

NEW WATER FOUNTAIN INSTALLED

By MANAS JAIN '17



Photo courtesy of Ian Culnane

Senior Ellie Williams uses the new water fountain by the guidance office.

Since the beginning of the year, members of the Student Council considered the idea of installing a new design of water fountain in the school. The fountain fills water bottles with filtered water in an easier fashion than standard water fountains, which call for craning the water bottle sideways, allowing it to fill only halfway and wasting water. Senior and Student Council president Ian Culnane proposed the idea after spotting some examples of these fountains at Williams College and Mohawk High School. Culnane said, "I thought it was super convenient. I bring a water bottle to school every day and just having something where water can be poured out from the top of a fountain into your water bottle with an extra filtration system will get people to stop wasting water and bring in their own bottles."

Together, the Student Council and the school purchased one new water fountain to gauge the usage and popularity, and, if both are high enough, the addition of others will come into consideration. In order to find out what the schoolwide opinion was on the potential purchase of this water fountain, Student Council members Ethan Schoorlemmer and Sam Dils issued a survey that received great feedback from a wide range of students, parents and faculty. Culnane said, "No faculty member seemed vehemently op-

posed to the idea, so there was no reason for us to not go through with it. The Student Council has made enough money in the past few years to make it possible to fund something like this every once in awhile, and we think this would be a good investment for the school."

The water fountain was purchased with the help of Zogics, a company where Jeff Stripp, father of junior Sarah Stripp, works. There was some confusion about the point of buying a new water fountain now if there would be a new school made in the coming years. Culnane responded to these doubts, explaining, "We can put it in this school for now, and later it can be transferred to the new school—that way it will be able to benefit everyone."

Student Council members decided on the placement of the water fountain from a survey the Student Council sent out earlier in the year. The overwhelming choice came out to be next to the Guidance office. Student Council vice president Gray Kaegi expressed that "this location makes sense, as it is a place where all students pass to and from lunch everyday."

The Student Council has worked closely

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WILLIAMS GIFT ALLOWS GROWTH

By MELISSA SWANN '16

In November of 2015, Williams College and Mt. Greylock announced the college's \$200,000 gift to the high school to help improve the school's professional development program and to fund the start of high school technology program over the course of the next ten years.

Principal Mary MacDonald said, "We eventually want to have computer science classes at Mt. Greylock so that students can get a strong enough background to take a computer science course at one of the local colleges. A number of students are taking a class about the computer programming language called Java at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA). We hope to offer classes like this one at Mt. Greylock."

Taconic High School teacher Jeffrey Betti, who teaches several programming classes and leads the Java class for high school students, said, "I believe that every high school student should enroll in a computer programming course. Computer apps are a way of life today. Software innovations are inspiring new [developments], and it will be up to future generations to be the innovators of the future."

Freshman Cathy McPartland, who takes the Java programming class at MCLA, said, "So far, the class has been really fun. I think it will be helpful to know more about the program. If Mt. Greylock had classes like Java, I think students would enjoy them."

Williams College's gift to Mt. Greylock will also provide funding for more professional development. Superintendent Dr. Douglas Dias said, "The professional development supported by the gift from Williams College will allow educators to ensure that they get training on the latest instructional methods, curriculum development and assessment analysis strategies to ensure student learning."

MacDonald added, "We want our faculty and staff to know how to meet the needs of a variety of students: those who tend to struggle in school, those who excel and those who are in the middle. The best way to achieve these goals is to provide teachers with proper instruction and assessment."

Dias said, "We hope to begin to implement programs with the funding from Williams College's gift as soon as possible. Our goal is to support professional development for teachers as well as goals in technology education. We want to ensure that the gift is making the greatest impact on student growth and learning." ♦

1 in 650: An Interview with Sally Gotlieb

By NIKU DARAFSHI '17



Photo courtesy of Niku Darafshi

Looking around the halls of Mt. Greylock, you may notice that one particular face is not there anymore. Sally Gotlieb, a current junior at Mt. Greylock, left at the end of second quarter to finish her school year abroad in Israel. Before Sally left, The Echo sat down with her to ask her about the four month trip.

Echo: So Sally, where are you going?

Sally: I am going to Jerusalem, Israel with a program called Eisendrath International Experience (EIE). It goes from January 24th to May 27th.

Explain this EIE program.

EIE High School in Israel is a semester abroad trip for Jewish teens. You take classes with other kids from all around the States and explore different places in Israel. There are 63 kids including me in the group.

What got you interested and ultimately got you to go on this program?

The vice principal of this Jewish school came to talk to the counselor at the Jewish summer camp I work at, Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) Camp George. He introduced us to the program and I was hooked. I wanted to experience more than Greylock, and this looked like a good idea because I didn't want to switch schools completely.

What will school be like during your trip?

Starting on January 28, I'll start classes in Israel. I will continue to take all the classes I had at Greylock in addition to Hebrew and Jewish History classes. Before leaving, I had to send my second semester curriculum to my Israeli teachers, who will continue teaching me what I would be missing if I was still here. I also have to take the ACTs in Israel. Can't wait!

Is this whole trip very religious?

Eh, it's pretty Jewish-y. In addition to those two extra classes I have to take, we have synagogue services. The whole

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BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

By MELISSA SWANN '16

On January 14, 2016, the Mt. Greylock School Committee voted unanimously to appropriate the debt for the School Building Project. The next step in the process is for Williamstown and Lanesborough to vote to exclude the debt so that the Building Committee can move forward with the plan to begin construction in August of 2016.

The renovation of the school building will cost approximately \$64.8 million. On January 27, The Massachusetts School Building Authority Board of Directors (MSBA) approved a grant of \$32,491,074 to reimburse the costs

that Williamstown and Lanesborough will pay. If both towns vote to exclude the debt, Lanesborough will incur 32.3% of the debt, which means an increase in property taxes of an amount between a \$1.61 and a \$1.81 per \$1000, while Williamstown will incur 67.7% of the debt, meaning between a \$1.42 and a \$1.60 per \$1000 increase in property taxes.

Williamstown will hold the debt exclusion vote on March 1, and Lanesborough will hold the vote on March 15. If either town votes against the debt exclusion, the building project will fail, and the towns will have to

fund repairs to the school building without reimbursement from the MSBA.

According to Carrie Greene, the School Committee Chair and member of the Building Committee, if the votes are going to pass, they must pass in March, or else the schedule for the construction plan will be thrown off by several months. She said, "The schedule is one of the reasons it is very important to get both votes accomplished in March, because if we are not able to accomplish the debt exclu-

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DRUG USE AT GREYLOCK

Matthew Kleiner explores the prevalence of substance use at Greylock.

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SUPERMAN DEBATE

Sam Swoap and Zach Armet tackle one of the essential questions of the superhero world.

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ASK NICOLE...

Nicole Jones weighs in on how to get a crush's attention this Valentine's Day.

See Page 5.

TINY DESK CONCERTS

Music aficionado Jasper Rosenheim discusses his favorites.

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ACTORS PREPARE FOR UPCOMING WINTER MUSICAL

By CLAIRE WHITAKER '17



Photo courtesy of Hannah Fein

Students rehearse a scene from *Nice Work if You Can Get It*.

Every year, the cold weather marks the beginning of rehearsals for the school musical.

This spring, middle and high school students will be performing *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, a romantic comedy written by Joe DiPietro, composed by George and Ira Gershwin and first shown on Broadway in 2012. The story

takes place in New York in 1927, in the middle of a tangled period of prohibition and jazz culture. Three bootleggers, played by senior Nicole Jones, junior John Pfister, and sophomore Jacob Hane, are trying to hide their gin before they are arrested. When the wealthy and charming Jimmy Winter, played by junior Whit Ellingwood, stumbles onto the scene and drunkenly tries to

flirt with one of the bootleggers named Billie Bendix (Jones), he mentions his private beach house. Billie decides Jimmy's house is the perfect place to hide the contraband. As Billie and her partners in crime find creative ways to keep everyone from finding the alcohol stashed in Jimmy's basement, the two eventually fall in love. Chaos ensues, and a colorful cast of characters becomes embroiled in the plot.

The musical is directed by history teacher Jeffrey Welch, who first took on the task in 1999. Returning as dance choreographer is Lenox Memorial High School Spanish teacher Ann-Marie Rodriguez, while Lyndon Moors will again conduct the pit orchestra. Jean Kirsch has replaced last year's Kate Caton as vocal director. Auditions, which were held later than usual this year, drew a large crowd, adding a competitive edge to the casting. According to junior Jenna Benzinger, who is playing avid prohibitionist Duchess Estonia Dulworth, "a lot of people brought it." Jones noted that the good turnout has created a "really talented and diverse cast."

Greylock community members should look forward to the performances of the show at 7:00 pm Friday, March 18 and Saturday, March 19 at the mainstage of the '62 Center for Theatre and Dance in Williamstown. The show's twisting, humorous plot and dedicated cast will appeal to all audiences. According to Welch, "there is something in it for everybody." ♦

BUILDING COMMITTEE CONSIDERS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF NEW SCHOOL

By GRETA SAVITSKY '16

This fall, the Mt. Greylock Building Committee appointed an environmental task force to research and make recommendations about sustainability concerns regarding the construction of a new building. The factors that go into construction, such as toxicity of materials and sun exposure, can make huge differences in its ecological footprint.

