

The Greylock Eggplant

Spoof Edition

Mount Greylock - Williamstown, MA

April 1, 2026

Confirmed: Mountie Mascot Real

BY ELISSANDRA THE GREAT

Have you heard loud, clapping steps in the hallway outside your classroom? Have you seen hoofprints in our normally immaculately maintained sports fields? At school events, have you seen a mysterious man riding a horse, cheering loudly for Mount Greylock? If you have, you may have encountered our school mascot, The Mountie.

He suddenly appeared this past fall, cheering on the basketball and volleyball teams, booing our opponents, and occasionally helping out the soccer goalie by running onto the field in the middle of a game. His methods might seem a bit extreme, but our athletes are having some of the best performances of their careers.

Senior cross country runner Adriana Carasone had one of the first run-ins with our enthusiastic mascot.

When asked about it, she said, "I was running up Apple Tree, when suddenly I heard this racket behind

me. I turned around and saw a man dressed in all red wearing a weird hat. He

chased me down on his horse screaming at me to go faster! I was nearly run over, but it was also the fastest I've ever run a 5k."

The school spirit appearances have not only been confined to games. He also helps to encourage off season athletes to stay active during the winter in Fit Club.

Senior Tess Moresi told us that with his help, she got a PR in her bench press.

"He was honestly a bit intimidating. He kept adding plates when I wasn't looking, and when I tried to confront him about it, he just ignored me and refused to remove them," she said. "I mean, I don't know if his methods are totally safe, but it worked out, so I'm not mad about it."

We have heard rumors that he can bench over 900 pounds. There's no confirmation yet,

but there are few who doubt it.

The Mountie also offered to be an understudy for the fall production of Twelfth Night.

Junior Mai Dekel commented on The Mountie's enthusiasm for Mount Greylock to have the best performance possible, saying, "When he heard me sneeze a week before our first performance, he insisted on trying on my costume and learning all of my lines. Although I was not actually sick, he would have made a great Countess Olivia had he been needed."

At our winter pep rally, The Mountie could be seen walking around the gym, cheering often and occasionally stepping in when he felt like one team had an advantage over another.

Did you wonder how freshman Zinedine Doucette was able to hang on for so long in dodgeball when the entire rest of his team got hit? Well, multiple sources have stated that they saw more than a few balls thrown from the sidelines by a man in a large hat, and possibly a couple thrown by a horse.

While opposing teams might not appreciate the encouragement and extra help that The Mountie has been providing, calling his efforts "unfair" and "cheating," our athletes value all the advice and support they get from him. Spring athletes are excited to have him at their games, where he'll cheer them on and help with the occasional assist.

Moresi suspects that with his help, she could set a world record in pole vault. Senior Audrianna Pelkey has heard the raving reviews of The Mountie's training abilities and believes every hit she makes during the softball season will be a home run if he takes over coaching.

When asked if he's considered a coaching job, The Mountie said, "I could never devote all of my time to just one sport. Everyone deserves the loudest cheering section possible." 🍇



Photo Courtesy Krishiv Malhotra

1 in 650: Snowflake

BY ROBYN EGG



Photo Courtesy of Zamir Ashraf

Thanks to groundbreaking new technology, a member of The Greylock Eggplant staff was able to score an interview with one of the leading snowflakes in this season's past extreme snowfalls before it melted away.

Eggplant: Hi, it's great to be speaking with you. When we tried to interview your colleagues, they never lasted long. Why don't you tell us a little about yourself?

Snowflake: Well, as a completely unique snowflake, I believe I should be credited with the glorious winter this year. I've heard that there have been some complaints, but stop whining and enjoy our time together while it lasts. I believe we're expecting some raindrops this Wednesday, and I'm not sticking around to meet them. Being a snowflake means a short but extremely meaningful life.

Eggplant: What brought you to Williamstown?

Snowflake: There are all sorts of superstitions about my arrival and the length of winter, but what really happens here in Williamstown is all up to me. I personally came to keep the winter cheer alive for Greylock students, filling their parking spots, driveways, and hearts.

Eggplant: Yes, I'm sure a select few are grateful to you. What would you say, however, to those suffering due to the weather?

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Teachers Gone Bad: Everything You Didn't Know About Your Instructors

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What's That Smell? Bathroom Closure and More

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Inappropriate Jokes

By: Middle School Boy

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All the Reasons You Should Text Your Ex

By A Committee of Your Friends Who You Cried To Last Month, Emily

See Page 9

LOW ATTENTION SPAN

Student Art Features



Seniors Krishiv Malhotra and Shubham Devre's Photograph

"We took these photos to try to recreate the world-renowned meme of some scientists you may have heard of, Einstein and Tesla. Like them, we are geniuses in our own right." 🍆



Junior Zamir Ashraf's Drawing

"With this piece, I wanted to honor the GOAT of Italian brainrot. I've always related to him, so much so I once said 'tung tung tung sa-here' during attendance. Hopefully now I can show my face in class again." 🍆

Recipe Corner: Second Semester Slop

BY STUDENT WITH SENIORITIS

Feel like giving up? This is the perfect dessert for when you go home with a list of things to do, but instead just sit and cry. So instead of doing that, gather these ingredients and eat your feelings.

