

# The Greylock Eggplant

Spoof Edition

Mount Greylock - Williamstown, MA

April 1, 2025

## Presidential Punch-Out Scheduled

BY SABEAN GARAH

If all the class presidents got into a fight, who would win? Well, that's exactly what will be determined in the fight to end all fights taking place after school on Tuesday, April 1st, in the Mount Greylock gym.

All Mount Greylock students and faculty are invited to watch the showdown of the century, where Morris Israel, Timothy Karampatsos, Frances Evans and Erik Powell-Bechtel will hash it out in the ring.

Although most Greylock students are unaware or uninterested in what roles their class presidents take on, some students have developed a surprising new interest in school politics, especially when it involves physical violence. Sophomore Sara Ehle put it best when she said, "I lowkey forgot Tim was our president, but he better win."

The presidents have been reportedly training very hard in preparation for their matches. First-year class president Morris Israel claimed that he has "been averaging about 64 chocolate milks a week in order to bulk up for this fight." He confidently added, "No one's gonna take me down."

On the other hand, sophomore class president Timothy Karampatsos has taken a very different approach to his training:

"I've been spending roughly 8 hours per day on Super Smash Bros just to build up my endurance and prepare myself for that level of intensity."

All contestants have agreed to the terms of this tournament, which were drafted by the Student Council and thoroughly examined by both the administration and physical education department. "The parameters are simple," said student council president Knowl Stroud. "Fighters will be paired off into twos, starting with Frankie versus Morris and Erik versus Tim. The winner of those matches will then go onto the final."

This event also serves as a fundraiser, and

according to Stroud, "Entry is five dollars per student."

All of the grades have a desperate need for more class funds, so, as agreed upon by the class officers, the winning president's class will, in addition to glory, be rewarded all the proceeds from the event, save the Student Council's 95% cut for the reffing, set up and organization of the tournament.

Although it is not confirmed who originally proposed the fight, junior class president and Eggplant editor Frances Evans claimed that, "This beef goes way back." She explained that there was "originally a silly argument over which of us would theoretically win in a fight, but it got heated pretty quickly." She stated, "I mean, I'm 100% confident I would destroy them, but now I'll get the chance to prove it."

Evans is not the only one who has been making some fiery statements. President Powell-Bechtel was overheard by an inside source telling some of his friends that he would "teach those kids a lesson," in reference to his underclassmen counterparts.

The underclassmen, Karampatsos and Israel, have also made some bold claims when interviewed about the upcoming fight. Karampatsos said, "I've never been more ready for this fight. I'm excited to make the Class of 2027 proud," while Israel explained that, "Just because I'm the youngest doesn't mean I hit the lightest if you know what I mean. I'm ready to show these guys what the Class of 2028 is all about."

All the fighters are revved up and ready to box. The students of Mount Greylock are anxiously awaiting the day the victor will finally be determined and hope that their grade will come out on top. No one knows how it will all go down, but it's safe to say this will be a fight like no other. 🍆



Photo Courtesy of Ristiv Kalhotram & Sabean Garah

## 1 in 650: Interview with The Track

BY TONA NÓPEZ



Photo Courtesy of Ristiv Kalhotram

After decades of deliberation, the Mount Greylock track is finally here in the flesh, ready to be the subject of Coach Gill's seemingly endless track-related escapades. The Eggplant sat down with the newly finished construction project to discuss its building, usage and family tree. Parts of the interview were going to be edited for clarity, but the Eggplant staff were too lazy.

**E: First of all, I want to welcome you to the Greylock community!**

Track: Thank you. It was quite the process getting here.

**E: Oh, I'm sure. Walk me through that journey. First was the debate about your existence...**

T: No, please, don't go there.

**E: Oh...I'm...I'm so sorry. I wasn't aware that was a sensitive topic.**

T: Sensitive topic?? How could it not be? People complaining that you're too expensive, questioning your worth, fights between your cousins.

**E: Cousins?**

T: Yes, I'm related to grass and turf: it's a weird family tree. They were arguing about which one would be a suitable pair for me.

**E: Oh I see. Well, we can move on. How was the moving process?**

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## Welch Saves AP Euro Class from Born-Again Rasputin

Dell Low reports on the rapid rise and fall of the mythic Russian figure.

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## Cafeteria Launches Doordash Empire

Ristiv Kalhotram details the success story of Williamstown's new food empire, run out of the Greylock cafeteria.

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## Techy or Culty? Investigation on the Daily "Tech Circle"

Charlit Hulubar shares the disturbing truth on Page 7.

## The Resurgence of Antony (The GOAT)

Chill Igoe outlines the history of Antony and his recent rise in form at Real Betis.

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# NEWS

## Rejoice! Summer is No More!

BY READ ONLY

In a shocking turn of events, the district's school committee unanimously voted to shorten summer for Mount Greylock, Lanesborough Elementary and Williamstown Elementary from 12 weeks to just two weeks. The vote was proposed and supported by the local teachers union as well as student representatives from all three schools.

The main impetus for the change was a need to combat loss of knowledge. Studies show that over summer vacation, students forget almost everything they learned the previous year. The Wall Street Journal reported that students may have a 10% loss of I.Q. per year they don't study over summer. This would not be a problem, but most students do not know how to study outside of school. Max Wied, a first-year at Mount Greylock, said, "I don't study at all over summer break. I really wish I could though." The School Committee cited many sources for their decision, including reports from the National Education Association, The New York Times, The New Yorker, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal and many other prestigious news sources. The data are clear that without mental challenges over the summer, students become anti-social, inarticulate, belligerent and lazy.