The task force worked with the building design team, who brought a sustainable building expert to the school for two days of design workshops that invited community participation. The three main focuses for the workshops were building site and water quality, indoor environmental quality and energy. After two days of discussion surrounding the issues, debating feasibility and the importance of each architectural change or low-flush fixture, the sustainable expert created a report outlining ideas and priorities generated by participating community members.

According to the Green Charrette Report, created by sustainable design expert Vamshi Gooje from Thornton Tomasetti to summarize input from community members, the first concern in regards to the new building site and water quality was to "create a physical environment that inspires students and community members and embraces its natural surroundings." This effort would involve utilizing garden space more—for example, making use of a pond to be used by science classes—and taking advantage of the beautiful view of the Berkshire mountains. Show-

ing students the beauty and importance of nature is one of the top concerns for the Building Committee.

Community input also expressed a desire to harness the area's natural offerings concerning indoor environmental quality, focusing on the use of passive energy. This objective would involve orienting the building to catch as much natural light and heat as possible. Principal Mary MacDonald reports that there are no windowless classrooms in the current plan. This prospect would both allow the school to capture heat and light energy from the sun and also create a bright, open feeling for the new learning environment.

This category also encompasses health issues, like air quality. One of the most important issues facing the current building is health hazards (namely the various rumored carcinogens inside the school, as evidenced by the condemnation of the auditorium in 2013), so that poses a very important concern of the Building Committee. The objective also covers material concerns, like recycling efforts and sustainable building mediums. MacDonald was excited to express that reusing would be a key theme in the new building. She said that much of the current furniture in the school can be reused, which will cut down on both the monetary and environmental price of the new building.

Another idea suggested in the design charrette session was a net-zero energy

goal. Steps toward this objective would include the use of solar energy and many other energy saving techniques, such as low-energy appliances and use of natural light. Although a backup generator is necessary and will require fossil fuels, the goal is for the building to use as little fossil fuels as possible. Currently, fossil fuel companies hold financial stakes of five times as much fuel that is currently underground than can safely be burned without detrimental, irreversible impacts. This means that although this energy hasn't been mined yet, it is known as a solid source and owned by companies planning to mine and exploit it. By divesting away from fossil fuels to renewable energy (solar, in this case), the new academic wing would be promoting safe, healthy practices. The new initiative for sustainable energy, seen in increased consumption of wind, solar and other types of energy, as well as the powerful fossil fuel divestment movement, is alive and growing, and the new building will be no exception.

While the current building takes up more green space, requires more heating and exposes students to many more dangerous materials than necessary, there is great hope for environmental success in the new building. Between safe water and air quality, smart use of the natural environment and sustainable practices in energy consumption, the new building promises to bring a more enjoyable and more sustainable experience to its students. ♦

A Note from the Editors:

The issue released in November contained a new faculty member interview with Michelle Boire. The headline of this article named her teaching position inaccurately. Boire is a certified special education teacher who works with seventh grade students.

Thank you,

Hannah Fein and Anya Sheldon

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

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sion votes in both by about mid-March, we start to delay this entire process."

Trip Elmore of Dore and Whittier, the owner project manager, added, "Right now, we have a schedule that perfectly lines up with the academic calendar and the seasons. If we slip from the schedule, it hurts the entire project."

According to the Building Committee's schedule, if the towns both vote to exclude the debt, the newly constructed academic wing will be complete in April of 2018, and the completed renovation of the remaining part of the current school building will conclude the building project in October of 2018.

"A lot of time and effort went into this project, and I am so happy with the process," MacDonald said. "The building that has been proposed is educationally sound. It just makes sense for what we want Mt. Greylock to be." ♦

NEW WATER FOUNTAIN

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with facilities supervisor Jesse Wirtes throughout the entire process, and the project was completed and opened on January 15, 2016. Kaegi cut the ribbon for the opening ceremony and was granted the honor of being the first to fill up his water bottle with the new fountain. ♦

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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A STUDY OF SUBSTANCE USE AT GREYLOCK

By MATTHEW KLEINER '17

Every two years, the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition (NBCC) conducts a survey regarding drug usage and habits in Berkshire County high schools. The survey is administered to eighth, tenth and twelfth graders at Mt. Greylock, Hoosac Valley and Drury. “It really pulls a lot of interesting statistics,” said Principal Mary MacDonald. “It goes beyond normal drug habit questions and asks about socioeconomic situations, parental education, attendance at houses of worship, etc.” The survey was last administered in 2015, and the NBCC recently released its findings from the study. The extensive report includes statistics showing how many students have ever tried certain substances, and how many have tried those substances within the thirty days previous to the survey’s administration. The data revealed that the most commonly used drugs at the schools are, unsurprisingly, alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana. According to the survey, 65% of students have tried alcohol by 12th grade, 51% marijuana and 30% cigarettes.

While electronic cigarette usage was not addressed in the survey, both MacDonald and vice principal Jacob Schutz acknowledge that it is a new and growing issue at the school. “We have seen more vaping, which is concerning since it’s not regulated and there’s no science behind it,” said Schutz. Many electronic cigarette juices contain negligible amounts of nicotine, but as Schutz

points out, vaping can easily foster unhealthy habits in users: “Even if there’s a ‘safe’ juice, just the practice of smoking increases the likelihood of someone picking up the habit of smoking cigarettes.” According to recent studies, many e-cigarette juices have also been linked to respiratory illnesses such as “popcorn lung,” which involves the obstruction of airways with scar tissue. For some students, vaping is a way to calm the nerves during a stressful day of school. One student said, “I wouldn’t say I’m addicted to vaping; it’s more for stress relief.” Another student who recently quit smoking cigarettes said vaping is the best way to satisfy his nicotine cravings during the school day.

Vaping is classified under the school’s tobacco policy in terms of disciplinary code. According to Schutz, the administration takes a “holistic” approach to regulating vaping and drug abuse in general at Mt. Greylock. “We see it as a community issue, a building issue and a student issue,” he said. “Since that’s the way we view it, we need to attack it on multiple fronts.” He stresses the importance of education and support for students. “We have been looking at our health curriculum, and we do have curricula in place to address all kinds of substance abuse,” he said. He emphasizes that punishments are not the best way to solve drug problems: “If someone has an issue with substances, I don’t think a sole consequence will solve the

issue, so we try to build in support and counseling.” Mt. Greylock’s drug counselor Richard Johnson comes in every Tuesday to speak to students. Students who face drug-related disciplinary issues are encouraged to speak with him and are given the opportunity to soften their punishments by doing so. “I try to provide as much information as possible about whatever substances [the students] are using or might be using to allow them to make the best decisions possible going forward,” said Johnson.

Schutz says he has not seen any “uptick” of specific substances other than electronic cigarettes in the few years he has been at Greylock. Although MacDonald agrees that the drug situation seems stable, she is concerned about the possible legalization of marijuana in the near future. “But whether [marijuana] is legal or not,” she points out, “it’s something--like alcohol, which is legal--that could potentially impair student function.” She said she is “concerned about students working at their prime while in middle and high school.” Math teacher Lucas Polidoro does not feel marijuana use is any more of an issue at Mt. Greylock than at any other schools in his experience, but he does admit that he has “occasionally reported students for marijuana.” Some students, wishing to remain anonymous, claim marijuana helps them get through the school day more easily. One student said he felt he performed better while high, especially in mathematics, while

another said it helped alleviate frustrations with fellow classmates.

Another concern that has emerged not just locally, but nationally, is opioid addiction. One especially disturbing aspect of this trend is users’ common transition from opiate pain relievers to heroin. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, “the emergence of chemical tolerance toward prescribed opioids, perhaps combined in a smaller number of cases with an increasing difficulty in obtaining these medications illegally, may in some instances explain the transition to abuse of heroin, which is cheaper and in some communities easier to obtain than prescription opioids.” Ms. MacDonald is concerned about recent developments in Bennington, VT and North Adams. “We have to be aware of heroin in our county,” she explained. “Do we have some of the same challenges that some of the other schools have? Not now, but I have to do everything I can to make sure we don’t have them.”

NBCC director of drug prevention programs Wendy Penner said she has seen growing concern over the issue of opiates. On December 2, 2015, Mt. Greylock hosted an NBCC-directed panel to discuss community drug problems. Penner said the talk was “very successful” and did well to address the topic of opioids. “Because of the opiate epidemic in our region, people are very interested in understanding how to keep youth from going down that path,” she said. “Education about that is an important part of our work.” ♦

MCLA HOSTS NEW JAVA CLASS

By MADISON VANDEURZEN '18

This semester, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) is offering a free course on Programming in Java I to local high school students from Drury, BART, and Mt. Greylock. Java, a commonly used and relatively simple to learn computer programming language, is a fundamental career skill for those interested in computer science. The idea for the class originated when MCLA received a grant to further technological knowledge in secondary school students. Originally, the course’s designers hoped that it could be offered in schools during school hours. However, when the schools could not find an in-school teacher, MCLA hired adjunct Jeff Betti to teach the course.

To determine Greylock students’ interest in learning Programming in Java I, principal Mary MacDonald sent a survey to all high school students. “I had enough responses to tell MCLA that we could probably get five students to enroll,” MacDonald said. “Many more students expressed interest on the survey but said, as was predicted, that they were too busy after school. With so

many Mt. Greylock students actively involved in co-curriculars, I was surprised that nineteen students signed up in the end. MCLA was delighted.”

