flavorful, artfully complimented the sweetness of the doughnut. The next course was a heaping plate of corned beef hash, eggs, toast, and homefries. Toast is a challenging dish to mess up, so its tastiness came as no surprise. The hash and fluffy pile of scrambled eggs made for a delicious, filling partnership. Instead of the oddly shaped french fries that many diner restaurants call "homefries," the Blue Benn offers huge chunks of grilled potatoes, with small bits of onion and peppers scattered within to add an enchanting flavor. As I neared the end of my meal, I felt the large portions take their toll. By the time I stepped away from the counter to pay my surprisingly cheap bill, I felt the satisfaction of such a hearty breakfast. With its old-timey feel, the Blue Benn provides a fantastic atmosphere for anyone to devour colossal portions of delicious breakfast food. ♦

Narcos Review

By JESSE COHEN ('17)

Netflix has debuted numerous new shows this year, and *Narcos*, released in August, is one of the most widely discussed. Directed by Brazilian filmmaker José Padilha, *Narcos* is based on the true story of 1980s and 90s-era Colombian cartel boss Pablo Escobar (Wagner Moura) as he develops and maintains his global drug empire. The show focuses on two DEA agents (played by Boyd Holbrook and Pedro Pascal) attempting to bring him down. *Narcos* is not perfect, and I would not recommend it to everyone, but it's a worthwhile watch for fans of gangster TV and movies.

In its plot, writing and directorial style, *Narcos* invites enough comparison to *Breaking Bad* that viewers of both shows may wonder about their influence on each other. Escobar has the same gravelly voice and complicated intentions as Bryan Cranston's character Heisenberg in *Breaking Bad*, with Escobar's monologues sounding eerily reminiscent, as a result. This similarity does not detract from the show's quality, but it is not unlikely that viewers of *Breaking Bad* may experience some *deja-vu*. Still, I wouldn't call *Narcos* a knock-off, since often-told stories of the classic, unlikely drug kingpin are bound to overlap in distinct ways.

In fact, I would say that the primary flaw of *Narcos* is something that *Breaking Bad* hit out of the park: the viewer's inability to feel for or empathize with *Narcos*'s primarily one-dimensional

Continued on Page 10.



Javier Pena and Steve Murphy as DEA agents Pedro Pascal and Boyd Holbrook.

Continued on Page 10.

Book Review: Command and Control

By SIMON KENT ('17)

Command and Control: Nuclear Weapons, the Damascus Accident, and the Illusion of Safety is a book about mistakes, consequences and coverups by the U.S. government and the Strategic Air Command. This investigative piece by Eric Schlosser uncovers the near disasters that have plagued our nuclear weapons programs since a nuclear bomb was released on February 5, 1958 off Tybee Island, Georgia and was never recovered.

Schlosser starts his book by centering in on the Damascus incident, in which an airman dropped a socket wrench, penetrating a fuel tank. This accident precipitates a series of events that resulted in an armed intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) nuclear warhead being launched one hundred feet into

the air after a massive explosion in the silo. The novel switches between the events at Damascus, other nuclear accidents, the creation of the Strategic Air Command and the flaws of the command and control nuclear weapons system. The author's perspective allows a realistic view of accidents that are often just simplified to numbers and body counts. Schlosser's clean and concise prose contrasts with a frightening subject, resulting in a brilliant composition about the deep flaws in a system with regular mistakes leading to disappearing nuclear weapons, armed nuclear devices being left on runways for several hours and accidents becoming a common danger at Los Alamos lab. Although the book is not very contemporary (it mainly focuses on events taking place before the dissolution

of the Soviet Union in 1991), a great deal of the information featured in the book is being declassified now, since information is traditionally released within 25 to 50 years, and the increasing concern of nuclear safety is just now coming to light.

The delicate balance struck between safety and nuclear engineers is a clear theme of the book. From the earliest tests to the advanced nuclear ICBMs, weapons safety and the response time to nuclear attack are in constant balance. Schlosser emphasizes the question of how this balance between safety and launch time affects Americans, our view of nuclear weapons and the importance of keeping our workers

Dear Nicole...

By NICOLE JONES ('16)

Dear Nicole,

I keep being late to class because I can't get past these couples making out and blocking the hallway. How should I deal with this?