Another major factor in the decision was

students' happiness. Without any school to go to or any work to do, studies have shown that kids' mental health deteriorates. Many children around the globe end up miserable over the long summer break. According to The New York Times, during summer vacation kids frequently



*Students celebrate the calendar change.  
Photo Courtesy of Ristiv Kalhotram*

mope around indoors, bemoaning the fact that they can't go to math class. School, however, gives them everything they need: tests, quizzes and stress! These sad and dejected children need work to do in order to be happy and healthy.

Research also shows that adolescents socialize less over the summer. One study by The Economist shows that the most common activity for children during summer break is watching paint dry. Watching grass grow is a close second, while doing chores comes in third. These data evince that children end up spending their entire summers waiting for school to start up again.

The Mount Greylock School Committee was tasked with making this momentous decision during the spring, and had overwhelming support from the students of all three schools. When news of the Committee's decision was announced, students and teachers alike rejoiced. Some literally jumped for joy. "Today is the best day of my life!" announced an elated seventh grader. First-year Olivia Perez said, "I'm so excited about this new rule. I was so sick of being bored all summer." Fellow first-year Luke Irwin added, "I can't tell you how long I've been dreaming about summer break being shortened."

More good news is coming soon as the School Committee recently announced that the weekend is next on the chopping block. Stay tuned for more info! 🍆

## Chromebooks Plagued by Unknown Virus

BY ROBIN EGG

The 2024-25 school year at Mount Greylock is in jeopardy due to a never-before-seen software virus that has plagued the teachers' new Chromebooks. The origin of the malware is still unknown, but the adverse effects that it has had on teachers and students alike are numerous.

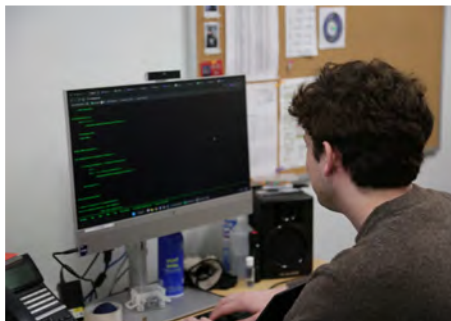
Back in January, the administration issued brand-new chromebooks to all of the educators at Mount Greylock. While the gift was meant with good intentions to help them better understand the student experience, the implementation and functionality of these new devices turned out to be marred by numerous flaws.

When the teachers first got their new Chromebooks, many of them recognized that some aspects of their new computers were rather flawed. The trouble started with occasional technical difficulties of varying harmfulness levels, such as not being unable to project a slideshow, software not running on the new system or potentially even getting calls about suspicious credit card activity. Teachers responded creatively and adapted their lesson plans to accommodate. While they caused minor inconveniences, these occasions did not seem that out of the ordinary for the faculty of Mount Greylock. This was only the start though, as things would continue to escalate.

History teacher Jeffery Welch's classroom experiences daily technological incidents. One time, the loudspeaker appeared to have been overtaken, playing music by pop artist Gracie Abrams for the entirety of the class. Welch also described multiple instances of "Rasputin" by

Boney M "forcibly interrupting" his lectures, which expert Eggplant analysts have traced back to the computer virus.

The virus has been "rapidly spreading" according to recently returned biology and disease expert Sarah Holmes, and "it will not likely be containable or possible to exterminate." Holmes expressed worry for the health of the Mount Greylock technology based on the



*Greylock's new technology specialist, Jacob Keplinger, hard at work using his hacking skills in an attempt to disarm the virus.  
Photo Courtesy of Knowl Strowd*

severity and symptoms of the condition.

There have also been several reports of the software bug spreading to other electronic devices throughout the school, and not one department of Mount Greylock has been safe from the chaos. Band and choral director Jacqueline Vinette relayed one incident where

"the virus was able to hijack the speakers at the prism concert and play a frequency that made all instruments sound a half-step sharp." Additionally, a multitude of musical audio clips in the Chromebook storage drive have been replaced and destroyed due to the virus.

Eggplant staff have been searching for someone highly knowledgeable on all aspects of a Mount Greylock personal computer in an attempt to better understand the specifics of the situation. I questioned student Chromebook advisor and library assistant Scott Burdick about the cause of the virus. Burdick expressed how despite numerous attempts, "there was nothing that even [he] could do...things at Mount Greylock would simply never be the same." Burdick also alluded to unverified claims that the spectacle could be "at the hands of a foreign government."

Each month of the 2024-25 school year has been met with more frequent malfunctioning occurrences, sending much of the faculty into hysteria. The district is yet to address the situation, though there is speculation that a team of engineers, DOGE employees and the US Department of Health and Human Services are on their way to Mount Greylock. 🍆

# NEWS

## Cafeteria Launches DoorDash Empire

BY RISTIV KALHOTRAM

At the beginning of the 2024-25 school year, Mount Greylock made history by launching its world-renowned dishes on DoorDash, offering its culinary excellence throughout the district. This move has sent shockwaves in the community, with restaurants not able to compete with Mount Greylock.

