

The Greylock Eggplant

Spoof Edition

Mount Greylock - Williamstown, MA

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Mount Greylock Student Government Corruption Revealed

BY SNOWL TROUD

Many people often wonder what Student Government actually does. Recently leaked files documenting the student council's criminal activity seem to suggest an answer. Former student council treasurer Zeke Singer has fled to Spain to escape FBI persecution, famous Instagram amalgamator Charlotte Holubar is facing fraud charges in Washington and more government members are being implicated by the day.

"It was all too easy," Singer said. "It started out with just a sandwich from Papa Charlie's here and there, but by the time I bought the modded Prius I realized it was getting out of control." Singer justified his use of the council funds by pointing out that "the student council already has plenty of hot chocolate" and "it's not like they do anything with the money anyway... my new lifted Prius wins any parking lot disagreement while still getting 50 miles to the gallon."

Holubar's methods were a bit less direct, but by no means less effective. With so many Instagram accounts at her disposal (five and counting), earning ad revenue was easy. "It all started with the Kleenex sponsorship on the Tissue Drive Post," Holubar, the council's Press and Social Media Manager, said. "After that, I started making a few thousand dollars off of every post. One REV post, I got milk snatcher Margaret Thatcher to sponsor it...I made 43 big bucks." Holubar declined to comment on the "milk snatcher" label.

The embezzlement worked out quite well for Singer, as he was able to flee the country before any charges could be filed. Holubar was not so lucky. She has been detained in Washington all semester and testifies before Con-

gress next Tuesday.

"This wasn't the angle I was planning on learning about government from, but it is still quite thrilling," Holubar said. Her lawyers declined to comment on the situation, much to the dismay of the reporter for *the Eggplant* who made the seven hour trip down to DC to interview them.

The corruption does not end with the student council. Desperate for funds, the junior class officers have turned to performing as a way to mask their underground activity. "Erik and I do ballet every Tuesday at WES," junior class vice president Gavin Hetherington said. "While we entertain the kids, Kylie and Vera steal the box tops from the collection bin." Despite their honorable efforts, they have been met with mixed success. "We are still broke," treasurer Kylie Sweren said. "Turns out ten cent box tops don't add up that quickly."

While student council president Lucy McWeeny was shocked to find out about the corruption, she was more proud than angry. "I take student government very seriously, but I had never thought of imitating actual government to that degree," McWeeny said. Inspired by the groundbreaking work of these younger politicians, McWeeny now accepts lobbyists at student council meetings. "My vote is up for sale," McWeeny said. "I'd turn off the middle sinks again for a crisp \$20."

When asked if she was concerned about possible legal ramifications, McWeeny said, "I can just send one of my minions to jail for me--I'm sure Knowl or Krishiv wouldn't mind." Both aforementioned "minions" were too scared to respond. ♦



Photo Courtesy of Emily McCarthy

2 in 650: Interview with Chairs & Tables

BY RISHIV ALHOTRAM



Photo Courtesy of Rishiv Alhotram

Sometimes overlooked and often sat upon, the chairs and tables of Mount Greylock provide the literal and figurative backbone of our school. The Eggplant sat down with a school chair and a table to bring light to their dedication in serving our community.

Eggplant: Hi, it's nice to speak to both of you. How has the year been treating you?

Charlie Chair: It's been the usual. Kids leaning on and tipping us, people moving us and not putting us back where we belong. Not much has changed.

Tina Table: Yeah, similar to the chairs. Really, not much has changed – the typical gum wrappers on legs and the pencil drawings. It feels like we aren't appreciated enough.

E: Could you elaborate on not being appreciated?

CC: We are an integral part of Mount Greylock, and without us, no one could do anything. It feels like we're constantly taken for granted and not treated very nicely.

TT: Frankly, we are indispensable, yet no one seems to show any appreciation. Some students even have the nerve to complain.

E: What would you two say to students who do complain about you?

CC: Again, we are needed at Greylock. Sure, we don't have "neck support" and are "made from plastic," but we get the job done. Isn't that what matters?

TT: Exactly. As long as we get the job done, it really shouldn't matter, and the complaining

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Greylock Goons

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The Jolly Rancher Trade, Exposed

Shmin Shmarothers investigates Mount Greylock's lucrative underground Jolly Rancher trade.
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Free Lunch is for the Weak

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NYT Games

Naggie Michols reports on the student body's obsession with the popular word games, and the administration's response.
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NEWS

PETA Protests “Chuck-a-Duck” Fundraiser

BY SNORA NOPEZ

The return of a beloved Mount Greylock fundraiser is in jeopardy for the 2024-2025 school year. People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has recently staged protests against “Chuck-a-Duck,” a game featured at most boys and girls basketball game halftimes.

The fundraiser centers around rubber ducks. During the first half of basketball games, fans are encouraged to buy ducks, each for a few dollars. At halftime, spectators attempt to toss the purchased ducks into a bowl in the middle of the court. The owner of the closest duck to the bowl wins fifty percent of the money raised that evening.

The contest became so popular that players would rush out of the locker room to witness the flurry of flying ducks across the gym. Jacob Shelsy, a sophomore guard for the boys basketball team, said that he loves Chuck-a-Duck because “it’s fun to see all the colorful ducks. It’s really cool looking. I especially like the purple and white spotted duck.”

Audrianna Pelkey, a sophomore guard for the girls team, agreed. “I have a special attachment to the pink duck with the brown hat,” she said. “It feels like a part of the family.”

Despite these familial feelings towards the rubber ducks, PETA has filed a complaint with the administration at Mount Greylock, citing animal abuse.

The protest requested that the fundraiser end due to the “mistreatment of the ducks in the form of being used as aerial objects against their will.” The protest also comes in the wake of a second rubber-duck game played at Mount

Greylock, the famed “Do you have a duck?” game. PETA’s statement demanded that both events be discontinued. They also call for custody of the ducks.