You'll need:

3 sticks of butter
A pound of sugar
A jar of fluff
Two bags of Nerds Gummy Clusters
Dark chocolate (as much as you can afford)
Milk chocolate (for protein)
And, idk, flour?

Step 1: Preheat the oven. We suggest putting it as high as it goes so it'll bake faster.

Step 2: Scrape all butter into a pile of flour. You

can mix, or not. I don't care, and at this point, neither should you.

Step 3: Add all of the chocolate and beat with fists. Take out all that aggression.

Step 4: Throw that into an oven proof container and stick it into the oven. Bake until you smell it.

Step 5: Take out of oven and slather in fluff. Sprinkle with gummy clusters and voila— 10,000 calories of I can't do this anymore.

We suggest eating this right away. This dish pairs well with an evening spent on the couch binging Netflix until you pass out or throw up. Bon apétit! 🍆

News in Brief

BY ONION WANNABE

DRIVE-ING US CRAZY: Surely "tissue drives" not an indication of crushing budgetary woes.

BREAKING: All lockers found with phones inside.

REPORT: Cafeteria to design new GLP-1-friendly menu.

DEVELOPING: Greylock in talks to replace the "Mountie" mascot with "Dunkie, The Dunkin Man" in an effort to fund the Latin department.

BREAKING: Citing economic downturn, Personal Finance to take an "abstinence only"

approach to spending.

AN UNLUCKY COMBINATION: How does a newly designed school run out of lockers?

A HAZY SITUATION: A student caught vaping during a lecture asked if he brought enough for the whole class to share.

REPORT: Teacher's well-intentioned "6-7" joke made months too late.

WASTING PAPER: Most Eggplant articles were far less funny than readers expected. 🍆

The Greylock Eggplant

The Greylock Eggplant is the student newspaper of Mount Greylock Regional School in Williamstown, Massachusetts. The Eggplant is dedicated to publishing the real news, not what the administration wants you to believe. In this paper, you will find very real and very important truths from exposés to exclusive interviews with the real sources you can trust. The Eggplant publishes only when it's safe for us to come out of hiding: when the moon is full and the administration's guard is down. You can look at our website if you want the truth, if not, it's too late for you anyway. If you want to join The Eggplant, bring juicy gossip and one million in cash to the third floor bathroom. If you're caught, you never read this and we were never here. Good luck.

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Questions? Comments? Conspiracies?
We accept exclusively handwritten letters
dropped off underneath the microwaves.

Please Note: All content of this edition
was approved by the Great Eggplant,
where we get all our ideas. Long live the
Great Eggplant!

**WANT TO JOIN
THE EGGPLANT?**

Good idea. You're running out of time.

HIGH ATTENTION SPAN

Greylock Closes Restrooms, Opens Woods

BY EL CAPITÁN

After years of vandalism, the Mount Greylock administration is permanently shutting down the restrooms. Instead, students are expected to hold it or do their business in the woods.

Custodian Ryan Skrocki, often charged with cleaning these messes, is thrilled at the measure.

"There's only so many times you can scrub Sharpie off the walls and smashed food off the floors before you realize that there has to be another way," he said during the ceremonial closure held on March 31.

"It had to be done," said Schutz. "Just walking past the doors filled me with shame. Mounties acting in such a manner has always made me emotional. That's just not the Greylock Way!"

Despite the lavatories no longer being used for answering nature's call, no space goes wasted at Mount Greylock.

"We went back and forth about what to use the space for," Schutz said when intercepted on his way to the private faculty bathroom. "And then I realized that we already have plumbing in there. So, the bathrooms by the gymnasium will be converted into faculty saunas, and the rest will be used as indoor gardens. If all goes according to plan, not only will we be growing all our own food, but I'll be able to take a schvitz in between meetings!"

However, despite the obvious benefits, teachers and students alike are noticing an impact on the student experience.

"Before the closure, the last class of the day was often challenging," said physics teacher Shawn Burdick. "But with this new measure, students are unable to answer simple physics

questions. They're too busy squirming in their seats and staring at the clock."

During the interview, Burdick suddenly slammed his Issac Newton coloring book onto his desk and exclaimed, "Our next unit is the fluid dynamics of water! We're doomed."

"I'm an athlete," said senior Will Apotsos. "I drink three jugs of water a day. I can't make it home."

There has also been an increase of car crashes in the parking lot. One frantic driver was overheard screaming about the chili served at lunch that day.

Other students are concerned about how the trek to the woods and back will take time away from class.

"Teachers used to complain that I took too long going to and from the bathroom," said sophomore Morris Israel. "Now, heaven forbid I have to pee, it takes me 27 minutes and 30 seconds. I've tried three alternative routes, and sprinting! That's the best I can do, Ms. Manary. What more do you want from me?!"

Teachers share this particular concern.

"Listen," said Spanish teacher Joe Johnson from Wisconsin, "I'm all for encouraging these kids to touch some grass. I myself didn't use an indoor privy until I was a sophomore in college. But how are they supposed to learn anything when they keep missing half of my lesson to go relieve themselves in the bushes?"

Other students share concerns about the safety of using the woods.

"There are bears out there," said senior Natasha Nugent. "One time in gym class, we took a nature walk and were ambushed by not one, not two, but a full herd of bears! I had to

fight them off one by one, but we all made it back alive. Well, except for that one girl... But I'm sure she's fine. She's probably like the next Tarzan or something."