--My Retinas are Burning

Dear My Retinas are Burning,

Ah, yes. Young love. Disgusting, isn't it? Luckily for you, I've spent years studying and perfecting techniques to navigate around obstructive PDA. Here are a few tips for negotiating the hallways:

Perfect the Dodge and Weave. To properly execute this move, you must keep your shoulders and arms high to protect your face and keep your knees bent, staying on the balls of your feet. Stay low to the ground and move towards your destination at a steady pace. (Side note: When using this technique, beware of oversized backpacks--believe it or not, sometimes a bag full of textbooks can be even more dangerous than PDA.)

Travel in a small group. This allows you to use your friends as human shields when necessary and makes it easier to ditch people and save yourself when the throngs of people on either side of the hallway begin to encroach on your personal space.

Befriend a tall person and demand that they give you piggyback rides to each of your classes. That way, you are completely safe from bumping into love-struck teenagers and can additionally laugh at the peasants below you who are forced to wade through the great sea of humanity.

Go right to the source of the problem. Approach the couple(s) in question, plant yourself approximately a foot away from the PDA, make eye contact with whichever half of the guilty party is closer and yell "LEAVE ROOM FOR JESUS" at the top of your lungs. Then, stand there, unmoving and silent (while maintaining eye-contact) until the couple is so uncomfortable that they split up and walk away, clearing the hallway and establishing your hero status amongst your peers.

These are just a few of my favorites--don't be afraid to experiment with different techniques. I've heard tell of kids who have (semi) successfully been able to crowd-surf through the hallways to avoid PDA. Good luck, my friend, and remember: you are not alone.

--Nicole

Dear Nicole,

The college application process is totally stressing me out. I want to boycott it, but I also want to have a future. What are your suggestions for rebelling against the system?

--Rebel With a Cause

Dear Rebel With a Cause,

I'm glad you asked. As a fellow angsty, disenfranchised youth, I've recently found myself asking similar questions. Had you inquired a few months ago, I would've suggested the quit-school-go-join-the-circus approach. However, as I've now entered the college application process myself, I took it upon myself to do a little research.

Now, the problem with joining the circus is that the entry-level position seems to be clown work. This is not acceptable; we're talking about our futures here. Also, clowns are upsetting. Literally no one likes clowns. At a glance, it seems that we as seniors are stuck between a rock and a hard place, having to choose between college and a circus. But worry not! There's a third option.

I'm talking about becoming a mime.

For those of you unfamiliar with the term, a mime is a classier, more respected clown. While clowns are limited to balloon ani-

mals and other such pursuits, the mime is an artist, able to express raw and complex human emotion through simple body movements and gestures. The mime business is thriving these days. Studies show that mimes are 93% more likely to become millionaires and achieve Kardashian-level fame than the average college graduate. * Another perk to becoming a mime is that you get to wear suspenders and funny hats. And since mimes don't talk, you won't ever have to interact with other humans!

The best part is that you don't even have to apply. Mimes welcome new members into the brotherhood with open arms. Unfortunately, most major universities and colleges recognize mime culture as a threat to their enrollment numbers and have therefore done all they can to silence the opportunities for mimes in the community, with varying degrees of success. Don't be disheartened; even though they remain silent, the mimes are a mighty force.

I don't know about you, but I fully plan on pursuing mime work professionally after graduation. I hope you join me in quiet protest of the college application process.

Or you could, you know, just go to college.

--Nicole

*I made this up. ♦

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

Movie Review: *The Martian*

By SAM SWOAP ('16) AND ZACH ARMET ('17)

Sir Ridley Scott's latest project, *The Martian*, is the must-see movie of 2015. The *Martian* depicts Academy Award winner Matt Damon as botanist Mark Watney, a NASA astronaut who is abandoned on Mars after a vicious dust storm, and who must struggle to survive on a planet with little capacity for life. Scott combines humor, scientific accuracy, inspirational music and a theme of hope in this thrilling adaptation of Andy Weir's 2011 novel.

The Martian is a cleverly constructed movie, anchored by gripping suspense, witty writing and Matt Damon's wry, black humor as he struggles against nearly certain death. A running gag involving bad disco music turns up at every moment, toeing the line between hilarious pullback and overused joke. Not only does the disco music provide a wealth of comedy, but it also constructs the backbone of some pretty surreal scenes, like Watney's piloting his rover across the magnificent landscape of the cold Martian desert to Donna Summer's "Hot Stuff." *The Martian* is the second movie of recent times to be set in space and rock out to disco (= as the first). The words of the immortal Quad City phrase come to mind: "Welcome to the Space Jam... Alright." The humor of *The Martian* combines with tense, edge-

of-the-seat thrills to create an incredibly enjoyable experience.