The course consists of fifteen weekly three-hour sessions that run from late January to May. The first class was on January 21, after the prospective students had met with MCLA Associate Director of Admissions Joshua Mendel to discuss the course. Mt. Greylock students who complete the course will have been dually enrolled in both MCLA and Mt. Greylock and will receive five high school credits and three college credits.

In terms of the longevity of Programming in Java I, MacDonald said that results from the survey showed that more students would take Java if it was offered in school hours. She explained, “My current plan, based on the feedback I got from the survey, is to offer Java in house as a semester course next year.” For the time being, MacDonald is pleased with the success of the course. “The students are getting to take this college class for free. That’s pretty amazing.” ♦

SALLY GOTLIEB

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program is Reform Judaism so we don’t have to do conservative Jewish stuff.
What are you most anticipating in your trip?
I am really looking forward to meeting new people and learning about a place that I have never been to before. Oh, and also trying new food!
Serious question, will you be eating more falafels or hummus?
So much more hummus. That’s not even a question.
What will you miss the most?
I will miss my best friends a lot and also my really comfy bed.
Do you know anyone going?
I know five other people going who all went to Camp George with me.
What are you most scared of?
I’m actually really afraid of leaving Greylock for four months. I’m scared of

losing my best friends and getting disconnected from them for four months. I hope I don’t come back and am totally out of the loop of everything, because a semester is a very long time.
I hear you can’t watch Netflix in Israel. What are your thoughts on that?
Originally, I was under the impression that I wouldn’t be able to watch Orange is the New Black and Sherlock, to name a few, for four months but turns out, my Jewish friends and I have figured out a way to do it. If it didn’t work, I would be very unhappy and would probably have to return home.
I think most people would do the same.

This interview has been edited and condensed. ♦

Alum Interview

By JASPER ROSENHEIM '16

Mt. Greylock students wrapped up their performance of Macbeth earlier this year. Every year, directors from Lenox’s Shakespeare and Company come to Greylock, and work together to put on an amazing show. This year, one of the directors was Mt. Greylock’s very own alumna Ally Allen. After graduating in 2010, Ally went on to attend Mount Holyoke College and later began working as an actor, educator and director with Shakespeare and Company. The Echo had the opportunity to ask Ally some questions about her experiences during and after her time at Greylock, as well as how it was to return to direct the show.

Echo: What was Greylock like for you when you were a student?

Ally: Greylock has always been small, so I knew everyone in the school and really appreciated and enjoyed that the Williamstown and Lanesborough communities came together to support the school. I wasn’t aware of just how small our community was until I went away to college. I remember Greylock as full of curious students, and I think that spirit has continued to thrive here.

What were you post high school plans?
I had always planned to go to college. I knew that I wanted a liberal arts education so that I could study diverse and broad topics and maintain the small, seminar-like class sizes that I was used to.

What was your college experience like?
I am a proud alumna of Mount Holyoke College. When I started school, I didn’t have a set idea about what my major would be, so my first few semesters were filled with classes that had interesting titles or teachers that I had heard good buzz about. I discovered that Gender Studies was a topic that surprised and excited me. Out of all my classes, I thought about Gender Studies the most and I had a good relationship with my professors, so I decided to make that my major. I studied abroad in Siena, Italy, where I enjoyed a full semester of seeing and creating art, which became my minor. It was luxurious!

What did you do after graduating?
After school, I was able to immediately begin working at Shakespeare & Com-



Photo courtesy of Ally Allen.

Allen returned to her roots to direct this year’s production of Macbeth.

pany in Lenox. I was cast in a show on their outdoor stage and began teaching in the Riotous Youth summer education program. I really fell in love with the ethic and aesthetic of their education department and, as a former student, I feel strongly attached to the way that they teach Shakespeare.

What are your current plans?
I have been working at Shakespeare & Company as an actor, teacher and director in school residencies, the Fall Festival of Shakespeare and a regional tour of *Hamlet*. I believe teaching theater makes one a better actor, and acting makes one a better teacher, so I have been lucky to cultivate both skills over the past two years.

What was it like returning to work at Greylock?

The theater is certainly the most nostalgic room in the school for me, but we are unfortunately unable to use that space! It has been really fun to catch up with former teachers and administrators with a new appreciation for the work that they do. It is also fun to see familiar traditions and new ideas in the Greylock theater community.

This interview has been edited and condensed. ♦

COMMUNITY

Untraditional Learning

By AARON KLEINER '17

Every morning, instead of attending a first period class, junior Evan Arthur heads to the library for an independent study in French language. Arthur spends the 44-minute block with neither a teacher nor classmates, just with his textbook and objectives. "It's nice to be able to take French as an independent study," said Arthur, "because I don't have the chance to take it in the classroom." Arthur took French at his previous school in Concord, Massachusetts, but Mt. Greylock does not have a French department, so an independent study provides him the opportunity to continue his studies.

Independent studies allow Arthur and other students at Mt. Greylock to investigate subjects that are not taught in the school. This semester, 7 students are taking independent study courses. However, according to principal Mary MacDonald, independent studies are not always the best choice for students who wish to expand their academic horizons. Since self-direction and motivation are two key elements to independent studies, MacDonald pointed out that "if you are somebody who is really challenged by independent learning, by the idea that you are creating your learning plan and that you have to find your own resources, then an independent study may not make a lot of sense for you." According to the Mt. Greylock Program of Studies, "The inde-

pendent study is a rigorous, self-directed course of study that includes clear objectives, activities, outcomes, and criteria for evaluation." Therefore, MacDonald thinks that alternatives such as college courses or Virtual High School courses may be better for some students.

College courses are an option for students who wish to pursue academics outside of Mt. Greylock, while still in a traditional classroom environment. Mt. Greylock students are allowed to travel either to Williams College, MCLA or Berkshire Community College. College courses are not just valuable to students who want to study subjects that lie outside the high school curriculum; they also make it possible to continue studies into more advanced levels, especially in mathematics. While it is possible for juniors to enroll in college courses, the programs at all three institutions are aimed at seniors. According to MacDonald, "You can take [college courses] as an eleventh grader, but we tend to think about twelfth graders first."

In order to take college courses, students must first prove to both their guidance counselors and the college that they are prepared to take on the rigorous academic challenges that these courses demand. At BCC, students take the Accuplacer test to

determine placement. For MCLA, the GPA requirement is 3.0 as long as all other prerequisites are met. According to MacDonald, to take classes at Williams, "You have to have a 3.8 GPA, you have to be a student in good standing, you have to be accepted by the professor and you have to be recommended by Mt. Greylock." To advance to multivariable calculus at Williams, a 5 on the AP Calculus exam is a prerequisite. One important element of college courses is transportation, as Mt. Greylock does not provide rides to and from colleges. Another difficulty that prospective students face is scheduling. Because college courses do not follow the same schedule as Mt. Greylock's, travel can prove burdensome with early exits and late arrivals to and from Mt. Greylock classes.

Another option for students to learn outside of the Mt. Greylock classroom is Virtual High School (VHS). VHS enables students at high schools across the country to take online classes, ranging in topic from Personal Finance to Art History. A variety of Advanced Placement (AP) courses are also available. At Mt. Greylock this year, 11 students are taking VHS courses currently, and 4 of them are enrolled in AP classes. Senior Ian Culnane, who is taking AP US Government and Politics with VHS, thinks that VHS

courses provide students with an effective means of studying interesting subjects not taught at Mt. Greylock. Culnane, who during his junior year participated in Boys' State, a leadership program sponsored by the American Legion, believes that his VHS course also has helped him become a more civic-minded person. Before deciding his courses for this year, he figured that, "By senior year, I will turn eighteen, and I should be knowledgeable enough to vote, and to understand our political structure".

Like independent studies, VHS courses offer students more open schedules with regards to handing in work. Culnane says, "My VHS class goes on a weekly basis, so on Wednesday my entire week opens, and I need to turn in all my work for that week on the following Tuesday." However, there are also other drawbacks to the online element of VHS. Culnane points out that "A lot of the busy work I don't think is as meaningful as it could be, and I find that's the case because there are no true class discussions".

Whether through a college course, independent study, VHS or another form of independent learning, students are able to thrive academically outside of the Mt. Greylock classroom. ♦

The Military: An Alternative Post-Grad Route

By GRACE DODIG '17



Photos courtesy of Liam Collins (left) and Caitlyn Durant (right)

Liam Collins '14 and Caitlyn Durant '15 both went into the military following their graduation.

At a school where the overwhelming majority of graduates are college-bound, a select few Mounties swim against the stream and join the military.

Liam Collins, a 2014 graduate of Mt. Greylock, established contact with a recruiter during his junior year of high school. He registered to join the military later that year. Prior to his official application, he had always considered the military as a path for his future; he had many family members in the military and had always aimed to carry on the tradition. Collins still left behind two younger brothers, parents and many other relatives when he joined the military, and admitted that his family's responses were exactly what he had been expecting: "They were happy that I was doing something with myself and that will help me in the future, but they also really hate the fact that I'm gone for such long periods of time." He explained that the process of background checks and physical screening to ensure his fitness took what seemed like a long time.