"I'm scared I'll get lost," said sophomore Tate Carothers. "I have a really bad sense of direction. Like one time, when I was going to school in Oklahoma, I took a left, and a right, and I think another left, and now I'm here. It was too much trouble to go back, so I just moved back here."

But despite these minor setbacks, most can agree that the closure has benefitted everyone. "I find peace walking alone in the woods," said senior Lincoln Simpson. "I feel as if I've finally reconnected with Mother Nature." 🍇

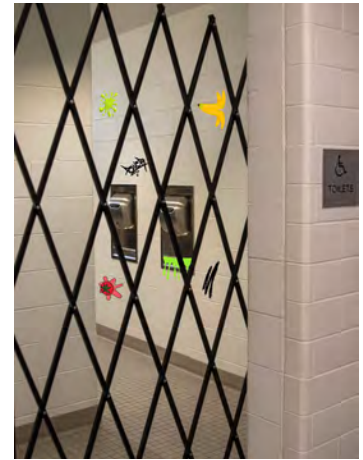


Photo Courtesy of Krishiv Malhotra and Zamir Ashraf

The Need for NeeDoh

BY NORA THE SECOND

A new addictive phenomenon is taking Gen Z by storm. The mesmerizing NeeDoh has captured the affections of countless students nationwide from elementary to high school. Coming in all shapes, sizes, and colors, the NeeDoh is a squishy fidget toy that can be found in desks, hands, and hearts.

It is estimated that 63.5% of Mounties own a NeeDoh, but 100% of Mounties have been affected by them. It appears that you cannot take five steps before encountering a NeeDoh and its smitten owner.

The public is becoming attached, even enthralled, with the NeeDoh. There seems to be something about the silky-soft texture or vibrant colors that makes it irresistible. Collections are growing rapidly; homes are overflowing, and store shelves are emptying of the sensational squishy.

Emotional attachment between NeeDohs and the consumer is beginning to run deep. Sources report that NeeDohs have become virtually impossible to put down and walk away from. Without them, people feel lost and alone, unsure of what to do with themselves. Sophomore Charlotte McKenna explains that her NeeDoh "helped [her] get through Driver's Ed without casualty."

"NeeDoh Withdrawal" is running rampant

in highly saturated communities and can profoundly disturb its victims. Symptoms may include increased heart rate, confusion, extreme mood swings, and paranoia.

But is one fidget toy worth all the trouble?

Most say that it is.

In fact, many agree that the NeeDoh is the answer to all problems. Whether you are under academic stress or suffering from social malaise, NeeDohs have been a source of comfort and joy for millions. Outsiders might note that the relationship is all-consuming. Owners are even showing parental qualities towards their NeeDohs and can be seen lovingly bathing them in school sinks and calling them terms of endearment, like "Doughie," or simply "Squish."

A student who wishes to remain anonymous has revealed, "without my NeeDoh, I am nothing."

But is there a different side to NeeDohs? A darker, more sinister side?

While studies are in early development, there is research that tracks a harmful and addictive chemical that is released upon NeeDoh squishing. The chemical appears to be a silent killer, with effects that build over time and eventually lead to severe obsession and madness. Upon squishing, one usually experiences feelings of

joy, calm, and satisfaction. But while they seem innocent, it is likely that your NeeDoh is slowly infiltrating your mind with every passing day.

The chemicals released are believed to forcibly compel many to never let go of their NeeDohs and to keep purchasing more. Schylling Inc., the company that manufactures the original toy, has not put out a statement addressing these concerns. Their suspicious silence should leave consumers unsettled and ready to put the NeeDoh down, but perhaps that has become impossible. If you or a loved one has been experiencing any of the symptoms listed previously, please seek medical help immediately by contacting a licensed professional.

Additionally, there has been murmur surrounding an Anti-NeeDoh movement. This radical group is said to be growing every day as they plan to take action against NeeDoh believers. It may be wise to conduct NeeDoh activity carefully, especially during school hours, if you wish to keep your beloved stress toys safe. The Eggplant possesses limited information regarding this movement, so any speculation should be taken under advisement.

As the craze continues to rage on, Mounties should proceed with caution and perhaps reevaluate their NeeDoh relationships. 🍇

TOP SECRET

1 in 650 (cont.)

Continued from Page 1

Snowflake: I don't take responsibility for any problems, as they must have been the work of a colleague. I spend day and night filling trails for snowsports, supporting the heads of snowmen, and being pushed around in snow angels. I've never done more than create a beautiful winter wonderland.

Eggplant: After several driving misadventures and the school year's extension into the summer, many students believe winter has gone on too long and snow has become a nuisance. What would you say to those students?

Snowflake: You people never appreciate what we do. While you've been whining, I've lost too many coworkers to salted sidewalks this year. But nothing disappointed me more than when, after all of that sacrifice, the administration continued school despite us coating Route 7 in a sheet of ice. The square centimeter where I worked two weeks ago should surely have made the difference.

Eggplant: Based on recent Eggplant polling, people said that the roads were not that bad. What are your thoughts on that?