This decision came after the administration realized major budget cuts would be needed to keep the school afloat. Also, Greylock has had a loss of revenue from offering free lunch since the beginning of the COVID pandemic. The dissolution of the Latin Department was proposed, but was harshly rejected as students would no longer be able to say, *veni, vidi, vici* to assert dominance.

Over the summer, the administration came up with an idea that would transform the Greylock Cafeteria into a full-fledged food enterprise. By selling food at concerningly low prices, they could dominate the culinary scene and, with the increased accessibility on DoorDash, they could make enough money to keep the budget afloat.

This strategy has been a massive success, thanks to the hard-working cafeteria staff, who often don't get the credit they deserve. The lunch staff have had to keep up with the impossible demands of running this service on DoorDash. They have continued to work tirelessly to keep the whole operation running, showing they are the real backbone of Greylock's new empire.

Food Service Director Tammy Jennings has been the managerial mastermind behind cooking and selling the food on DoorDash, which has garnered close to \$500,000. It has been extremely popular among town members and has become a classic late-night option for Williams students. Many have claimed it's better than the food they get from dining halls, something that should concern the best liberal arts school in the United States. Former Greylock student and current Williams sophomore Beatrix Padrani said, "the meat Williams served at the dining halls gave me food poisoning, so I had to go vegetarian, but the spicy chicken

sandwich has been a lifesaver."

It's quite easy to buy the food. All you need is to search "Mount Greylock Regional School" on DoorDash and place your order. The only catch is that you can only get one entree, two sides, and one drink per day, and they are 99% confident (they checked IRS) that the true probability of an order taking 10 hours falls between 57% to 92%, so plan accordingly (Polidoro et al).

This is just the beginning, and principal Jacob Schutz has plans for the future. He said, "we don't see ourselves as a school anymore but as a global food distribution company." Schutz also hinted at Greylock acquiring the North Adams Stop & Shop for production purposes, and moving past just DoorDash to open a restaurant.

Not only has this new program supplied food, but it has also allowed bus drivers, who are often bored during the school day, to deliver food across the district. While their working conditions are similar to those of Amazon, the administration assures having a monopoly is more important.

This program hasn't come without backlash, with students questioning the integrity of the food. Junior Thomas Warren said the roast oven chicken "doesn't have much meat." The administration, taking inspiration from American leaders, has censored these claims and silenced doubters—Warren has been missing for the past few days.

Local restaurants like Tony's Sombrero and Spice Root, prior town favorites, haven't been able to keep up with this new program. "I can't compete with Greylock's low fajita prices. They've been killing our business, and it's been a very challenging year," said the owner of Tony's Sombrero, Hector Palestino.

The Log by Ramunto's has also been struggling since September, and have lost massive amounts of their clientele. Spring Street Market has hinted at declaring bankruptcy before the school year ends and may try to bargain with Greylock for survival. Fro-yo shop Spoon Cafe

closed in November, as they were unable to compete with the juice slushies on the menu, which has been described as an S-tier dessert by many students.

This has caught the attention of venture capitalist and Williamstown local, Brad Svugluga. Svugluga said, "It seems like a promising enterprise." News of this program has started to echo all across Massachusetts and will become national news soon.

With an extremely bright future, and attention from investors, there have been rumors Greylock might create an IPO (Initial Public Offering). Greylock Food Corporation could become the next big thing, with plans for global domination by 2030. Although this may have started as a simple solution, it has quickly grown into a company with new goals.

As Schutz says, "Education may have been our goal. But making a profit on school lunch? Now that's the real deal."

America should watch out. GFC is here to stay. 🍇



## 1 in 650 Cont.

Continued from Page 1

T: You mean being constructed?

E: Yes, that.

T: Awful. Luckily it was pretty quick. But while it lasted—wow. It was terrible. My construction started in the fall, but didn't stop in the winter, which meant that I was subjected to frigid conditions. In fact, two of my lanes developed frostbite—I almost became a six lane track! There were roads and sidewalks cut all around me, so everywhere I looked was more pain and suffering. When the concrete was poured down, I really thought it was the end. It was so heavy.

E: Oh my gosh. I'm so sorry to hear that. How have you been recovering?

T: Well, it's been a pretty tedious trek, but I've been managing. In the mornings, I love to watch the sunrise; it's beautiful. Kind of makes the whole thing worth it. And, during the day,

I watch the trucks by the back of the school and the animals in the woods. I'm an avid bird watcher, and I have the best view of the woods on campus.

E: Really? What's the most interesting bird you've seen so far?

T: Well, it's a little bit of a basic answer, but I love blue jays. They're just so vibrant and pretty. I've been surrounded by dirt and dust for so long that their colors are much appreciated.

E: Blue jays are definitely a good choice. Now that you've mostly recovered, are you excited for the upcoming track season?

T: That's a loaded question. Let's see...I'm going to say yes, with a caveat. I am excited to be used and loved, but it's a big team. That leaves a lot of potential for me to be damaged. As long as the team respects the golden rule, I'll

be thrilled to serve as their home.

E: Oh I'm sure they will. Our track team has a pretty good reputation.

T: So I've heard. The other tracks in the county and I have been chatting. Wahconah is my closest friend so far, but they have all been very welcoming.

E: The tracks talk? How?

T: With the birds. We all love them. We give them messages and they deliver them.

E: Wow, I had no idea. Well, I'm glad that you're excited for the season and settling in. We're all looking forward to your first year. It's been great talking with you!