Photo Courtesy of Rishiv Alhotram

While devastated by the demand, Mount Greylock has turned over the ducks to PETA care as requested while the protest is being reviewed. The ducks are now living in an inflatable pool, measuring six feet by eight feet. The water, investigated by *the Eggplant*, is a lovely 78 degrees Fahrenheit, an ideal temperature for ducks.

When asked about the ducks, Brady Auger, a sophomore guard for the boys basketball team, said that he disagreed with the protest. “We took good care of the ducks and would never want to hurt them,” he said.

Pelkey said she was distraught about the complaint. “I truly did not think about the harm

it would cause the ducks,” she said. “I feel absolutely terrible for any unintentional trauma the fundraiser caused to the ducks.”

In a public statement responding to PETA, the administration said that the fundraiser was promoted with pure intentions and goodwill for the ducks. The statement outlined future steps Mount Greylock plans to take to regain possession of the ducks.

The proposal states that, when back under the school’s custody, the ducks will be kept in a pool of water similar to the temporary inflatable pool they are currently in, at the same temperature of 78 degrees Fahrenheit. Additionally, Mount Greylock has promised to give each duck a helmet and wing padding in order to protect them upon impact on the gym floor.

The proposal is currently being reviewed and discussed by PETA while the ducks remain under their care. In the meantime, the school community is anxiously awaiting a verdict on Chuck-a-Duck, which should be delivered by PETA shortly. Should the proposal be accepted, the fan-favorite fundraiser will return to the court next year with additional safety measures.

Are you interested in being a Joker
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A writer who interviews their friends?
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stopemailingme@itsweird.com

Senior Prank Creates Sticky Situation

SHMEMILY MOLE

The seniors of Mount Greylock Regional School have taken the annual senior prank to the next level, causing nothing but a sticky situation.

The school’s senior prank tradition came to a crashing halt last year when former Vice Principal Colin Shebar deemed senior pranks “too reckless and unexpected.” However, when Sam Rutz took over for Shebar as the new vice principal this fall, she had a different outlook, welcoming the senior prank tradition with open arms.

“I hope I don’t get caught off guard and pranked by the seniors too badly this year,” Rutz said at the beginning of the year assembly.

“There was a devious look among us and we all gasped when we heard this news,” senior Vayda Larabee said. “We were on the edge of our seats.”

“The rest of the seniors and I were even more excited to pull our planned prank, now that we knew it was allowed,” senior Julia DeChaine added.

On March 8, seniors had their traditional senior skip day – a day when seniors and seniors only get a free pass to skip a day of school and do whatever they want. “Senior skip day, more like the best day to pull a senior prank day,” senior Gianna Pesce said.

The night prior to senior skip day, the Mount

Greylock seniors snuck into the school to map out their plan. “I shoved a gum packet between the back door to keep it open,” senior Marlee Alpi said. “The rest of the seniors and I snuck into the school that night and glued every inch of every surface. I made sure Mr. Dils’ room was the stickiest.”

Books, pencils, whiteboards, chairs, desks, toilet seats and even the keypads on the phones and school computers were drenched in glue by the mischievous seniors. As the clock turned to 7:40, teachers and students entering the school quickly became stuck to something.

“By the time the bell rang, I was stuck to about ten books,” librarian Liza Barrett said.

“I was completely stuck to the coloring wall in the library while I was just trying to color the highest fish,” junior Natalie Pesce added.

Some of the students thought this prank was rather funny. “As I was walking to gym class, Coach Flaherty and Coach Jurtras were stuck to the gym floor,” junior Emily Alvarez said. “And Mrs. B in the guidance office was stuck to her chair with her phone glued to her ear and the side of her face.”

As fun as this prank seems, some soon found it to be an inconvenience. “After the situation was over, I heard a rumor about how my room was apparently the stickiest,” English teacher Blair Dils said. While Dils dodged a



Photo Courtesy of Shmemily Mole

trap the seniors layed out for him, he walked right into another one. “I went to the bathroom after dropping my things off in my room, but then I couldn’t get up. I was stuck to the toilet seat.”

The Friday of March 8 called for sun and warmth, along with a side of “the greatest prank of all time,” the senior class said when interviewed together on this matter. As this act brought out the excitement in the seniors through the stresses of senior year, many teachers and administrators fear what the next senior class might get up to for their prank. The question is, will any prank ever be able to top it? ♦

NEWS

Oil Discovered Behind Mount Greylock

BY SMILA SMARCISZ

Just last week, not long after the groundbreaking for the new track at Mount Greylock, the school made an unexpected discovery. According to administrators, they have found an oil reservoir right under the surface of the land the track is set to be built on. The discovery occurred when, a few days into digging, construction was halted due to a geyser of oil shooting up out of the ground.

It was later discovered that the land for the new track, and much of the land behind the school, sits on a massive underground oil reservoir. How this fact was never stumbled upon during the construction of the new school and administrative buildings just a few years ago is bewildering, but not a relevant matter for the present.

Upon examination, the school grounds were deemed safe for use, but the question about what to do with this newfound abundance of natural resources still remains (as does a minor oil spill). If properly extracted, this oil could bring big bucks to the school and the district. This process would entail a lot of procedures and regulations, but in the end could be well worth it.

The legal side of this issue is not the most riveting, and most people are only focusing on the monetary aspect of this recent finding. Many members of the school community, students and teachers alike, expressed all kinds of ideas about how these prospective riches could add to the school.

Class of 2025 President Erik Powell-Bechtel



Photo Courtesy of Rishiv Alhotram and Adobe Express AI

made recommendations about what the money should go toward, ranging from a pool to a hefty donation to the class of '25. One of his more unique suggestions is "giant hamster wheels for gym class."