The complexity of Watney's character makes *The Martian*. Watney refuses to die on Mars after his crew leaves him behind, and his determination to thrive in a world with (almost) no water contrasts with his sarcastic and, at times, gallows humor. His application of science and wit forges a new protagonist, one who fights the adversity of a hostile habitat not with his brawn or military expertise, but instead with his intellect and knowledge of science, from chemistry to engineering.

The supporting cast is also strong, featuring Donald Glover as Rich Purnell, a brilliant, if spacey, rocket scientist; Sean Bean, who many will recognize as Boromir from *The Fellowship of the Ring* or Eddard Stark from HBO's hit-series *Game of Thrones*, as the Hermes Flight Director; and Michael Peña, who has starred in numerous movies such as *Fury* and *Marvel's Ant-Man*, as Rick Martinez, the Hermes Mission Pilot. One of our few criticisms of this movie was that more time wasn't spent exploring the potential bromance between Watney and Martinez, a friendship that had the capability to be much more.



The Martian grossed over \$50 million in its opening weekend in October.

Many critics are calling the movie a massive advertisement for NASA. Although there was a clear nod to the agency, it did not bog down the story at all, instead using NASA's lense as a means to provide the scientifically illiterate viewer with a VIP pass into some mind-blowing science. Viewers should also look forward to *The Martian's* joking acknowledgement of the universality of Tolkien obsession among scientists, with a memorable scene

in NASA HQ in which characters engage in discussion of the *Lord of the Rings*.

The Martian combines humor, great casting, excellent writing, dramatic music and a suspenseful plot to keep you on the edge of your seat for the entire movie. The film expertly applies a simple formula for success, which, as some might say, is not rocket science, though in this case, perhaps it is. ♦

The Best Albums of 2015

By JASPER ROSENHEIM ('16)

Am I a music reviewer? In a word, no. I'm also not a restaurant reviewer, or a film critic, but the Echo still lets me review those things. But I do love music, and I try to stay abreast of new releases and explore new genres. I've compiled my top five albums from 2015, an amazing year for music. If you disagree with this list, tell me. If you listen to any of this music and love it, tell me. These are just my opinions. Without further ado, here are Jasper Rosenheim's favorite albums of 2015, in no particular order:

1. Kendrick Lamar - *To Pimp a Butterfly*

One of the biggest names in rap today, Compton rapper Kendrick Lamar released his sophomore album *To Pimp a Butterfly* under Interscope Records this March.

TPAB follows his critically acclaimed 2012 album *Good Kid, Maad City* which tells the story of Lamar being robbed at gunpoint and his subsequent retaliation. With *TPAB*, Lamar borrows structural story elements, but he shows maturation. His new production is a nonlinear, conceptual journey through Lamar's rise to fame, his level of influence on his listeners and his struggle with maintaining relationships. Lamar also struggles with the current social climate of America—he attempts to promote peace in a racially divided country while simultaneously making music in a genre steeped in violence and gang culture.

The album was composed by Thundercat and Flying Lotus, two incredibly talented producers. It strays from the today's typical rap production, with loads of synths and hi-hat drums. *TPAB* is heavily influenced by early 90's G-funk era, with deep bass, saxophone and female backups, reminiscent of Snoop Dogg's early works. This influence produces songs that are slow rather than fast paced and energetic, which some may find unappealing in a rap album.

Overall, this album is polished. Every song feels necessary, and Lamar's story is enthralling. I believe this album is incredibly relevant to today's world outside of music and will be hailed as a classic in the future. To fully experience this album, take an hour and listen to the entire thing straight through. The album is a story, so it's best heard in order, as though it were a play. My personal favorite songs are "U,"

"Mortal Man" and "Institutionalized."

2. D'Angelo and the Vanguard - *Black Messiah*

After a fourteen year hiatus, R&B legend D'Angelo returned with a highly anticipated third studio album, *Black Messiah*. While technically released in late December 2014, it's close enough to this year that I am still including this album in my list.

D'Angelo is a Virginian neo soul/R&B singer, producer, composer and multi-instrumentalist. His sound relies on Spanish guitar, bass and brass instrumentation accompanied by his multilayered singing, a la Marvin Gaye. While he is often compared to artists such as Gaye or Michael Jackson, D'Angelo's grandiose composition and beautiful, subtle lyricism set him apart.