Collins found his graduation from boot camp, a strenuous three month training program that many people fail to complete, to be the most rewarding part of his military experience. He said, "The feeling you get when your drill instructors, who have made your life hell for

thirteen weeks, call you their brother is indescribable."

Collins describes the military as a grueling experience as well as rewarding one. "Nothing we do is easy: we are expected to act a certain way, look a certain way and perform our jobs to our highest capabilities while being away from home and loved ones for months at a time," said Collins. Despite its difficulties, Collins recommends joining the military, given all the physical and emotional rewards. Collins stated, "I personally believe it prepares you for the outside world better than any school would. On top of that, you are being paid to learn a skill that can transfer to a job in the outside world. They also encourage and pay for you to go to school in your down time, whether it be online classes or an actual sit down class on a college campus." Collins advises all of those interested in joining the military to be proactive: "Go to a recruiting office. Sit down and discuss your options with a recruiter; they are there to help you and supply you with information. They are very straightforward, nice people who just want to help you start your life on the right path." Ultimately, Collins is happy with his decision, having met interesting people and done many things most people never experience.

Collins does not stand alone in terms of

graduating and heading to the military. Ever since Caitlyn Durant, who graduated from Mt. Greylock in 2015, was a young girl, she had a fascination with enlisting in the military. Her interest piqued, similar to Collins's, during her junior year of high school. Durant began talking to Greylock alumni in order to get in touch with recruiters from multiple branches. Her recruiter set her up for a trip from Springfield to Westover Reserve Base to undergo MEPS (Military Entrance Processing Station), where she took the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) test, underwent a physical exam and filled out an ample amount of paperwork. Durant officially enlisted on February 7, 2015. She remembered her loved ones' reactions as typical: "You want to do what?! Join the military and get killed?" Durant responded by explaining to her parents the rewards of putting on the uniform, having an amazing job and protecting the people in her country.

Out of the near 90 kids in her graduating class at Mt. Greylock, Durant was the only one to enlist in the military, which came with many different reactions. Some classmates questioned her decision, while others congratulated her. Durant said that she does not regret her decision. Along with Collins, she met amazing people and learned how to work under pressure, handle stress and enhance her leadership skills. When asked about her most rewarding experience, Durant recalled a story from her leave for the winter holidays: "We had a holiday party right before we all left to go spend time with our families. At our holiday party we came up with a great idea to help out the less fortunate children in the local community. As a squadron, we put together over 200 gift boxes of toys, hygiene products, etc for boys and girls of ages 4-16. The most rewarding part of that was when we got back, we received drawings and notes from the children about how grateful they were and that they thank us for our service."

Durant recommends the military because of the pride, respect, benefits and opportunities. She advises all people interested in joining the military to talk to veterans, not solely recruiters: "The military path is not for everybody; it will not be easy. It will involve long shifts and grueling experiences." Durant finished with, "I can't imagine what I would be doing right now if I had not gone down this path."

Future Mt. Greylock graduates, such as junior Brandon Condon, also have their sights set on joining the military. While Condon's friends are all concerned about what school to attend and what major to choose, he questions what he wants to do with his life and is considering joining the military. While Condon says some of his close friends and family find it difficult to grasp his interest, he, along with his brother Zach, disregards the doubt and focuses on what he believes. Condon describes himself as being in the early stages of considering the military, having thus far provided the United States Army with his email. He also conducted some research regarding this path. He acknowledged that the military requires high physical fitness, and he knows that he needs to find a focus regarding the work he wants to do, explaining, "It's not just X's and O's. There is a lot more going on behind the scenes than most people think." He proposed his interest in enlisting to his family, acknowledging the difficult fact that "No parent wants to see their child go away with the potential of never seeing them again." He stated that there are many difficult factors in making his decision, one being the thought of leaving behind his friends and family: "I've had a lot of good times here. It's a scary thing, but it's something that I know I will have to face head strong and with no fear."

Another student, sophomore Ethan Schoorlemmer, intends to join the Marine Corps upon his graduation. Schoorlemmer spoke of a college-driven high school experience, stating, "Most people assume that you are either not smart enough or are too lazy to go to college. Most people do not see the military as a true option." Schoorlemmer continued, explaining that "there is a general ignorance about the military." Although Schoorlemmer's family is hesitant about his decision, Schoorlemmer finds support from veterans and active duty Marines he met in the past, explaining, "I have had amazing conversations with Marines and soldiers that I have randomly met in public. They are incredibly supportive and really want to help the next generation of servicemen." Schoorlemmer explained that he wants to help the world at large and views the Marine Corps as the best way to do it. He wants to fight for everyone he cares about and wants "to be a part of the brotherhood." ♦

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

Ask Nicole...

By NICOLE JONES '16

Dear Nicole,

So there's this guy I've had a crush on for a really long time. Valentine's Day is coming up, and I think it's time to make my move. Do you have any suggestions for how I can declare my affections?

--Lucinda Lovelorn

Dear Lucinda Lovelorn,

First off, let me say that you definitely came to the right person. I'd like to consider myself an expert when it comes to high school romance.

I have read not one, but TWO Meg Cabot young adult romance novels and have seen every single one of the High School Musical films, so I totally know what I'm talking about. (Not to toot my own horn or anything—I'll just let my credentials speak for themselves).

There's a process you must follow when approaching this sort of thing. You can't just tell someone that you like them, because it makes you look like an idiot. You've got to go in with a plan. So, for your convenience, I've compiled a list of things you can do to get closer to the object of your affection and hopefully send you two lovebirds on the path to happily ever after.

Send them an anonymous note. It doesn't have to be the most brilliant love letter ever written, just a little something to let them know that you're thinking of them. There's nothing like a handmade message saying "I'm watching you" or "I collect your toenail clippings" to let them know that you care. Tip: When writing your fun and flirty note, try spelling out your message with letters cut out from magazines and newspaper articles to keep them guessing. This will both protect your identity and give you the opportunity to show off your creative, crafty side.

Wear his clothing. If at some point you find yourself near his locker while the hallways are empty, go ahead and break in and steal an article of his clothing. It doesn't have to be much; maybe go for that hoodie you saw crumpled in the corner or, if you're feeling especially daring, snag his gym clothes. Now you can wear his clothing under your normal clothes at all times. The familiar scent will attract the pubescent teen in question, who will be curious as to why you smell like Axe Body Spray and his dog. As an added bonus, when he does finally figure it out, it will be a great conversation starter.

Make physical contact. I mean, really go for it and grab the guy's hand. I understand that this is easier said than done; one must be very careful when approaching a group of teenage boys. As a general rule, they are pack animals. Approach slowly and cautiously. Be careful not to make any loud noises or sudden movements so as not to spook them. It's a good idea to wear zebra stripes so that they're not sure which direction you are going. I also suggest holding out your hands to show that you are not a threat—this will put the teenagers more at ease. Once you have gained their trust, slowly creep your way towards your target and plant yourself next to him. After a sufficient amount of time has passed and your presence is no longer obvious to the boy, slowly reach out and take his hand. It is of the utmost importance that you avoid saying anything or making eye contact, as that would just make everyone uncomfortable.

Any combination of the tactics above should work in securing your crush before the holiday. I admit I don't speak from experience, as I've never actually attempted to execute these maneuvers myself. But Edward did a bunch of way creepier stuff in *Twilight*, and everything seemed to work out okay for him. Maybe you could throw on some body glitter so you can sparkle, too.

--Nicole ♦

Superhero Debates: Is Superman Compelling?

By SAM SWOAP '16 AND ZACH ARMET '17

It's time to wrangle with a question that lies at the very heart of superherodom. It strikes at the first superhero of American comic books ever—Superman. The question that we hope to raise: is Superman compelling?

Zach: Superman might just be the lamest superhero in humanity's vast pantheon of modern heroes. Sure, he may be the first, and that counts for something, but he has no character. Superman is a shallow story about a god who fights corrupt businessmen and petty jewel thieves. His conflicts are so painfully unilateral that it's almost laughable. If Superman's foe is not some average crook, then it is a super strong alien or monster that only inspires a drawn out punching match. There's no moral conflict in *Superman*, no moment where the fan looks at their hero with a new perspective, and no area where the line between good and evil is blurred.

Sam: Superman overcomes his lack of moral ambiguity because that very lack is what makes him so strong. *Superman* came out in the '30s, during the apex of the Great Depression, at a time when America didn't need to worry about moral ambiguity. America needed an icon to rally around. *Superman* aligns with American values in a manner only befitting the first superhero of the Golden Age of Comics. Let's examine his origin story. He flees his native planet Krypton to escape its impending destruction, paralleling the western expansion that had been so fundamental in American history. He lands in the Midwest and grows up a farm boy but later moves to the city of Metropolis. Despite his Midwestern upbringing, he never loses sight of his alien origin. He leaves home, grows up a farm boy, moves to the city and retains his immigrant heritage, his life defined by the four pillars upon which America stands.

Z: Superman doesn't head West, he gets flung through space in an alien baby-crib. Sure, he may be the simple farm boy who fights big-businessman Lex Luthor, something many Americans can respect, but that's it for his American ideals. The rest of the time, Superman is shackled up in the Fortress of Solitude, a citadel located in the Arctic whose sole purpose is to separate him from the common people. He can't assimilate into the public, so he runs and hides, only emerging when the

world needs a god. Superman runs from his fears instead of standing up to them, which, last time I checked, is not a value that Americans cherish.