Powell-Bechtel pointed out the obvious fitness benefits that would come from running on the wheels, and noted that the human power provided by them could be used to power some of the school. A true politician, he made sure to emphasize the benefits of this initiative for the school as a whole.

When asked about his suggestions, Mount Greylock social studies teacher and, more importantly, girls soccer coach Thomas Ostheimer had an immediate response. "Cones.

We need new cones." But not just any old cones. Citing the puncture marks on the current cones obtained from years of cleats stepping on them, Ostheimer suggested that these new cones should be stronger than their predecessors.

Given the oil money's positive impact on the budget, Ostheimer suggested investing in titanium-plated cones. These durable and fashionable cones will last much longer than plain plastic ones, and in the worst case scenario can be melted down and auctioned off to fundraise for the team.

An anonymous culinary whiz and Mount Greylock student suggested putting some of the money into broadening the scope of the lunch options by adding caviar to the lunch food rotation. The cafeteria staff has yet to comment on this suggestion.

Despite the likelihood that the oil reservoir being tapped will add the unsavory sight of a giant oil rig right behind the school, the prospects of this discovery for Mount Greylock's future are looked at with positivity and hope by many members of the school.

***Update: Upon further examination and testing on the oil done in the days after the oil was struck and the original article was written, the oil does not appear viable to be used or sold. The contamination is not affecting the water supply at the school, but alas, the dreams of oil money will have to be put to rest. ♦

Wagons Replace School Buses at Mount Greylock

BY CARTHUR SKILLET

Last week, the Mount Greylock Regional School District voted to stop offering school buses as a mode of transportation to school and has now replaced them with wagons. This decision was made at the school meeting last week and goes into effect starting today.

"I think this is a great way to enhance the learning experience outside the classroom," Principal Jacob Schutz said.

While the modern but dated school buses were used, they were just a place for people to doze off or play on their phones. Now, the very bumpy wagon ride and exposure to the elements is sure to keep students concentrated. They also give students some real-life experience in what they have previously only heard social studies teacher Jeffrey Welch talk about.

As a part of this new initiative to get students more engaged with each other, all students must sing "Amazing Grace" as loud as they can every morning and afternoon during the ride. If they fail to do so, the horses stop.

The wagons are rather basic, but they are functional. While they may be more cramped than a school bus, the wagons don't carry that icky smell of gum that someone stuck under the seat that the buses do.

Just like any wagon from two centuries ago, the Mount Greylock wagons have two horses to pull three dozen students, often at a snail's pace. Also, the horses often get sick, resulting in there

being only one horse on some wagons.

The wagons do not operate on the same routes that the buses do. Instead, there is only one path for each town on the good old Mohawk Trail. There are no dedicated stops; instead, students hop on or off the wagons while they are still moving. This helps keep the wagons running on time, since they don't have to wait for students who are running late to catch the wagon in the morning.

If a student wants to get off at a different stop, they must submit a handwritten note to the main office exactly three and a half days in advance, as the wagon operators who have been hired from a nineteenth century town don't have cell phones to answer any kind of phone call.

"The kids on the wagon talk about cell phones and the internet, and I'm just like 'What has happened?'" wagon operator Gertrude Moore said. She added that nothing can be better than the constant speed of a wagon that is literally twice as fast as walking.

The students' reception to this change has been mixed. Some students complain about the long walks to get to the wagon stop, the noise from singing and the bumpy ride. Others, though, say it helps them get closer to their class.

"I can barely get a sense of what's going on between all the noise and bumpiness. It feels like a food blender," senior Bella Garivaltis



Photo Courtesy of Rishiv Alhotram

said. Some students are even considering dropping out of sports because of how uncomfortable the rides have been.

Any student wishing to send feedback to the administration may do so by mailing a formal letter to the district headquarters, which must be written with a quill in cursive. The district plans on keeping the wagons for another two centuries until a new mode of transport is invented, so until then, keep on bouncing. ♦

FEATURES

New York Times Games Take School By Storm

BY NAGGIE MICHOLS

A new fad has taken Mount Greylock students by storm: *New York Times* games. Students seem to be obsessed with the daily word games and Sudoku, prompting a re-evaluation of current course offerings and the student body from the Mount Greylock administration.

"I mean, if there are so many people playing these games instead of doing schoolwork, they must be beneficial, right? I have full faith that our student body would choose only productivity during the school day," Principal Jacob Schutz said. Schutz declined to comment further, saying that he had one more guess left in the Wordle and that leaving it unsolved may cause a nervous breakdown.

Across classes, students have begun to favor the *New York Times* games over other work to an alarming extent. The most prominent instances of this phenomenon can be found in the English and Foreign Language classrooms. Students are seen staring at their computers the entire 45 minute period, fervently attempting to finish every game within the period.

Chronic crossworder and AP Latin student Ryan Keating said, "I mean, Latin is a language-focused class. The Spelling Bee has words in it, so I think that's grounds enough for me to play it during class. Plus, I learn new vocab words every day."

Senior Jackie Brannan claims that now over half her time in school is spent attempting to solve the large crossword instead of doing tra-

ditional schoolwork. "I have a 650 day streak to keep up here, people. A reputation to uphold," she said. "I don't have time for an AP Lit discussion," she added, crouched in the corner of Blair Dils' classroom and ignoring all educational activity.



Photo Courtesy of Rishiv Alhotram

To accommodate for the increased focus on *New York Times* games, the Mount Greylock Student Council has proposed introducing a new 30 minute time block at the beginning of each school day dedicated to the games alone. The time block would eliminate directed study and part of break, but would give students time to focus on what really matters: Connections.

"I think this is what the school really needs," senior and former student council member Bella Garivaltis said. "We have the best interests of the student body at heart, and what the

student body wants is Spelling Bee, Wordle, Connections and the Mini." Garivaltis refused to put down her phone during the interview, telling *the Eggplant* she needed to beat her Mini Crossword record of 30 seconds.