T: Thank you, it's been a pleasure. 🍇

# NEWS

## Welch Saves AP Euro Class from Born-Again Rasputin

BY DELL LOW

On Tuesday, March 11th, Rasputin jumped out of history teacher Jeffrey Welch's white board projection. The students gasped with excitement, shock and fear as he began marching around the room singing "Ra-Ra Rasputin, lover of the Russian Queen."

Grigori Rasputin, a self-proclaimed holy man and mystic of the early 1900's, had a significant influence over the Russian royal family because of his perceived ability to heal the Emperor and Empress' hemophiliac son, Alexei Nikolaevich. However, his controversial/violent behavior and widespread influence led to his assassination by Russian nobles in 1916, leaving behind a lasting legacy of mystery and lust.

"At first," sophomore Reese Raymond remarked, "I was excited to meet the infamous Rasputin. I couldn't believe that my hero was alive and standing right before my eyes!" Students in Block 1 shared Raymond's joy, but Welch had a sneaking feeling the bliss was going to end soon.

When asked about his gut feeling he said, "I was pleased that my students were entertained, but I knew that Rasputin must have had ulterior motives."

Meanwhile, Rasputin was singing and dancing with the students to the tune of "Rasputin" by Boney M. Sophomores Mai Dekel and Sam Beck both agree that Rasputin was "eye candy" and all they wanted to do was "run away with Rasputin to a faraway castle."

Rasputin caused quite a stir as he began teaching the class about European history, claiming that he had "a significantly more accurate idea of the series of events that were precursors to [his] death."

Rasputin taught the class about his healing abilities, the characteristics of the Emperor and Empress of Russia and the chaos in Russia caused by World War I.

AP Euro student and sophomore Cassidy Cohen-McFall said, "It was all quite interest-



Welch poses with replica of the fateful mug.  
Photo Courtesy of Knowl Strowd

ing, really. Who knew Rasputin could teach history so well? I am also pleased to say that his charm is in fact real! He is so mysterious."

According to Welch, during this demonstration Rasputin began to act strange: shivering aggressively, unable to control his bladder—

wetting himself almost every 5 minutes and eyeing the kids with an aggression that Welch couldn't quite place. Although he had suspicion, Welch believed that it was normal, as Rasputin had spent over 100 years beyond the grave. All of a sudden, Rasputin began to let out shrill cries, almost as if a demon were trying to escape his body.

"We were afraid," said sophomore Nathan Gill, "and we all ran to the door because the shrieks were bursting our eardrums, but when we got there, both doors were locked!"

Rasputin began to laugh. It grew louder and louder until he suddenly stopped.

Sophomore Leo Slater-Lee had a moment of relief. Slater-Lee said, "I shouted 'Finally!' unprepared for what was about to come next."

Rasputin then pulled out a sword from behind his back and began uncontrollably spinning in circles.

Welch said, "In this moment, I knew I had to do something. Their fate relied on me and I was not going to back down."

As Rasputin chased around the students with his sword, Welch grabbed his "What Would Jeff Do?" mug and smashed it right on top of Rasputin's head, knocking him out cold. Welch then took his sword and ended the second life of Rasputin, calming his students down, and ultimately saving the day.

The school would like to thank Mr. Welch on behalf of the students and administration for his heroic act and will put a plaque up honoring his name during a grand ceremony at the end of the school year. 🍇

## Clipping Overload Causes Chaos

BY AFAEL BELLOW-MARTELS

It all started on March 3rd, 2025. At first, it seemed like an average Monday at Mount Greylock. Then the clipping overload began, creating school-wide mania.

It began with our very own peer team. The idea came from senior Kate Shelsy, who, as a part of peer team, wanted to find an activity to unite the school. The idea was to put nice and inspiring words on clothespins, and distribute them among the student body, hoping that they would bring a smile to everyone's face.

When the fateful day arrived, Peer Team distributed their large array of clothespins, clipping people as they walked by. Each clothespin had its own joyful phrase, ranging from "You are so cool" to "You get three big booms."

As the clothespins spread around the school, traveling from person to person and spreading exuberance, it seemed like a success. By the end of day, almost every student could say that they had been clipped at least once.

By the time Tuesday came, however, there were a significantly lower number of clips in circulation around the school. The once-delightful game transformed, and it became shameful to be clipped. Students started turning on their own friends, chasing them around trying to clip

them. The chased students began to run away in order to save themselves from the embarrassment of being clipped. It got to the point that you could hear constant screams as students ran through the halls trying to avoid being clipped and the ever-present clippers chased them down.

But when Wednesday rolled in, it became apparent that the clipping problem was only getting worse. Students had started adding clips to the original supply. But these clips were different. Instead of the usual heartfelt messages, these clips were intended to bring embarrassment. New phrases such as "You have negative aura" were spread around the school.

This influx of clips caused great problems, especially for senior Vera de Jong. When she opened her locker, hundreds of clips spilled out and covered the floor. "I'm just so confused," said de Jong. "How did all of these clips fit?"

At this point, Shelsy was extremely confused with how her activity had gone so wrong. In an interview, Shelsy stated, "I was just trying to create a fun activity that everyone in the school could participate in. I could never have expected this."

No one expected that this situation could

possibly get worse, but by the end of Wednesday, it did. Clipping had reached a whole new extreme, now becoming violent. All of the sudden, the nurse's office was overfilled with students seeking treatment for all sorts of injuries. One student was even rushed to the hospital after he collapsed from not being able to breathe due to the sheer amount of clips he had on his body.