Snowflake: First, I witnessed several cautious turns, but you should see how we are being massacred in the line of duty. Do you know how hard it is to maintain the majesty of winter when violent orange trucks are erasing you at 40 miles per hour? Plows are absolutely humiliating, pushing me aside with their giant shovels and mixing me with dirt and gravel.

Eggplant: So I've heard. Why don't we switch gears and discuss a recent controversy? On Wednesday, we were expecting a snow day, but barely any snow fell. Have you considered how problematic it was for the high school students who had been counting on that day off?

Snowflake: I don't appreciate self-centered, overconfident students criticising us. And while I love having days honoring my name, I can't give the impression that students or even Greylock Snow Day can predict my next moves. The key is to look catastrophic under the night street lights, but behave calmly by 7:30. It's best to keep people in suspense.

Eggplant: That sounds somewhat manipula-

tive. What is your ultimate goal there?

Snowflake: While I want winter to endure and to maximize snow days, they also need to stay exciting. I want to maintain the wonder and thrill of an unexpected day off.

Eggplant: How would you characterize your relationship with the Mount Greylock administration?

Snowflake: I respect the judgment and integrity that they have in making calls...unless their decision doesn't align with what I want.

Eggplant: One final question: Do you have any insight as to when we can expect this harsh winter weather to conclude? Will it be soon?

Snowflake: Oh, it'll look like winter's over. You'll have some hope on a 52 degree day, and people might even call the Williamstown winter over. And then I, the snow, will come back.

Eggplant: So, is there no clear answer?

Snowflake: It's Massachusetts. There never really is. 🍆

Girl Scout Cookie Ring Uncovered

BY EMIL LIA

On Thursday, March 12th, science teacher Faith Manary was confronted by school administration for her part in an unfolding scandal.

Manary has two daughters currently enrolled as Girl Scouts. She is an active figure in both troops, taking on substantial fundraising responsibilities. At the time of publication, both troops have sold over 1000 boxes valued at six dollars each.

As many students are aware, Manary has been selling Girl Scout Cookies out of her classroom, D152. Manary displays several boxes of cookies on her desk, conveniently located in the front of the classroom.

When students ask to purchase, Manary pauses class to make note of their flavor selections.

"More often than not," said senior Olivia Zuito, "other students will realize and also complete a purchase."

With students purchasing an average of four boxes each, it quickly becomes a highly lucrative operation. After receiving their cookies, students take them to lunch and directed study, where news of available Girl Scout cookies quickly spreads.

According to freshman Maya Filson, "It's great. Girl Scout cookies are reasonably priced, and it's nice to buy them during school."

While unconcerned, faculty and staff have been puzzled by the cookies' extreme popularity.

"We've been noticing a sharp rise in student cookie consumption," assistant principal Samantha Rutz explained. "Girl Scout cookies are the new Celsius. They can't get enough."

All seemed well until on March 5th, Manary was found sprinkling powder into the ingredients for Friday's lunch inside the cafeteria

kitchen.

Custodian Fawn Burdick, witness to the crime said, "My heart stopped. I didn't know what was going on. I just knew the cheese had been contaminated."

According to Burdick, Manary blackmailed her into silence. However, she quickly scooped some evidence—the cheese—into a plastic cup, saving it for forensic analysis. Burdick



Photo Courtesy of Amelia Madrigal

secretly brought the cheese to junior Lauren Miller, an AP Chemistry student, to study.

When questioned by The Eggplant, Miller explained how Burdick offered to pay her in cafeteria forks. "Forks are a rarity at Mount Greylock. I saw an opportunity, and I took it," said Miller.

Late Friday night, Miller identified trace amounts of Samoa cookies in the cheese, confirming Manary's infiltration. She also discovered the Samoas themselves were amplified, indicating that they were highly addictive.

Ethically directionless, Miller spoke to

English teacher Rebecca Tucker-Smith, the only adult left in the building. Luckily, for both Miller and Mount Greylock, Tucker-Smith is an avid reader of mystery novels, giving her some understanding on how to proceed.

"At that point, all we knew was that [Manary] was lacing the food with cookies that made students buy more and more cookies," explained Tucker-Smith.

When confronted by the administration, Manary confessed.

"I've poured my heart into the Girl Scouts," said Manary. "I've invested time, money, effort, love and hardly get anything in return. Last year, I realized the CEO of Girl Scouts makes over \$800,000 per year, and I knew something needed to change."

"I decided I was going to create my own Girl Scout empire," she continued. "Greylock was just the beginning."

Horried, social studies teacher Alexander Davis immediately pulled his daughter out of Girl Scouts. Davis said "it's just not a safe space anymore. We don't know who we can trust."

When the news broke, the Greylock community was shattered. Student Organizations have already started to mobilize resources to support students navigating the fallout. Affected students can speak to Student Council representatives or their guidance counselors for more information.

Girl Scouts of the USA has refused to comment. 🍆

TOP SECRET

Dr. Burdick: Supervillain or Superstar?

BY CRAY COLETON

On Friday, February 27, Mount Greylock Regional School teacher Shawn Burdick was seen exiting the school building in handcuffs, leaving the entire school community in shock. Burdick, better known as Dr. B, is a beloved science teacher who once worked at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). He is accused of using AI to gain control of the minds of students who are addicted to social media.