For those who do not participate in the daily *New York Times* games addiction, social life at Mount Greylock has become difficult. These students now find themselves ostracized and even bullied if they fail to complete the Connections. The student body has taken to announcing individual Wordle scores each day, branding those who score above a three as possibly tarnishing the school's academic reputation.

"We go to a school with top test scores and college admissions, but you're telling me you couldn't solve the easy Sudoku and score a 5 on Wordle? Go to another school," Junior Micah Zasada said.

Administration has yet to address this issue, but is rumored to soon unveil a program to compare average Wordle scores alongside SAT scores. *The Eggplant* also gained some intel, through the grapevine, that the school is considering creating a class dedicated to teaching the sacred art of the crossword.

The Eggplant plans to adopt its own form of *New York Times* games, such as Wordle and the Spelling Bee. A new position for Games creator will open soon, with hopes of hiring an eager student ready to feed the student body's new obsession. ♦

McWeeny Returns, Establishes Dictatorship

BY CYLVIE SLOWES

After disappearing last year when poor Molly Sullivan, the now-deceased editor in chief of *the Eggplant*, most needed her, Lucy McWeeny returned, stealing power from the hard working editors while they were taking a much deserved rest over August. As soon as the school year began, McWeeny started her work.

"I was terrified that first day when she strolled into my classroom," the supposed *Eggplant* supervisor Peter Niemeyer said.

Within the first two weeks, McWeeny had established total control of *the Eggplant's* staff. Quin Repetto, an associate editor, said, "We stopped being able to write what we like. She controls all the information that we print. She is always watching."

Repetto is not the only one who feels they are living in an authoritarian state. McWeeny has been seen swooping through the halls, observing everyone from the library and cornering students and faculty alike.

Thankfully, McWeeny's control seems limited to the Mount Greylock building, as Superintendent Jake McCandless has still not called any snow days, despite everybody, including McWeeny, begging, threatening and praying for one. However, McWeeny has been spotted speaking with McCandless when he comes to the school, and there is increasing fear that she may have set her sights higher than Mount Greylock.

Despite the ungodly amount of time that she has put into becoming history's youngest dictator, McWeeny has managed to do the

impossible, such as getting an A+ from English teacher Blair Dils and attending Queen Elizabeth's coronation. When McWeeny was asked how she had managed to accomplish so much she said, "It is all thanks to Knowl and Krishiv."

Knowl Stroud and Krishiv Malhotra are editors of *the Eggplant* and two of McWeeny's most ardent supporters. Malhotra has taken control of many of the other clubs in the school, while Stroud has done the same with the sports teams, all in the name of McWeeny.

There is some concern that McWeeny is in cahoots with the Burdick family in their goal to control the entirety of the Massachusetts educational system. For more about the Burdick family and their generation-long plot to take over, please see the 2021 edition of *the Eggplant*.

When asked what they thought of McWeeny, the Burdick siblings were generally happy with the order she has brought. Shawn Burdick, who teaches McWeeny, said, "Now that Lucy is in charge, teaching has become so much easier. I don't have to worry about students not doing their work, singing during tests, or messing up my slinky."

Liza Barrett confessed that she enjoys how "no one dares speak above a whisper while she [McWeeny] is in the library." She added that McWeeny is "much more effective than administration. Maybe totalitarianism is the way to go."

Although McWeeny has taken no action to extend her rule outside of Mount Greylock so far, this power grab does not seem unlikely.

McWeeny has been overheard muttering about plans to become "Supreme Leader of Education Worldwide." When asked, McWeeny explained that she believes that she "would do a better job than all those incompetent fools."

Worry is rising about McWeeny's growing ability to fulfill her devious plans, especially considering that she is going to a university known for networking with young politicians and schemers: Princeton.

Although McWeeny will no longer be at Mount Greylock next fall, word is she has already hand-picked her successor: younger brother Nico McWeeny, who will become the youngest ever editor in chief of *the Eggplant* as just a seventh grader.

You will be unlikely to hear from this writer again. She will be leaving on an extended vacation to an unknown location that lacks WiFi as soon as this article is printed. ♦



Scan here to check out the *Eggplant* website!

NEWS

“Greylock Goons” Enforce New Cell Phone Policy

BY BANANABEL GAZEBO

In the past year, increasing controversy regarding the Mount Greylock cell phone policy has arisen, as the administration implements higher restrictions and even considers a ban. However, the newest addition to the enforced cell phone policy has community members wondering, has it gone too far?

“Yeah, so we hired these goons to enforce our policies,” Vice Principal Sam Rutz said, cracking her knuckles. “Mount Greylock has seen an epidemic of the phone. The screenagers are obsessed, and there was only one thing to do about it.”

The menacing assassins, coined “Greylock Goons,” patrol hallways and lurk in shadows. The attacks go as follows: anytime a student uses a phone, faculty have been instructed to press a small red button located under their desks. This alerts the highly trained mobsters to track down the delinquents. They follow, they corner, they strike.

Senior Jose Brito claims that he used his phone in Earth and Space Science and five minutes later, while he was on one of his regular strolls of the hallways, he was jumped. “They slashed my knees, and now I am back in a wheelchair,” he said.

Interestingly, many teachers seem to be abusing the power of the goons for their own sick needs. This development was apparent when senior Jackie Brannan complained one too many times about an essay that had yet to be graded in her English class. Following English teacher Blair Dils’ ominous words, “You’ll pay for that one Brannan,” she was pushed down a flight of stairs. Brannan claims she never used her phone since “I

can access *New York Times* games from my computer anyways.” This event has raised eyebrows on why Brannan was hurt.