The administrators and staff decided that this social experiment had gone far enough and joined forces to put an end to the clipping mania. At first, they tried to remove all clips from the school by seizing them from the students. But the administrators soon realized that there were just too many clips, and collecting them all would be impossible.

Instead, the school's administrators came up with a plan. They began to use their own clips, replacing hall passes and detention slips. They hoped that the students would see the teachers' use of clips and stop themselves from using them.

For a few days, their plan was a success and soon Mount Greylock was back to normal. That was until the following Tuesday, when a sudden

*Continued on Page 9*

# SPORTS

## Track Cancelled for Esports

BY ARTHUR MILLER

The Mount Greylock Track and Field Team is huge; last year over 100 students participated! While this is certainly something to be proud of, shuttling everyone to and from meets, scheduling meets and ensuring that the team has enough coaches to train athletes in all the different events has become too overwhelming, and the track doesn't like having too many people run on it either. This spring, Track and Field will be retired in favor of esports, a sport growing in popularity among the Mount Greylock Community.

"I met with Coach Gill to discuss the future of the track and field team, and while I certainly recognize the value the team has provided for the many decades it has been in place, I felt like it was time for it to come to an end. The introduction of an esports team at Mount Greylock will allow us to fill a hole in our athletic catalog that is cheaper and easier to manage," said Mount Greylock Athletic Director Lindsey Von Holtz.

As of the time this story was written, 40 people have expressed interest and administration expects that more will sign up by the week of the March 10th informational meeting.

Enthusiasm among track coaches, most of whom will coach the esports team, seems high.

"Before, managing a large number of athletes

had its thrills, but communicating with them was a strenuous process," said head coach Brian Gill. "Now when I send them an announcement, they all get a push notification."

Interested students are excited to see what the new team will bring, but students who play other spring sports don't seem to understand the hype. Many players of the baseball and lacrosse teams don't show much interest in starting something new after their several years of dedication to their respective sports.

The first practice will happen on March 17, just like other spring sports, but will be occurring virtually. There are rumors of hosting in-person practices in the following months, but many value the indoor environment of their homes during the school year's warmest sports season. Sources say that a vote will occur to

determine whether practices will be in person or not.

The team has their first meet on April 8th. Athletes will compete in a variety of events, most of which involve car racing and fighting. Events will be livestreamed, which should help increase competing athletes' energy and meet spectator attendance. 🍌

***"Now when I send them an announcement, they all get a push notification." - Former Track and Field Head Coach Brian Gill***

## Soccer Succession Crisis

BY DEER HILES-MARRIS

After the end of another successful year for the Mount Greylock boys soccer team, the players voted on captains for the upcoming 2025 fall season. After a process which took a whole hour, the captains were announced to be Will Apotsos, Reed Miles-Harris and Kofi Roberts. Former captains Noah Klompus, Gavin Hetherington and Will Igoe were excited to pass the torch on to these new and younger players who were ready to lead the team.

However, unbeknownst to everyone, Roberts was debating quitting the soccer team to compete in professional speed knitting for his senior year. On March 10th, Roberts announced to the school that he will be resigning from soccer for the rest of his athletic career and "pursue [his] passion in beating grandparents at their own game" on the professional knitting circuit.

Shocked, the Greylock soccer team decided to hold a vote for who would be the person to replace Kofi as the captain for next year. After heated debates involving many passionate players, the votes concluded that rising junior Nolan Barnes, infamous striker, will be replacing Roberts as captain.

Barnes won the race by a landslide, beating the runner up by over 10 votes out of the twenty-some voting pool. Barnes will be the first junior captain in recent history for the boys soccer team.

Barnes started off his tenure with some bold goals. "Not only will I bring us a third Western Mass title next year, but I will lead the team to a fourth in a row my senior year," said Barnes. His confidence brought the team an amount of passion and gumption that has never been seen before.

Sports analysts like The Eggplant's own Chill Igoe say that Barnes is set to score upwards of 45 goals in the regular season and may even hit 55 including the Western Mass and state tournaments. "Nolan Barnes brings a level of skill and raw talent that I have never had the chance to play with before. His height and strength give me hope that he can lead us to a third back to back Western Mass title," said senior captain Will Apotsos. The team as a whole seems to be overjoyed with the introduction of Nolan Barnes as the new third captain of the team.

"I'm sad to see Kofi go, but I'm excited for the glory captain Barnes will bring to the team," said eighth grader Asher Barrel. All players on the team are ready to see how Barnes impacts the game and The Eggplant will have its eye on what Captain Barnes brings to the table. 🍌

## The Greylock Eggplant

*The Greylock Eggplant is the student newspaper of Mount Greylock Regional School in Williamstown, Massachusetts. The Eggplant is dedicated to publishing "news" that is probably true some of the time, but it is up to you as the reader to verify that. The Eggplant publishes print editions every once in a while when we feel like it and you can look at our website if you are a person who generally enjoys more unfunny news. If you want to join the Eggplant, you must first pass the initiation trials, which only occur on February 29th between 1:00 and 3:00 AM in the secret bunker under the pole vault mats. Don't be late.*

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Questions? Comments? News tips? Added to a juicy group chat? We don't really care unless it's the last one, in which case we really want to know. Handwritten letters dropped off underneath the micro-waves in the cafeteria work best.