Often overlooked is the absolutely killer band, The Vanguard, performing with D'Angelo. Peppered throughout the album are guitar, bass and horn solos, which add variety. When the band unites for an instrumental piece, it forms an unparalleled sense of scale, instilled with smooth intensity.

D'Angelo's voice commands the track; his powerful range, with a hint of femininity, is overwhelmingly expressive. This album is perfect for relaxing and, due to the complexity and layers of sound, is best listened to with headphones or nice speakers. My personal favorite songs are "Really Love," "Betray my Heart" and "Another Life."

3. Clarence Clarity - *No Now*

U.K. based singer-songwriter Clarence Clarity released his first album last August under the label Bella Union. Clarity is rela-

tively undiscovered, amassing only around 3,000 fans, partially because *No Now* is his first official project and also because of the eclectic nature of his music.

Clarity is an experimental pop artist. The *Guardian* (accurately) described his music as "funk played by a swarm of bees." Sporadic sound bytes, abrupt changes in style mid-song and an overwhelming presence of noise attack your ears in an ordeal similar to an aural rollercoaster, leaving you with your hair blown back and feeling semi-unsure of what has just occurred but wanting more.

This album is hard to describe without listening to it, and if you feel open to trying new things, I highly recommend it. My favorite songs are "Off My Grid," "One Hand Washes the Other" and "1-800-Workshop."

4. Sufjan Stevens - *Carrie & Lowell*

Singer-songwriter Sufjan Stevens recently released his seventh LP, *Carrie & Lowell*. Stevens is somewhat of a legend among the indie music community. His rise to fame was precipitated by his 2000 LP, *A Sun Came*. Since then, he has released six critically acclaimed LPs. Stevens is known for both his range of musical style and his thematic topics. Most recognize his singing, which is often accompanied only by piano and/or guitar. He has also experimented with other styles, such as his lo-fi electronic LP *The Age of Adz*. His most recent LP, *Carrie & Lowell*, is a return to form in the best of ways.

Stevens's music tends to fall on the darker side, centering around death, depression, poverty and drug abuse. Yet Stevens is tactful, and his music doesn't feel obscene or over the top, instead coming across as intensely personal and haunting.



Kamasi Washington's *The Epic* peaked at number five on the U.S. Billboard Jazz Albums Chart.

In 2012, Stevens's mother passed away, and he has spent recent years crafting the album as a tribute to her. During his childhood, he lived with his father and stepmother, but he occasionally visited his mother and stepfather, whose names inspired the album's title, *Carrie & Lowell*. His mother suffered from schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and drug addiction. The album shines a light on Stevens's trying relationship with her as he attempts to come to grips with unresolved conflicts.

This album is simply breathtaking, and since its release, I've had it in almost constant rotation. The relaxed tone is perfect for a calm morning, or for a somber or melancholy mood. The more intense songs are rapturing: Stevens's instrumentation relaxes you as his haunting voice chills you, leaving you emotionally drained in a wholly cathartic experience. My favorite songs are "No Shade in the Shadow of the Cross," "Eugene" and "Death with Dignity."

5. Kamasi Washington - *The Epic*

Saxophonist, composer and band leader Kamasi Washington released his debut album this May with Brainfeeder records, simply entitled *The Epic*. And epic it is—at almost three hours long and in the style of big band, Washington's album is a beautifully assembled piece of jazz unlike anything seen in the jazz world in the last ten years.

Ranging from loud, high energy tracks that are impossible to ignore, to quiet, "breather" pieces, Washington's band displays impeccable talent, while including a variety of twists and turns that can keep the listener's attention for the two hours and forty-some minutes. I myself have only listened to the entire thing through once, on a particularly long car ride, and it was an awakening affair. I listen almost exclusively to songs with lyrics, but listening to individuals play their instruments with such virtuosity really is incredible. The saxophone is a brilliant instrument that so often is underrated, and Washington's expression through his music inspires real emotion. I love the album because I can choose songs to fit the mood I'm in; with so many tracks, there is always one that fits. My favorite tracks are a brilliant rendition of "Clair de Lune," "Change of Guard" and "Askim." ♦

FOOTBALL: TACKLING CHALLENGES

By MANAS JAIN ('17)

Mt. Greylock's football team had a slow start to the season with two consecutive losses to Monument Mountain and Pittsfield and a loss later to Hoosac Valley. Soon, however, Greylock began to get back into the groove, scoring wins against Drury, McCann and Lee. New head coach Andrew Agostini, who had much faith in the team, said that he enjoys "the versatility and enthusiasm" his players possess. The team had multiple weapons to utilize through the ground and the air. Late into the season, sophomore Sean McCormack and junior Brandon Condon put forth phenomenal efforts in the air, receiving for 420 yards and 400 yards, respectively. A number of additional talented players strengthened the team, including senior quarterback Brodie Altieri, who had thrown for 1,100 yards to both of these receivers, as well junior tailbacks Pat Storie and Devin Pelletier.