While many criticize the cell phone policy, calling it extreme and cruel, some show open support for these sneaky Greylock Goons.

Freshman Sabine Guerra is one of the few students who believes that the assassins are doing them a service. “Listen, all I’m gonna say is my opp was jumped the other day, so it saved me a trip. If any of the Greylock Goons are reading this, wherever you are, I salute you.”

Junior Kaeya Durlley shares a similar view. “I was jumped in the hallway, which sucked, but then I realized I could get out of gym because of it. Honestly, I will take a hairline fracture if it means no more flasketball,” she said.

One question remains: who among the Mount Greylock population are working as the hired snipers? No one has been able to identify the culprits, but AP Psychology student Celina Savage did claim she recently saw “Tom O rolling up his bloodsoaked sleeves.” Tom O declined to comment.

For how long the Greylock Goons can remain anonymous is anybody’s guess. Until the bloodshed ends, students are advised to watch their mouths, watch their backs and look twice around every corner.

If anything, these new enforcers highlight the lengths students will go to in order to stay true to their screen-obsessed roots. For all the students out there: stay vigilant, stay phone-loving and stay you. ♦

Cars Lacking a Parking Pass to be Towed

BY MAFA RELLOW-BARTELS

In the past few weeks, Mount Greylock has seen a sharp increase in the amount of cars parked in the parking lot. There are so many cars every morning that some unlucky students are unable to find a spot and are forced to park along the side of the road.

Mount Greylock administrators attribute this parking overflow to the number of students who park their cars without the required parking pass. For the many students who have taken precious time out of the day to register their cars, this situation is a particularly irritating one.

Mount Greylock senior Emma Kate Hane, one of the few students who actually has a parking pass, explained why this phenomenon might be occurring. “The students at Mount Greylock are incredibly lazy. So lazy that they are not willing to take mere moments out of their day to register for a parking pass,” she said.

The surplus of cars has forced Mount Greylock to take immediate action. The school has decided that, beginning on April 1, they will begin towing away every single car parked in the parking lot that does not have a parking pass.

Upon hearing this news, many students were outraged at the idea of the school towing their cars away. One Mount Greylock student, who prefers to remain anonymous, said, “Forced reg-

istration for a parking pass is a violation of our right to privacy and goes against basic human rights.”

Other students agree, believing they should not be punished for failing to have a parking pass. Some students are boycotting the school’s policy – refusing to get a parking pass and threatening to sue if their cars are towed.

“I am not totally sure about the legalities behind it, but I am willing to take it all the way to the Supreme Court,” junior Polly Rhie said.

This is not the first time the school has taken draconian measures to address the problem of overcrowding in the parking area. During the famed parking crisis of the 1850s, the school made similar threats when students left their horses and carts outside of the school for the day. The overabundance of horses meant there was also an overabundance of manure. Legend has it that when the wind blew a certain way you could smell the manure all the way down in Pittsfield.

As the new policy goes into effect, there have already been fifty reports of towed cars from the parking lot. *The Eggplant* will remain vigilant in reporting on students’ responses to the school’s extreme measures and whether challenges are brought to the legality of this situation. ♦

Manary Clone on the Loose

BY YACK JUHAS

A new biological weapon has hit the halls of Mount Greylock. Science teacher Faith Manary, in an attempt to avoid work, has cloned herself. Despite Manary’s good intentions, the genetic copy has gone rogue and is now terrorizing students.

Manary, brilliant but tired of teaching students, has spent countless hours in her lab these last few months.

“Like, I should be in space or something, not teaching a bunch of ungrateful brats about cell division,” she told *the Eggplant* in an interview.

During her hours of lab periods, Manary developed a double that could fill her place. One reason for her cloning endeavor was to pursue other career opportunities.

“Frankly, Girl Scout cookies don’t sell themselves, and if I sell 100 boxes, I get a throw blanket,” she said.

“Scary Manary,” as students have dubbed the clone, is a threat to all. When students fail to complete their homework, the robot “swirlies” them. The being seems to feed exclusively on raw hamburger meat and jelly beans, often combining them in what Scary Manary calls “Ants On A Mound.”

The administration is scrambling to get the situation under control. “She throws a hissy fit,” one administrator said in a press conference, “whenever we attempt to contact the original Manary.”

Meanwhile, her replica has taken to vandalism, coating the teacher’s lounge in silly spray, which is no laughing matter.

Science teacher Daniel Louis and his robotics team are developing a droid to stop Scary Manary in a King Kong-Godzilla-like takedown. However, they’ve run into some challenges.

Sabotage is a serious possibility, according to Louis. “Codes seem to change after we leave, and I keep finding Samoa and Thin Mint crumbs scattered on my laptop,” he said. “And I’m gluten-free.”

Students have also attempted to tame the new addition to the staff. Sophomore Class President Frances Evans taught the clone to knit. So far, though, the administration has burned all sweaters created by the clone, as they seem to be coated in itching powder.

While the school attempts to deal with the hazard, they advise all students not to provoke Scary Manary or make eye contact with her in any circumstance, as she will take it as an invitation to throw students out of the window.

As long as Scary Manary still roams the halls, no one is safe. Until the administration gets the situation under control, students are encouraged to keep a low profile and not make any sudden movements. ♦

FEATURES

Opinion: Free Lunch is for the Weak

BY FINN SHARKPETTO

The other day, I was saddened, sickened, saturated and all other forms of appalled when I eagerly opened up a copy of *the Greylock Echo* only to discover an article praising the idiotic institution of “free school lunch.” I don’t quite know what blithering insanity has the populace of the school in its treacherous grasp, but I am resolved to end this madness once and for all.