Please Note: Opinion views and really any content of this edition represents the views of the great Eggplant, where we get all our ideas.

**WANT TO JOIN THE EGGPLANT?**

**Good idea. You do that.**

## SPORTS

## The Resurgence of Antony (The GOAT)

BY CHILL IGOE

For many years now, Brazilian footballer Antony, the undisputed GOAT of world football, has dominated his competition in Europe. After beginning the 2024-25 season at Manchester United, Antony decided to take his talents and embrace a new challenge by joining 11th seeded Real Betis in LaLiga. After accomplishing essentially everything possible at a Premier League club, Antony wanted to demonstrate that he can play anywhere while still putting up unreal numbers and having an unimaginable impact on his squad.

If you're curious as to who Antony is, you clearly have not been paying attention to world football for the past two decades, because Antony's influence has been strong and consistent, just like Bron. Most notably, Antony had the greatest season in football history, as you very well may remember, back in 2008 playing for Manchester United as a young, technical and pacy winger. He ended the season with his first reception of the Ballon d'Or after carrying his side to both a Champions League and Premier League title.

To this day, avid trolls attempt to do the unfathomable by comparing Antony's historic '08 campaign to other majestic performances: 2012 Mudryk, 2024 Darwin Núñez and 2025 Rasmus Højlund, a former Man United teammate of Antony. Antony clearly saw Højlund's clinical finishing and consistent record-breaking as well as the other rumors surrounding his downfall, which in part led to his decision to leave Manchester United for Real Betis, a

new opportunity that would truly allow him to cement his legacy as the greatest footballer of all time.

We all know that to be the best, you have to beat the best, and Antony definitely kept this mindset close to heart when joining Betis in the January transfer window. He knows Real



*Antony about to drop another generational performance. Photo Courtesy of Google Images and WeTalkFootball*

Madrid is commonly referred to as the greatest football club ever, so instead of joining them, he decided to join a mid-table team in the same league to show that no matter the greatness of the opposition, Antony's Brazilian flair and the strength of his aura will carry his side to victory every single time. A truly alpha decision.

Only a few weeks after joining Betis, Antony executed his plan to destroy Real Madrid with his newly acquired and washed Real Betis

side. Of course, Betis won 2-1 in a come-from-behind victory. Although he didn't get on the scoresheet, Antony completely teased the Real Madrid players all game long by making them think they would win, before suddenly unleashing his aura which led to two Real Betis goals in a timely fashion. Antony ended the match with a better rating than Vini, Mbappe and Rodrigo, truly exemplifying his greatness to all LaLiga fans. Even if his prime was all the way back in '08, Antony is timeless.

I leave you with a few reminders as to why Antony is the GOAT of Football: Antony is only three goals away from scoring a hat-trick in every game he plays, he is just eight Ballon d'Or awards away from Messi, he created one of the most effective skill moves in the game of football, known as the fidget spinner, he has as many World Cups as Ronaldo, and he has scored more goals this year than Maradona, Pele, Ronaldo Nizaro and Zidane have combined. GOAT things. Another interesting storyline surrounds Zlatan Ibrahimović's retirement. Zlatan stated, "I will retire when I see a player better than me." He said this while Messi and Ronaldo were destroying Europe, yet he continued to play for many more years as they clearly were no match for Zlatan. It wasn't until 2022 when Antony returned to Manchester United that Zlatan retired, giving us clear proof that Antony is superior in greatness when compared to Ronaldo or Messi. 🍇

## Curling Craze Sweeps Mount Greylock

BY SHEILA MARCISZ

Inspired by the icy patches in the school parking lot, Mount Greylock has finally decided to implement curling as an official school team. The sport, which is said to have originated in 16th-century Scotland, has made it across the pond, but it is still relatively obscure in the United States. That is all soon to change in Northern Berkshire county.

A poll of students (consisting of famed soccer coach and gym teacher Thomas Osteimer's block 5 AP Psychology class) showed total agreement about their emphatic desire for a school curling team. All the students voted that they were 100% certain that a curling team would noticeably benefit the school. Though the zealous response initially stunned school administrators, they quickly understood the hype upon attending an online seminar led by the United States Curling Association.

Greylock's yet-to-be-named roster will begin the 2025-2026 winter season as the county's favorite (and only) team, much to the elation of essentially the whole school. Some students are so enthusiastic for a chance to curl that they are seriously considering reclassing for the opportunity to be part of the team's inaugural season. "Right now I'm well on track to graduate in a few months, but my curling prospects are far more important. I have my entire life to

be an adult, but being a high school curling star is a once in a lifetime opportunity," said senior Polly Rhie, a devoted curling fan. "I think that it's time for curling to be in the winter and summer Olympics. We need more of it," she added.

"Oh, I'm amazing at curling!" said an eager future curler. "I practice every morning before school...did you think my hair is naturally like this?" Upon being corrected on which type of curling was being referred to, the student, who chose to remain anonymous, rescinded their statement, but was still sure to express glee at the upcoming ice curling team: "I can't wait to audition!"

The mass appeal of curling extends far beyond the reaches of current student-athletes at Mount Greylock. "No, I've never curled before," said senior Marshall Baya regarding his curling expertise, "but I'm pretty good at ironing and Swiffering, so I think those skills should translate well."