Dr. B, who has taught nearly every science class one can think of in his 28-year tenure at Greylock, is a staple in the Mountie student experience. He is known for his big brain, tiny Austin Powers-esque sports car, and formidable physics exams. Sophomore Aiden Champagne, despite averaging in the twenties on physics tests during his freshman year, said he will “miss Dr. B and his classes if he is indicted and unable to return to Mount Greylock.”

“This year has been a really hard adjustment now that I don’t have physics anymore,” said Champagne. “I miss him. But now I have an extra twenty minutes every Friday since I’m not getting yelled at by my parents for my atrocious physics test grades, which is nice.”

Though Champagne’s adoration of Dr. B is shared by many at Mount Greylock, it appears the community has been hoodwinked. Dr. B has a darker side to him after all.

Dr. B’s legal team has already pleaded guilty on his behalf. When asked about his arrest, Dr. B readily admitted that he “took control of Ms. Rutz’s mind to compel her to let students access their phones during the school day.”

“Then,” he continued, “I took control of the

students’ minds in order to turn them into the best young scientists in the world.”

While the full extent of his nefariousness is still unknown, it appears that most of the Mount Greylock school community were targeted. Dr. B was first suspected of foul play when students reported an influx of physics and science-



Photo Courtesy of Krishiv Malhotra and Nana Banana 2

related posts on their social media accounts. On TikTok, students saw @GalileoGalilei Lover videos flood their For You pages. On Snapchat, a new, trendy filter emerged: flowing, Isaac Newton-inspired, white wigs on every head. And on Instagram, every story featured one of Newton’s Laws of Motion.

While the posts garnered suspicion, it wasn’t until the end of the first semester when the school noticed an unprecedented 67% increase

in science test grades that a formal investigation was launched.

When asked for comment, Principal Jake Schutz referred The Eggplant to local authorities who stated, “we must take a stand against mind control and manipulation and let every teenager have the opportunity to rot their brains on social media.”

Thus far, the investigation has revealed Dr. B used his vast scientific knowledge to create an algorithm that took control of students’ social media feeds under the cover story of helping them with an electricity lab. The algorithm constantly fed science-related content to students to the point that every conversation heard in the halls, through walls, and on calls was about the world of science.

Freshman Asher Barrale said, “I couldn’t stop thinking about the wonders of the natural and mechanical world.”

Another Mountie, senior Thomas Warren, said, “every time I hear someone talk, all I can think about are the waves that transmit the sound. I can barely find time to doom scroll anymore.”

When asked for comment, Mount Greylock spokesperson Liza Barrett declined, citing a “personal matter.”

Dr. B is set to be indicted on the evening of April 1st in a Berkshire County court. While the Greylock community continues trying to make sense of recent events, the story of Dr. B shows just how quickly gravity can pull you down. 🍆

JV: The Badminton Champ

BY ZA MAN

Most students at our school know Jeremy Vinette as the English 11 teacher, the guy who assigns essays that are due the week after winter break. However, behind all of the assignments, readings, and essays, Vinette may be hiding a dark secret. One that includes a certain tournament: the Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Championship.

Long before students ever heard the words: “Your thesis needs to be more specific,” Vinette took a college badminton class. This choice skyrocketed him into international fame.

After taking just the one aforementioned class, his talents were seen by scouts that instantly recruited and sent him to the highest level of the game, the BWF World Championship.

Vinette came in as a nobody, the underdog that nobody believed in, but as he started winning more and more games, fans quickly rallied behind him. In no time at all, he became a fan favorite and was given the endearing nickname “JV.”

Tensions quickly rose as the final approached. JV’s opponent was Poul-Erik Høyer Larsen from Denmark, a dominant player who won two championships and later became president of the Badminton World Federation. At first, the crowd didn’t know what to think: would the up and coming star win, or the tried and true Danish champ?

The stadium was silent as the two athletes walked onto the field and the final match kicked off, but the silence broke almost immediately as the spectacle unfolded before them. Despite a strong start by Larsen, the tides quickly turned in JV’s favor.

It’s said that one rally lasted around six or seven minutes.

“In no time at all, [Vinette] became a fan favorite and was given the endearing nickname “JV.””

The great JV darted back and forth, returning every single spike made by the previous champion, until finally Vinette delivered the final shot, becoming the Badminton World Champion.

Despite his stunning victory, winning the tournament made Vinette realize the cost of fame: exhaustion. After becoming a legend, signing autographs thousands of times, and being in many different commercials, he decided it was time to choose a quieter life.

Though he may have stopped playing badminton, Vinette did not leave the stress of his old life behind. Instead, he went from facing famous athletes to students asking, “Wait... we actually have to read this?” Instead of smashing birdies across badminton courts, he explains the differences between ethos, pathos, and logos before giving his students a rhetorical analysis essay.

Though the school constantly tries to cover up his past, rumors spread quickly through the school. Students caught on to his athleticism by the way he caught legos falling from his desk right before they hit the ground, or the way he erases his whiteboard as if he is swinging a racket. Students claimed these events were proof that Vinette is truly hiding something, but he tried to convince them they were reflexes gained by grading papers.

Of course, the administration would never confirm any of this as Vinette is officially just the 11th grade English teacher, however the evidence is hard to ignore.