Unfortunately for the team, many members have been plagued with injuries throughout the season. After a disastrous concussion diagnosis at the beginning of the season, Pelletier was not expected to return to play. He was then surprisingly cleared by his doctor and made his long-awaited return to the field against Drury on September 26th. Since then, Pelletier has rushed and received for 280 yards late into the season. In the same game, junior runningback and linebacker Reilly Parker seriously injured his knee, taking him out for the rest of the season, a huge blow for the team. The injury woes continued in Greylock's game against Lee, in which senior Josh Jezouit was concussed and forced to miss the Wahconah game the next week. This was another big loss for the team, as the senior was a regular member of the squad at tight end and defensive end. Losing

Storie to a separated shoulder, however, came as the worst casualty for Greylock. Nearing the end of the season, Storie had rushed for 500 yards and received for 200. He had been one of the top performers on the Greylock team, and Agostini reflected, "His loss on defense [was] a bigger blow for the team than his loss on offense." To finish out the season, Agostini formed a running back committee comprised of senior Austan Quagliano, freshman Cal Mesina and Pelletier in order to replace Storie. Storie expressed his faith in fellow teammate Pelletier, saying, "He has already proven to be a force on the field, so Greylock fans should remain excited about our potential. I believe he will do a great job carrying the team."

Greylock traveled to Wahconah Regional High School on October 23 and suffered a huge 42-0 loss to the Warriors, which ended any chance of Greylock making the playoffs this season. Regardless of the frustration and dissatisfaction the team faced this season, however, Storie said that "the team has really come a long way since the beginning of the year." Senior co-captain Brodie Altieri expressed that "there's no team in the league like we've got, and our coaches are great." Agostini's goal for the players at the beginning of the season was "to ultimately just have fun," and, without a doubt, they achieved that goal.

Altieri was disappointed that the team did not make the playoffs in his final year playing for Greylock, but he said, "it was a good season, and I'll miss the experiences I've had at Greylock." Mt. Greylock fans should expect another exciting season next year, as the football team will look to improve in their promising 2015-2016 year. ♦

BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING: LEAGUE FRONT-RUNNERS

By MANAS JAIN ('17) AND MATTHEW KLEINER ('17)



Photo courtesy of Emma Polumbo ('18)

Sophomores Owen Brandress and Sam Culver lead the pack.

The boys' cross country team, always considered a successful program in Mt. Greylock sports history, continued to uphold their reputation in the 2015 season. The boys' team went 12-0, completing a strong, undefeated campaign. Leading the way for Greylock, senior Tommy Kirby won every race this year by an unbelievable margin. Kirby ended the regular season by setting a new record at Hoosac Valley's 2.9 mile course on October 21. He finished the race 49 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher, Greylock junior Evan Arthur. Arthur was a welcome addition to the boys' team this season and consistently finished second behind only Kirby. The Mounties maintained their domination of Berkshire County cross country while wiping out opposing teams' preseason doubts regarding coach Scott Burdick's relatively young lineup.

that the team succeeds: "A lot of times people think, 'oh, they're from Greylock, it's easy for them to win,' but they don't realize how hard these kids work."