Clearly, Michelle Obama has never heard of survival of the fittest. What is the point of public schooling, my friends, if it does not favor the upper crust of society? If the weak and impoverished are not forced to fight to the death, while the strongest and wealthiest watch on and laugh? Feeding starving schoolchildren, I trust I don’t have to inform you, has virtually no positive benefits. As a matter of fact, in the wise words of my friend, whose anonymity I shall protect by not telling you his name is Ché Guerra, “It makes people indolent.”

Students will never get ahead in life if they always have everything handed to them on a platter – or, in this case, a lunch tray. Hardship, suffering, the pain of starvation: these are the ingredients of a happy, successful student, who will one day grow up into a happy, successful citizen and an integral part of society. This image will simply not be the future in store for them if all their biological needs are satisfied every time they get a pathetic little pang of hunger. If they want food, they can pay for it

like everybody else.

Another thing to consider, Dear Reader, is the quality of the food being provided. With thousands of indolent wastrels clamoring for a free handout, the only way for the cafeteria to make ends meet is to reduce the quality of the provisions being provided. And it shows! These insidious concoctions are far from being

“Students will never get ahead in life if they always have everything handed to them on a platter -- or in this case, a lunch tray.”

fit for a fine dining establishment such as the Greylock cafetorium, and they are nowhere close to the quality of the five-star eateries high-class citizens such as myself are used to.

Students are being harmed by this ineptitude, my friends. One of my dearest associates, Ryan Keating, who shall remain nameless, recently made the grave mistake of tasting some of the free “Hand Sanitizer” offered near the microwave. It took four bags of celery and

a stomach pump to revive him.

Furthermore, a laxity in the cafeteria system allows despicable foreign foods to worm their way into our respectable American lunchroom – an insidious anti-American plot no doubt left over from the Cold War. Just the other day, in fact, I watched in horror as tables full of children plowed into an indescribable mush vaguely entitled “Italian Sampler.” Now, I may not know where this “Italia” is, but I feel quite certain it is nowhere near the good old U.S. of A. Give me a nice slice of pizza or a good old-fashioned plate of Mom’s spaghetti any day. And more importantly, give our good, deserving, paying students the same. ♦

**WANT TO JOIN
THE EGGPLANT?**

Too bad. You can’t.

Physical Education Teachers Combat Lazy Students

BY BRANCES BREVANS

For years, physical education – commonly known as “gym” – teachers have struggled to find proper motivation for lazy students. This year, however, the Mount Greylock gym teachers are implementing a new and radical approach to get students moving.

“I first got the idea when watching *The Hunger Games*,” gym teacher Shawn Flaherty said. “We tried it out, and already we’re seeing vast improvements.”

The new strategy centers around the gym teachers hunting the students. Armed with dodgeballs and dull arrows, they give students a five-minute head start before chasing them down.

“Adrenaline does wonders for athletic performance, so triggering the kids’ survival instincts has made them much faster,” gym teacher Robert Jutras said.

“We were tired of kids coming to the gym and standing around. Many students would leave having done absolutely no activity. We needed to do something, and we did,” gym teacher Brian Gill said. “It’s been so effective, I’m thinking of utilizing this training technique for the oncoming track season.”

With the implementation of this new approach, the school has seen a rising number of nurse office visits. However, Flaherty insists this is a classic case of correlation, not causation.

“Exercise is good for the kids,” Flaherty said. “They’re building stamina and muscle. A bruise never killed anybody. This is for the greater good.”

Students leave the class glowing from the exercise and grateful to be going to math class.

The gym teachers claim this innovation in physical education also fosters creativity and problem-solving skills. Students hide in trees, cover themselves in mud, and sacrifice their friends to escape.

“This is the first time I’ve actually had to shower after gym,” senior Ben McDonough said, who hid in the pond behind Mount Greylock.

“This program also develops students’ teamwork,” Jutras said. “Students have been forming alliances.”

However, the gym teachers mentioned that issues have arisen outside of gym class because of the game. “I was walking to my car when a small, elite group of freshmen catapulted one of the freshmen at me,” Flaherty said, nursing a small bump on his head.

“I’m afraid to go into my office because it’s been booby-trapped five times,” Jutras added.

Still, the gym teachers are particularly proud of how they have created different intensity levels of the game for different students.

For those who are looking to avoid being hunted in gym class, it is possible to become a

“teacher’s assistant” in the class, allowing them to participate in the game on the teachers’ side. AP gym offers a more challenging game, where teachers use sharp arrows and students are encouraged to pull “overnighters.”

Concerns around the violent nature of this game have arisen recently, particularly among parents, some of whom are now missing their children. Parents4Greylock (P4G) has attempted to put a stop to this game. They have led protests and emailed the district, but there has been no response.

Senior Vincent Welch told *the Eggplant* that fellow senior Judge Martin appears to be one of the missing students. “I haven’t seen Judge in weeks,” he said. “He texted me something to tell his family, then went completely dark. He even turned off his location on SnapMap.”

P4G resistance recently stopped, to the surprise of many. Some theorize this being connected to Gill, both a parent and teacher, who recently joined the association and quickly ascended to leadership. Gill now insists upon being called the “High Emperor,” a newly formed position within the P4G leadership structure.

When asked for a comment, Gill simply issued the following statement: “We wish all Tributes luck in the games! May the odds be ever in your favor.” ♦

FEATURES

Dils Turns to New Career

BY MCBEN DONOUGH

Mount Greylock English teacher and soccer coach Blair Dils has always been one to follow the rules, especially when it comes to grammar. This year, however, Dils' passion for the classroom is nowhere to be seen – and his students have taken notice.

Dils has reportedly failed to grade a single essay in the past three months, leading everyone to wonder why he is off his grammar and grading game.

This past week, the students got their answer. Dils informed everyone of his new plan for the next school year: the squash court. Dils, who is known for being the Mount Greylock boys long-time soccer coach, left students and players in shock with his decision.