S: While Superman's infallibility concerns many, his infallible nature is precisely what brings us to love him. Superman gives reassurance in America's dark times, like when



“Superman does struggle to be human, but through his struggles, especially his failures, we see what it means to be human.”

he triumphs over corrupt businessmen in the Depression and fights Axis supervillains in WWII.

Z: Times have changed, but, unfortunately, Superman has not. In an age where nations threw everything they had at each other, strength was valued. Americans identified with a man who could steamroll his enemies because it reminded them of their powerful military that was able to defeat evil through strength and determination. Nowadays, the enemy has changed, and strength is no longer the sheer determinant of victory. Fans look for stealthy, precise heroes who strike evil at the source without destroying everything in their wake. The problem with Superman is that his writers keep clinging to the old

Superman and simply throw a modern costume on him. This decision does not make Superman's image more popular with new audiences—instead, it grasps desperately to a dwindling fan base craving nostalgia.

S: I agree that his power evokes nostalgia, but the nostalgia is a byproduct of the defining theme of *Superman*: hope. After all, nostalgia is just a hope to return to the past. The symbol emblazoned on Superman's chest is not an “S,” as is commonly believed, but in fact is the Kryptonian symbol for hope. Hope, and therefore Superman, inspires us all to change.

In addition to representing everything American on the comic pages and the silver screen, the Man of Steel defended American values in the real world. For several radio episodes in the summer of 1946, Superman battled the “Clan of the Fiery Cross,” a clear stand-in for the KKK. The Klan's membership declined drastically directly following the series, a trend that Klan leadership attributed to *Superman*. Despite the Klan's attempt to organize a boycott of the show following the first episode, the story arc achieved spectacular ratings. The man from Krypton escaped the comic pages and the radio waves to defeat a threat to Truth, Justice, and the American Way.

Z: Superman is so perfect that his only weakness is a green crystal, not an exposable character flaw. Not only is Kryptonite a shallow way for villains to stand a chance against this god, but also it provides a serious plot hole in most *Superman* stories: the Kryptonite bullet. All Lex Luthor, Batman or any other opponent of Superman needs to do to achieve victory is create a gun that shoots Kryptonite bullets, and boom, Superman is dead. In any story where the Man of Steel actually dies, he is somehow always revived to fight evil. It would be fascinating to see Superman really die and watch humanity rally around his symbol, making the story not about the invincibility of one man, but the invincibility of mankind.

S: Your problem with Superman is one that all franchise heroes suffer from. All heroes are essentially immortal because writers

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Why You Should Vote in the 2016 Elections

By SAM SWOAP '16



As a member of the senior class who can vote in the next election, I've heard many people say that they aren't planning on voting in the presidential election. What follows are some of the reasons I've heard for not voting, and why I think you should vote.

I don't want to vote for the lesser of two evils.

I've also heard this as “I don't like any of the candidates.” This one is fairly straightforward. Vote for the lesser of two evils, because

then you get less evil.

I don't know who to vote for.

Just do some research online. Most candidates have their platforms on a webpage, and you can find what you agree with. It'll take you 30 minutes, tops. Research also helps to understand what other people are thinking, and major differences in America. The US is a huge country, and it's very easy to get stuck in the ‘bubble’ and not consider the perspectives of others.

America's not even a democracy, man. Elections are rigged by the corporations and the rich.

Corporations aren't people, so they can't vote. They do fund candidates, through Super PACs and such, but small donors can also affect campaigns. As for the rich, a vast majority—99%—of millionaires vote. They know that money alone can't buy elections, so they vote. If you think money does affect elections, the only way for you to fix that is to vote for someone whom you think will reform the electoral system.

I don't have the time.

Registering to vote does not take long at all, especially if you have a license. Registering to vote in Massachusetts involves getting your license out of your wallet, going on a website and putting in some information. I did it in five minutes while I was procrastinating writing this article. Voting day is one day every two years. I've wasted more time re-watching shows on Netflix.

My vote won't matter.

The way I hear this is that one person's singular vote will not decide an election. Young people (ages 18-29) make up 21% of potential voters. Less than 20% of young people voted in 2014. If everyone in that demographic followed that logic, 46 million people wouldn't vote. If everyone who doesn't vote did vote, however, that would dramatically change the political landscape as we know it.

I don't care.

That's fine with me. If you really don't care, then don't vote. But if you think that the American government affects you in the slightest, then vote. People have died for your right to be represented in government. It's not too much to ask you to respect that sacrifice. ♦

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

The Big Short Review

By SAM SWOAP '16 and ZACH ARMET '17



The Big Short, which was released in December 2015, is nominated for five Academy Awards.

One of the final movies to be released in 2015, *The Big Short* recounts the fascinating story of nine men who bet against the American economy and win big when the country entered one of its worst economic recessions in 2008. *The Big Short* feels very much like a documentary, but don't be confused; it is a high quality drama that is based on a true story.

The Big Short's cast was spectacular, with three separate narrative arcs all catching on to the same unstable foundation of the housing market crash. Following his recent success in *Foxcatcher*, Steve Carell brilliantly portrays foul-mouthed hedge fund manager Mark Baum, a moral crusader against injustice on Wall Street. Ryan Gosling plays fast-talking, self-centered Jared Vennet, a trader who narrates the story. John Magaro and Finn Wittrock play Charlie Geller and Jamie

Shipley, respectively, a pair who started an investment company out of their garage and now are ready to short the safest bets in the market, the AAA mortgages. Brad Pitt plays Ben Rickert, a retired investment banker, survivalist, and conspiracy theorist who aids Geller and Shipley in a daunting financial gamble against the American economy. Christian Bale of *The Dark Knight* rounds out the third storyline as Dr. Michael Burry, an eccentric Scion Capital manager who correctly predicts and bets against the housing market.

The Big Short has a beautiful balance of light and dark. The various quirks of the main characters are naturally humorous and fans can't help but laugh at the blatant, rude, and in-your-face profanities that are the Wall Street norm. Whenever a complex financial term arises in the

movie, one of the characters turns to the camera and, in a brief aside, introduces the audience to a cameo celebrity who explains the term in a viewer-friendly way. For example, TV personality and chef Anthony Bourdain explains Collateralized Debt Obligation in terms of fish at his restaurant, allowing the audience to better understand the otherwise unintelligible jargon of Wall Street. While these punctuating moments of brilliant humor keep the movie fun and light, *The Big Short* is not all rainbows and sunshine. The film's overarching subject matter—the 2008 recession—chills the audience. The movie puts the viewer's entire perspective of our country into question and makes the audience more aware of the extent to which our economy depends on Wall Street finance.

Another nice feature of *The Big Short* is the soundtrack, which is masterfully integrated into the story and features a wide variety of songs, from Metallica's "Master of Puppets" to "Crazy" by Gnarl Barkley. The creators of the film carefully chose the songs to directly correspond with the movie's action. For example, when Jamie and Charlie strike gold with the idea to bet against the market, the Gorillaz's "Feel Good Inc." strongly enhances the mood of the scene by providing a happy background sound to their celebrations.

Overall, *The Big Short* is a captivating story about horrible events, complete with an excellent cast and well-paced plot. We would highly recommend the film to all.

We rate it 4 out of 5 subprime loans. ♦

Jack's Hot Dogs

By JASPER ROSENHEIM '16

There were whispers on the wind: "he's coming." No one could believe it, but lo and behold, here it is. After a year-long hiatus following his wildly popular one-hit wonder review of Tony's Sombrero, the prodigal son Jasper Rosenheim has returned once again to review a restaurant, on another edition of Jasper's Favorites. So let's talk shop. You're hungry, and your mouth is desperate for some much needed loving. The saltines in your cupboard just aren't going to cut it today. Today, you let your stomach fly free.

Situated on Eagle Street in North Adams, Jack's Hot Dog Stand is a staple of the county. Founded in 1917, this old-school restaurant is small only in the size of its building. Renowned for their famously cheap and delicious grill food and a monthly hot dog eating contest, Jack's is known far and wide throughout the community and beyond. I was told to review a restaurant, and I knew in my heart it had to be Jack's.

As I went after school, parked in the movie theater parking lot and got some money out at the bank, my hands were trembling. My body somehow understood the feast that was about to take place. I paused to revel in anticipation under the neon OPEN sign, which sits above the simple handpainted sign "Jack's Hot Dog Stand" placed to the right of their apt slogan, "Fit For a King." After pulling open the heavy door to the entrance, I was met with a flurry of sensory information: the sizzling of the grill, the aimless chatter of a packed counter and, of course, the smell of pure gluttony. I took my seat on one of the green topped stools and consulted the menu hanging above the kitchen. Hot dogs, hamburgers, fries, chili and onion rings composed in different assortments with some choice condiments make up the entire menu. A crew of polite staff were in constant movement, taking multiple orders both in person and on the

phone, cooking, cleaning and making change. There appears to never be an off moment at Jack's. Yet the staff manages to interact with customers, holding conversations with the regulars and cracking jokes to each other. I ordered two chili cheese dogs and fries. The dogs are small, so if you're hungry, I would recommend two, or if you're teenage boy hungry, I would recommend three. The entire kitchen is right in front of the counter and takes up about four square feet. Grills, fryers, crock pots of cheese and chili and bun steamers are constantly being used and refilled, allowing the three chefs to manage to serve hundreds of dogs a day.