On October 31, the Mt. Greylock Mounties won another Berkshire County Championship. Tommy Kirby led the way for Greylock, winning his race with an impressive time of 16:36. Second place went to Evan Arthur, who finished 29 seconds behind Kirby. Greylock had three of its runners finish in the top five and all five of its top varsity runners finish in the top ten. Following success after success in the current campaign, the Greylock boys' country team is expected to reach one of the highest, if not the top spot, at Western Mass on November 14. ♦

According to Burdick, "everybody thought this was the year to beat Greylock." Many other schools saw Greylock graduate five seniors from last year's top seven and hoped to take advantage of a possible off year for the perennial county champions. The Mounties quickly crushed the optimism of their opponents, however, by demolishing all competition in the first races. "What they don't understand is that at Greylock, we don't rebuild, we reload," Burdick said. An encouraging crop of young runners that includes sophomores Owen Brandress and Sam Culver and freshmen Jacob Fink, Jesse Seid and Josh Cheung rounded out the '15 Greylock lineup. "Other coaches hate us," Burdick said, "They know we'll have strong teams for years to come." But Burdick makes clear that it is only through the diligence and dedication of the runners



Photo courtesy of Emma Polumbo ('18)

Senior Tommy Kirby charges up Appletree Hill.

GIRLS' SOCCER: STACKED WITH TALENT

By AARON KLEINER ('17)



Photo courtesy of Ian Culnane ('16)

Senior Melissa Swann dribbles the ball down the field.

Finishing the season at 7-8-1, the Mt. Greylock girls' soccer team just missed out on a coveted playoff berth. After starting the season in spectacular form with victories over Taconic and Lee in early September, the Mounties then hit a difficult stretch with losses to the powerhouses of Wahconah, West Springfield and Pittsfield. However, with well-earned results against out-of-county adversaries Westfield and Mahar, Coach Tom Ostheimer's team regained confidence heading into the last bit of the regular season. Another dominant display against Lee and two wins over Drury put the girls in a good position to qualify for the postseason with two matches to go. On October 28, the Mounties played Hoosac Valley at home, needing at least a tie in order to progress into the tournament. Unfortunately, the girls came out on the wrong end of a 4-2 result and were eliminated from the tournament. In the last match of the year, the

Mounties scraped by Taconic by a scoreline of 2-1, but the victory came as petty consolation for a season without postseason play.

However, the girls should feel a great sense of optimism for the upcoming years. Although the graduation of senior captains Maggie Rorke, Haley Reinhard and Melissa Swann will come as a sizable loss, many of the younger players are more than ready to step up and fill their shoes. In fact, several of the top players on the side were underclassmen, including sophomore Caroline Flynn, who, along with captain Melissa Swann, led the team with 11 goals. Other young talents include sophomores Mae Burris-Wells and Ada de Gooyer and freshman Karen McComish, among others. According to Ostheimer, "We have a lot of young talent, and, with another year of growth, we should be considerably better next year." ♦

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VOLLEYBALL: BUMPING THE COMPETITION

BY ELIAS SEKKAL ('17)

The Mt. Greylock volleyball team had a fantastic season. Finishing the regular season with a county record of 13-2 that earned them second place in the league behind an elusive and skilled Lee team. The Mounties stormed into the Western Massachusetts tournament with confidence and talent. The team earned the number three seed, finishing the regular season with a win against Taconic and boasting the most wins in the county.

The single senior and co-captain of the team, Hope Willis, leads the team in aces and kills, carrying the offense through an impressive run of wins throughout October. Willis recorded her 500th career kill during a packed senior night on October 24; an exciting achievement despite the team's loss to Lee that night.

Tied with Willis in kills and trailing the senior by a single ace is junior co-cap-

tain Serena Chow. The three-year varsity member took her newfound responsibilities in stride by creating a fearsome attacking duo with her fellow captain over the regular season.

Another standout performer this season for the Mounties has been junior Dagny Albano. Recording her 1,000th varsity assist over her career in a convincing win over Pittsfield last month, Albano's creativity and consistency on the court helped drive the team into a position of serious contention for the Division III Western Massachusetts title.

Willis commented that the team has "spent a lot of time on team bonding" and has worked to "develop and utilize more offensive maneuvers." These strategies helped the team generate momentum as they executed consistent performances characterized by solid team chemistry and impressive progression. ♦



Photo courtesy of Ian Culhane ('16)

Junior Jenna Benzinger blocks a shot from West Springfield, backed by teammates junior Serena Chow and sophomore Maddy Albert.

GOLF: CONSISTENT IMPROVEMENT

By SEAN NEMTZW ('17)



Photo courtesy of Ian Culhane ('16)

Senior Matt Wisemam sets his sights on the next hole.