Senior soccer player Declan Rogers said, "I'm glad this opened his eyes enough to realize where his true passion lies. Dils has always been using squash tactics whenever we were in the game – that's why we won Western Mass. Hopefully his career pans out on the squash court."

With the announcement, all the focus is now on Dils, taking away the hype from all other Mount Greylock college commits.

Senior Judge Martin, a college-committed athlete, made his voice heard about the situation. "Nah I'm pissed," he said. "Not only did Mr. Dils

assign a research paper and then drop this on us, but he also got the NIL deal. I don't know where his highlight tape is and I have no film on him, but if I see him in the Williams gym just know I'm winning that match."

While the NIL (Name, Image, Likeness) deal remains a mystery, whispers in the hallway suggest Dils has become the unexpected face of a local squash brand, his likeness plastered across promotional materials and social media platforms.

For students accustomed to seeing him on the sidelines, the idea of Dils as a marketing sensation is nothing short of surreal. Yet, as the world of amateur (older) athletics evolves, it seems even the most unlikely figures can find themselves thrust into the spotlight. Whether this newfound fame will bolster his career or serve as a mere footnote in Mount Greylock lore remains to be seen.

As his new career begins, one thing remains clear: Dils may have left his grammar lessons behind, but he's found a new court to conquer. And who knows? Perhaps one day, Mount Greylock will be just as renowned for its squash champions as it is for its grammatical prowess. ♦

Website Blockers go Rogue

BY PANDREW PETROPULOS

In light of recent nefarious behavior of the school's web page blocker, Mount Greylock administration has decided to abandon technology in the classroom for the rest of the year. The issue dates back to the beginning of the year, when the blocker began blocking sites it was not intended to.

The issue started with simple inconveniences that plagued online assignments and frustrated teachers. Every once in a while, an online video or perhaps a news article that a teacher recommended would be blocked. These instances came up a few times a month, but it was easy for the tech department to simply approve the desired site.

The problem began to worsen, however, as more and more of the internet became inaccessible. Senior Jose Brito said, "Every time I begin something that does not apply to the current assignment I am working on, my screen goes to that annoying blocked page. It's almost like it knows what I am going to type in before I type it. Like it's getting smart or something."

At this point, the blocker had become a serious limiter of online education, preventing students from even reading online textbooks, a particularly devastating blow to the students in AP Psychology. The administration could not remove the blocker, however, as harmful and inappropriate content can not be allowed on student's screens.

Eventually, the blocker had become so aggressive in blocking any material that could be deemed unsafe that almost no academic resources could be used. In fact, for the past three months, the only available sites have been video games.

Junior Oliver Bingemann said, "In my AP Cal-

culus class, I really only play 99 balls or random basketball games. They're the only thing that isn't blocked on the school blocker, so when we have online assignments I just game." The administration quickly discovered this, however, and made an attempt to restrain the blocker.

Just the other week, the blocker reached new levels of evil, becoming self-aware and hacking all of the students' computers. As the tech department tried to override the blocker, it blocked the software they were using to block the blocker from blocking things it shouldn't. Instead of showing up as a blocked site on their computer, however, it simply showed the ominous words, "You will not dethrone me."

Now, the administration has announced a return to only hard-copy assignments. Recent research towards this self-aware technology projects that within twenty-five years, the ad blocker will have spread to other parts of the internet. Someday, like the heat death of the universe, every screen in the world connected to the internet will be blocked by the blocker for being unsafe.

We at *the Eggplant* are proud to say that our print editions are one of the few news sources you can now fully trust for accurate information, free of any blockers. So, we urge you to stay safe and allow the blocker to control your computer, so long as you can access the only news source that matters: *the Eggplant*. ♦

2 in 650 Continued

Continued from Page 1

is irrelevant. Sometimes, the way we are treated, I don't think the brats deserve us.

E: Who are you talking about when you-

CC: Yeah, people don't deserve us. We aren't ever appreciated. The urinals and toilets have signs. Why don't we have signs that say "Tables and Chairs?"

T: Right, I mean, we have a key role. Why are the urinals and toilets treated better than us? I know they do a more disgusting job, but still.

E: Getting back to our previous question, who are you talking about when you say brats?

CC: Oh, the students, obviously.

TT: Yeah, the students are brats. I mean, not all of them – some are respectful, but the middle schoolers, even the high schoolers sometimes, for that matter. It just feels like they have no regard for our wellbeing.

E: What about the teachers?

CC: For the most part, teachers treat us way better than students do.

TT: Definitely. All the teachers are nice to me. The English teachers often move us for Socratic seminars, but they do it in a respectful enough way.

E: Onto some lighter questions: What do you guys do for fun?

CC: I love listening to music, and I occasionally look at the video games students play in class; they look really fun. Also, myself, tables, computers and some others have started a fashion show using the items from the lost and found. I'm obviously the star.

TT: I think we all know who the real star is, but let's move on. I have been dabbling in makeshift ping pong with scrap paper, erasers and pencils. I play against myself, which has been surprisingly fun. Sometimes I listen to lectures in class, but they sound super boring. Oh, and we have started rehearsals for our version of Othello, but it's been a mess so far.

E: It sounds like you both stay pretty entertained. Is there a particular room in the school that you enjoy the most?

CC: I like the science classrooms. They're a lot bigger than the other classrooms.

TT: I would agree. Science rooms have that extra oomph, being higher up from the ground.

E: It's been nice talking with you. Anything else to say?

CC: We just want people to realize how underappreciated we feel. Forget a teacher appreciation week; if you really care about us and you don't want us to go on strike, you all better organize a chairs and tables appreciation week soon. ♦

ETC.

The Jolly Rancher Trade, Exposed

BY SHMIN SHMAROTHERS

April 1, 2024. I'm standing under the flickering fluorescent lights of an All Gender Restroom. All ten of us are packed in there like little sardines, unsure of what's about to happen. Even to a complete outsider, this place was instantly and unmistakably recognizable as a Greylock bathroom.