My food came in about two minutes and was gone in the same time span. The fries are real potatoes, cut short and served piping hot, still covered in oil. They are true salty perfection, with a hint of sweet-

ness from the potatoes. The chili dogs are a feat of modern culinary engineering; warm steamed buns, gooey american cheese, hot chili and, of course, a grilled hot dog come together in an elegant symphony of the mouth. Here is the best part, though: the full meal, with amazing service and unbelievable taste, cost seven dollars. Hot dogs are less than a dollar, so spending fifteen dollars at Jack's is harder than spending ten dollars at Cumby's.

Jack's stands as a testament to local business. Jack's presents to customers a friendly environment and simple menu with every item executed perfectly all for the price of an appetizer at other local restaurants. If you've never been, congratulations, you've played yourself. If you have been, you know as well as I do what's up. Jack's Hot Dog Stand is the perfect meal for any teenager and will make returning to normal lunches that much harder. ♦

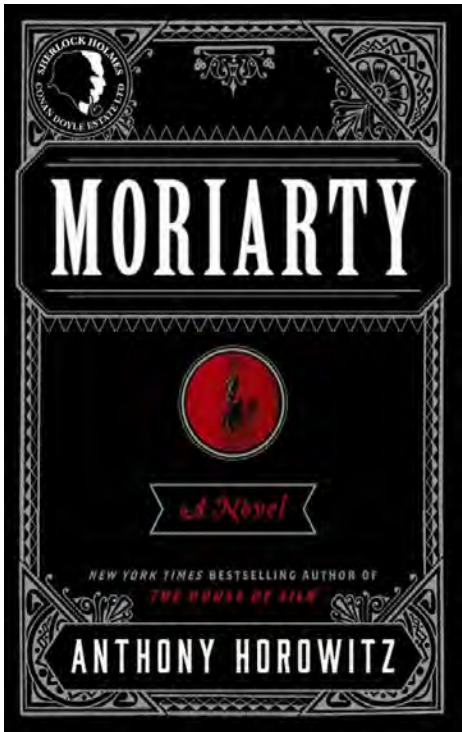


Photo courtesy of Jasper Rosenheim

Jack's hotdogs cost less than a dollar each.

Moriarty Book Review

By SIMON KENT '17



Moriarty is only the latest book by Anthony Horowitz, who began his writing career in 1979.

Today, the BBC's critically acclaimed modern day reimagining *Sherlock* is by far the most popular celebration of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's legendary detective stories. While looking forward to the *Sherlock* special "The Abominable Bride" over winter break, I read Anthony Horowitz's *Moriarty*, a cool thriller with action and excitement that picks up after the infamous affair at Reichenbach Falls and leads into an exciting reboot of the 18th century Holmes fiction. *Moriarty*'s dark tones and sinister vibe are emblematic of Horowitz, who is most known for his young adult *Alex Rider* series, featuring similar dark events, but also drawing from his work on *Foyle's War*, a British murder mystery show set in the second World War. *Moriarty* frequently pays homage to the original Conan Doyle stories, especially through one of the main detectives, Athelney Jones, a Scotland Yard detective trounced by Holmes in *The Sign of Four*, and who, after the humiliation of being beaten by him, became a devotee to his methods.

Moriarty follows Detective Jones as well as Frederick Chase, a Pinkerton investigator chasing a criminal mastermind who moves from America to London to take over the British criminal underground following professor Moriarty's demise. This bold reimagining of the series paints Watson as a nosy snob, Lestrade as an even worse detective, and Scotland Yard as a bureaucratic wasteland. These touches draw from Horowitz's own work on *Foyle's War*, whose titular character often must go outside normal channels. Jones often does the same, relying more and more upon his own initiative rather than the resources of Scotland Yard. From the beginning, Jones and Chase suspect a higher power is at play and a greater threat now that Moriarty has fallen to his death. Their pursuit of a shadowy figure throughout the quiet English crime scene retraces many of the Holmes stories, without paying out abject fan service or following one Doyle story too closely.

Overall, *Moriarty* is a cool, calm and dark thriller that reimagines Doyle's classic detective stories and pastes in hideous violence, fantastic characters and a satisfying ending that answers what happened to England after the death of Professor James Moriarty. ♦

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Tiny Desk Concert Highlights

By JASPER ROSENHEIM '16

People often ask me how I find new music. One great resource for underground hip music happens to be National Public Radio (NPR), of all places. That's right—the seducing voice of Ira Glass that adults listen to while drinking coffee during their commute. Perhaps the phrases “morning edition,” “Benghazi” and “Canajoharie” come to mind. But NPR is also known for their young staff members, who keep an ear to the sheets and connect with the youth, which is part of the way NPR appeals to a younger generation. One facet of this youth-oriented approach is the Tiny Desk Concerts. NPR reaches out to the internet, via Twitter, Reddit and other social media, and searches music forums for up-and-coming artists. The show then reaches out to those artists, inviting them to perform in the NPR studio for an intimate ten to twenty minute concert. Over the course of 2 years and 350 concerts, they have amassed a collection of diverse performances, from Wolf Alice to Adele, which are all free on their Youtube channel (NPR Music). Without further ado, here are three Tiny Desk Concerts that I particularly love.



T-Pain: You read that right, it is that T-Pain. Known for his wildly catchy hooks, rapper, singer and producer T-Pain essentially ran the billboard Top 100 from 2007-2012. With two Grammys and a number of hit singles under his belt (“Buy U a Drank,” “5 O’clock,” “I’m in Luv”), T-Pain is most well known for his popularization of heavily autotuning, or pitch-shifting, his voice. But no such vocal distortion accompanied him for his concert. Diverging from his usual ostentatious style and over-the-top presence, T-Pain adopts an articulate, soft-spoken demeanor and brings along his friend and keyboardist. He performs a handful of his most popular singles in a toned-down R&B style with an amazingly natural voice. I had always respected T-Pain for his success musically, even though I never really went out of my way to listen to it, but this concert totally changed my opinion of him. T-Pain’s Tiny Desk Concert comes way out of left field in the best kind of way.



Leon Bridges: Very well known and respected in his circle of southern blues, this Texan songwriter brings a sound straight out of the 1960s. Having picked up the guitar at the age of 20 and never receiving proper musical training, he produced his first album, which was met with critical acclaim in 2015. Dressed in bolo ties, cowboy hats and flashy vests, Leon and his crew of bass, guitar, saxophone and backup vocal/tambourine bring the audience to their feet with their upbeat soul music. Leon’s phenomenal voice easily transitions from a soothing baritone to a more vibrant tenor. If soul music isn’t your thing, this is one of the best arguments against you.



Lucius: Hailing from Brooklyn, New York, Lucius is an indie band that has seen a slow but notable rise to fame. Consisting of two female lead singers, Jess Wolfe and Holly Laessig, a drummer, guitarist and bassists, Lucius screams hipster, but in the best sense of the word. The men came to the concert wearing matching button ups, suspenders, beards and of course, an undercut to top it off. Meanwhile, the ladies match perfectly, donning patterned dresses, ornamental earrings and oversized bows in their hair; they embody the word “quirky” so much that it would put Zooey Deschanel to shame. Lucius brings a pop-alternative blend that is infectious—melodic and so fun that you can’t help but dance. Lucius holds a special place in my heart not just because I love their music, but also because I have been following them since their humble inception. I have attended early concerts with 30 attendees and more recent shows with over 1,000 fans—feeling them grow warms the cockles of my icy, icy heart.

Tiny Desk Concerts embody something more than simple musical entertainment. There are thousands of amazing musicians who are attempting to be heard, and having opportunities like Tiny Desks are not only incredible for artists that deserve more recognition (not you, T-Pain), but also for listeners at home and in the car. New, authentic music serves to break the monotony of the manufactured radio music. Lend an ear and who knows, maybe you’ll find your new favorite band. Visit npr.org/tinydeskconcerts to search the archives. ♦

Photos courtesy of NPR.org.

Superman Debate

Continued from Page 5.

know they can make easy profits from an established hero versus the risk of adopting a new face. Batman didn’t die in *Dark Knight Rises*; he just moved to a café in Italy. Cap didn’t die in *First Avengers*; he just froze in ice for seventy years. While immortality is a problem for superheroes and indeed for all protagonists, warrior-poet Ice-T said it best: “Don’t hate the player, hate the game.”

Z: Also, what makes Superman so shallow is that he is a hero first, citizen second. Peter Parker becomes Spiderman and Bruce Wayne is the Batman. Superman, however, takes on the identity Clark Kent, not vice versa. While many heroes are relatable because they are humans struggling to comprehend and harness their powers for good, Superman is an all powerful being struggling to gain humanity. Clark Kent is not relatable to fans because he is not human and, in an attempt to become one, he ends up with a bland, lifeless personality.

S: I agree, Superman does struggle to be human, but through his struggles, especially his failures, we see what it means to be human. In flashbacks throughout the storyline, we see that Superman was bullied as a child for being different, a humanizing aspect of his character. He grows up to define himself in opposition to this childhood bullying, striving to provide fairness where he can, a profoundly human experience. Some might call the bullying backstory cliché, to which I would

respond: is it cliché if you’re the first one to do it? When he struggles to create personal relationships and assimilate to society, he exposes human cruelty and flaws, yet when he triumphs with Lois Lane, we all find ourselves cheering his success. *Superman* shows that you don’t need to hail from Earth to be grippingly human.