One must not forget that a good coach is crucial to a successful team. After all, sometimes it is a quality coach that separates a good team from a great team. The search for coaches suitable to the Greylock standards has been a major focus for the school. Information regarding the search has been very hush-hush and rumors about the frontrunner have been run-

ning rampant. From talks of poaching coaches from other teams to hiring international professionals, the Mount Greylock curling scene has been in a frenzy.

To prepare for the upcoming season, spring semester gym classes have pivoted to an unprecedentedly long three month curling unit. Coach Brian Gill spoke of the excellent recruitment opportunities the unit posed, as well as the physical and mental benefits: "Not only will this unit improve the health of the students, it also serves as the perfect opportunity to find a future professional curler!"

Although the location of the playing surface, also known as the curling sheet, is still yet to be determined, it is said that the top choices include the old soccer field, gym three or the hallway to the cafeteria.

The positive effects of curling on the school, which are in full force even before the first season, speak to the bright future curling has as a staple sport at Mount Greylock. Please see the next edition of The Eggplant to place your guesses for how many Mounties will be competing in curling at the 2034 Olympics. 🍇

# FEATURES

## Techy or Culty? Investigation on the Daily “Tech Circle”

BY CHARLIT HULUBAR

Some of you may not know about the daily (and I repeat daily) “tech” circle that conspires during lunch. Now, what is this so-called tech circle? How does it occur? And daily? Outside?

At Mount Greylock Regional School, typically during Lunch C, Oliver Bingeman, Jaime Brito, Gavin Hetherington, Noah Klompus, Cam Miller, Simon Shin, Ezekiel Singer, Sepp Zammuto and even our Editor in Chief Knowl Strowd religiously migrate outside with a soccer ball.

They pat each other’s backs, bundle up and hop up and down while walking outside. They break through the cafeteria doors, stampeding past nearby students to form a ritualistic circle.

One might begin to hear the words “techy” or “want to get techy?” before the following events ensue. Let me be clear, this is a warning sign to hide the frail and innocent. To hide the ones who do not want to get thwacked by a missile disguised as a soccer ball.

This tech circle was not always a cult. At first, it was a group of friends wanting to have fun after finishing up lunch. It sounds like a great idea, right? This was just a way to move and get outside—until it wasn’t.

The goal of their activity is to keep Ollie Bingemann’s soccer ball off the ground using nearly all their limbs except their arms. It’s a decent challenge that can be fun to watch or even join in on once in a while, but it has become so much more than just a low-stakes game.

One of their biggest victims, Mount Greylock’s esteemed custodian Ryan Skrocki, has nearly fallen off the school’s roof multiple times

after being forced to retrieve their soccer ball that got a bit too out of control. Almost every week they drag Skrocki out, point to a ladder, and yell in unison, “BALL! BALL! BALL!”

Simon Shin, one of the circle’s founding members, was eager to explain the deeper meaning behind their daily ritual: “It started out as just a way to let off steam, you know?



Photo Courtesy of Ristiv Kalhotram

But over time, it evolved. It’s not just a game anymore, it’s a *lifestyle*.” His voice carried an unsettling intensity, as if he truly believed what he was saying.

“People think it’s just about soccer, but that’s only part of it,” Bingemann said, an almost mysterious gleam in his eyes. “It’s about connection. It’s about *being in the moment*. When you’re juggling that ball with your feet, everything else fades away. You become one with the universe. And, you know, the soccer ball becomes...sacred.” His words were cryptic, leaving more questions than answers.

At this point, you might be wondering: is it

really about the soccer ball anymore, or is there something darker at play? How deep does this cult-like behavior go? It’s no secret that once the circle forms, a strange energy fills the air. People have started speculating that the players are more than just friends; they are disciples of some sort of soccer-based cult, with Ollie’s soccer ball spearheading it all.

Zammuto, a first year inductee, provided some insight into what he called the “techy initiation process.” Emanating a nervous fear, he said, “At first, they said we’d all just be kicking the ball around, you know, just fun and games. But then, after a while, they started calling it ‘getting techy.’ And if you didn’t know what that meant—you *were in for it*. They made you get the ball and throw it back to them. Let’s say you just sat down for lunch? Oh sorry, the tech circle is calling. And oh boy, if you missed... well, let’s just say you’re *not allowed* to miss.” He shuddered at the memories.

Perhaps the most telling sign of the circle’s growing power is the increasing number of students who want to be involved. Each day, a new face shows up to the lunch circle, looking wide-eyed and eager, ready to be absorbed into the madness.

The lingering question remains: what’s next for the tech circle? Is it just a passing trend, or will it evolve into something bigger and potentially terrifying? Some are predicting that the circle’s influence will eventually extend beyond Mount Greylock, infiltrating other schools and towns in a viral, uncontrollable frenzy. 🍇

## Student Council Debates Doing Something Amid Concerns It Would Only Make Things Worse

BY NOEL STRUD

With it being my last year as a writer on The Eggplant, I was really hoping to report on an exciting story like the resurgence of Antony, the presidential boxing match or the attack of Rasputin. Sadly, having noted that I have written about the student council for the last two Eggplant editions, our meanie editor demoted me to the worst task on the newspaper: the student council update. Due in part to suspiciously consistent overlaps between the school’s press and government, the scapegoat “Student Council Update” is assigned to a poor young writer like myself for almost every edition.