For the first time in Greylock history, the Mt. Greylock golf team successfully tied for first in the Berkshire County Championship. The team, neck and neck with Pittsfield, ended the season with a 13-2 record. On September 15, the Mounties lost to Pittsfield by 14 points, preventing the team from carrying out a winning streak. On October 14, however, the team went to Pittsfield's course and won by a narrow margin of 2 points, restoring the tie with the rival school for the title. Coach Brian Gill noted, "Our two seniors were especially awesome." The seniors, Matt Wisemam and Lilly Crolius, pulled the team to victory by scoring a 37 and 41, respectively. Later, the team placed fourth in Western Mass with a 349, which came as a slight disappointment to Gill. Wisemam scored well enough to move on to the state tournament where he shot an 87 for the round. Individually, freshman Ben Gilooly went on to perform in Berkshire Classic. Gilooly placed second in Berkshire Classic, just two strokes below Drury golfer Nick Bator.

The team has seen continuous improvement over the past three years. Three years ago, the team suffered through the season without a single win. Last year, after much hard work and dedication, the team turned around to place third in the Western Massachusetts tournament. Although the team placed fourth this year, they find pride in their emergence from the season as victors within the county. Gill points out that they "have a lot of kids coming back" and should be able to keep up the momentum in future years. ♦

BOYS' SOCCER: SKILLED NEW SQUAD

By MELISSA SWANN ('16)

Winning all but four of their regular season games, the Mt. Greylock boys' soccer team had a successful year. Taking first place in the North Division for the eighth season in a row with their regular season record of 11-4-1, the Mt. Greylock side proved daunting to all of its opponents.

After losing seven senior starters from last year's lineup, including the entire starting back line, coach Blair Dils needed many players to step up and take leadership on the field. With the return of juniors Matthew Kleiner, a central defender, and forward Aaron Kleiner to Mt. Greylock after their year in Italy, and the rotation of juniors Kyle Bazonski and Zach Condon and sophomore Ric Donati on defense, the Mounties' back line has recovered seamlessly from the initial worry over personnel.

In the net, senior co-captain and goalkeeper Cal Filson consistently performed well. Making 42 saves this sea-

son, Filson served as a reliable keeper who could be trusted to make several big saves in every game.

Senior co-captain Benni McComish controlled the midfield along with juniors Naka O'Connor and Manas Jain, sophomore Brady Foehl and freshman Luke Swann. O'Connor, who moved back to Williamstown after spending several years in Kyoto, Japan and Beverly Hills, California, joined the team this year for his first season as a Mountie. McComish said, "The midfielders were wonderful this year. Getting Naka back has been a blessing. All of us worked hard, which was key to our successes."

At forward, sophomore Sam Dils led the team with 16 goals. With the dynamic play from Dils, juniors Crow Brennan, Aaron Kleiner, Cole Dudley and Tommy Astle and sophomores Quinn Johnstadt and J Bath, the Mounties' offense dominated in the North Division, scoring 47 goals altogether in the regular season.

Filson stated, "Our goals never change year to year." Coach Dils added, "The main goals this season are to qualify, to win the North, and to try to ensure a home playoff game." And the Mounties achieved all three of those goals.

The Mt. Greylock boys' soccer team earned a number three seed in the Western Mass Division III tournament. In an evenly matched quarter-final match against the sixth seeded Palmer team, the score after regulation and two overtimes remained 0-0, so the competition resulted to a penalty kick shootout. Even though Filson managed to save the shot made by Palmer's fourth kicker, the Mounties fell to Palmer 4-3.

Despite an unexpected end to their season, the boys' soccer team still celebrates their great number of successes as they begin preparing for the 2016 fall season. ♦

GIRLS' CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING: POISED FOR SUCCESS

By ZACH ARMETT ('17)

The girls' cross country team finished a strong season with a winning 12-2 record. Freshman Margo Smith, the team's top runner, maintained her dominant position in the league throughout the season, winning almost every race. The powerful varsity team also consisted of seniors Ellie Williams and Anya Sheldon, juniors Niku Darafshi and Emily Lescarbeau and sophomores Bella Bote and Emma Polumbo, who recently recovered from a hip injury. The Mounties have consistently dominated all of the teams, except for Lenox, and, to quote Coach Larry Bell, "The margin of victory continues to get bigger." The team raced at Reid Middle School on October 31 for the Berkshire County Championship. The team got second place in the championship race, behind Lenox, a result with which Bell was "satisfied." The girls dominated the JV race, with 8th grader Helen Greenfield winning the race, further demonstrating the depth of the team.