Z: Overall, I believe that Superman is crucial to the superhero world because he was one of the first superheroes. That, however, does not mean that fans need to keep seeing him. It may be time for the superhero universe to learn from Superman’s mistakes and move on from the same old story. Batman summarized Superman’s absurd purity in a single quote: “I know Superman could squash me like a bug. But I know he won’t. Because deep down, Clark is a good person. I’m not.”

S: Superman inspires us by giving us all something to work towards. While we’re ending with quotes, here’s one. Jor-El, Superman’s father, perhaps said it best to a young Superman: “You will give the people of Earth an ideal to strive towards. They will race behind you, they will stumble, they will fall. But in time, they will join you in the sun, Kal. In time, you will help them accomplish wonders.”

Find more of Sam and Zach’s past superhero debates at greylockecho.mgrhs.org ♦

A-FRAME BAKERY
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GIRLS’ BASKETBALL: RETURNING SQUAD BRINGS SOLID PERFORMANCE

By MANAS JAIN ’17



Photo courtesy of Ian Culnane

Senior basketball captain Arianna Walden dribbles down the court.

Mt. Greylock’s girls’ basketball team has put together a strong season in the 2015-2016 school year. The start of the season was slow, with the girls facing defeats against several strong North division teams including Drury, Hoosac, Monument and Wahconah. Through 7 games, their record was 3-4. Following its loss to Wahconah, Greylock found its groove as the team put up a 6-game win streak, improving its record to an impressive 9-4. Half-way through the season, the girls’ team is in a good position for Western Mass qualification. If Greylock is able to finish off the season strong by beating Lee and Mount Everett when they meet them again, they will also be on their way to winning the Southern division.

The team consists of fairly young players with a strong core of returning players including senior captains Haley Reinhard and Arianna Walden, junior captain Sarah Stripp, junior Jenna Benzinger and sophomores Caroline Flynn and Lauren Howard. In addition, sophomore Elena Cerveira and freshman Maddie Albert are two young members of the team that contribute valuable minutes in each game. Juniors Rachel Voller and Grace Dodig are two “important leaders on the team who fight hard every time they play,” said Stripp.

Stripp, Reinhard and Walden have been playing sports with each other since elementary school, making them a dynamic group of captains. Stripp commented, “I

think it is valuable to have two senior captains above me so I can learn about being a captain this year and carry it over into next year. We know each other really well, and we each sort of have our own responsibilities as captains based on our personalities.” Walden plays a vital role on the team as a top scoring threat against every team, often leading her team to victory. Reinhard, having played on the team for several years, brings her experience and dedication to the court everyday, proving invaluable for the less experienced players on the team. In every game, Stripp offers stellar defensive abilities and easily manages pressure. Together, Stripp, Walden and Reinhard push the team to become more dynamic, dedicated and motivated.

Later in the season, the Greylock girls hope to get a 5 or a 6 seed in the tournament. Many of their losses, after all, were just single digit margins. Stripp said, “Every team we have played, we can compete with. The most important thing we can work on is just being consistent through the entire game and not going through quarters where we only score a couple points.” It can be said, without a doubt, that the Mt. Greylock girls’ basketball team has improved exceptionally since the beginning of the season in December and is poised to accomplish a great deal throughout the remainder of the regular season and later in Western Mass. ♦

Winter Sports: Mid-Season Recap

*As of 2/3/16

Boys’ Basketball

Coach: Bob Thistle
Captains: Aaron Ronnow, Pat Storie, Cal Filson
Record: 8 - 6

Girls’ Basketball

Coach: John Jacobbe
Captains: Arianna Walden, Haley Reinhard, Sarah Stripp
Record: 9 - 7

Boys’ Nordic Skiing

Coach: Hiram Greene
Captains: Ian Culnane, Matt Wiseman
Record: 3 - 1

Girls’ Nordic Skiing

Coach: Hillary Greene
Captains: Grace Smith, Greta Savitsky, Sophie Gerry, Ellie Williams
Record: 4 - 0

Wrestling

Coach: Ray Miro
Captains: Cayman Mead, Hunter Abriel, Alex Griffis, Devin Pelletier
Record: 26 - 9

Swimming (co-op team)

Head Coach: Eryn Brewer
Assistant Coach: Jamie Taylor
Greylock members: Elizabeth Bernardy, Julia Whitney, Emma Whitney (captains), Artem Dudko, Hannah Witter, Katherine Wilson, Kate Bernardy, Elizabeth Bartlett
Record: 9 - 1

Hockey: (co-op team)

Head Coach: Don Disbrow
Greylock members: Hoby MacWhinnie, Cole Seaman, Jack Milne, Kyle Bazonski

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BOYS’ BASKETBALL: A RECENT HISTORY

By ELIAS SEKKAL’17



Photo courtesy of Ian Culnane

Senior Zach Ronnow goes for a basket.

The Mt. Greylock boys’ basketball team sits on top of the Berkshire County South Division, boasting a successful campaign which is edging them ever closer to post-season qualification. Breaking the Western Mass Top 20 rankings for all divisions and sitting at 19th for the last week of January, the Mounties have been on a run of solid performances. January is always an important month in basketball, claiming almost half of all regular season games. This January was a defining month for Greylock, as they went 6-5, highlighted by a Friday night home win against Drury on January 22. Now just over halfway through the season, the Mounties have earned enough early performances to gun for a Western Mass seed and make what would be Greylock’s third post-season appearance in the last four years.

Coach Bob Thistle is currently in the middle of his fourth season with Mount Greylock. Assuming the position for the 2012-2013 season, Thistle began his tenure with the Mounties with a spectacular first season. Ending with an overall record of 18-4, Mount Greylock qualified for Western Mass early and won their division. With a deep roster boasting a balanced starting five and talented bench, the Mounties went on an 11 game

win streak, suffering no losses for over a month between January 3 and February 5. Senior center and captain Tyler Picard dominated the court with his 6-6 frame, leading Greylock in points and rebounds. Fellow seniors Hank Barrett and Nathan Majumder were also pivotal players, commanding the back court in what was a deadly guard duo. In the Western Mass tournament, the Mounties defeated Smith Vocational soundly before bowing out to St. Joe in the Quarterfinals.

The 2013-2014 season was less fruitful for the Mounties, as they failed to qualify for the post-season that year. Finishing with an overall record of 7-12, Greylock did have a few impressive wins including a league double over Drury and a solid team performance over St. Joe. Senior Cole Jackson led the team on points for the season, and junior Eric Hirsch finished what was a rebuilding year with the most assists and 3-point shots made.

Last season’s 12-9 team was another talented squad that earned a post-season appearance and a number of important wins against good opponents. With a senior-heavy roster, the 2014-2015 Greylock boys’ basketball team brought

athleticism and developed talent to the court as seniors Emmett Shepard and Eric Hirsch assumed the role of point earners, combining for 297 points and 65 3-point shots. Shepard earned an All-Western Mass. Division III First Team selection, while Hirsch and Ian Brink were named to the Second Team. Greylock left the Western Mass Tournament early however, losing to Hoosac Valley, the eventual state champions, 48-52 in the Quarterfinals.

This year, Thistle and the team are mounting another strong season. Senior center Zach Ronnow brings flair to the “big man” role with consistent outside-the-arc shooting while leading the team in rebounds. Junior guard and captain Pat Storie stands as the primary scorer for the Mounties’ leading the team by almost 50 points. Senior captains Cal Filson and Aaron Ronnow have also played important roles in Greylock’s success, while sophomores Sam Dils and Sean McCormack bring athleticism to the Mounties’ game. With the entire month of February left to play, Greylock has to now focus on maintaining its momentum and staying prepared and confident. If the Mounties can perform over the next few weeks, another strong run for the Western Mass Division III title is sure to come. ♦

WRESTLING: FAREWELL TO A BELOVED COACH

BY ZACH ARMET '17



Photo courtesy of Ian Culnane

Junior wrestling captain Devin Pelletier, depicted holding his own against an opponent, said that Miro pushed him to improve.

Coach Raymond Miro has been coaching Mt. Greylock's successful wrestling team for 25 years and has taught at the school for 19, and at the end of this year he will retire. Having a total of over 500 wins and never coaching a losing season, Miro has certainly excelled at Mt. Greylock as a coach, but that is not his only position of merit. Rarely does a student pass through Mt. Greylock and not leave with a story to tell about Miro, from health class shenanigans to dancing to gangsta rap in the gym.

"I know I'm going to miss it," Miro said of his time at Mt. Greylock. "It was a lot of fun; I enjoy teaching, and the daily in-

teractions with kids are what made it fun everyday." Miro teaches health class to sophomores and middle schoolers, as well as Physical Education. Miro's students have noted his tough and rather strict demeanor, but Miro says he has his reasons and is not merely some "grumpy old man." He explained, "I like to go a little tougher on the seventh and eighth graders. I care about these kids, and I want them to do their best in everything they do. Kids are going to make mistakes, and you can't save them from those mistakes, but I want to be there to help." Miro's tough visage is, in reality, a result of his caring personality and respect for Mt. Greylock students.