Sometimes there does turn out to be a story within all the bureaucracy, like when student council representative Charlotte Holubar was put on trial in Washington for corruption, or when the cumulative efforts of decades of councils resulted in turning back on the middle sinks. With the new federal administration, however, the Department of Justice branch overseeing Holubar’s case and the Department of Education money that kept the middle sinks going were both cut by DOGE, leaving no story to be had there.

Disappointed, I resigned to attend one of the council’s notoriously boring meetings. Bracing myself to hear council President Knowl Stroud yammer on and on about being ghosted by another vending machine company, I was pleasantly surprised to see that he was absent and Vice President Polly Rhie would be taking a break from her Spanish club duties to lead the meeting instead. The agenda for the day included many of the issues students feel most strongly about: lunches, class programming and the phone policy, just to name a few.

The discussion was great at first, with ideas flying back and forth about improving life for students at the school. I was about ready to leave with the breaking news that student council had fixed the whole school when junior representative Everett Crowe mentioned the concern I had been dreading: actually trying to change anything is only going to make things worse.

See, it’s a well known fact that rules are never going to be enforced to a tee: nobody really cares if you jay-walk or accidentally go 40 over on the way to school. The same goes once you enter the building, where rules about

passes, lunch portions and personal devices get bent more and more as the year goes on. The fear that has paralyzed student council for the past decade is that actually attempting to change any of these rules would only serve to call attention to their existence. Maybe the sentiment would be different if the government body weren’t utterly terrified of Mr. Schutz and Ms. Rutz, but as it stands there is no way around the “DRA” (Don’t Remind Admin) rebuttal.

Dejected, I left the meeting totally uninspired that student council would ever do anything unless the next batch of ninth graders finally connected on their promise to “bridge the gap between the students and the administration” or the yearly wild goose chase to “better school lunches” finally turned up something more than that the cafeteria staff actually are pretty good at their job (both quotes are direct from Stroud’s ninth grade student council speech). Indeed, the only way I saw forward was to challenge council president Knowl Stroud to a duel at the upcoming presidential boxing match in order to settle things once and for all with this treacherous villain. 🍇

# ETC.

## Teachers Hate Your Stuff

BY FRANKLY LEVINS

In a new Eggplant survey, 100% of Greylock teachers admit to judging students based on what they own. Teachers have noticed the recent trending items and they have some things to say. The first item on the teachers' chopping block is water bottles.

Using all of the money in the Eggplant's budget, I was able to bug history teacher Jeffrey Welch's room. In a private conversation with psychology teacher Tom Ostheimer, Welch ranted about disruptive water bottles.

"I was in the middle of a story about Henry VIII's horses when all of a sudden I heard a crashing noise," he complained. "Suddenly, the floor flooded with water. One of those awful Stanley cups tipped over and spilled at least a gallon. I had to send the kid straight to detention."

"I completely understand," Ostheimer nodded, taking a bite of his tuna salad. "Every time I try to talk to those varmints, I get distracted by their Owala water bottles. They have way too many colors! Back in my day, water bottles were only one color—black."

After the editor-in-chief, notorious bully Knowl Strowd, threatened to fire me if I didn't uncover a juicer scandal, I hid under coach Brian Gill's desk. After a nature walk with a gym class, he walked into his office, sighed and

slumped his shoulders. When fellow gym coach Robert Jutras asked what was wrong, Gill could not contain his disappointment.

"We tried to go on a hike, but kids these days can barely walk. They clearly haven't earned their North Face backpacks. When I was their age, I had to climb Mount Greylock in five minutes or less to earn the honor," he said.



Levins showcases her eavesdropping location, sans-camo. Photo Courtesy of Knowl Strowd

When the bell rang, I was forced to crawl out from my hiding place. Gill's scream will haunt me to my dying day.

"How did you not see her?" Jutras asked,

irate.

"Look what she's wearing!" Gill exclaimed, pointing out my white camo sweats and hoodie. "She blends in perfectly with her surroundings."

By the end of the day, I had still not hit my word count, so I was on the hunt for another scandal. I had just finished turning every contraction into two words when I encountered a bus driver uncontrollably coughing.

Smelling a good story, and also my favorite perfume, I asked her what was wrong.

"Those kids," she huffed, holding herself up on her knees, "sprayed fart spray on my bus."

I had heard about these elusive criminals, but I was astonished by the destruction they left in their wake.

"And then," she continued, still gasping for air, "a couple of good Samaritans pulled out their Sol de Janeiro and Bath & Body Works perfumes. They started spraying it in the air, but soon the bus was saturated with perfume. It got in my eyes and I had to make an emergency stop. I don't know how I got here, but those kids aren't going home on my bus."

Hearing the teachers' outcries, the School Council will be proposing banning everything trendy from the school during the meeting next Friday. 🍆

## FUN & GAMES

Here's your sudoku. You're welcome.

### Sudoku (Easy)

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

### Sudoku (Moderate)

8	9	10	12	16	15			4
	15		5	7	10			13
2			4				16	14
6	3		14		11		9	
		9		1	2			7
11		14	6				13	
7	16		2	12				1
		5	8	13	3			9
12	4		7	13	8		11	
	5	8	13	10	16	4		
	14		9	6	11		1	3
1		3		5			6	16
14	7		10	12	9		8	2
	16	12	14	3			13	11
5	10		6	11		14		7
15	1			2		5		12