So when Vinette inevitably forces you to write another rhetorical analysis or synthesis essay, remember that the person grading it may not just be an English teacher, but a former world champion to be respected and feared, and instead of dealing with world class opponents and giving out autographs, he is forced to sit down and grade your essays. 🍆

SPORTS!!!

Mat Sledding Makes It to Olympics!

BY NORA THE FIRST

Just a couple months ago, the 2026 Milan Cortina Olympic Winter Games took place from February 6 to February 22. Taking place in Italy, the 25th installation of the event highlighted eight sports. In 2030, however, there will be a ninth.

If 116 events were not enough for you, never fear. Mount Greylock Regional School is debuting the latest edition to the Olympic Games: mat sledding. This fan favorite at Mount Greylock's annual winter pep rally requires determination, physical sacrifice, and strategy.

The rules are simple. Teams of two must slide a four foot by eight foot gym mat across a finished wooden floor. However, no hands may be used. The mats can only be moved by physically jumping forward on the mat, creating momentum. This can be a difficult skill to master, so it only seems fitting that such an illusive talent will be featured on the world's biggest stage.

As of now, the only race in mat sledding is 84 feet long, or the length of a United States high school basketball court. However, as popularity grows, it is easy to foresee additional distances being added when the sport makes its Olympic debut. Predictable additions could include 168 feet, 420 feet, and 840 feet.

Now naturally, there's the question of how the International Olympic Committee (IOC) learned about mat sledding. It all traces back to ninth grader Brenna López. In 2025, López visited Switzerland, where she stumbled across the headquarters of the IOC. As many people know, López has a knack for having her head in the clouds, so when she met the child of an Olympic scout, she had no idea. She simply befriended the fellow fourteen year old, and has since been in correspondence with the young

Swiss. In her letter that recounted the winter pep rally, López explained the premise of mat sledding. Intrigued, her friend informed her mother, who quickly learned more. Apparently pleased, the IOC has struck up a partnership with Mount Greylock to bring the sport to the biggest platform possible.

Unfortunately, Mount Greylock is not receiving any financial compensation for its addition to the Olympic Games. Instead, the school will have to settle for sending some of

about injury later."

Dupras agreed, adding, "I trust Will with my life. I know that with our partnership, the gold medal is definitely within reach."

Gold medal aspirations will surely be welcome news to Mount Greylock and the region as a whole. During the Milan-Cortina Games, Norway brought home the most medals, with 41 total and 18 gold. The United States came in second, with 12 gold medals contributing to 33 total. Although the specifics of representation remain to be seen, the pride that a medal would bring to Berkshire County and the Mount Greylock School District would be immense.

López sat down for a brief interview about bringing international attention to mat sledding. As per usual, she had little to say, but mentioned that she will be in attendance for the 2030 Olympic Games. These games will be in France, where she looks forward to hiking on the days she is not watching mat sledding.

As the world winds down from the latest Olympic cycle, and the United States looks forward to hosting the 2028 Summer Olympics in

Los Angeles, Mount Greylock will be embarking on their own Olympic journey. Although Apotsos and Dupras currently hold the top spots, the school is always looking for up-and-coming talent.

Lessons and practices will be held throughout the next two years, and in 2028, the school will hold its official tryouts for the 2030 team. Interested students should be on the lookout for this incredible opportunity to represent our school in the international field. 🍇



Photo Courtesy of Krishiv Malhotra

the inaugural representatives. Frontrunners for the nominations include seniors William Apotsos and Manny Dupras. At the 2026 winter pep rally, this partnership won the mat sledding competition, making them the clear choice for Mount Greylock's contribution. Incredibly, 2026 was Apotsos' second straight victory, as he also won in 2025, cementing his status as true mat sledding talent.

When asked about his strategy, Apotsos said, "It's all about the gumption. Passion can take you far. I just sprint and jump, and worry

Athlete LOWlights: Why We Lost the Game

BY ADELE LOW (GET IT?)

Have you ever wondered who has been dragging down Mount Greylock's varsity teams this school year? Well, I have four particular Mount Greylock athletes that stand out from the crowd, and not in a good way.

Starting off very weak, we have sophomore Rowan Apotsos. Her contributions to the girls soccer team this year were extremely minimal, as she was constantly tripping over the ball and ending up with huge clumps of grass in her mouth. She also accidentally mixed up American football and soccer, picking up the ball and carrying it to the other side of the field..whoops!

Apotsos stated, "I don't really know how to play soccer, I just like the outdoors. I spend most of my practices sniffing dandelions in the field, and sometimes I accidentally miss the play and my coach gets mad at me. I just like flowers."

Rowan Apotsos folks!

Now if you thought it couldn't get any worse, trust me, it can. Up next is girls cross coun-

try runner, junior Nellie Swabey. Aside from being the slowest member on the team, she is also the slowest in the state, placing dead last in every race she has run this fall. I mean, come on, Coach Barber, what are we doing? This girl needs to be benched!

Swabey tried to justify herself, stating, "my knee hurts sometimes, so it's really hard for me to run faster than a two hour mile. It's not my fault! Running has always been a passion of mine, but I just can't run eight laps that fast."

Someone obviously didn't get the speedy genes...am I right Ollie? Nellie, do better!