Following the girls' team's respectable performance in the Berkshire County Championship, the girls are now focusing on preparing to race at Western

Mass. Williams said that, "if we keep training and working hard, then we have a good chance of doing well in Western Mass." Coach Bell said that he is "optimistic" and that the girls this year "have better times than last year, and the team has more depth." Considering the fact that the girls made fourth place last year in the Western Mass Championship, the superior 2015 team looked to have a promising performance this year. It is, however, in Coach Bell's opinion, "possible that [the girls] won't make states."

No matter the result of post-season races, the team is sure to have a promising future. The strong base of younger runners, lead by Greenfield and eighth grader Hannah Locklear, consistently improved over the course of the season. The young runners shined especially at the Queensbury and Burnt Hills Invitational races, garnering second and first place team wins, respectively, in the middle school races. With a talented returning group of both young girls and seasoned high school runners, the team should look forward to another successful, exciting 2016 season. ♦



Photo courtesy of Ian Culhane ('16)

Junior Niku Darafshi passes a Lenox runner.

Narcos Review



characters. This fault is mostly due to the writing, which directs most of the focus to events and dialogue rather than character development, possibly in an attempt to maintain its commitment to factuality. Holbrook's portrayal of Steve Murphy, a DEA agent who is the main protagonist and narrator, is particularly unconvincing. With his tough-guy cop

persona and thick Southern accent coming off as considerably overdone, viewers struggle to take him seriously. Otherwise, the acting is good, even for bit parts and minor characters.

Despite its flaws, *Narcos* shines in three main ways: relentless pacing, above-average writing and creative stylistic

Continued from Page 6.

touches, all of which make it unique and fun to watch. Each episode introduces many new characters and events that engage viewers, although they can confuse them as well. Additionally, while the writing didn't leave me with any memorable lines or particularly great scenes, it stands out as being clean and structured and allows the show to manage its breakneck speed. The show has some unique qualities, as well, that made it stand out. For example, much of the dialogue is Spanish with subtitles, which, in my opinion, made it more interesting and unique.

Before I recommend it, however, I have to say that *Narcos* is gratuitously violent and risqué at parts, to the extent that I am sure it would never be broadcast on TV and perhaps not even shown at movie theaters. This includes the usual blood, gore and nudity as well as some even more disturbing scenes. They are necessary to convey the violence of the drug trade, but make the show quite inappropriate for younger viewers and explicit. Still, if you can handle that aspect, the show's ten-episode length is engaging throughout. ♦

Command and Control

Continued from Page 6.

safe. When deterrence dictated an absolute balance of nuclear arsenals between superpowers, Schlosser believes that safety fell by the roadside, and he uses several examples that show the dangerous conditions that many scientists, airforce officers and civilians worked through, from oxygen deprivation to nuclear fission releasing deadly radiation doses into unknowing scientists. He details the formation of the Strategic Air Command, which, until 1992, controlled America's nuclear arsenal and also explores the command and control structure that slowly developed to stop common mishaps.

Schlosser's book delicately balances a personal recount of one of the worst nuclear weapons accidents, the history of nuclear weapons within the United States and the importance of safety in handling and controlling weapons. *Command and Control* is a brilliant success, highlighting specific important events in the development of nuclear safety and the increasing worry about nuclear safety today. ♦

Sudoku

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| | 1 | | 5 | | | | 3 | 6 |
| 6 | | | 9 | | | | | 8 |
| | | 2 | | | | 3 | | |
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Crossword-Minis

By BLAIR DILS

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | ■ | 4 |
| 5 | | | 6 | |
| 7 | | | | |
| ■ | 8 | | | |
| 9 | | | | ■ |

Across:

- Ballston _____
- Language for 180 million speakers
- Like a beaver
- Pixar fish
- Quadruped runner, en Pamplona

Down:

- _____ crab soup
- Jack Hydon instrument
- Rage
- National Wrestling Hall of Famer
- Pre-remodeling work, for short

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | ■ |
| 5 | | | | ■ |
| 6 | | | | 7 |
| ■ | 8 | | | |
| ■ | 9 | | | |

Across:

- Drawer of interest?
- 2012 film adaptation of Tony Mendez's "The Master of Disguise"
- Leading ladies, often
- 2010 Black Eyed Peas hit "_____ Be"
- Gusto

Down:

- _____ Cruces, New Mexico's second largest city
- Red Sox' single season home run leader

- An athlete hopes to bring it
- MacDonald and Peterson
- No longer a requirement at George Washington University

Comic

By SOPHIE GERRY ('16)