Although he is certainly an accomplished teacher, some of Miro's greatest achievements occurred out of the classroom and on the wrestling mats. In 2013, Coach Miro was inducted into the Wrestling Hall of Fame due to his overwhelming amount of County, Western Mass and State trophies. After 25 years of hard work, Miro has turned Mt. Greylock into a well respected name in wrestling throughout the state and beyond. Miro attributes his successes as a coach to his wrestlers, saying that "they wrestle hard and are good sportsmen, which is important. I have high expectations for the team, but no matter how good [the team is] there is always someone to knock [us] off the pedestal. It's certainly humbling." Top wrestler and junior Devin Pelletier commented, "When I first started wrestling, I didn't really try that hard, but Coach Miro saw the potential in me and really pushed me to be my best." When asked about the future of the team, Miro stated that "the assistant coaches are great and the team is in good hands for the future."

In the end, Miro has definitely left a legacy at Mt. Greylock. "It's been a great experience. I look to where I grew up and look at where I'm ending up and I can't be happier." After so many years of teaching and coaching, Miro is able to share some of the wisdom he gained from the experience. "I've been reflecting a lot recently, and I think the main lesson I have learned is to be yourself and not be afraid of making mistakes. If you are honest and truthful to who you are, you will go far." ♦

HOCKEY: AN INTERVIEW WITH KYLE BAZONSKI

BY CAL FILSON '16



Photo courtesy of Sue Beaudoin

Junior Kyle Bazonski skates down the rink in a recent game.

Mt. Greylock offers a generous amount of winter sports options; however, one sport that our school does not offer is hockey. Fortunately for hockey players that attend Mt. Greylock, the Wahconah Warriors offer a co-op program for Wahconah, Mt. Greylock, Drury, McCann, and Hoosac Valley members. The Echo sat down with junior Kyle Bazonski, a starting defenseman for the Wahconah Warriors, to discuss his time as a hockey player.

Echo: How is the season going?

Kyle: It's going pretty well. We're 8-3-1 and have played a lot of tough teams from outside the state.

What is the dynamic like playing with guys from other schools?

At first it's different, but it's not too bad. I've played with most of the kids from the travel teams that most of the kids played on when we were all younger. We all played on the Berkshire Bruins when we were younger, so from that I got to play with guys a year older than me and a year younger than me.

Going back to your schedule, how has it helped you guys to play tough teams from the Springfield area and beyond?

Well, a couple teams didn't want to play us because when they do, we figure out their gameplan and usually beat them in the playoffs. We have a lot of easy games. Playing challenging teams gives us a reminder that we aren't really good for beating bad teams. Also, playing really good teams makes those small problems that we encountered against the bad teams a lot more visible so we can correct them before the playoffs.

Your coaches are notably good. Can you talk about their importance to the team?

Kyle: We have four main coaches. Our head coach is Coach Disbrow. He's a really good coach. He's friendly to everyone, but really pushes us. He loves offense so we do a lot of offensive training. Then we have Coach Newts--probably the best coach in the state. He's even coached professional hockey. Coach Newts is always there for any player. He'd bring a guy out to eat just to make them feel more a part of the team. There is Coach MacWhinnie, who is one of the tougher coaches that is all about defense. He's the one that makes us do sprints and keeps the team in line, but he'll joke around with the team, too. Lastly, there's Coach Montferret, who played division I hockey. He isn't around a lot, but he likes to yell and get the team thinking about the game or try to turn a bad game around. Overall, I think our coaching staff balances itself out so that it is a well balanced group with different ideas. That's why we are such a good hockey team. ♦

BOYS' AND GIRLS' NORDIC SKIING: REIGN CONTINUES

By AARON KLEINER '17

For many members of the Mt. Greylock community, this winter's lack of snow has been irritating, saddening and sometimes maddening. For no one is it more frustrating than for the nordic ski teams, led by Coach Hillary Greene. Because there has not been substantial snow accumulation on the Mt. Greylock grounds, both teams have needed to rely heavily on dry land training with roller skis for practices. To add to that, several races have already been canceled or postponed, and the future meets are far from certain. However, junior Evan Arthur emphasized the importance of maintaining an optimistic attitude, saying, "It is very frustrating, but you have to keep up the positivity and work hard even in dry land training."

In the four races that have taken place so far, both teams have performed in the dominant fashion that has long charac-

terized Mt. Greylock Nordic Skiing. Led by senior Grace Smith, who has placed first in every race this season, the girls' team is eager to go one step further than last year's runner-up performance and take the state championship. With the same top eight skiers from last year returning, the girls are more than capable of exceeding last year's performance. On the boys' end, a sixth straight state title is all but a requirement. Seniors Matt Wiseman, Ian Culnane and Tommy Kirby have all been putting in strong performances.

Both teams are very optimistic for the upcoming months. Looking back at the her team's months of hard work, senior skier Greta Savitsky said, "It's been a really rewarding senior season so far. The energy of the team, even with the lack of snow, has been incredible." ♦



Photo courtesy of Tamara Hitchcock

Senior Grace Smith races down the slopes at Berkshire East in Charlemont, MA.

GIRLS' SWIMMING: POISED FOR POSTSEASON

By GRAY KAEGI '16



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Bernardy

Senior swim captain Elizabeth Bernardy glides through the water.

One of the largest co-op teams in Berkshire County is the St. Joseph Swim Team. Despite dwindling numbers resulting after its move to Hoosac, the girls' team remains a strong group comprised of 17 swimmers from Mt. Greylock, Drury, Hoosac, McCann and St.

Joseph. So far this season, the team has been extremely successful and stands undefeated.

The team is looking forward to a strong presence in the postseason thanks to excellent performances from Greylock

swimmers. In swimming, members of the team move on to postseason as individuals in their respective races. Greylock swimmers who have made time cuts allowing them proceed to postseason include seniors Elizabeth Bernardy, Emma Whitney and Julia Whitney and junior Elizabeth Bartlett.

"The team this year is stronger than ever," said Whitney. "We have more depth than ever before with a lot of new faces on the team that are willing to swim any event."

This year, the team joined Division 1 and will compete against much bigger schools in the postseason. "We have been a part of the division once before when we were with Hoosac, but we got put into it again this year because of our performance as a team," said Bernardy. Despite the daunting challenge of larger rival schools, the team's times are extremely impressive and the team will look to cap off this great season with an even greater postseason. ♦

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Crossword
By JERRY BERNES

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- DOWN**

 - 1) Weep
 - 2) Memphis-to-Nashville dir.
 - 3) Heathrow airport listing (Abbr.)
 - 4) Chagall and Antony
 - 5) DNA shapes
 - 6) Architectural annex
 - 7) Propel a boat
 - 8) More frigid and slippery
 - 9) Less agitated
 - 10) Hints at (with “to”)
 - 11) Feeling of satisfaction
 - 12) Basket weaver’s material
 - 13) Appraised
 - 18) Giving off light
 - 23) Deep sleep
 - 24) Diminish in intensity
 - 25) Some purified liquids
 - 26) Small projecting ridge
 - 28) Cotsworld cries
 - 31) Descendant or heir
 - 35) Skewered farfe
 - 37) Common sweetener
 - 38) Opposite of ecstasy
 - 40) Unwelcome obligation
 - 42) Rejection of a request
 - 45) Emulated a bull
 - 47) Iditarod vehicle
 - 50) Curtain call
 - 53) Country in the Himalayas
 - 54) A Muse
 - 55) ___ different tune (changed one’s mind)
 - 57) State one’s views
 - 63) Costa del ___
 - 64) “___ a deal!”
 - 65) Shooter’s marble
 - 66) Bar rocks
 - 67) Where bacon is stored?
- ACROSS**

 - 1) “___ like old times”
 - 6) “Fear of Fifty author Jong
 - 11) Endorsing
 - 14) Like draft beer
 - 15) Union group
 - 16) “Anytown, ___”
 - 17) Hold grudges
 - 19) Blazing
 - 20) French wine classification
 - 21) Australian with three toes
 - 22) Doctor’s due
 - 23) Pathetically inept person
 - 27) Cardinal
 - 29) Japanese tie
 - 30) Focal device
 - 32) One-eighth of a piece of eight
 - 33) Faux ___ (blunder)
 - 34) Moved stealthily
 - 36) Latin music type
 - 39) Chancellor von Bismarck
 - 41) Three-tone chord
 - 43) Holier-than-thou
 - 44) Jockey’s controls
 - 46) Like brains and ears
 - 48) Alter ___
 - 49) The moon in Paris
 - 51) Double negative?
 - 52) One of the Bobbsey Twins
 - 53) Some wrestling holds
 - 56) Prejudice
 - 58) Historic time
 - 59) Alternative to JVC, once
 - 60) Cleo’s killer
 - 61) Butter unit
 - 62) Reason for many surgeries
 - 68) Brunched
 - 69) Disease of cereals
 - 70) Establish as law
 - 71) ___ Altos, Calif.
 - 72) Does a casino job
 - 73) Disney duck

Comic
By SOPHIE GERRY (‘16)

VALENTINES
DAY 101

A BASIC GIRLS
GUIDE

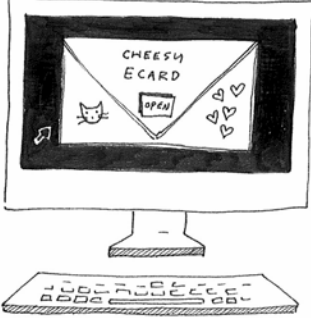




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HER GRANDMA