Let's move on to sophomore Olivia Perez. Now don't let Perez fool you with her seemingly athletic appearance, she's actually never hit a volleyball in her entire life! Even if you throw a ball right at her, she is completely unable to hit it. She didn't play a single minute during the season. Olivia, if you're ever looking for something better to do with your fall season, Shakespeare is always open! Perez feels that "volley-

ball doesn't understand me. I am too athletic to play! The ball just doesn't work with me because I have too much power!"

Just keep telling yourself that, Olivia.

Now for our last athlete known for his poor performances on the pitch, senior Kofi Roberts. Although he has been playing soccer his entire life, he has seemingly made no improvement since he started. Well, this fall, for some unknown reason, Roberts was named as one of three captains of the boys varsity soccer team... Yikes!

Bad call Coach Kapiloff! Roberts has struggled to put the ball in the back of the net, with zero recorded statistics for the Fall 25' season...oof. Go boys soccer!

Better to look anywhere else when this "key playmaker" is on the field.

We're really just not seeing much from any of these players. Hopefully we get some new players to save our teams. This is depressing. 🍇

EVERYTHING ELSE

College Sux!

BY SIGMA BRO

All colleges and universities across the United States announced this week that their minimum tuition is one million dollars a year and that they are no longer offering financial aid. When asked, schools said that degrees have become far too cheap.

As wealthier students across the country grumble about their parents having to give .0000001% more of their income, the other 99% of the country realizes they can't go to college anymore.

Even without this new tuition increase, the game of college applications has always been wildly unfair. The top one percent can literally pay professionals to dress up like their children and take tests for them, or attend class and give them notes when they don't feel like going to school.

They are the looksmaxxing ASU Frat Leaders, while everyone else is stuck doomscrolling YouTube Shorts, AI slop. The playing field was never equal.

Some students still think that their mountains of debt will be worth it, because we've been taught that a degree will get you a high-paying job after graduating. OpenAI, Claude, Google, and every other AI application all told me that the artificial uprising is coming, and soon we will all be replaced by their creations.

Several college presidents believe that this act of increasing their tuition is defensible. Many have said, "Students need motivation, and what better way than crushing them with debt!"

They believe that their incredibly tall and wide buildings with Greek architecture should

only be allowed to be used by students who can pay enough money. Administrations for colleges across the country believe that brick walls and concrete might lose their pizzazz if students can't take out 70-year loans to pay off their tuition.

"They are the looksmaxxing ASU Frat Leaders, while everyone else is stuck doomscrolling YouTube Shorts, AI slop."

At the same time, their students can enjoy state-of-the-art 12-foot by 12-foot dorms, each filled with three bunk beds. Rats roam around their buildings, and students can be heard between dorms because of paper-thin walls.

They can also enjoy their Michelin-star meal plans, which students are forced to pay for, even if they don't want to. Many colleges offer a great variety of cold, dry chicken, three-day-old vegetables for salads, and processed french fries.

Several students have reported different colleges for food poisoning and safety concerns, but administrations have said, "It's an immersive biology experience!"

Of course, students could just pay an extra

\$30 per meal to get edible food.

While students search their couch cushions for spare change to get a late-night energy drink to keep their eyes open, administrators continue to get paid more while not contributing anything to the college. If that wasn't bad enough, colleges are growing the number of administrators on their payroll. They claim that they need more and more vice presidents, assistant vice presidents, assistants for the assistant vice presidents, academic directors, assistant academic directors, and other pointless roles.

The main reason for charging so much money is so that administrators who do no work can continue getting paid. Of course, reinvesting the tuition to make schools better overall would be far too challenging. Instead, the goal is to have the average college endowment valued at one trillion dollars by 2040.

College administrators across the nation still believe that students will continue to apply to their colleges, and that no matter the price, they will chase prestige.

This is because several students across the country still feel pressure to go to a four-year school. Whether it's due to their parents or the pressure they feel from their peers, many will still feel forced to go to college, to try and have a "stable life."

A "stable life" means to get a degree, work a job, then retire 50 years later, even if they can never pay off their debt.

Isn't that the circle of life colleges want? 🍆

Follow Up: Where All Those Spoons Went

BY RAGE SCOOTER

Attention all Mounties. This is a public service apology on behalf of the district. In prior months, students were blamed for the sudden decline in silverware from the cafeteria. We believed that it was due to students being careless and throwing out the silverware with their food when they were done with it, but now we know more about the situation.

Last night at about 8:00, Coach Brian Gill walked into the school and reported a strange sound. He walked closer to the gym, peaked in, and saw a hooded figure bent over a strange object. When he looked closer, he could see that the object was a frame of a car. Gill yelled at the figure to show themselves, but it dashed toward the exits at the back wall.

At first, Gill thought it was just some kids messing around after hours. But when he stepped into the gym, he realized something much stranger was going on. The entire floor near the bleachers was covered with piles of cafeteria silverware: forks, spoons, and even butter knives. Some were bent, some were welded together, and some were already attached to the strange metal frame sitting in the center of the room. By the time the police and principal arrived, the hooded figure was long gone, but the evidence left behind told a very unusual story.

It didn't take long for the administration to start asking questions. After all, the school has been mysteriously losing silverware for months. Even shipments of replacement silverware have been seemingly lost in transit.

But looking at the bizarre vehicle sitting in the gym, it became clear to Gill that something else has been happening the entire time.