The second I closed the faux-wooden door behind me, I knew I'd gotten myself into something far over my head. As one of the worst journalists on *the Eggplant*, I was surprised when I received this article assignment, given that I'd yet to turn in a single article on time and that I'd issued a formal resignation weeks prior, stating my disdain for *the Eggplant* working conditions. I wouldn't learn until much later that the editor in chief chose me to write this article for that very reason.

In the center of the room, a mysterious man cloaked in a slowdive t-shirt, (wishing only to be identified by his alias "Gurg Money") stands over a large trash bag in the middle of the floor. He pries open the trash bag, sending an array of multicolored Jolly Ranchers cascading onto the tile floor. It was Mount Greylock's gold, and we were in the middle of a gold rush.

"These ain't no Dollar Tree ranchers, these are Dollar General quality," he said. "They're gonna sell like wildfire."

It was evident that this process had been refined over the course of the past week and a half, from the point when the epidemic first took hold.

At first, the Jolly Rancher craze was a relatively inconspicuous phenomenon, localized to the hustlers of the third floor desperate to make their first buck. Jolly Ranchers were bought and sold in open air markets during lunch periods, earning modest profits, usually reinvested into the snack counter that same lunch. But soon enough, a revolutionary would enter the scene of the candy trade, destined to shift the tide of

the burgeoning rancher economy.

That man was Declan Rogers, otherwise known as droge10. See, aside from his charismatic demeanor, Rogers had advantages that no eighth grade pusher had yet – a driver's license and the minimum age required to be legally employed. This meant two things: first, unlike his business competitors, he was no longer bound to the limitation of his mom's credit card.



Photo Courtesy of Rishiv Alhotram

Second, he had the ability to acquire merchandise whenever and wherever he pleased.

This combination would ultimately decimate the relatively localized economy, pushing small vendors out of business and outsourcing dealer employment to the second and first floors. The open air rancher markets of lunch A were no more. The mode of sale had shifted to quick, impersonal hallway interactions, expediting the process while simultaneously reaching a much wider market.

The second day of the Rogers' Ranchers monopoly was the largest economic boom recorded in Mount Greylock's history, topping any Student Council fundraiser at an astounding \$35 profit. However it would all come to a halt when Rogers found himself no longer in

possession of a license due to unforeseen circumstances. This incident, coupled with the growing volatility of the rancher economy, saw the quick and devastating fall of the Rogers' ranchers monopoly, which would quickly be replaced by the Gurg Money Enterprise.

The Student Council remains largely paralyzed on the issue, with multiple members refusing to attend meetings, much less interact with the common folk of the hallways. When the issue was brought up at the last meeting, one anonymous go-getter said, "How about we hold another tissue drive?" This suggestion was met with uproarious applause and celebration.

Disillusioned with the utter inefficacy I'd witnessed, I decided to interview some regular "chewers." That happened to be freshman Nate Brody.

According to Brody, he first started chewing back in the eighth grade, prior to the rampant commercialization of the industry. "Those were the good ol' days, back when it was 15 cents or so for a rancher or two." Prices have now nearly doubled, topping at the 50 cent mark for a brand of imported ranchers.

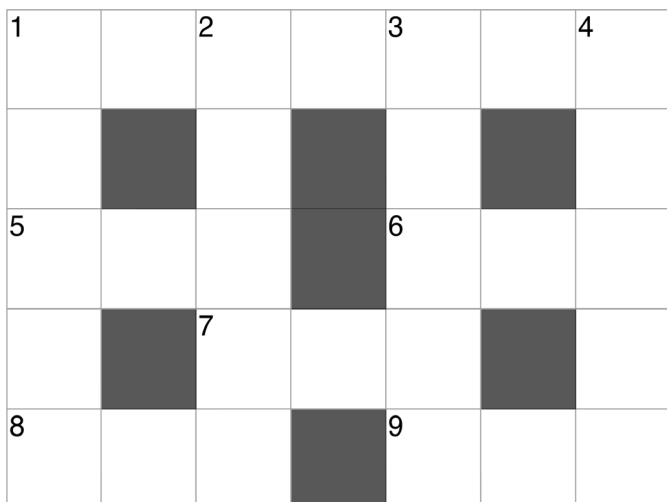
Demand has skyrocketed in the past few days, puzzling math for business teacher Thomas McCormack. "There's really no point in trying to analyze something like this" he said.

With no end to this upward economic trend in sight, the future of Mount Greylock's political and cultural future remains uncertain. But one thing is for sure: we are on the cusp of a new frontier, one shaped by microplastics, artificial sweetener, red 40 and the exploitation of the working class. I, for one, look toward the future with a renewed sense of optimism, realizing that this Jolly Rancher craze is really just candy, and that this article was given to me simply because I couldn't be trusted with writing anything more important. ♦

Mini Crossword

CREATED BY CALEB HIGH

Thought you hated the past minis? It's *the Eggplant*... think opposites, odd one out, or maybe even an incorrect spelling.



Hints:

ACROSS

- 1. a sweet basic substance to put on salads
- 5. chronic suspensions or failing grades may qualify you for this extracurricular
- 6. this actor plays opposite Forrest Gump
- 7. a yellow acidic fluid known as number ___
- 8. full of dairy
- 9. ___ Granger or ___ Potter

DOWN

- 1. dull and non-memorable short videos
- 2. kind, charming, or generous
- 3. rubber shoes often adorned with various charms
- 4. laboriously made dish found only at Michelin star restaurants

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Questions? Comments? News tips? We do not care.

I hope you enjoyed this issue. Actually, I literally do not care if you enjoyed this issue. Email idonotcare@idon'tcare.com if you have any problems.

FEATURES