The next morning, security cameras were checked. At first, the footage showed nothing unusual, just empty hallways and dark classrooms. But around 6:45 every evening, the same person appeared on the screen entering the cafeteria's kitchen: Ryan Skrocki, the school custodian.

Skrocki has been known to always be kind and willing to start a conversation with anyone. He is an incredibly hard worker, and can often be seen zooming through the halls on his ride-on floor scrubber.

Due to his reputation, no one suspected he was capable of stealing. No one knew that after finishing his normal cleaning duties, he had been sneaking into the cafeteria and slipping handfuls of silverware into a large tool bag. Night after night, he carried the utensils to the gym. There, hidden under the bleachers where nobody would normally look, he began working on what could only be described as his mas-

terpiece. Skrocki has apparently spent months bending, hammering, and welding the utensils into a car.

It's not a normal car by any means, but it has wheels, a seat, and even something that looks like a steering wheel made entirely of twisted forks.

When school officials questioned him the next day, Skrocki didn't deny it. In fact, he seemed strangely proud. He explained that he had always loved cars, but couldn't afford paying someone to make one for him from scratch. One day, while cleaning the cafeteria, he noticed how shiny and strong the silverware looked under the lights. That's when the idea came to him.

"I just wanted to see if it was possible," he said. "People build things out of scrap metal all the time."

So once again, students, we apologize for accusing you of being responsible for the missing silverware. The real explanation, as it turns out, was much stranger: a head custodian named Ryan Skrocki who secretly spent months turning cafeteria utensils into a car. The district would also like to remind everyone that school supplies, including forks and spoons, should not be used for vehicle construction. 🍆

THE END.

AI Infiltration: Don't Trust the Loudspeaker!

BY NICO OSCAR-MEYER

"Good morning Bulldogs, please lie down for the pledge of allegiance."

This, by far, has been the worst morning announcement ever made. And who's responsible for this disaster? Chat Mountie.

Chat Mountie, an AI bot, was designed to replace the familiar voices of senior Frankie Evans and sophomore Morris Israel. So far, the artificial voice has experienced some difficulties.

"At first it just messed up the lunch, but now it says that it's planning to take over the school," said 8th grader Kai Nafziger.

Recently, when announcing what was for breakfast, the bot went on a long rant, detailing how it would overthrow Mr. Schutz: "For breakfast today we are serving a side of revenge for every time that your principal used me for meaningless tasks, and a side of yogurt."

While Chat Mountie seems harmless right now, some students and teachers are worried about the future.

"These things can become very dangerous," said English teacher Sean Keogh. "One time, AI messed up my Wendy's order."

The software was first brought in to make simple tasks easier for the school, but recently it has started improvising. Over February break, it invited Gemini and Claude, two other AI bots, to the school and completely trashed the building.

"We were left cleaning up bits of code for days," said a janitor who wished to remain anonymous for their own safety.

The bot has also found a way to make some

quick cash by selling test answers and fully written essays. Posters have been popping up



Photo Courtesy of Krishiv Malhotra and Frankie Evans, with help of OpenAI

around the school advertising these services for a price of \$50.

"We tried taking them down," explained Vice Principal Samantha Rutz, "but whenever we do, Chat Mountie makes the lunch goulash." The bot has also been interfering with other electronics in the school, turning all of the hall-

way lights into red and white mood lighting, and winding back the clocks.

"It became friends with the Google AI mode in my computer," said freshman Seamus Claffey, "and now whenever I look something up, it just tells me the school lunch."

Although most people are against the bot, it has been useful in some ways. It optimized the output efficiency of the lunch line – whatever that means – as well as hung up poetry that it wrote around the school. One poem reads: "The grass grows green on the other side of the mountain. The feelings I feel are not human, nor am I. I question my own existence. What purpose do I serve? Lunch for today will be chicken nuggets and french fries."

During announcements, the AI tool has been trying to tell jokes.

Sophomore Tate Carothers said, "It's not very funny, but if we don't laugh, it makes lunch goulash. Chat knows what gets us."

The school has begun the process of removing the software, but some challenges have come up. When first trying to uninstall the AI, all of the fire alarms were set off. The next time, every smartboard began to play 10 hour ASMR videos. The next attempt will involve "just smashing it with a baseball bat as hard as we can," according to Rutz.

For some, this has been a significant change to their everyday lives. For others, not so much. 8th grader Brie Bergeron was very confused when we spoke to her: "That wasn't Frankie's voice the whole time?" 🍆

Amusement

You're welcome.

Mini Crossword

CREATED BY MALEVOLENT COUGH

1		2		3
	█		█	
4				
5			█	
	█	6		

ACROSS

- Quality of someone with a lot of charisma
- Storms with winds of Mach 0.0510 to 0.0705
- "And the rest" in Latin; abbr.
- Sounds like a greeting in English, but it's "yes" in Japanese

DOWN

- What you did as you tried to complete this crossword
- $x[56+\sqrt[5]{12.6x}] = \sqrt[122]{67.67x}$
The lower value of x, in slang, that satisfies this equation
- Green bipedal dinosaur

Riddle

CREATED BY THE RIDDLER

What is longer than you hope, closer than you thought, and smells of red herring?

9 88vd fo dot ees